

# In Memoriam



*Bob Buckhorn, Mayor*

**WHEREAS**, the City of Tampa takes pride in recognizing those individuals whose commitment and dedication have made a lasting impact on our community and its citizens. One of these individuals was **Colonel Joseph (Joe) Wayne House**, a well-respected Decorated Veteran and Business and Community Leader who passed away on Friday, June 2, 2017 at age 85; and

**WHEREAS**, born in Birmingham, Alabama on October 31, 1931 to the late Frank Macon and Irene Love House, Colonel House graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1957, and thereafter served the country he loved as an Officer in the United States Army while continuing his education including attending the United States Army Defense School, Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, and he earned his Master's Degree in Mass Communications from Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania; and

**WHEREAS**, during his stellar military career, Colonel House commanded many Army units, served a combat tour in Vietnam including as an advisor with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Vietnamese Rangers, led an Airborne Air Defense Battalion and Airborne Defense Artillery Brigade in Fort Bliss Texas, served two tours in Europe, and was the Executive Officer to General George S. Blanchard, Commander in Chief with the United States Army Europe and 7<sup>th</sup> Army. His dedication to duty and outstanding military service earned Colonel House many decorations including four *Legion of Merit* awards, two *Bronze Stars* with "V" device denoting heroism, *Combat Infantryman's Badge*, *Rangers Tab*, and *Master Parachutist Badge*; and

**WHEREAS**, upon his honorable discharge in 1984, Colonel House made Tampa, Florida his home when he became the Assistant Vice President and General Manager for United Services Automobile Association (USAA), Southeast Regional Office where he was an effective and respected administrator for the insurance and financial services company serving military families, and he valued the efforts of the firm's employees and demonstrated it with mentoring, encouragement, and by taking the time to send a personalized birthday card to each person, and thereafter he served as Chairman of the Advisory Board for The Beck Group, an international award-winning architectural and construction firm where he advised on strategic planning, marketing, proposals, presentations, and community relations; and

**WHEREAS**, known for his genuine love of people and his community, Colonel House made a positive impact in the Tampa Bay area with his leadership and service with many organizations including as Chairman of the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce, member of the University of Tampa Board of Trustees, Chair of United Way Suncoast, and support of Metropolitan Ministries and Alpha House of Tampa, and he received recognition for his many contributions including receiving the *Ethics Award* from the University of Tampa's Center for Ethics; and

**WHEREAS**, known as a man with high standards and integrity, a wonderful sense of humor and colorful personality, and true to his word and to his friends, Colonel House served as an inspiration and role model to all who knew him, and he will be forever remembered for his devotion and love of his wife and family, his respect for others, and although we are grieved at the loss of this outstanding citizen, his legacy will continue to live on through his service to our nation, the improvements he brought to our community, and in all those whose lives he has touched.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby urge all citizens to join me in publicly expressing sorrow and heartfelt appreciation to the Colonel Joseph W. House Family, his wife Susan, sons Mark and Michael, Grandchildren, Great-Grandchildren, and other family members, and to express our hopes that they will take solace in their many cherished memories and the impact of his life on our city.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 7<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2017.



*Bob Buckhorn*  
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Mayor