

# 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 **Billy Barnes Turner**, one of the Tampa area's most beloved citizens and well-respected High School Coach, who passed away on Friday, June 9, 2017 at age 79; and

**WHEREAS**, born on November 26, 1937 in Moulton, Alabama to the late Luther and Martha (Barnes) Turner, Coach Turner was raised in Auburndale, Florida and graduated from Auburndale High School where he excelled in many sports including leading the basketball team to two state championships, as a track star placing second in the state of Florida and holding the school's record for the mile run, and as a leader on the football team; and

**WHEREAS**, after graduating high school, Coach Turner enrolled in the University of Tampa (UT) where he met his beloved wife Lucille (Lucy) Cabrera and earned twelve collegiate letters for his skills and dedication in baseball, basketball and football, and upon graduation he coached for UT as Assistant Football Coach and Athletic Director, and he played semi-pro for local teams and signed with the Buffalo Bills for the 1963-64 season; and

**WHEREAS**, believing the title "Coach" was the highest compliment, Coach Turner began his legendary high school head coaching career at Hillsborough High School in 1968 and thereafter at Chamberlain High School, and he made good football players outstanding football players with his superb coaching, and his love for them was evident as he mentored and guided them, on and off the football field, bringing out their best and maximizing their potential, and he found great joy when they experienced success; and

**WHEREAS**, the Winningest High School Football Coach in Hillsborough County, Florida's history, Coach Turner believed it was always about the team and not the coach, but his love for the players and the game of football along with his talents and passion brought successes including impressive career statistics of 254 victories with 17 playoff teams in 38 seasons, and his dedication to his players led many to successful football opportunities including Washington Redskins' Coach Jay Gruden, former nose tackle Brodrick Bunkley, and former tailback James Wilder, Jr.; and

**WHEREAS**, admired and respected in the Tampa community and among his peers, his many honors and recognitions include being named a member of the University of Tampa Athletics Hall of Fame, receiving the *Lifetime Achievement Award* from the Tampa Chapter of the National Football Foundation where the annually presented *Billy Turner Coach of the Year Award* is named in his honor, and *Billy Turner Field* at Chamberlain High School is named for him in recognition of his vast accomplishments and impact on the school; and

**WHEREAS**, Coach Turner was a kind, caring and humble man who inspired others to succeed, and he was a gentleman, well-known for his deep love for his cherished family and friends, and although we are grieved at the loss of this outstanding citizen, his legacy will continue to live on through the improvements he brought to our community, and in all those whose lives he has touched through his coaching, teaching and mentoring, especially the young athletes and students he influenced and encouraged; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bob Buckhorn, by the 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 Billy Barnes Turner Family, his wife Lucille, daughters Tamara, Tianne, Tricia, Tiffany, Taryn and Tenille, sons Billy, Jr. and Brian, Grandchildren, Great-Grandchildren, brother Don, and other family members, and to express our hopes that they will take solace in their cherished memories and the impact of his life on our community.

Dated this 16<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2017.



*Bob Buckhorn*  
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Mayor