

# Proclamation



*Bob Buckhorn, Mayor*

**WHEREAS**, older Americans, those 65 years and older, account for more than 14.5 percent of the total population, and they are trailblazers who have paved the way for future generations while leading by example and offering the benefits of the lessons learned from their life experiences and contributions; and

**WHEREAS**, older persons serve as advocates and mentors, and they volunteer in community service roles making a real difference in the daily lives of fellow citizens of all ages, while promoting and strengthening the American spirit of civic participation; and

**WHEREAS**, gifts of wisdom are bestowed by older Americans, and they share their talents, experience and accomplishments with the younger generation and strengthen the bonds between neighbors, creating a better place to live; and

**WHEREAS**, older Americans are owed a debt of gratitude and we must work to ensure they age with dignity, providing home and community-based services, including health promotion, safety measures and preventive care programs that will enable them to live more independent, and higher quality lives; and

**WHEREAS**, **Older American Month** was established in 1963 by the late President John F. Kennedy, and the 2018 theme set by the Administration on Community Living Resources is *Engage at Every Age*, which highlights that individuals are never too old, or young, to take part in activities that can enrich one's physical, mental, and emotional well-being; and

**WHEREAS**, **Senior Corps**, a Corporation for National and Community Service program, provides service opportunities for American men and women age 55 and over by connecting them with people and organizations throughout communities in all states across the nation, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands through national programs with approximately 330,000 senior Americans annually serving their communities and enhancing the quality of life for others, and during Older American Month this year, **Senior Corps Week** is designated on April 29-May 5, 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, locally, **Seniors in Service of Tampa Bay, Inc.** will recognize Older American Month on May 17, 2018, and the event features Volunteer Training at Christ the King Catholic Church to prepare volunteers to serve in Senior Corps initiatives including the Foster Grandparent, Senior Companion, and Retired & Senior Volunteer Programs.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2018 as

## **“OLDER AMERICAN MONTH”**

in the city of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to join me in honoring and recognizing the senior citizens in our community for the many contributions they make, and have made throughout their lives to the progress and success of our city, our state, and our nation.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 7<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2018.



*Bob Buckhorn*

Mayor