Proclamation

Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, the American Legion Auxiliary, founded in 1919, is the largest patriotic women's organization in the world with nearly one million members who are committed to assisting our nation's veterans; and

WHEREAS, an initiative of the American Legion Auxiliary, the red poppy became a symbolic memorial flower after servicemen returning from World War I recalled the fields of poppies growing around and on the battlefields where their comrades fought and died, and the beautiful flower has remained a national symbol of recognition for the great sacrifices made by American and allied military service men and woman in the name of freedom; and

WHEREAS, the American Legion Auxiliary established **National Poppy Day** in 1921, and annually, during Memorial Day weekend, members of the organization distribute paper poppies that are hand-made by military veterans, and it is estimated nearly 3.5 million red poppies will generate approximately $2.1 in donations with the proceeds benefiting disabled and hospitalized military veterans and their children in our communities; and

WHEREAS, locally, the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 5 members will distribute red poppies on Friday, May 25, 2018 at the Publix Supermarket on Gandy Boulevard in Tampa, Florida, and they are appreciative of the opportunity to bring awareness about National Poppy Day and for the support they receive from our community in their goal to increase benefits to our military veterans.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Friday, May 25, 2018 as

"NATIONAL POPPY DAY"

in the city of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to wear a red poppy during Memorial Day weekend in honor of the sacrifices of those who have served, and join me in thanking the members of the American Legion Auxiliary for their hard work and dedication on behalf of our community's veterans.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 28th day of March, 2018.

Bob Buckhorn
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Mayor