

In Memoriam



Jane Castor, 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 nation, and one of these individuals was **Dr. Earl J. Lennard**, a beloved Educator and well-respected Community Leader who passed away on Monday, December 23, 2019, at the age of 77; and

WHEREAS, a lifetime member of Hillsborough County, Florida, Dr. Lennard was born in Riverview on March 22, 1942 to the late John and Edith Mills Lennard, and he attended Brandon High School, and then went on to earn his Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of South Florida (USF) as part of its 1963 inaugural class, received his Master's Degree from the University of Florida (UF), and returned to the University of South Florida to earn his Doctoral Degree; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lennard began his outstanding career in education in 1963 teaching at Ruskin Elementary School, and then went on to teach high school within the Hillsborough County School District, and he went above and beyond his classroom responsibilities to participate in additional school activities; and

WHEREAS, devoted to the children of Tampa Bay, he was a lifelong advocate for making sure they came first, and through his commitment and efforts on their behalf, he was named as an administrator for the agriculture and vocational programs for Hillsborough County School District, and in 1996 was named the district's Superintendent, a position he admirably and proudly served until 2005, and during his tenure, the school district experienced rapid growth whereby sixty schools were built or renovated; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lennard was appointed as Supervisor of Elections for Hillsborough County in 2009, and his dedication to the community was evident through his many contributions including being named to the oversight committee when the sales tax referendum for school capital needs was passed, serving as President of the Hillsborough County Fair, as an Adjunct Professor at USF, in leadership roles with the Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce, helped found the Riverview Boys and Girls Club, he taught Sunday School at Riverview United Methodist Church for decades, and was a member of Seasoned Owls of Florida; Dr. Lennard received many honors over his lifetime including being named the *2002 Superintendent of the Year*, receiving USF College of Education's *Distinguished Alumni Award*, and the *Earl J. Lennard High School* named in his honor; and

WHEREAS, well known for his intelligence, friendliness, personable and people-oriented nature, Dr. Lennard will forever be remembered for his deep love of his family and friends, his mentorship and commitment to influencing others to succeed, and especially for his passion for teaching and making a difference in the lives of all children.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, 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 Dr. Earl J. Lennard Family, his wife Annabel, daughter Missy, son Jeremy, grandsons, brothers, sisters and other family members, and to express our hopes that they will take solace in their many cherished memories and the considerable impact of his life on our community and the difference he made in so many children's lives.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 11th day of January, 2020.

City of
Tampa
Florida

Mayor