

# 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 **The Honorable Rubin Eugene Padgett, Sr.**, a well-respected Businessman, Public Servant and Trailblazer who passed away on Saturday, March 28, 2020, at the age of 89; and

**WHEREAS**, born in November 22, 1930 in Tampa, Florida, Mr. Padgett was a lifelong member of the Tampa community and was educated within the Hillsborough County School District, and thereafter attended St. Petersburg Junior College, the University of Chicago, and the University of Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Padgett's concern for the well-being of others was passed on to him by his mother, the late Susie Padgett who founded Padgett Nursing Home, and where he became its President, leading the skilled nursing facility to earn a highly-rated reputation, and his dedication to healthcare led to him serving as Chairman of the Florida Licensure Board of Nursing Home Administrators, and he was honored with many prestigious appointments including by Governor Rubin Askew to the Florida State License Board of Nursing Homes and by Governor Bob Graham where he served with the Office of Secretary and Office of the Chairman of the State Board, and by President Jimmy Carter to the Federal Health Care Association where he was instrumental in the creation of the Federal Bill of Rights for Nursing Home Patients, and he represented the United States as a Goodwill Ambassador to Africa; and

**WHEREAS**, devoted to his community and an advocate for equality and the elevation of all people, Mr. Padgett was the first African American elected to the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), serving two terms and as its Chair, and during his leadership, libraries were built in the Belmont Heights, Palm River, and Thonotosassa neighborhoods, and the West Tampa Library was saved from closure; Mr. Padgett also dedicated himself to service throughout the community including as a Trustee on the Board of Tampa General Hospital and the University of South Florida, the first African American to serve on the Tampa Housing Authority Board of Commissioners and on the Hillsborough County Aviation Authority, was a member of the Florida Sentinel Bulletin Editorial Board and the National Board of Black County Commissioners, and he served as the President of the Hillsborough County Crisis Center; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Padgett received many well-deserved recognitions including receiving the BOCC's 2017 *Ellsworth G. Simmons Good Government Award* for his extraordinary impact and leadership in government, and the Tampa Housing Authority's *Arbors at Padgett Estates* housing complex is named in his honor, and Hillsborough County named the *Rubin Padgett Sports Complex* in Palm River in recognition of his many contributions; and

**WHEREAS**, well known for his intelligence, caring and people-oriented nature, Mr. Padgett will forever be remembered for his deep love of his family and friends, his leading by example, and his lifetime dedication to making a difference and improving the quality of life of others.

**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 Rubin E. Padgett Family, his sons Earl, James, Rubin, Jr., and Nolan, daughters Juanita and RaShonda, Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren, and other family members, and to express our hopes that they will take solace in their cherished memories and the considerable impact of his life on our community, state, and nation.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 2020.

*City of*  
**Tampa**  
Florida

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Mayor