

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, older Americans, those 65 years and older, account for approximately 15.6 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 they are working longer, remaining a vital part of the labor force; 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 during times of local, state, national and world events and crisis, such as the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic of 2020, our older and most vulnerable citizens become a priority in ensuring their safety and well-being; and

WHEREAS, along with many dedicated organizations serving the seniors in the Tampa Bay area, the **Tampa Housing Authority** (THA) in Tampa, Florida plays a vital role in providing valued services for the older Americans throughout its housing communities, and is committed to assisting them live longer with healthier lives, helping them to thrive, and in bringing awareness to the community about issues they face; and

WHEREAS, **Older American Month** established in 1963 by the late President John F. Kennedy, features the 2020 theme **Make Your Mark** as set by the Administration on Community Living (ACL), and it encourages and celebrates the countless contributions that older Americans make to our nation, and it highlights the difference everyone can make in the lives of older adults, in support of their caregivers, and in strengthening communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2020 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 9th day of April, 2020.



Jane Castor

Mayor