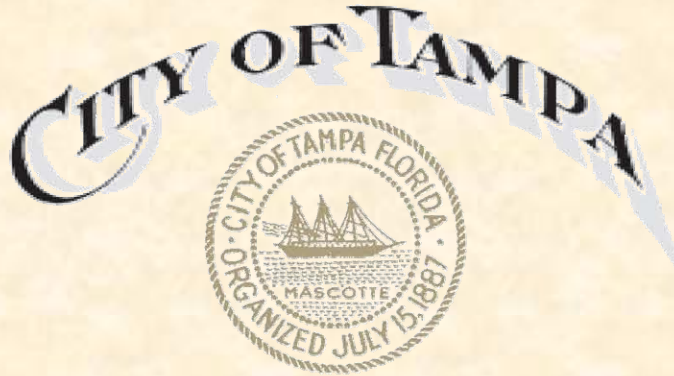


Proclamation



PAM IORIO, 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 its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Joe Roman is one such person. Born to parents who immigrated from Havana in 1910, Joe was the youngest of 6 children and began his career in the restaurant business at the age of 16 at the Morro Castle restaurant in Ybor City; and

WHEREAS, taking a job at the Columbia Restaurant in 1953, Joe started in the coffee shop washing water glasses and coffee cups, was promoted to relief waiter and later served as a full-time waiter where he remained until a knee problem sidelined him in 2004; and

WHEREAS, due to his significant contributions to the restaurant and family through the years, Richard Gonzmart, Columbia Restaurant's president and fourth-generation co-owner, created an ambassador position at the 100th anniversary celebration last year and invited Joe to come back and work whenever he wanted; and

WHEREAS, today he is known as the restaurant's official ambassador, relaying the history of this famous establishment and many stories of those who have visited through the years; and

WHEREAS, inducted into the Columbia's Hall of Fame in 2000, Joe Roman has also been the recipient of the 2004 Iris D. Larson Hospitality Award given at the annual Florida Governor's Conference on Tourism, and the Bern Laxer Spirit of Excellence Award for Best Server, presented by the Tampa Bay Convention and Visitors Bureau in May of this year; and

WHEREAS, totally dedicated to the Columbia Restaurant and the part it has played in our city's history, Joe is also devoted to his wife of 56 years, Mat and their two sons; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tampa is pleased to honor this outstanding Tampa citizen for his commitment to our community and its rich history.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Pam Iorio, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim August 16, 2006 as

"JOE ROMAN DAY"

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in saluting the valuable contributions he has made to our community.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 16th day of August, 2006.





Mayor