

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, Foot Drop is a gait abnormality in which the dropping of the forefoot happens due to weakness, irritation, or damage to the common fibular nerve including the sciatic nerve, or paralysis of the muscles in the anterior portion of the lower leg, and it is usually a result of a greater problem, not a disease in itself; and

WHEREAS, the muscles involved in lifting the front part of the foot are necessary for people to walk, but individuals with Foot Drop typically drag the foot and toes, or engage in a high-stepping walk known as “steppage gait;” and

WHEREAS, the peroneal nerve is a branch of the sciatic nerve, and peroneal nerve dysfunction, usually caused by injury and results in the loss of movement or sensation in the foot, is considered one of the leading causes of Foot Drop, and injuries to the peroneal nerve include sprains, fractures and habitual leg crossing, and conditions such as multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, stroke, spinal cord injury and traumatic brain injury contribute to the syndrome; and

WHEREAS, based in Tampa, Florida, the Freedom to Walk Foundation is a nonprofit organization established by Daisy Vega, and its mission is to help children and adults experiencing Foot Drop to walk throughout Florida and the nation, and it strives to educate, empower, and inspire individuals to overcome financial obstacles through fundraising efforts and to subsidize the cost of the Functional Electric Stimulation (FES) such as WalkAide® and Bioness L300 devices that alleviate the symptoms and complications of Foot Drop through electric impulses, and it is designed to restore mobility, greatly enhancing a person’s quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the 7th **Annual Carnival Gala**, hosted by the Freedom to Walk Foundation, is held Saturday, October 5, 2019 at the Marriott Tampa Airport Hotel, and the festive fundraising event includes keynote speaker Rita Lowman, President of Pilot Bank, a silent auction and raffle, food stations, entertainment, dancing, and more.

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 October 2019 as

“FOOT DROP MONTH”

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in doing their part in supporting the efforts of the Freedom to Walk Foundation, physicians, therapists, and those affected with the disorder in raising awareness and needed funding.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 28th day of August, 2019.



Jane Castor

Mayor