

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, Tampa Hispanic Heritage, Inc. is an organization established in 1979 devoted to preserving and promoting Tampa's diverse Hispanic culture, and it has honored individuals who represent excellence by their outstanding achievements, endeavors and contributions, and who help enrich the lives of other Hispanics; and

WHEREAS, Tampa Hispanic Heritage, Inc. will celebrate its 32nd Annual Hispanic Gala with the presentation of the **2019 Hispanic Man of the Year Award** to a person chosen to be honored, a well-known person admired and respected for his commitment to others, and who has dedicated his life to promoting and preserving the Hispanic culture and traditions through civic and community service; and

WHEREAS, born in Marianao, Cuba in 1956, this year's honoree is **Simon Canasi** who made Tampa, Florida his home in 1961 when he immigrated with his family, growing up in historic Ybor City, and he has enriched the lives of others, especially within the Hispanic community throughout his life. A Hillsborough High School graduate where he is a member of the school's *Hall of Fame*, Mr. Canasi earned his Accounting Degree with a minor in International Studies from the University of South Florida, and thereafter began his career with Merrill Lynch as a Wealth Management Advisor and then with Morgan Stanley as Senior Vice President. During his stellar forty year career, Mr. Canasi received numerous accolades including becoming a member of Merrill Lynch's *Circle of Excellence* and honored with the company's *Lifetime Achievement Award*, and he earned the Morgan Stanley *President's Cup*; and

WHEREAS, well-known for his commitment and leadership within the community, Mr. Canasi has served as Chairman of the Hillsborough County Civil Service Board, the Second District Court of Appeals' Judicial Nominating Committee, with the Boys and Girls Club of Tampa Bay, as President of the Friends of Tampa Firefighters, as the Co-Founder and President of the Sant' Yago Education Foundation, and he is a valued member of the Krewe of the Knights of Sant' Yago where he has served as El Rey XX and El Baron XXX; and

WHEREAS, admired for his accomplishments and advocacy for education, Mr. Canasi has sponsored many scholarships including at the University of South Florida, the University of Tampa, Hillsborough Community College and Tampa Catholic High School, and he was instrumental in the creation of the Tampa Fallen Firefighter's Memorial, and he has been recognized for his contributions to the Tampa Bay region with honors that include the Tampa Hispanic Heritage Inc.'s *Leadership Award for Civic Involvement*. His leadership, commitment and genuine desire to make a difference, and his ability to serve as an inspirational role model and mentor to others certainly justifies naming him the **2019 Hispanic Man of the Year**.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Saturday, October 12, 2019 as

SIMON CANASI, HISPANIC MAN OF THE YEAR DAY

in the city of Tampa, Florida and call upon all residents to join me in recognizing, commending and thanking him for his outstanding service and contributions to our community.

Dated in Tampa, Florida this 12th day of October, 2019.





Mayor