

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tampa Bay Consular Corps Annual Luncheon



Countries and Community represented left to right: Ireland, Jamaica, Mayor Buckhorn, Greece, Germany, Czech Republic, Saint Leos, Tampa Economic Development Corporation, Luxembourg, Austria, Peru, Mexico, Italy, Denmark, Norway, Spain, Estonia, Tampa Bay International Business Council, Tampa Bay Trade & Protocol Council, Denmark, Canada, Italy, France, Italy, Lithuania, Shumaker, University of South Florida, Tampa Bay Export Assistance Center

On February 7, Mayor Buckhorn and Country Commissioner Al Higginbotham addressed a group of foreign dignitaries with the message, ***"Tampa is open for international business and everyone is welcome."*** This annual lunch hosted by the Tampa Bay Trade and Protocol Council includes the Tampa Bay Consular Corps, Trade Commissioners, International coalition representatives from US CENTCOM and local international leaders.

Arthur Savage, Dean of the Tampa Bay Consular Corps (TBCC) that was started with in the 1960s stated that "he is proud that we have grown to 25 consuls in the Tampa Bay area and have Consuls General from Miami, Atlanta and other parts of Florida visiting the region as our guests. We host this annual luncheon to update our international country leaders on the Visions of the City and the County by Mayor Buckhorn and Commissioner Higginbotham". He also wanted to thank the Tampa Chamber, Mayor, County Commission and our Tampa Bay Consular Corps comprised of Adamantia Klostas, Consul General of Greece; Norma Henning, Honorary Consul of Germany; Lisa Mets, Honorary Consul of Estonia; Juan Carlos Ibarra Schambaher of Peru; Jose Vivero, Honorary Vice Consul of Spain; Juan Sabines, Guerrero, Consul General of Mexico; Donald Hansen, Honorary Consul of Luxembourg; Gerda Hansen,

Honorary Consul of Austria; Terry Delahunty, Honorary Consul of Ireland; Peter Nielsen, Honorary Consul of Uganda; Harvey Smith, Honorary Consul of El Salvador; Toby Unwin, Honorary Consul of Austria; Roman Inochovsky, Honorary Consul of Czech Republic; Aligmantas Karnavicius of Lithuania; Stephen Gergatz, Honorary Consul of Hungary, Kristjan Ingavarsson, Honorary Consul of Iceland; Lou Vlasho, Honorary Consul of Macedonia; Tomas Abreu, Honorary Vice Consul of Monaco; Patrick Willemsen, Honorary Consul of the Netherlands; Kenia Garcia, Consul General of Panama; Luc Burkhardt, Honorary Consul of Switzerland; Jean Charles Faust Honorary Consul of France; Brock McClane, Honorary Consul of Germany; and David Straz, Honorary Consul of Honduras and Liberia for supporting the creation of the Tampa Bay Trade & Protocol Council in 2004 and its continued support of the TBCC and trade in our Tampa Bay community. Their support has aided in growing the TBCC since I took over as Chairman in 1998 from 4 Consuls to 25 today.”