

By Representative Murman

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House Resolution

A resolution honoring the National Football League's Tampa Bay Buccaneers for their most victories in any football season thus far and for their many contributions to Tampa and the Tampa Bay community.

WHEREAS, the Tampa Bay area was awarded the National Football League's 27th team on April 24, 1974, to be named the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, and

WHEREAS, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers made it to the National Football Conference Championship Game in the 1979 football season and the playoffs during the 1981 football season, and

WHEREAS, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' recent success began in 1995, when the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' owner, Mr. Malcolm Glazer, announced his commitment to excellence and to become legitimate contenders in the National Football League, and

WHEREAS, General Manager Rich McKay began assembling what, in a very short time, would become the new Tampa Bay Buccaneers by critical free agent acquisition and intelligent drafting, and

WHEREAS, the new Head Coach of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Tony Dungy, was announced on January 22, 1996, and

WHEREAS, on Sunday, December 28, 1997, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers beat the Detroit Lions, 20-10, for their first playoff victory in eighteen years, thus realizing the effects of new ownership and management, and

WHEREAS, the improbable nature of this accomplishment stems from the fact that the Tampa Bay Buccaneers have not had a winning season since 1981, and

1 WHEREAS, the 1997 Tampa Bay Buccaneers had the most
2 wins in franchise history with 11 victories, and

3 WHEREAS, the 1997 Tampa Bay Buccaneers shattered their
4 franchise record for consecutive victories with six
5 consecutive triumphs, and

6 WHEREAS, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers defense had the most
7 quarterback sacks in franchise history during the 1997 season,
8 totaling forty-four, and

9 WHEREAS, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers defense was rated the
10 best scoring defense in the National Football Conference and
11 second in the National Football League, and

12 WHEREAS, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers had many players that
13 were individually honored, including eight Pro Bowl players, a
14 Rookie of the Year, and the first dual Associated Press
15 All-Pros in franchise history, and

16 WHEREAS, since its inception, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers
17 have also striven for a high level of achievement in the area
18 of community service, contributing in countless ways to the
19 growth and betterment of Tampa and the Tampa Bay community
20 through the organization's community enrichment programs, and

21 WHEREAS, the partnership and support shared by the
22 people of Tampa Bay and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers provides a
23 benchmark for all professional sports franchises and the
24 communities in which they reside, NOW, THEREFORE,

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26 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
27 Florida:

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29 That the Florida House of Representatives hereby
30 congratulates the players, coaches, owners, and staff of the

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1 1997 Tampa Bay Buccaneers on their most victories of any
2 football season thus far.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution
4 be presented to Mr. Malcolm Glazer, Mr. Rich McKay, and Coach
5 Tony Dungy as tangible tokens of the sentiments expressed
6 herein.

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