December 17, 2015

Contact: Felicia Harvey
fharvey@tampachamber.com
813.276.9492
813.489.9284 cell

Chamber installs new leadership at 130th Annual Meeting

*Presents H.L. Culbreath Jr. Profile in Leadership Award to Betty Castor, Announces Startup Scholars*

Tampa, Fla. – The Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce held its 130th Annual Meeting today at the Tampa Convention Center. A sold-out crowd of 800 attendees came together to celebrate the Chamber’s 2015 achievements. 2015 Chamber Chair Ronald A. Christaldi, Esq. of Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP passed the gavel to 2016 Chair Guy King III of M.E. Wilson Co., Inc. The Chamber also received greetings from Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn and Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners Chairman Les Miller. The Chamber of Commerce also collected toys at the event, teaming with Metropolitan Ministries to help bring gifts to the Holiday Tent, which serves more than 19,000 children in the Bay area.

King offered a preview of the Chamber’s priorities in 2016, which included continuing advocacy efforts locally, in Tallahassee, and in Washington D.C. and exploring all transportation options that make strategic sense to the business community. The Chamber will continue developing Tampa’s workforce by developing corporate-academic partnerships through Education Connection, nurturing new business with Startup Scholars, and assisting military personnel who are transitioning into the civilian workplace.

King also introduced the Chamber’s 2016 Executive Committee Members, including:

- **Chair** Guy King III M.E. Wilson Co., Inc.
- **Chair-Elect** Mike Griffin Savills Studley Occupier Services
- **Treasurer** Steven Bernstein, Esq. Fisher & Phillips, LLP
- **Finance** Mark Andrzejewski Laser Spine Institute
  Joseph Meterchick PNC Bank
- **Leadership Development** Jim Dean Busch Gardens/Adventure Islands
  Lorraine Lutton St. Joseph’s Hospital
- **Innovation Leadership** Maryann Ferenc Mise En Place
  Debbie Lundberg Presenting Powerfully By Debbie Lundberg
- **International** Lee Nelson, Esq. Shutts & Bowen LLP
  Jason Woody Lions Eye Institute
The Chamber also presented the 2015 H.L. Culbreath Jr. Profile in Leadership Award to Betty Castor. The award, established in 1997 by Leadership Tampa Alumni, a committee of the Chamber, is presented annually in recognition of an individual whose leadership has made a positive impact within the greater Tampa community.

Betty Castor is best known as a public servant and a leader in advancing public policy in the areas of education, environmental protection, and governmental transparency. Her distinguished career includes many firsts: the first woman elected to the Hillsborough County Commission, first woman elected to the Florida Senate from Tampa Bay, first woman elected Senate President Pro Tem, first woman elected to the Florida Cabinet, and the first woman selected to serve as President of the University of South Florida. Castor’s community involvement is lengthy, significant, and diverse as she remains actively engaged in our community and on a national level.

In addition, the Chamber announced its 2016 class of Startup Scholars, which includes CareFull Products, Cater Me Fit, eSmart Recycling, and Preschool Readers. The guest speakers for the first two signature events of 2016 were also revealed. The Military Appreciation Banquet on February 24th will feature Tampa Bay Buccaneers Wide Receiver Vincent Jackson; his foundation, Jackson in Action Foundation 83, provides support to military families, focusing on the educational, emotional, and physical health of children. The guest speaker for the Women of Influence Luncheon on April 28th is Gay Gaddis, CEO and Founder of T3, the largest woman-owned independent advertising agency in the country.

For more information on the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce, please visit www.tampachamber.com.

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