

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, 2013 marks a significant historical milestone for the state of Florida as it celebrates the 500th Anniversary of Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de Leon's landing on the coast of Florida in April 1513; and,

WHEREAS, Ponce de Leon was the first European explorer to document his voyage and bestowed the name La Florida on the new land in honor of the Spanish Feast of the Flowers; and,

WHEREAS, Florida's history dates back more than 12,000 years to the Native American tribes who preceded the Spanish explorers; and,

WHEREAS, Ponce de Leon's voyage of discovery began a new era in which native people, Europeans and other nationalities under many different flags formed the foundation that created the state of Florida; and,

WHEREAS, a countless number of different cultures have contributed to Florida's heritage and continue to live, work and thrive together today; and,

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of State designated 2013 as Viva Florida 500 to celebrate the legacy of Spanish Florida as well as the achievements of all who have contributed to Florida's dynamic growth, rich diversity and economic prosperity; and,

WHEREAS, Franklin County is a coastal county and there are records of early Europeans in the area with Native Americans.

NOW THEREFORE, be it proclaimed by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners, that 2013 be designated as

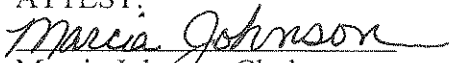
THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EUROPEAN DISCOVERY OF FLORIDA

DONE AND ORDERED THIS 16th Day of April, 2013.



Cheryl Sanders, Chairman
Franklin County Board of
County Commissioners

ATTEST:


Marcia Johnson, Clerk

