

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO RECOGNIZE AND DESIGNATE THE YEAR 2013 AS FLORIDA'S 500<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY, AND CALL UPON THE CITIZENS OF HENDRY COUNTY TO RECOGNIZE AND CELEBRATE FLORIDA'S 500 YEARS OF HISTORY AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY THROUGH A STATEWIDE INITIATIVE CALLED "VIVA FLORIDA 500", AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**WHEREAS**, on April 2, 1513, Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de León landed on the east coast of Florida and become the first recorded European to set foot on the continental United States of America, predating European settlements in Jamestown, Virginia, and Plymouth Rock, Massachusetts, by 94 years and 107 years, respectively; and

**WHEREAS**, 500 years ago Florida was given the name *La Florida* by Juan Ponce de León because of its lush plant life and in honor of Pascua Florida, the Easter time Spanish Feast of Flowers taking place at the time of his arrival; and

**WHEREAS**, the expedition of Ponce de León included people of diverse culture and ancestry, and Native Americans were present for thousands of years prior to any European arrival, and it is important to recognize the contribution of everyone past and present who has contributed to Florida's heritage; and

**WHEREAS**, the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ponce de León's landing is a fitting time to reflect on Florida's dynamic culture, rich diversity, and economic prosperity with the recognition that five flags have flown over Florida in as many centuries, while also being home to Native Americans for at least 12,000 years; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida's landmark 500 year anniversary is being commemorated throughout the state through an initiative called "Viva Florida 500"; and we continue to draw inspiration from 500 years of Florida being a state of exploration, discovery and innovation; and

**WHEREAS**, through Viva Florida 500 and the recognition of our past, Florida's future may be strengthened through continued education and promotion of our strong tourism, technology and agriculture industries; and

**WHEREAS**, Viva Florida 500 reintroduces Florida as the Gateway to the America and reminds the world of the state's historic role in international trade and investment and Florida's business-friendly environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA, that:

1. The Hendry County Board of County Commissioners does hereby recognize and designate 2013 as Florida's 500 Year Anniversary and calls upon all Hendry County residents to recognize and celebrate Florida's 500 years of history and cultural diversity – diversity is Florida's strength. Through Viva Florida 500, Florida can lead the world in a message of unity and free enterprise and share the lessons of this 500 year success story of Florida.
2. The Hendry County Board of County Commissioners encourages citizens to participate in Viva Florida 500 events and activities recognizing the important role Florida played in the story of our Nation's beginning in 1513.
3. This resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

DULY CONSIDERED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Hendry County, Florida this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 2013.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA

By:   
Karson Turner, Chairman



ATTEST:  
  
Barbara S. Butler, Clerk