



Office of the
Orange County Mayor

Proclamation

WHEREAS, on April 2, 1513, Juan Ponce de Leon made landfall in a territory he claimed for Spain and named La Florida, which translates to land of flowers; and

WHEREAS, upon becoming the first European to reach this land, his arrival signified the first contact with Native Americans, who had lived throughout this peninsula for thousands of years and marked the beginning of a mix of peoples and cultures from all continents that has become an inherent part of Florida's history; and

WHEREAS, for the last 500 years Florida has continued to receive visitors from throughout the world who have sought it as a land of opportunity that is endowed with scenic beauty and an ideal climate; and

WHEREAS, Orange County has since become Florida's most appealing lure, serving as the number one destination in the western hemisphere for tourism with over 57 million visitors expected in 2013 at area theme parks and attractions, all of which arrive to conquer only relaxation and diversion; and

WHEREAS, Orange County is intrinsically defined by dramatic change and growth throughout Florida's history and is now called home by over 1.1 million residents that make enriching contributions to our communities through their diverse backgrounds and distinct service in civic, entrepreneurial, and cultural professions; and

WHEREAS, Orange County joins the state of Florida in commemorating the 500th anniversary through the Viva Florida 500 campaign, encouraging residents and visitors alike to re-discover Florida through statewide events and activities, many of which are hosted by community organizations led by citizens inspired to preserve and bring to life our historical heritage; and

WHEREAS, the Orange County Library System was granted a time capsule by the Florida Department of State as a part of the Viva Florida 500 commemoration and, alongside Orange County, encourages citizens to contribute objects descriptive of life in the year 2013 before it is sealed for 50 years and opened in the year 2063;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Teresa Jacobs, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Orange County Mayor, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2013 as

VIVA FLORIDA 500 MONTH

in Orange County and encourage all citizens to celebrate and reflect on the rich historical legacy of our county and state.

DONE AND ORDERED this 2nd day of April, 2013.

TERESA JACOBS, ORANGE COUNTY MAYOR

