



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, the first governor of Puerto Rico, also 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**, various U.S. citizen organizations including the 500th Florida Discovery Council (CF), United Third Bridge-Royal Order of Ponce de Leon (Brevard), Hispanic Achievers Grant Council-Florida Plate have Partnered with Viva Florida-500, the Florida Humanities Council and others to commemorate this significant historic occasion by great celebrations and events to be conducted throughout 2013; and*

***WHEREAS**, to commemorate this milestone, Osceola County citizens and visitors are invited to participate in the many enriching programs and events planned in honor of Viva Florida 500 throughout 2013.*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** that the Osceola Board of county commissioners does hereby proclaim 2013 to be known as*

THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EUROPEAN DISCOVERY OF FLORIDA

***DONE AND ADOPTED** by the Osceola Board of County Commissioners on this 8th day of April 2013.*

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

Frank Attkisson *Fred Hawkins, Jr.*
 Frank Attkisson, Chairman Fred Hawkins, Jr., Vice Chairman