

## 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, to commemorate this milestone, the Hardee County Board of County Commissioners encourage their County citizens and visitors to participate in the many enriching programs and events planned in honor of Viva Florida 500 throughout 2013.

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

**THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EUROPEAN DISCOVERY OF FLORIDA**

DONE AND ORDERED THIS 18th Day of April, 2013.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

  
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SUE BIRGE, CHAIRPERSON