

A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC. COMMEMORATING THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF JUAN PONCE DE LEÓN'S ARRIVAL ON FLORIDA'S EAST COAST.

WHEREAS, on April 2, 1513, Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de León landed on the east coast of Florida and became the first recorded European to set foot on the continental United States of America, predating European settlement in Jamestown, VA., and Plymouth Rock, Mass., 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 Eastertime Feast of Flowers taking place in Spain at the time of his arrival; and

WHEREAS, the 500th anniversary of Ponce de León's landing is a fitting time to reflect on Florida's dynamic culture, rich diversity and economic prosperity; and

WHEREAS, five flags have flown over Florida in as many centuries and Florida has been home to Native Americans for at least 12,000 years; and

WHEREAS, this landmark 500-year anniversary is being commemorated throughout the state in 2013 with an initiative called "Viva Florida 500," which celebrates the important contributions of every community to Florida's rich history and diverse heritage throughout the past 500 years; and

WHEREAS, the Florida League of Cities partnered with the state to launch a campaign, "History Happened Here," to highlight the rich history of Florida's cities, towns and villages; and

WHEREAS, the Florida League of Cities developed an interactive map, located on the official Viva Florida 500 website, that allows visitors to click on any city to learn about its history, see historical photos and, in some cases, watch a brief video; and

WHEREAS, a "History Happened Here" toolkit was developed to help municipalities plan Viva Florida 500 activities; and

WHEREAS, this campaign's success depends upon the participation of Florida's cities, towns and villages; and

WHEREAS, "History Happened Here" offers an opportunity for municipalities to generate tourism and to engage citizens by celebrating the unique history of Florida's local communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:

Section 1. That 2013 is designated "Viva Florida 500 Year," and that all Floridians are encouraged to recognize and commemorate Florida's 500 years of European history and cultural diversity.

Section 2. That Florida's cities, towns and villages are encouraged to highlight their unique local history and develop and promote local Viva Florida 500 events to engage citizens in celebrating Florida's rich history.

Section 3. That Florida's cities, towns and villages participate in the Florida Municipal Achievement Awards, which focus on activities designed to celebrate the history of Florida's cities.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League's 87th Annual Conference, at the Orlando World Center Marriott, Orlando, Florida, this 17th Day of August 2013.

P.C. Wu

P.C. Wu, President
Florida League of Cities, Inc.
Council President, City of Pensacola

ATTEST:

Michael Sittig
Michael Sittig, Executive Director
Florida League of Cities, Inc.

