

RESOLUTION NO. 2013- 4-1-1

**A RESOLUTION OF THE LAFAYETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COMMEMORATING FLORIDA'S 500<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE STATE OF FLORIDA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, on April 2, 1513, 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, MA by 94 years and 107 years, respectively; and

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

**WHEREAS**, Florida's landmark 500 year anniversary is being commemorated throughout the state through "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 agricultural industries, and

**WHEREAS**, Florida is the current home to more than 19 million people from a multitude of backgrounds and is the location where the world's cultures began to unite in 1513 and transform into the great nation we know today as the United States of America; and

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

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of County Commissioners of Lafayette County, Florida, does hereby recognize and designate

**2013 AS FLORIDA'S 500 YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

and calls upon all citizens of Lafayette County, Florida, to recognize and celebrate Florida's 500 years of history. 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.