

RESOLUTION 2013-07

A RESOLUTION OF THE BAKER COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PROCLAIMING "2013" AS VIVA FLORIDA 500

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 500th 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 for at least 12,000 years; 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 Baker County Board of County Commissioners of the State of Florida do hereby recognize and designate


2013 AS FLORIDA'S 500 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

and calls upon all residents of Baker County to recognize and celebrate Florida's 500 years of history and cultural diversity - diversity is Florida's strength; 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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Baker County Board of County Commissioners encourage citizens to participate in Viva Florida 500 events and activities recognizing the important role Florida played in the story of our Nation's beginning in 1513.



Al Fraser, Clerk to the Board



Mark Hartley, Chairman