

**RESOLUTION NO. 2013 – 67**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA, CELEBRATING THE 500<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE LANDING OF JUAN PONCE DE LEON TO THE LAND HE NAMED *LA FLORIDA* IN 1513.**

**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 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.