



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RICK SCOTT
Governor

KEN DETZNER
Secretary of State

May 1, 2012

Mayor Alvin Brown
City Hall at St. James Building
117 West Duval Street, Suite 400
Jacksonville, Florida 32202

Dear Mayor Brown:

As Florida's Chief Cultural Officer, I am proud to support the City of Jacksonville as they commemorate the landing of Captain Jean Ribault in 1562. The French influence on Florida's culture is significant and the sequiquadricentennial anniversary of the landing in Jacksonville is a unique opportunity to acknowledge this association.

Our state is rich with incredible people, places and history. With many thousand French nationals and native French speakers from other countries who call Florida home, the French connection with Florida has clearly strengthened over the last 450 years. This week, during the City of Jacksonville's French week, residents and visitors will enjoy learning more about this fascinating chapter in our state and nation's history, while also hearing the romantic French language and discovering French culture. My sincere congratulations and appreciation go to you and the staff of the City of Jacksonville who have created such an outstanding program to commemorate this 450th anniversary.

As one of the first commemorative events for Viva Florida 500, Jacksonville's 450th anniversary in 2012 is certain to be a success for your city and for the state. It is an opportunity to raise awareness for not only the significant French milestone in Florida's history, but also the important role that Florida has played in the early history of our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Detzner".

Ken Detzner
Secretary of State

KD/rbp

