



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

FRENCH DAY

WHEREAS, this year, Florida and the United States will celebrate the 450th anniversary of the first French landing on American soil; and

WHEREAS, on February 18, 1562, the French explorer Jean Ribault set sail from France to cross the Atlantic Ocean to found a colony in the New World; and

WHEREAS, more than two months later, on April 30, 1562, Jean Ribault's sailing expedition dropped anchor at the mouth of a river he named River May, the modern-day St. Johns River; and

WHEREAS, on June 22, 1564, René Goulaine de Laudonnière established the first French colony in the present-day United States of America in what is now Jacksonville, Florida; and

WHEREAS, René Goulaine de Laudonnière's establishment is now operated and maintained as Fort Caroline National Memorial; and

WHEREAS, France and its people have played a special role in Florida's unique cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, 30,000 French nationals permanently reside in Florida; and


WHEREAS, the State of Florida welcomes thousands of French tourists each year; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that as we mark the 450th anniversary of the first French landing on American soil, we honor and recognize our cultural and historical relationships and our friendships with the people of France.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Scott, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing May 1, 2012 as ***French Day*** in Florida.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Great State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee the Capital, this 24th day of April, in the year two thousand twelve.


Governor