

# Proclamation

## French Day in Honor of Jean Ribault

*Whereas*, on April 30, 1562, under the command of Jean Ribault, the first French sailing expedition dropped anchor along the North Coast of Florida at the mouth of a river that he later named River May and that has since been renamed the St. Johns River, and

*Whereas*, on May 1, 1562, upon setting foot on the banks of the St. Johns River and upon offering a prayer of thanksgiving for their safe arrival, Ribault developed friendships with the Mocama-speaking natives, and

*Whereas*, on May 2, 1562, Ribault and his men erected a column in honor of their King, Charles IX, thereby claiming the land for France, and

*Whereas*, La Caroline, the first French settlement in the present-day United States, was established for the purpose of individual and religious freedom in what is now Jacksonville on June 22, 1564, under the leadership of René Goulaine de Laudonnière, as a result of a second French sailing expedition, and

*Whereas*, France has established a long-lasting relationship with Florida through its trade, cultural, and education organizations, and

*Whereas*, twenty Floridian and French cities and counties have signed agreements to promote cultural and commercial ties and more than 50 partnerships between Floridian and French universities are currently in place, and

*Whereas*, this concord between France and Florida is also evidenced by 30,000 French nationals permanently residing in Florida, more than 300,000 French visiting the state every year, and numerous French enterprises conducting business in the state,


*Now, Therefore*, I, Fland O. Sharp, Mayor of the City of Jacksonville Beach, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim that May 1, 2012 as

## French Day in Honor of Jean Ribault

In honor of 450 years of historical bonds and friendship between the people of France and the people of Florida.

*In Witness Whereof*, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Jacksonville Beach to be affixed this 9<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2012.



  
Fland O. Sharp, MAYOR

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE BEACH

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