

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in 1888 Henry Flagler opened in his first and most unique architectural gem in St. Augustine, the Hotel Ponce de Leon, one of the first commissions for the architectural firm of Carrere and Hastings and built by the contractors McGuire and McDonald; and

WHEREAS, the Hotel Ponce de Leon is one of America's earliest large buildings to be constructed of poured-in-place concrete using steam power, decorated with thousands of electric lights by Edison Electric Company, and interior features by Louis Comfort Tiffany, George Willoughby Maynard and Virgilio Tojetti; and

WHEREAS, as Florida's first great luxury winter resort, the Hotel Ponce de Leon earned St. Augustine the name "Newport of the South," and brought the modern era of tourism to the state by introducing world travelers to our exotic State and the old world charm of St. Augustine; and

WHEREAS, in 1968 the Hotel Ponce de Leon became the centerpiece of a new educational institution named Flagler College in honor of Henry Flagler, which has grown steadily into one of the nation's most respected small colleges, and

WHEREAS, in 1975 the former Hotel Ponce de Leon was listed on the National Register of Historic Places and since its founding Flagler College has invested more than \$23 million to maintain the architectural integrity of the Hotel Ponce de Leon and surrounding buildings through a vigorous program of restoration, preservation, and adaptive reuse; and

WHEREAS, on February 21, 2006, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Gale A. Norton named the former Hotel Ponce de Leon a National Historic Landmark, recognizing its national significance in American history and culture, and its important contribution to the Nation's historical development.

NOW THEREFORE, the City Commission of the City of St. Augustine, on behalf of all Citizens of the City of St. Augustine, hereby congratulates the Board of Trustees, administration, staff, faculty and students of Flagler College for this high honor, and expresses our gratitude for their exemplary commitment to historic preservation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of St. Augustine, Florida, to be affixed on this 21st day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand and six, in the four hundred fortieth year of the founding of St. Augustine, the Nation's Oldest City.

George Gardner, Mayor