

A Proclamation

WHEREAS, Overton G. (Tony) Ganong is retiring as executive director of the St. Augustine Historical Society, and

WHEREAS, his education reflects his dedication to his profession, earning a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Tampa, where he majored in history and English, and master's and doctorate degrees in modern European history at the University of Florida, and

WHEREAS, while his term as executive director of the St. Augustine Historical Society was a brief two years, his devotion to our Nation's Oldest City is long-standing, having served as visitor services supervisor, historian and interim director at the Historic St. Augustine Preservation Board in the 1970s, and continuing his ties with Florida and St. Augustine while establishing the South Carolina State Museum and serving as executive director for 16 years, and

WHEREAS, the quality of Dr. Ganong's professional career is reflected in a resolution from the South Carolina Legislature, recognizing "his years of inspired service to the state and its citizens as the executive director of the state museum (which) under his leadership has become a catalyst for the cultural and educational development in our state," and

WHEREAS, he ably carried out his vision for the St. Augustine Historical Society as an enterprising organization, financially sound, focused on its customers and proactive in developing community partnerships to better preserve and interpret St. Augustine's unique history, his initiatives including the centennial visit of Teddy Roosevelt, and holiday candlelight tours and Halloween tours of the Oldest House, and

WHEREAS, colleagues praise his unconditional love for St. Augustine and Florida, and his exceptional teaching skills and instinctive ability to make the best of a bad situation, turning a crisis situation into productivity.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Commission of the City of St. Augustine is honored to render this proclamation to **Overton G. (Tony) Ganong**, in recognition of his professionalism, service, and devotion to St. Augustine and the preservation and interpretation of its unique history.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of St. Augustine to be affixed this 29th day of June in the year of our Lord two thousand and six, and the four hundred and fortieth year of the founding of St. Augustine, the Nation's Oldest City.

George Gardner, Mayor