

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the question "Who Named America?" is a learning tool to champion understanding of how the geographic naming of America in Western Civilization opens local windows for worldwide learning, energizing our youth's thirst for knowledge that combats the deterioration of literacy in science, history and literature; and

WHEREAS, the word "America" was born in the spirit of invention and innovation to improve humanity's understanding of planet earth's geography. On April 25, 1507, at Ville St. Die in France, the German cartographer Martin Waldseemuller published the first map of the globe with 12 time zones; and

WHEREAS, "America" first appeared on the coast of South America, known today as Brazil-Uruguay-Argentina, to honor Florentine astronomer-navigator Amerigo Vespucci, who voyaged across the Atlantic for Spain and Portugal; and

WHEREAS, the America 500 Birthday Extravaganza (2007-2012) 5-year global education initiative is sponsored by independent citizens serving as the Organizing Committee recognized by mayors in 50 states and in the US Congress by House Res. 287 "America" to champion the national platform "Bring the Spirit Of History in Your Town" as a local window to worldwide learning that inspires youth to explore our hometown's story and origins; and

WHEREAS, on April 12, 2007, the German Post issued the first stamp to commemorate the 500th anniversary of Waldseemuller's map naming America, using this once-in-history opportunity as a global initiative to improve international understanding for world peace; and

WHEREAS, "Spirit of Invention" 2008 Edition celebrates the Spirit of American's origin as a vision to celebrate this monumental occasion with the gift of "Who Named America?" and an opportune time to request US Postmaster General John E. Potter to consider issuing a "Who Named America" commemorative stamp.

NOW THEREFORE, the City Commission of the City of Saint Augustine, does hereby proclaim the month of June, 2008, as "WHO NAMED AMERICA YOUTH EDUCATION MONTH" in the City of St. Augustine.

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 23rd day of June in the year of our Lord two thousand and eight, in the four hundred and forty-second year of the founding of St. Augustine, the Nation's Oldest City

Joseph L. Boles, Jr., MAYOR