

❧ PROCLAMATION ❧

WHEREAS, Francis Drake sailed to the New World with more than 40 ships and 2000 men, attacking Spanish ports in the Dominican Republic and Cartagena, Columbia prior to sailing north in search of more Spanish settlements to conquer; and

WHEREAS, while sailing north up the east coast of La Florida he spied a watchtower built for the protection of St. Augustine, and on June 6, 1586 Drake and his crew of 2000 men aboard 23 large, 19 small ships, attacked St. Augustine, looting the town for 7 days before setting the City afire, burning it to the ground; and

WHEREAS, many of the Spanish settlers fled into the woods, escaping capture or certain death at the hands of the English invaders, and who returned to re-build St. Augustine after Drake and his crew sailed away; and

WHEREAS, the Historic Florida Militia, Inc., was established in 1984, and the Men of Menendez, a 16th C Company was organized by Historic Florida Militia, Inc, founding member Robert Hall, held the first re-enactment of Drake's infamous raid on St. Augustine in June of 1986, and for the last 25 years the Men of Menendez have held the re-enactment of the sacking and burning of the city on the first weekend in June; and

WHEREAS, the re-enactment on June 4, 2011 marks the 425th Commemoration of Drake's attack on St. Augustine;

NOW, THEREFORE, The City Commission of the City of St. Augustine, Florida, does hereby remember the steadfast courage of the Spanish settlers who endured much hardship to gain hold of a new life in the new world, and calls upon all of the people of the City of St. Augustine to join the Men of Menendez in recognizing and participating in this historic commemoration of an important event in the history of St. Augustine.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and do cause the Seal of the City of St. Augustine to be affixed this 23rd day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand and eleven, and the four hundred and forty fifth year of the founding of St. Augustine, the Nation's Oldest City.