

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Florida Memorial was founded in 1941, the product of two institutional mergers involving Florida Baptist Institute established by the Black Baptists of Florida in Live Oak in 1879 and the Florida Baptist Academy established in Jacksonville, Florida in 1892; and

WHEREAS, in 1918 the institution relocated to St. Augustine, Florida where it remained until 1968, during which time the institution achieved numerous milestones including construction of several new buildings and dormitories, and becoming known as Florida Normal and Industrial Institute; and

WHEREAS, in 1963 the college changed its name to Florida Memorial College, and relocated to Miami, Florida in 1968 becoming known as Florida Memorial University in March, 2006, offering 41 undergraduate degree programs and graduate programs in education and business administration; and

WHEREAS, the University was established by and remains closely affiliated with the Baptist Church, emphasizing Christian values, strong moral character, mutual respect, freedom of worship and a commitment to serve, determined to demonstrate the University motto of leadership, character and service at every opportunity; and

WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln Lewis (1865 – 1947) was an American businessman, who founded the Afro-American Life Insurance Company in Jacksonville, Florida, becoming the state's first African American millionaire. Lewis also established the community of American Beach, a prestigious vacation spot for blacks during the period of racial segregation, which is listed on the National Register.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Commission of the City of St. Augustine does hereby extend the best wishes of the citizens of St. Augustine and congratulates Florida Memorial University on the dedication of the A. L. Lewis Archway Plaza.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and do cause the Seal of the City of St. Augustine to be affixed this 14th day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand eleven, and in the four hundred and forty fifth year of the founding of St. Augustine, the Nation's Oldest City.

Mayor Joseph Boles