

RESOLUTION NO. 2003- 63

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA, PROCLAIMING MAY 2003 AS FLORIDA
STATE PARKS MONTH IN NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA**

WHEREAS, Florida's massive and diverse state park system, with over 600,000 acres and 158 parks, has received national recognition for its state parks partnerships, its cutting-edge resource management, its nature and heritage tourism programs and its environmental education value; and

WHEREAS, Florida's beautiful state parks are vital to the environmental, economic and resource management goals of the state while providing a relaxing outdoor experience for visitors; and

WHEREAS, Florida's state park system not only preserves these pristine natural areas forever, it also has a growing positive economic impact on Florida's local communities, which totaled \$551 million last year; and

WHEREAS, local state parks, such as Fort Clinch State Park in Fernandina Beach, which has 18 employees, 190,000 visitors annually, an economic impact of \$5.7 million on the local community and exceptional features such as historic Fort Clinch, resulting in substantial enhancement of the quality of life for our citizens; and

WHEREAS, 78 citizen support organizations and 6,000 volunteers support Florida's state park system and volunteers last year provided 906,000 hours of service, the equivalent of 435 full-time employees; and

WHEREAS, its volunteer programs, along with its innovative outsourcing programs, allow Florida's state park system to provide more services with fewer employees;

WHEREAS, Florida's state park system had some 18 million visitors last year from throughout Florida, the United States and the world, and attendance at Florida's state parks is growing with the worldwide boom in nature and heritage tourism; and

WHEREAS, Florida's state parks are engaged in hundreds of partnerships with national and local parks in Florida to make these invaluable resources available to Florida citizens and visitors;

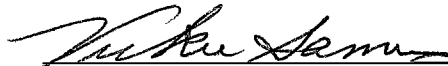
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED this 28th day of April 2003 that the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County, Florida recognizes the immense environmental and economic benefits of Florida State Parks to the state's local communities by designating

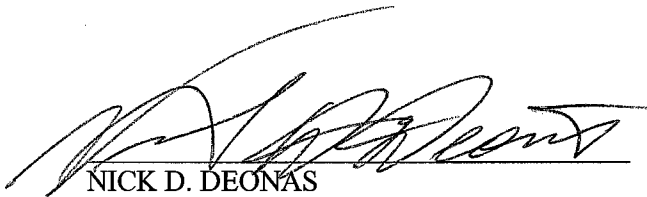
MAY 2003 AS FLORIDA STATE PARKS MONTH

and encourage all citizens to enjoy, protect and support Florida's beautiful and diverse state parks in May 2003, and in the years to come so future generations of Floridians and visitors may also enjoy and learn about Florida's unique natural and cultural heritage through these priceless areas.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County, Florida has hereunto subscribed their names and have caused the Official Seal of Nassau County, Florida be hereunto affixed this 28th day of April, 2003.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA


VICKIE SAMUS
Its: Chairman



NICK D. DEONAS


ANSLEY ACREE

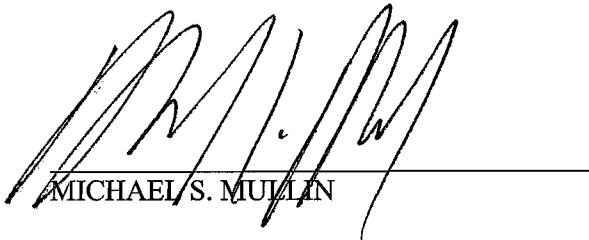

FLOYD L. VANZANT


MARIANNE MARSHALL

ATTEST:


J. M. "CHIP" OXLEY, JR.
Its: Ex-Officio Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM BY THE
NASSAU COUNTY ATTORNEY:


MICHAEL S. MULLIN