

RESOLUTION NO. 2012- 72

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA, CELEBRATING THE 450TH ANNIVERSARY OF
FRENCH HUGUENOT CAPTAIN JEAN RIBAUT'S ARRIVAL TO FLORIDA
AND NASSAU COUNTY.**

WHEREAS, on February 18, 1562, Captain Jean Ribault, a renowned, French navigator and sea captain, led a French expedition known as the Huguenots to the New World to start a colony; and

WHEREAS, Captain Ribault and the Huguenots crossed the Atlantic Ocean and arrived on the northeast Florida Coast near St. Augustine, Florida; and

WHEREAS, Captain Ribault's fleet proceeded north along the Atlantic Coast and entered the mouth of the St. Marys River on May 3, 1562, and anchored in the Cumberland Sound; and

WHEREAS, Captain Ribault and the Huguenots stepped ashore a large island to the south of Cumberland Sound and named the island "Isle de Mai" (Island of May) after the time of year; and

WHEREAS, it was on the Isle of Mai that the Huguenots had the first European/Native American encounter when they were greeted by the local Timucua Tribe; and

WHEREAS, Captain Ribault and the Huguenots departed the Isle de Mai in 1564; and

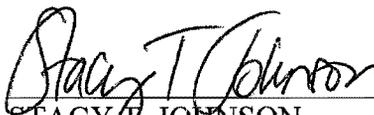
WHEREAS, Captain Ribault returned with a second group of Huguenots in 1565 and constructed Fort Caroline in England Jacksonville near the mouth of the St. Johns River; and

WHEREAS, Spanish Troops raided Fort Caroline killing Captain Ribault and the Huguenots before they could return to the Isle of Mai; and

WHEREAS, the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners acknowledge the significance of Captain Jean Ribault's arrival to Nassau County, especially Amelia Island as the French flag was the first to be flown over the island.

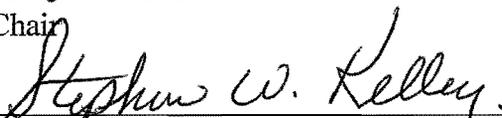
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED this 18th day of April, 2012, that the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners wishes to commemorate the Sesquicentennial (450th) anniversary of Captain Jean Ribault's arrival to Nassau County and the beginning of French history in Florida.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA

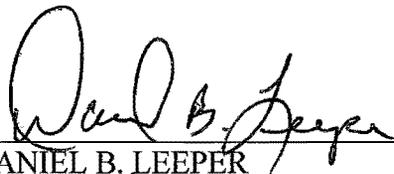


STACY T. JOHNSON

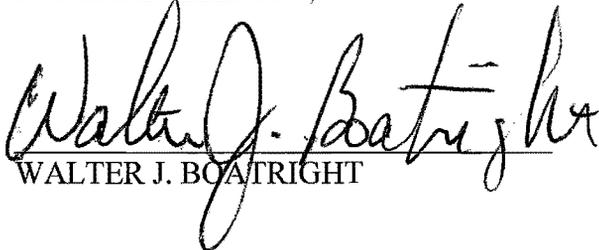
Its: Chair



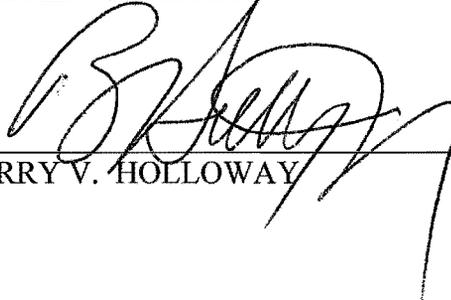
STEPHEN W. KELLEY



DANIEL B. LEEPER



WALTER J. BOATRIGHT



BARRY V. HOLLOWAY

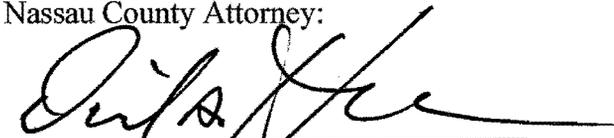
ATTEST AS TO CHAIRMAN'S
SIGNATURE:



JOHN A. CRAWFORD

Its: Ex-Officio Clerk

Approved as to form by the
Nassau County Attorney:



DAVID A. HALEMAN