

By Representative Wiles

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House Resolution

A resolution recognizing January 31, 2002, as
"St. Johns County Day" in Tallahassee.

WHEREAS, on September 8, 1565, Don Pedro Menendez de
Aviles founded St. Augustine, the oldest continuously occupied
European settlement in the United States, and

WHEREAS, St. Johns County is the site for Fort Mose,
established by Spaniards and former African slaves in 1738,
the first free black fort and settlement in North America, and

WHEREAS, on July 21, 1821, St. Johns County, named for
the St. Johns River, became one of Florida's first two
counties by ordinance proclaimed by Major General Andrew
Jackson, and

WHEREAS, St. Johns County encompasses 609 square miles,
from the many miles of beautiful beaches to the scenic Bartram
Trail Highway that runs along the St. Johns River, and

WHEREAS, St. Johns County is a popular tourist
destination, hosting more than 2 million visitors each year to
the historic City of St. Augustine, St. Augustine Beach, and
its other communities, and

WHEREAS, St. Johns County is one of the nation's most
recognized golf destinations and is home to the World Golf
Hall of Fame, the PGA Tour's annual Players Championship, and
the Senior PGA Tour's Liberty Mutual Legends of Golf, played
at the World Golf Village, and

WHEREAS, St. Johns County is also home to the
Association of Tennis Players Tour, headquartered in Ponte
Vedra Beach, and

WHEREAS, agriculture is a critical component of the
economy of St. Johns County, with its 149 farms on 49,631

1 agricultural acres comprising more than 12.7 percent of all
2 the lands in the county and producing more than \$46 million in
3 revenue annually, and

4 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes St. Johns County
5 for its rich history and cultural diversity, NOW, THEREFORE,

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7 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
8 Florida:

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10 That January 31, 2002, be recognized as "St. Johns
11 County Day" in Tallahassee.

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