

By Senator Bean

4-02819-15

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Senate Resolution

A resolution celebrating the 450th anniversary of the founding of St. Augustine and recognizing September 8, 2015, as "Founder's Day" in Florida.

WHEREAS, on September 8, 1565, Pedro Menendez de Avilés founded San Agustin in the Spanish territory, La Florida, and

WHEREAS, after its founding, St. Augustine was occupied over the years by Spanish, British, and American colonists, and

WHEREAS, St. Augustine is recognized as the oldest continuously occupied European settlement in North America and was the site of the first free African-American settlement in the Americas, known as Fort Mose, and

WHEREAS, the first Christian Mass in the new world was offered in St. Augustine by Father Francisco López de Mendoza Grajales, who founded the parish of Saint Augustine and helped establish Christianity in North America, and

WHEREAS, St. Augustine was also home to the first hospital and the first tavern in North America, and

WHEREAS, 2015 marks the 450th anniversary of the founding of St. Augustine and the multicultural founding of America, NOW, THEREFORE,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

That the 450th anniversary of the founding of St. Augustine is celebrated, and September 8, 2015, is recognized as "Founder's Day" in Florida.