

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to legal holidays and special
3 observances; creating s. 683.095, F.S.; designating
4 the second Monday in October of each year as "Sir
5 Lancelot Jones Day"; authorizing the Governor to issue
6 proclamations commemorating the occasion; encouraging
7 public officials, schools, private organizations, and
8 citizens to commemorate the occasion; providing an
9 effective date.

10
11 WHEREAS, born in 1898 on a 22-foot boat in Biscayne Bay,
12 entrepreneur and farmer Sir Lancelot Garfield Jones prospered by
13 supplying the nation with Key limes and was an expert fishing
14 guide sought by five presidents and numerous senators,
15 influential industrialists, and other cultural icons eager to
16 experience the beauty of the bay's wildlife, and

17 WHEREAS, Sir Lancelot Garfield Jones lived most of his 99
18 years on the tiny island known as Porgy Key, near the southern
19 end of Biscayne Bay, which was first settled by his pioneer
20 father and Bahamian mother in 1897 in an area long associated
21 with African-American maritime history and which is now on the
22 National Register of Historical Places, and

23 WHEREAS, often referred to as the "Sage of Caesar Creek,"
24 Sir Lancelot Garfield Jones became an educator of schoolchildren
25 and a conservationist whose resolute values toward the
26 preservation of Biscayne Bay greatly contributed to the

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27 establishment of Biscayne National Park, which was created to
28 preserve and protect area wildlife for the education,
29 inspiration, recreation, and enjoyment of present and future
30 generations, and

31 WHEREAS, Biscayne National Park is home to a rare
32 combination of terrestrial, marine, and amphibious life in a
33 tropical and subtropical setting of great natural beauty, which
34 annually draws an average of 500,000 visitors, contributes more
35 than \$34 million to the state's economy, and supports 422 jobs,
36 and

37 WHEREAS, the invaluable efforts of Sir Lancelot Garfield
38 Jones to preserve the land he loved and to ensure that future
39 generations would delight in its beauty and abundance have
40 resulted in significant economic, ecological, and cultural
41 contributions to the state, its heritage, and its future, NOW,
42 THEREFORE,

43

44 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

45

46 Section 1. Section 683.095, Florida Statutes, is created
47 to read:

48 683.095 Sir Lancelot Jones Day.-

49 (1) The second Monday in October of each year is
50 designated as "Sir Lancelot Jones Day" to commemorate the
51 contributions of Sir Lancelot Garfield Jones in the preservation
52 of Biscayne Bay and the establishment of Biscayne National Park.

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53 (2) The Governor may issue annually a proclamation
54 designating the second Monday in October as "Sir Lancelot Jones
55 Day." Public officials, schools, private organizations, and all
56 citizens are encouraged to honor the legacy of Sir Lancelot
57 Garfield Jones and his contributions to the state by
58 commemorating Sir Lancelot Jones Day on the second Monday in
59 October of each year.

60 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.