

By the Committee on Environmental Preservation and Conservation;
and Senator Bullard

592-03759-15

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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" in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties;
6 encouraging public officials, schools, private
7 organizations, and citizens in Miami-Dade and Monroe
8 Counties 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, given the adjacent ecosystems of southern Biscayne
24 Bay and the northern Florida Keys, the lifelong conservation and
25 education efforts of Sir Lancelot Garfield Jones are of
26 significant importance to Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties, and

27 WHEREAS, often referred to as the "Sage of Caesar Creek,"
28 Sir Lancelot Garfield Jones became an educator of schoolchildren
29 and a conservationist whose resolute values toward the

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30 preservation of Biscayne Bay greatly contributed to the
31 establishment of Biscayne National Park, which was created to
32 preserve and protect area wildlife for the education,
33 inspiration, recreation, and enjoyment of present and future
34 generations, and

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

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

47

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

49

50 Section 1. Section 683.095, Florida Statutes, is created to
51 read:

52 683.095 Sir Lancelot Jones Day; Miami-Dade and Monroe
53 Counties.—The second Monday in October of each year is
54 designated as "Sir Lancelot Jones Day" in Miami-Dade and Monroe
55 Counties to commemorate the contributions of Sir Lancelot
56 Garfield Jones in the preservation of Biscayne Bay and the
57 establishment of Biscayne National Park. Public officials,
58 schools, private organizations, and all citizens in Miami-Dade

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59 and Monroe Counties are encouraged to honor the legacy of Sir
60 Lancelot Garfield Jones and his contributions to the state by
61 commemorating Sir Lancelot Jones Day on the second Monday in
62 October of each year.

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