

Ben Costello, Director

1715 Fleet Society

Dear Mr. Costello:

As Mayor of the City of Fort Pierce, I would like to urge you and your members to visit Fort Pierce in conjunction with the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the sinking of the 1715 Spanish Fleet off our shores. St. Lucie County residents often lose sight of the reason we are called the Treasure Coast, but treasure hunters the world over know the Fort Pierce Inlet as the gateway to the recovery of treasure from the sunken ships. Knowledgeable treasure hunters also feel the lure of the precious metals and relics that may still lie beneath the sand on local beaches.

As you know, the ships were wrecked by hurricanes off the Atlantic Coast from Sebastian in Indian River County to Fort Pierce and further south in St. Lucie County. Both counties will be working together to make welcome those who want to visit here, metal detector in hand, to try their luck treasure hunting.

There are many attractions for visitors to St. Lucie County, including the National Navy-UDT SEAL Museum, Harbor Branch Oceanographic, Smithsonian Marine, Regional History Center, Manatee Center, Ocean Research and Conservation Association, and many other marine-related resources. Historic Downtown Fort Pierce and our barrier islands have many dining choices. Boating visitors have several marina choices, including the Fort Pierce City Marina along the Indian River Lagoon.

Fort Pierce is an urban city with small town charm and simplicity. Make your summer vacation plans now to include treasure hunting on the Treasure Coast. Check out Fort Pierce Authentic Tours for lots more to do in Fort Pierce <http://fortpierceanthentictours.com/>. Fort Pierce is “Real Folks...Real Florida.”

Linda Hudson

Mayor