

WHEREAS, on July 24, 1715, a fleet of 10 Spanish ships and one French vessel, sailed from Havana, Cuba, bound for Europe carrying an enormous quantity of gold, silver, jewels and other valuables; and

WHEREAS, a strong hurricane overtook the fleet as it sailed northward along Florida's east coast and on July 31, 1715 wrecked all 10 Spanish ships along the shoreline roughly between today's St. Lucie Inlet and Sebastian Inlet; and

WHEREAS, the loss of life among passengers and crew of the 10 Spanish ships was estimated at more than 1,000, and when combined with the vast amounts of treasure sunk, has led historians to list this event among the worst maritime disasters in history; and

WHEREAS, in recent decades experts using modern detection and salvage equipment have identified numerous Spanish wreck sites, recovering substantial quantities of gold and silver, plus cannons, anchors and other remnants of the sunken ships; and

WHEREAS, the Fort Pierce seaport became an important base for salvage vessels and crews, and a prime locale for bringing treasure and artifacts to land, causing this area to become widely known as "Florida's Treasure Coast"; and

WHEREAS, many artifacts from the 1715 fleet are displayed in museums such as the St. Lucie County Regional History Center in Fort Pierce, helping to expand public appreciation of Florida's diverse and complex history; and

WHEREAS, this is the 300th anniversary year of the 1715 Spanish fleet disaster.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Linda Hudson, Mayor of the City of Fort Pierce, do hereby proclaim the period from Saturday, July 25 through Friday, July 31, 2015 as:

1715 Spanish Treasure Fleet Remembrance Week

and urge the public to respectfully contemplate the many lives lost, and to mark the occasion with educational and cultural events that illustrate this important aspect of local and state history.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official Seal of the City of Fort Pierce, Florida, to be affixed this 6th day of July, 2015.

MAYOR COMMISSIONER