



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

AMERICAN FOUNDERS' MONTH AND CELEBRATE FREEDOM WEEK IN FLORIDA

WHEREAS, American Founders' Month and Celebrate Freedom Week commemorate the individual liberty, unalienable rights, and equal opportunity woven into the fabric of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the contributions of the Founding Fathers to American Independence and to the constitutional republic entrusted to future generations are recognized and observed through American Founders' Month as codified in Section 683.1455, Florida Statutes (F.S.); and

WHEREAS, Celebrate Freedom Week as codified in Section 1003.421, F.S., is an opportunity to educate all Florida students about the sacrifices made for freedom in the founding of this country and unite them around the self-evident truths that "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness"; and

WHEREAS, underscoring the importance of an informed citizenry to individual liberty and republican government, James Madison in 1822 wrote in favor of the Kentucky plan of public education, "knowledge will forever govern ignorance; and a people who mean to be their own governors must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives...What spectacle can be more edifying or seasonable than that of liberty and learning, each leaning on the other for their mutual and surest support?"; and

WHEREAS, Florida's newly revised B.E.S.T. academic standards for civics and government emphasize the study of primary source documents for teaching the philosophical underpinnings of the American Republic and the root cause of American exceptionalism; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the 2021 legislative session, a comparative discussion of the political ideologies that conflict with the principles of freedom and democracy will be added to high school United States government courses and the Portraits in Patriotism resources will provide students with opportunities to learn about the blessings of liberty.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing September 2021, as *American Founders' Month in Florida* and the last full week of public-school classes in September as *Celebrate Freedom Week in Florida*.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 1st day of September, in the year two thousand twenty-one.



Governor