



Proclamation

*Board of County Commissioners
Manatee County, Florida*

WHEREAS, Manatee Heritage Days is celebrating thirty-nine years of introducing Manatee County residents and visitors to local history; and

WHEREAS, Manatee Heritage Days began in 1979 as a weeklong event and, since 1995, has expanded to a month of activities and events; and

WHEREAS, Manatee County has over two dozen organizations dedicated to preserving our community's history and heritage; and

WHEREAS, these organizations exist in all areas of our county from Anna Maria Island to Myakka City and from Parrish to Bradenton; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, twenty-three organizations will host forty-seven events throughout the county; and

WHEREAS, visitors to historic sites and cultural attractions stay 53 percent longer and spend 36 percent more money than other kinds of tourists; and

WHEREAS, Heritage Tourism generates \$4.13 billion in expenditures and supports 85,562 jobs in Florida; and

WHEREAS, quality of life issues contribute significantly to decisions businesses make in choosing to relocate, including access to local history experiences; and

WHEREAS, knowledge of local history helps new residents assimilate to the community and also reduces crimes such as graffiti and vandalism; and

WHEREAS, Manatee Heritage Days begins February 26 and runs through March 31.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, that March 1-31, 2018, shall be known, designated, and set aside as

MANATEE HERITAGE DAYS

in Manatee County, Florida.

ADOPTED with a quorum present and voting this 13th day of February 2018.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

Priscilla Trace, Chairman

ATTEST: *Angelina Colonnese*
Clerk of the Circuit Court
