

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS: In the 500 years since Christopher Columbus, hailing from Genoa, Italy, sailed across the Atlantic, countless individuals have pursued a new beginning in America; and over that expanse of time, generations of Italian Americans have played pivotal roles in shaping our society and impacting the course of American history; and

WHEREAS: Upon arrival in the U.S., the Italian-American community faced racial, religious and social discrimination, but persevered, leveraging hope and hard work in their efforts to reach for the American dream; and

WHEREAS: Today, the legacy of those Italian-American pioneers is present in the millions of U.S. citizens of Italian descent who daily add to the strength, prosperity and dynamism of this great country; and

WHEREAS: Italian Americans operate businesses, serve as educators and at all levels of government, serve in our armed forces and succeed in a wide range of occupations; and

WHEREAS: The Italian American Club (IAC) of Jacksonville is one of the oldest ethnic organizations in Duval County, having formed in the early 1920s and eventually established the Club to promote and preserve Italian heritage and traditions; and

WHEREAS: By 1978, a new building was constructed in Mandarin and in the years since, the IAC has grown to more than 200 members covering four generations of Italian Americans; and

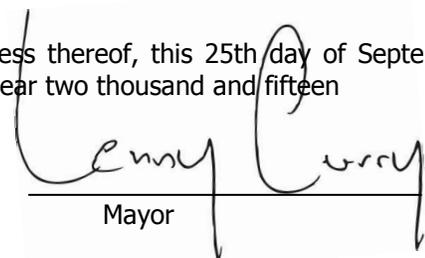
WHEREAS: Jacksonville joins with the IAC in observing October as National Italian-American Heritage Month, and in recognizing the 25th anniversary of the IAC's annual *Festa Italiana*.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LENNY CURRY, by virtue of the authority vested in me as mayor of Jacksonville, Florida, do hereby proclaim October 2015 as

ITALIAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

in Jacksonville and encourage all citizens to join me in recognizing the contributions of Italian Americans across our nation and throughout the years.

In witness thereof, this 25th day of September
in the year two thousand and fifteen


Mayor

