

Proclamation

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

Whereas, on June 29, 1925, Indian River County was officially established as Florida's 65th county, carved from the northern portion of St. Lucie County to provide residents with greater local autonomy, improved allocation of public services, and freedom from burdensome regulation; and

Whereas, the county takes its name from the Indian River Lagoon, a vital and biodiverse ecosystem that supports more than 4,000 species of plants and animals and has long served as both a cultural and economic lifeline for the region; and

Whereas, Indian River County has cultivated a proud agricultural legacy, with its world-renowned Indian River citrus—particularly oranges and grapefruit—gaining international acclaim for exceptional flavor and quality, owing to the region's unique soil, subtropical climate, and generations of dedicated farmers; and

Whereas, aviation has played a central role in the county's history and development, most notably through the Vero Beach Airport, which began service in the 1930s and served as a Naval Air Station during World War II, training naval aviators and contributing to the defense of our nation; and

Whereas, the legacy of sports and civil rights also runs deep in Indian River County, where the Brooklyn Dodgers established their spring training facility at Historic Dodgertown in Vero Beach in 1948—ushering in an era of integrated baseball in the South, and serving as the spring training home of Jackie Robinson, whose courage and talent helped break the color barrier in Major League Baseball and inspired change throughout generations; and

Whereas, Indian River County is home to some of Florida's most pristine and cherished natural resources, including its white-sand beaches, vibrant coastal communities, and the Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge—the first national wildlife refuge in the United States—symbolizing a century-long commitment to conservation and environmental stewardship; and

Whereas, over the past 100 years, Indian River County has grown into a vibrant and resilient community, blending the charm of its rural and agricultural heritage with innovation in business, the arts, education, and public service, while maintaining its deep connection to land, water, and people.

Now, Therefore, be it Proclaimed by the Board of County Commissioners of Indian River County, Florida, that June 29, 2025, shall be recognized as: INDIAN RIVER COUNTY CENTENNIAL DAY and we extend our deepest appreciation to all who have shaped its past and continue to build its future. Let this proclamation stand as a tribute to the enduring spirit, natural beauty, and proud legacy of Indian River County as it embarks on its second century.

Adopted this 17th day of June, 2025.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA**

Joseph E. Flescher, Chairman

Deryl Loar, Vice Chairman

Joseph H. Earman

Susan Adams

Laura Moss