

By Senator Bullard

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to legal holidays and special  
3       observances; creating s. 683.095, F.S.; designating  
4       the second Monday in October of each year as "Sir  
5       Lancelot Jones Day"; authorizing the Governor to issue  
6       proclamations commemorating the occasion; encouraging  
7       public officials, schools, private organizations, and  
8       citizens to commemorate the occasion; providing an  
9       effective date.

10  
11       WHEREAS, born in 1898 on a 22-foot boat in Biscayne Bay,  
12       entrepreneur and farmer Sir Lancelot Garfield Jones prospered by  
13       supplying the nation with Key limes and was an expert fishing  
14       guide sought by five presidents and numerous senators,  
15       influential industrialists, and other cultural icons eager to  
16       experience the beauty of the bay's wildlife, and

17       WHEREAS, Sir Lancelot Garfield Jones lived most of his 99  
18       years on the tiny island known as Porgy Key, near the southern  
19       end of Biscayne Bay, which was first settled by his pioneer  
20       father and Bahamian mother in 1897 in an area long associated  
21       with African-American maritime history and which is now on the  
22       National Register of Historical Places, and

23       WHEREAS, often referred to as the "Sage of Caesar Creek,"  
24       Sir Lancelot Garfield Jones became an educator of schoolchildren  
25       and a conservationist whose resolute values toward the  
26       preservation of Biscayne Bay greatly contributed to the  
27       establishment of Biscayne National Park, which was created to  
28       preserve and protect area wildlife for the education,  
29       inspiration, recreation, and enjoyment of present and future

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30 generations, and

31 WHEREAS, Biscayne National Park is home to a rare  
32 combination of terrestrial, marine, and amphibious life in a  
33 tropical and subtropical setting of great natural beauty, which  
34 annually draws an average of 500,000 visitors, contributes more  
35 than \$34 million to the state's economy, and supports 422 jobs,  
36 and

37 WHEREAS, the invaluable efforts of Sir Lancelot Garfield  
38 Jones to preserve the land he loved and to ensure that future  
39 generations would delight in its beauty and abundance have  
40 resulted in significant economic, ecological, and cultural  
41 contributions to the state, its heritage, and its future, NOW,  
42 THEREFORE,

43  
44 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

45  
46 Section 1. Section 683.095, Florida Statutes, is created to  
47 read:

48 683.095 Sir Lancelot Jones Day.-

49 (1) The second Monday in October of each year is designated  
50 as "Sir Lancelot Jones Day" to commemorate the contributions of  
51 Sir Lancelot Garfield Jones in the preservation of Biscayne Bay  
52 and the establishment of Biscayne National Park.

53 (2) The Governor may issue annually a proclamation  
54 designating the second Monday in October as "Sir Lancelot Jones  
55 Day." Public officials, schools, private organizations, and all  
56 citizens are encouraged to honor the legacy of Sir Lancelot  
57 Garfield Jones and his contributions to the state by  
58 commemorating Sir Lancelot Jones Day on the second Monday in

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59 October of each year.

60 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.