

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS:** The Philippine Archipelago was colonized by the Spanish at the end of the 16th century; and
- WHEREAS:** A rebellion took root in 1892 with the formation of a secret revolutionary society. On June 12, 1898, Filipino rebels, led by Emilio Aguinaldo, declared independence during the Spanish-American War; and
- WHEREAS:** Another figure of this time, Dr. José Rizal, wrote critically of the Spanish elite and was executed on December 30, 1896, after being convicted of rebellion, sedition, and conspiracy. He is now upheld as a national hero among Filipinos, honored both on his birthday, June 19, and the date of his death; and
- WHEREAS:** Aguinaldo's assistance to the United States during the war helped lead to his country's liberation. A relationship of support between the United States and the Philippines has continued since, including during the Pacific battles of World War II; and
- WHEREAS:** Northeast Florida is home to the state's largest population of Filipino-Americans who contribute to the multifaceted fabric of our society, culture and economy; and
- WHEREAS:** In an annual observance of the anniversary of Philippine independence and to promote Filipino culture, the Filipino-American Community Council of Northeast Florida gathers each year to celebrate Philippine Independence and Rizal Week. This year's event is June 16.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LENNY CURRY, by virtue of the authority vested in me as mayor of Jacksonville, Florida, do hereby proclaim June 12, 2018 as

PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE DAY

and commemorate June 19, 2018 as

DR. JOSÉ RIZAL DAY

in Jacksonville and encourage all citizens to celebrate the freedoms afforded to us by our predecessors and our alliances with fellow free nations, including our Filipino partners.



IN WITNESS THEREOF, this 11th day of June
in the year Two Thousand 18

Lenny Curry
MAYOR

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA