

PROCLAMATION

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA

WHEREAS, the community of Anthony, Florida, was founded in 1876 following the purchase of land by Edwin C. Anthony from Jacob Leitner, whose property originated from a United States land grant, and is recognized as one of the earliest established communities in Marion County, with a long-standing history rooted in the settlement and development of North Central Florida; and

WHEREAS, the expansion of the railroad through Anthony in the late 19th century played a vital role in the community's growth, providing essential transportation for agricultural products and connecting the area to broader regional markets; and

WHEREAS, throughout its history, Anthony has remained an integral part of Marion County's cultural identity, preserving its rural character, historic landscapes, and strong sense of community; and

WHEREAS, the preservation and promotion of Anthony's rich history are supported by the dedicated efforts of the Anthony Historical Society and community members committed to safeguarding its legacy for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the celebration of Anthony's 150th Anniversary provides an opportunity to honor its founders, recognize its historical significance, and bring together residents and visitors in appreciation of its enduring contributions to Marion County;

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of County Commissioners of Marion County, Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in us do hereby proclaim **May 2026** as

“ANTHONY'S 150th ANNIVERSARY”

and encourages all residents to join in celebrating this milestone and recognizing the historical importance of the Anthony community and its lasting impact on Marion County.

DULY PROCLAIMED this 5th day of **May, 2026**.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA

CARL ZALAK III, CHAIRMAN

MATT MCCLAIN, VICE CHAIR

KATHY BRYANT, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

MICHELLE STONE, COMMISSIONER

GREGORY C. HARRELL, CLERK

CRAIG CURRY, COMMISSIONER