



## Reliving the Founding of St. Augustine

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*By: Davis Walker, President, Florida Living History*

A proud partner of Viva Florida 500, Florida Living History, Inc. (FLH), is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, educational organization dedicated to informing our state's citizens and visitors about Florida's colonial and territorial past. Operating exclusively for educational and charitable purposes, FLH uses living-history programs, demonstrations and recreated portrayals to tell Florida's rich and diverse colonial story, as well as our state's contribution to American history.

One example of FLH's annual living-history events is Don Pedro Menéndez de Avilés and the Founding of St. Augustine, which is held every September, in partnership with Mission Nombre de Dios, located at 27 Ocean Ave., in St. Augustine, FL.



*Photo Courtesy of Florida Living History*

In September 1565, Admiral Don Pedro Menéndez de Avilés founded San Agustín de la Florida (present-day St. Augustine, FL), the first permanent and oldest European city, port, and parish in what is now the continental United States. On Saturday, September 8, 2012 - on the 447th anniversary, to the day - from 10AM to noon, the annual historical re-enactment of the Menéndez landing and anniversary commemorations will be held at Mission Nombre de Dios.

Founding Day 2012 will also feature a Mass of Thanksgiving, celebrated by Bishop Felipe J. Estévez, Bishop of St. Augustine and a Grand Procession followed by a presentation on the founding of St. Augustine by Dr. Timothy J. Johnson, Chairman of the Department of Humanities at Flagler College.

Admission is free! Founding Day 2012 is sponsored by Mission Nombre de Dios and Florida Living History, Inc., with support by the Florida Humanities Council and NTE Energy, Inc.

For more information on Florida Living History, Inc., please go to our Web site at [www.floridalivinghistory.org](http://www.floridalivinghistory.org).