



Proclamation

*Board of County Commissioners
Manatee County, Florida*

WHEREAS, in the early 1500s, Spanish conquistador Juan Ponce de León landed on the shores of Florida in an attempt to colonize. Thwarted by Native Americans, the colonists abandoned their quest, leaving behind the first livestock in North America ... horses, hogs, and Andalusian cattle, the ancestors of the Texas Longhorns; and

WHEREAS, by the 1800s, as settlers moved south, so did the cattle, searching for new pastures; and

WHEREAS, following the Civil War, early settlers along Florida's east coast and central corridor became known as Florida Crackers, Cracker Cowmen, or Cow Hunters. The Crackers relied on bullwhips to flush cows out of the palmetto scrub and spur on oxen that pulled their carts and wagons. The snaps of these whips would break the sound barrier making a loud CRACK. This sound earned the Cowmen the nickname of Crackers; and

WHEREAS, each year, the Crackers gathered west of Fort Pierce to drive their herd of scrub cattle west across the state toward Bradenton and then to Tampa, Punta Gorda, and Punta Rassa to ship them to Cuba. The Cracker Trail was the only dry route across Florida; and

WHEREAS, in 1987, a group of individuals came together to form the Florida Cracker Trail Association to recreate a part of Florida's past that has become a traditional event. The Annual Cross-State Ride is a re-enactment of the return trip from Bradenton to Fort Pierce. It commemorates the dedication of the Florida Cracker Trail and honors the Cracker Cowmen and their history; and

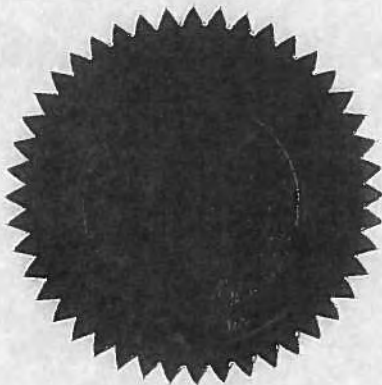
WHEREAS, the 2018 Cross-State Ride will be held February 17 through February 24.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, that February 17-24, 2018, shall be known, designated, and set aside as

FLORIDA CRACKER TRAIL WEEK

in Manatee County, Florida.

ADOPTED with a quorum present and voting this 13th day of February 2018.

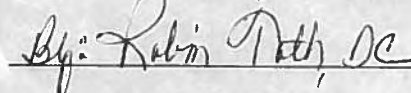


**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA**



Priscilla Trace, Chairman

ATTEST: *Angelina Colonnese*
Clerk of the Circuit Court



February 13, 2018 - Regular Meeting
Agenda Item #9

Subject

Florida Cracker Trail Annual Cross-State Ride Week - February 17-24, 2018

Briefings

None

Contact and/or Presenter Information

Board of County Commissioners

Action Requested

Adopt Proclamation designating February 17-24, 2018, as "Florida Cracker Trail Annual Cross-State Ride Week" in Manatee County, Florida.

Enabling/Regulating Authority

Background Discussion

In 1987, a group of individuals came together to form the Florida Cracker Trail Association to recreate a part of Florida's past that has become a traditional event. The Annual Cross-State Ride is a re-enactment of the return trip from Bradenton to Fort Pierce along the Florida Cracker Trail. It commemorates the dedication of the Trail and honors the Cracker Cowmen and their history.

This year's ride will be held February 17 through February 24.

County Attorney Review

Not Reviewed (No apparent legal issues)

Explanation of Other

Reviewing Attorney

N/A

Instructions to Board Records

None.

Cost and Funds Source Account Number and Name

N/A

Manatee County Government Administrative Center
First Floor, Commission Chambers
9:00 a.m. - February 13, 2018

Amount and Frequency of Recurring Costs
N/A

Attachment: [Florida Cracker Trail Proclamation.pdf](#)