

WHEREAS the United States of America was in extreme danger of losing hard won freedoms and heritages to the forces which perpetrated World War II; and

WHEREAS, when the Americans entered the conflict on December 7, 1941, our leaders and the leaders of the countries allied with us agreed that the shortest path to victory was to first achieve the surrender of our enemies in Europe (the European Theater of Operations/ETO); and

WHEREAS, after the enormous expenditure of millions of lives of Americans and Allies and their fortunes, surrender of the German forces to the Allies took place on May 9, 1945 (European time zones); and

WHEREAS, May 9th is the day set aside for world-wide celebration of the turning point of this hostile event in history; and

WHEREAS, it is our belief that the only way that global warfare will be permanently relegated in the future is for people of good will to have a global mindset; and,

WHEREAS, Tallahassee, Florida, and Krasnodar, Russia formally recognized a sister-city partnership in 1988, to be dissolved in 1991 during the demise of the Soviet Union, but re-established in 2006, and

WHEREAS, the sister city relationship between Tallahassee, Florida and Krasnodar, Russia is intended to enhance each city's position in the global economy and to directly influence peace and understanding amongst its citizens through cultural, economic and educational exchange

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John R. Marks, III by the power vested in me as the Mayor of the City of Tallahassee, do proclaim May 9, 2009, to be

“Victory in Europe Day (VE Day)”

in Tallahassee in recognition of our sister city relationship with the City of Krasnodar, Russia.