



## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

**Sue M. Cobb**  
Secretary of State

For Immediate Release  
December 8, 2006

Contact: Lauren Van Lierop  
850.487.3655  
850.212.8362 mobile  
[ljvanlierop@dos.state.fl.us](mailto:ljvanlierop@dos.state.fl.us)

### **Mission San Luis Rebuilds Florida's Past**

*~The Friends of Mission San Luis, Inc. Hosts Dedication of El Castillo de San Luis,  
Donor Recognition Ceremony and Third Annual Commemorative Mass ~*

The Florida Department of State invites the public to the Dedication of *El Castillo de San Luis* at 11:30 a.m.; a Donor Recognition Ceremony at 12:30 p.m.; and a Commemorative Mass at 2 p.m. at Mission San Luis on Sunday, Dec. 10, 2006. Visitors can explore Florida's past through costumed living history, self-guided site tours and exhibits throughout the day. The event is free to attend.

Secretary Cobb and Tallahassee Mayor John Marks will speak during the dedication of *El Castillo de San Luis*, the Mission's re-created 17<sup>th</sup>-century fortification. Mission San Luis has been reconstructing the military complex over the past 12 months. Walt Disney Imagineers provided technical advice and expertise in re-creating the palisade that surrounds the castillo's two-story blockhouse. The Spanish built the original complex in the 1690s to withstand attacks from other European powers and to provide sanctuary for the community during assault.

The SunTrust Banks of Florida Foundation, Julia Munroe Woodward, and the Kislak Family Fund will be recognized for their generous gifts to the Mission San Luis Endowment during the donor recognition ceremony. The Friends of Mission San Luis Inc. launched an endowment campaign in 2004 to support research and educational programming at the site.

Gov. Jeb Bush, First Lady Columba Bush, Lt. Gov. Toni Jennings and Secretary of State Sue Cobb will attend the Commemorative Mass in the Mission's reconstructed

(more)

**Division of Historical Resources • Bureau of Archaeological Research  
Mission San Luis • 2021 West Mission Road • Tallahassee, Florida 32304  
Administration, Archaeology & Research Telephone: 850.487.3655  
Administration & Research Facsimile: 850.488.6186 • Archaeology Facsimile: 850.921.8230  
Visitor Center & Education Telephone: 850.487.3711 • Visitor Center & Education Facsimile: 850.488.8015**

**Mission San Luis—Page Two**

Franciscan church. Bishop John Ricard will lead the Mass in remembrance of the Spanish Missions of *La Florida*. A public reception in the Apalachee council house will follow the holiday service.

This event was sponsored by the Friends of Mission San Luis. Mission San Luis was the western capital of Spanish Florida from 1656 to 1704. Today the Mission brings the 17<sup>th</sup> century to life through costumed interpreters, reconstructed buildings, exhibits and archaeological demonstrations. The site is a National Historic Landmark and recipient of a 2006 *Preserve America* Presidential Award. Mission San Luis is located at 2021 West Mission Road in Tallahassee, Fla. The site is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and admission is free. It is managed by the Florida Department of State's Bureau of Archaeological Research. For more information on Mission San Luis, call 850.487.3711 or visit [www.missionsanluis.org](http://www.missionsanluis.org).

###