



# NEWS FROM THE NATION'S OLDEST PORT™

Nation's Oldest Port™ National Heritage Area Newsletter, Volume 1, Issue 1

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## Nation's Oldest Port™ National Heritage Area (NOPNHA)

Since 2007, the Nation's Oldest Port™ Heritage Area Alliance, comprised of community members and organizations, has worked to share the unique maritime landscape and heritage that have shaped northeast Florida.

On October 7, 2019 northeast Florida Congressmen John Rutherford, Michael Waltz, and Al Lawson announced their introduction of H.R. 4542, Nation's Oldest Port National Heritage Area Act, to designate portions of Nassau, Duval, St. Johns and Flagler Counties as a National Heritage Area.

## Updates from Washington

The Nation's Oldest Port™ NHA (NOPNHA) team has been in continuous contact with our Florida federal delegation. Under the leadership of Congressmen John Rutherford, Michael Waltz and Al Lawson, we are encouraged at where we are in the process. Kevin Doyle from our team was recently in Washington and met with all of the local Congressional offices where we thanked them again for their support. They are working on securing additional co-sponsors from other Congressional offices. We are also awaiting technical feedback on the enacting legislation from the National Park Service. Once received and incorporated, the next step in the process will be a mark-up in the House Committee on Natural Resources. We also thank Senators Marco Rubio and Rick Scott for sending representatives to the NHA announcement event which was held at the Lighthouse & Maritime Museum back in late 2019.

*"The Nation's Oldest Port region of northeast Florida holds a mosaic of cultures and maritime heritage that includes Native Americans, whose heritage reaches back some 9,000 years, and descendants of European and American explorers and settlers..."*

*-Congressman John Rutherford*

## Happenings around the NOPNHA

Members of the Organization of American States and the Caribbean Heritage Network visited the NOPNHA on February 4th to learn from area historic sites about public interpretation, marketing and heritage resource management. Coordinated through the Florida Public Archaeology Network, members from the U.S.A., Barbados and Jamaica visited the Castillo de San Marcos, Fort Mose, and the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum in St. Augustine and the Kingsley Plantation on the Timucuan Ecological and Historical Preserve in Jacksonville.

Members of the OSA and CHN visit site in the region.



**Coming up:** The National Association of Interpretation is hosting its annual conference at the Renaissance World Golf Village (St. Augustine) November 10—14, 2020. This is a great opportunity for training and professional development. For more information and to register for the conference, visit the [NAI National Conference website](#).

For all the latest, follow us on Facebook and visit our website at [www.staugustinelighthouse.org/nationsoldestportnha/](http://www.staugustinelighthouse.org/nationsoldestportnha/)

## THANK YOU!

**Thank you to Congressman John Rutherford, Michael Waltz and Al Lawson** for your support of the Nation's Oldest Port National Heritage Area. The Nation's Oldest Port National Heritage Area provides an opportunity for our region to celebrate the story that helped to develop one of the most special places in America.

From Native American and African American history to the oldest European city in the country, Northeast Florida's cultural heritage sites are deserving of this national recognition that will ensure they exist for future generations.

Through public-private partnerships, national heritage areas support historic preservation, natural resource conservation, recreation and heritage tourism. Created by President Ronald Reagan, they have a significant impact on the economy. A 2012 study by the Alliance of National Heritage Areas and the National Park Service shows NHAs contribute nearly \$13 billion annually to the national economy and support 148,000 jobs.

**We ask our supporters to reach out to our federal delegation members and thank them for their support. You can contact Congressman Rutherford at (202) 225-2501, Congressman Lawson at (202) 225-0123 and Congressman Waltz at (202) 225-2706.**



**Congressman Rutherford announcing bill at the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum.**