

Mayor Van W. Johnson, Sr.
44th Annual Florida Seafood Festival
Welcome Speech & Introduction of King and Queen
November 2, 2007

I welcome each of you to Historic Apalachicola and to the 44th Annual Florida Seafood Festival. This event is one of the oldest maritime events in the entire State of Florida. The event recognizes and highlights the hardworking men and women who work the pristine waters of the Apalachicola River and Bay. It also showcases the magnificent bounty of seafood caught here daily.

The fresh and wonderful seafood, which you will consume during this event, was made possible by the foresight of our forefathers, who put in place. Strict codes that have protected our estuary from over development. I also commend the many volunteers, who has unselfishly gave of their time to produce this event. Lastly, special recognition is given to our residents and visitors for patronizing the annual festival.

As Mayor, I proclaim that during this time of year. That there is no better place to be than at the Annual Florida Seafood Festival, here in Historic Apalachicola. Welcome!

It also gives me great pleasure to introduce to you, this year's Seafood Festival Royal Court.

Queen Parrish Johnson, also know a Miss Florida Seafood is a student at the Franklin County High School's East Campus. Where she works on the yearbook committee and her favorite subject is history, she enjoys and attends dance classes at Pam Nobles Studio. At graduation she plans to attend Gulf Coast Community Collage.

King Retsyo (Oyster Spelled Backwards) is Steven Rash. Steven owns and operates Water Street Seafood and is a vocal advocate for the survival of the local seafood industry.