

**48th Annual Florida Seafood Festival
Welcome Speech - November 4, 2011
Mayor Van W. Johnson**

Once again, it gives me great pleasure to welcome each of you to the Annual Florida Seafood Festival and to the historic city of Apalachicola, a Distinctive Destination, and a Florida Main Street community.

Clearly, this event is an essential part of the quality of life that we so enjoy and has served for the last 48-years as a catalyst that has brought together families, friends, and visitors to celebrate a unique way of life, and a heritage that binds us all.

Many thanks to the Festival Board of Directors for respectfully using this occasion to pay homage to what so many have work so hard to build and preserve... a great community in which to work, live and play.

I'm honored to introduce to you – two who have come from a long-lineage of community stakeholders that for generations played an integral role in what we celebrate today.

Serving as our 2011 Florida Seafood Festival royalty are Ottice Amison, as King Retsyo and his Queen Christina Pateritsas as Miss Florida Seafood - both are the essence of a community rich in tradition and will serve well as your royalty.

Welcome to the 48th Annual Florida Seafood Festival and to the southern hospitality of Apalachicola.