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For Immediate Release

Chamber to Plant 100 Trees

The Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber is proud to announce it will be celebrating 100 years of service in 2012. To kick-off this momentous year, the Chamber is coordinating a Centennial Tree Project, with a goal of planting 100 trees in Valdosta in February of 2012. The Chamber has partnered with the City of Valdosta and the Tree Commission on this initiative designed to give back to the community.

Symbolic of a growing, healthy, progressive community, trees can be sponsored to honor or memorialize a leader in your business, person of note in Valdosta's history, a mentor, friend or loved one. Anyone can participate in this effort to beautify the community by sponsoring a tree for \$500, which includes the purchase of the tree, planting and maintenance.

"I'm excited about this project which will help beautify Valdosta for posterity, while serving to write a history book of meaningful people in our midst," stated Carla Penny, Chair of the Chamber's Centennial Planning Committee.

This project will improve the appearance of the community by planting trees in areas considered business gateways in need of visual improvement. Landscape designs are being produced by Stacey Griffin, Urban Forestry Supervisor for the City of Valdosta, to embellish specific areas in the city.

Chamber Chairman-Elect Tim Jones, launched the effort by agreeing to sponsor two trees, stating, "Having the honor of serving as Chairman in the centennial year means that I will be the third Citizens Community Bank President to be Chamber Chairman during the last 100 years. The Tree Project will give us an opportunity to mark that special year. In addition, it will continue to enhance the community in which we all live, work, and play. It's an investment that will return tangible benefits for many years to come."

Georgia Power also stepped up to the plate by sponsoring 20 trees for the project, making them a Benefactor Tree Sponsor. "It is always a good thing when the private sector is given an opportunity to support the community in a big way. Nothing like this has ever been done in Valdosta and Georgia Power is happy to be a part of it," stated Terri Lupo, South Region Vice President of Georgia Power Company.

A commemorative plaque listing the names of tree sponsors or honored recipients will be displayed at the Chamber, along with a printed map of tree locations. If desired, a certificate of recognition for the tree is available, suitable for framing or gift wrapping.

Make an impact on the future of your community by being a part of the Centennial Tree Project! Anyone interested should contact the Chamber at 229-247-8100 or visit www.ValdostaChamber.com/CentennialTreeProject.