

RESOLUTION 2021 - 142

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA, PROCLAIMING THE WEEK OF JULY 31-AUGUST 8, 2021, AS "GULLAH/GEECHEE NATION APPRECIATION WEEK".

WHEREAS, Gullah/Geechee Nation Appreciation Week began in 2012; and

WHEREAS, this celebration of the living legacy of Gullah/Geechee history, heritage, and culture came about due to the work of St. Helena Island native, Queen Quet, Chieftess of the Gullah/Geechee Nation; and

WHEREAS, Queen Quet and Kwame Sha founded the "Gullah/Geechee Nation International Music & Movement Festival" in 2005, which is the culminating event of Gullah/Geechee Nation Appreciation Week; and

WHEREAS, Queen Quet has been spreading awareness regarding the history and legacy of the Gullah/Geechee Nation and has headed numerous endeavors that have led to global recognition; and

WHEREAS, the Gullah/Geechees have an extensive history in Nassau County that includes both the enslavement and self-determination of the Gullah/Geechee people through the history of Amelia Island, Old Town, Yulee, Nassauville, Franklintown, and American Beach; and

WHEREAS, Fernandina served as a point of disembarkation of Africans along our shoreline, as well as a place of Gullah/Geechee subsistence fishing and spiritual nourishment; and

WHEREAS, Nassau County supports the Gullah/Geechee Sustainability Plan which seeks to protect this historic coast including its sacred burial areas and other sites and to keep Gullah/Geechee cultural alive on this land; and

WHEREAS, Queen Quet has led several libation ceremonies in Old Town including the Middle Passage Marker Ceremony at which the Peck Ensemble sang the spirituals created by Gullah/Geechees; and

WHEREAS, many Gullah/Geechees have visited and continue to visit historic American Beach; and

WHEREAS, the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners acknowledges the native Gullah/Geechees of the Gullah/Geechee Nation from Jacksonville, NC to Jacksonville, FL throughout the Sea Islands and Lowcountry and support the honoring of their ancestors that built this region and the continuation of this rich and cultural heritage.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED this 28th day of July, 2021, by the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County, Florida, that:

1. The Board hereby proclaims the week of July 31 through August 8, 2021 as "Gullah/Geechee Nation Appreciation Week".
2. The Board calls upon all citizens and visitors to take part in activities associated with Gullah/Geechee Nation which coincide with global activities for the United Nation's International Decade of People of African Descent.
3. The Board extends their best wishes as they celebrate "Gullah/Geechee Land & Living Legacy".

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA



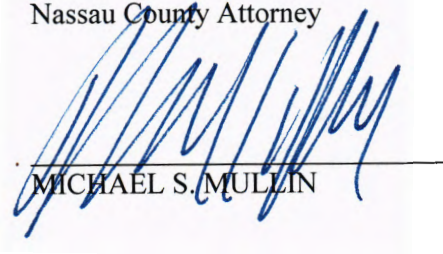
Thomas R. Ford
Its: Chairman

ATTEST AS TO CHAIRMAN'S
SIGNATURE:



JOHN A. CRAWFORD
Its: Ex-Officio Clerk

Approved as to form by the
Nassau County Attorney



MICHAEL S. MULLIN