

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-97

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA, PROCLAIMING THE WEEK OF JULY 25-AUGUST 2, 2015 AS "GULLAH/GEECHEE NATION APPRECIATION WEEK".

WHEREAS, Nassau County, Florida was established in 1824 after breaking away from Duval County; and

WHEREAS, even prior to its founding, Africans traveled down the St. Marys River, and enslaved Africans were brought to the shores of Amelia Island at what is now Old Town Fernandina; and

WHEREAS, African people populated the area and worked not only on plantations such as Harrison Plantation, but also in Yulee, O'Neil, and Nassauville at the ports and oyster factories, and as fishing families, net makers, boat builders, farmers, and architects; and

WHEREAS, historic institutions such as Mount Olive Baptist Church and Prince Chapel AME Church in Nassauville, Franklinton United Methodist Church at American Beach, and New Zion Baptist Church, First Missionary Baptist Church, Trinity United Methodist Church, and Macedonia AME Church on Amelia Island stand as living monuments to the architectural skills of the Africans that built and worshipped in those places; and

WHEREAS, the descendants of these Africans have come to be known as Gullah/Geechees; and

WHEREAS, Gullah/Geechees continued to migrate to Nassau County from Georgia and the Carolinas to settle and build family compounds; and

WHEREAS, many of them graduated from historic Peck High School in Fernandina Beach and Pine Forest Community School in Callahan; and

WHEREAS, many visited and still visit historic American Beach which was founded in 1934 under the leadership of Abraham Lincoln Lewis and his partners of the Afro-American Life Insurance Company; and

WHEREAS, MaVynne Betsch, who was a direct descendant of Abraham Lincoln Lewis, was the first Florida member of the Gullah/Geechee Nation Wisdom Circle of Elders; and

WHEREAS, Queen Quet, Chieftess of the Gullah/Geechee Nation became the first Gullah/Geechee in the world to speak before the United Nations and worked closely with MaVynne Betsch to continue to bring more Gullah/Geechees to the Nana Sand Dune at American Beach to honor their ancestors that had toiled in and built this region; and

WHEREAS, the “Gullah/Geechee Nation International Music & Movement Festival”, which was co-founded by Queen Quet and Kwame Sha of All Mobile Productions, has been held at this location in the past; and

WHEREAS, the “Gullah/Geechee Nation International Music & Movement Festival” moves to various parts of the Gullah/Geechee Nation and the African Diaspora each year to educate the world about and to celebrate the continuation of the Gullah/Geechee traditions as the culminating event of “Gullah/Geechee Nation Appreciation Week”; and

WHEREAS, a series of activities will take place throughout Nassau County to honor the history and legacy of the Gullah/Geechee Nation during “Gullah/Geechee

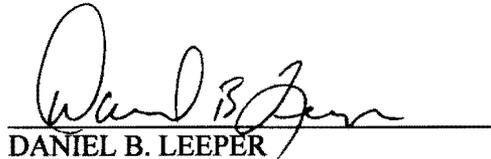
Nation Appreciation Week” and we join in celebrating the theme “Time fa Shout!”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County, Florida, this 15th day of July, 2015 that the week of July 25-August 2, 2015 is hereby proclaimed as “Gullah/Geechee Nation Appreciation Week” in Nassau County, Florida.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA



PAT EDWARDS
Its: Chairman



DANIEL B. LEEPER



STEPHEN W. KELLEY



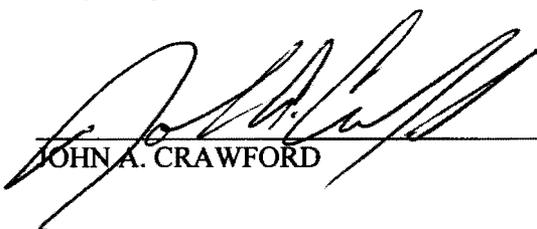
GEORGE V. SPICER



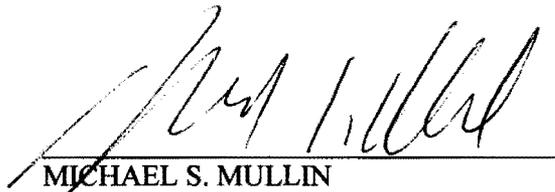
WALTER J. BOATRIGHT

ATTEST AS TO CHAIRMAN'S
SIGNATURE:

Approved as to form by the Nassau County Attorney:



JOHN A. CRAWFORD



MICHAEL S. MULLIN