

The Town of Hilton Head Island

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Gullah-Geechee civilization, originated in West Africa, its people coming to the United States as slaves to work on rice plantations, and with their African fare, original language, and craftsmanship, the Gullah-Geechee people left their mark on southeastern South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the Gullah-Geechee culture has had a powerful impact on the Lowcountry of South Carolina, especially Hilton Head Island, and these Gullah-Geechee influences have helped to define much of the Island's lifestyle and culture today; and

WHEREAS, the preservation and celebration of the Gullah-Geechee culture has gained momentum due to the Gullah-Geechee Cultural Heritage Act, created by United States Representative James Clyburn; and

WHEREAS, Since July 2, 2020, Queen Quet, a St. Helena Island native whose family roots also stem from Polowana and Dataw Islands was elected and has served as the official "Head pun de Bodee" and spokesperson for the Gullah-Geechee; and

WHEREAS, this year is the 20th Anniversary of the Gullah-Geechee Nation is being celebrated under the theme #GullahGeechee2020; and

WHEREAS, for the seventh consecutive year, the Town of Hilton Head Island joins the native Gullah-Geechee in honoring Gullah-Geechee Nation and honoring the region built by their ancestors.

NOW, THEREFORE, on behalf of the Town Council, I, John J. McCann, Mayor of the Town of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, hereby proclaim the week of **July 25 - August 1, 2020** as:

GULLAH-GEECHEE NATION APPRECIATION WEEK

throughout the Town of Hilton Head Island, and call on our citizens to honor the history and legacy of the Gullah-Geechee Nation, and join in #GullahGeech2020 "Seein We Culcha Clearly"!

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused this seal of the Town of Hilton Head Island to be affixed on this first day of July, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty.

John J. McCann, Mayor

Attest:

Krista M. Wiedmeyer, Town Clerk