

Recognition and honoring of the Gullah/Geechee Nation

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The Colleton County Council's July 25, 2023 meeting was a wonderful occasion as they declared July 29-August 5 to be Gullah/Geechee Nation Appreciation Week. The proclamation was accepted with gratitude by Queen Quet Marquette L. Goodwine, Chieftess and Head-of-State for the Gullah/Geechee Nation. The council's gesture was a heartfelt recognition of the Gullah/Geechee people's rich cultural heritage, descendants of enslaved Africans brought to the coastal regions of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida around the 1700s.

Gullah/Geechee Nation Appreciation Week is an annual celebration that honors the rich and vibrant culture of the Gullah/Geechee people. It is a time when people come together to appreciate the unique traditions, language, music, and food of this resilient community.

The highlight of Gullah/Geechee Nation Appreciation Week was the annual "Gullah/Geechee Famlee Day," held in St. Helena Island on Saturday, July 29th. It was a time when the Gullah/Geechee people were able to showcase their unique cultural heritage and share it with the world. The festival was a vibrant celebration of their history, traditions, and way of life.

Queen Quet's gracious acceptance of the proclamation was a reminder of the importance of recognizing and celebrating the contributions of underrepresented communities. She extended a warm invitation to the council members to join in the festivities and experience the beauty of the Gullah/Geechee culture firsthand.

The celebration also served as an opportunity to educate people about the history and legacy of the Gullah/Geechee people. Through various educational presentations and initiatives, participants and visitors could learn about the struggles and triumphs of this community, as well as the ways in which they have contributed to American culture.

The Gullah/Geechee culture has had a powerful impact on the Lowcountry of South Carolina. From their distinct language and vibrant art to their delicious cuisine, this community has left a lasting impression on the region. Through activities such as Gullah/Geechee Nation Appreciation Week, we can come together to celebrate their unique contributions and learn more about their rich cultural heritage.

For more information about the Gullah/Geechee Nation call 843-838-1171, email GullGeeCo@aol.com, or visit <https://gullahgeecheenation.com>.

For more information about the Colleton County Council meetings or to review agendas and minutes, visit www.colletoncounty.org/county-council/agendas-minutes or call 843-549-5221.