

COMMENDATION

By The Town of Hilton Head Island

Honoring

Louise Miller Cohen

***WHEREAS,** Louise Miller Cohen is a Native Islander who has traced her Hilton Head Island roots back into the 1800's, with her homeplace still standing proudly on property purchased by her great-grandfather shortly after the Civil War; and*

***WHEREAS,** Louise is the founder and director of the nonprofit Gullah Museum of Hilton Head Island, dedicated to preserving the Gullah/Geechee heritage and culture, and restoring houses that have been disappearing from our landscape that she and other Native Islanders called "home;" and*

***WHEREAS,** Louise is a visual reminder of her Gullah relatives, in both dress and expressions, as she vividly retells the colorful stories she learned as a child, sings inspiring gospel songs she heard from her elders, recreates the shouts and dances from the Gullah culture, and proudly speaks and teaches the Gullah language to preserve this indigenous coastal culture for future generations – all to the delight of other Native Islanders, visitors, and residents; and*

***WHEREAS,** her tireless efforts on behalf of the Gullah Museum of Hilton Head Island have received national attention and are being recognized by the National Civil Rights Library through the presentation of a 2017 Community Service Award which will be presented to Louise at the 30th Anniversary MLK Dinner & National Civil Rights Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on April 7, 2017 in Chicago, Illinois;*

***NOW, THEREFORE,** I, David Bennett, Mayor of the Town of Hilton Head Island, on behalf of Town Council and its residents, do hereby commend and honor Louise Miller Cohen for her role in keeping the Gullah customs and culture vibrant and alive for everyone to enjoy.*

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused this seal of the Town of Hilton Head Island to be affixed this **Twenty-First day of March,** in the year of our Lord **Two Thousand and Seventeen.

David Bennett, Mayor