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Commissioners Named for Gullah-Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor

National Park Service Director Mary A. Bomar recently announced the selection of the first commissioners for the Gullah-Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor. The corridor celebrates the contributions to American culture and history made by Africans and African-Americans from the Gullah and Geechee communities along the Atlantic coast from Jacksonville, FL to Wilmington, NC.

“The Gullah people have a very rich cultural history,” said Director Bomar. “The National Park Service (NPS) has conducted a special study to determine ways to preserve this culture that is threatened by modern development. The rich diversity of our nation certainly includes this unique society and we must preserve this as another of the precious pieces of the cultural mosaic that is America. The NPS looks forward to working with the Commissions members and with the states.”

The commission will manage the area in partnership with the National Park Service and the state historic preservation offices of Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina. The commission consists of fifteen members; five cultural resource experts and 10 state representatives.

The cultural resource experts and alternates are:

Commissioner	FL	Antoinette T. Jackson
Alternate	FL	Anthony E. Dixon
Commissioner	GA	Jeanne C. Cyriaque
Alternate	GA	Patricia Barefoot
Commissioner	NC	John H. Haley
Alternate	NC	David B. Frank
Commissioner	SC	Emory Shaw Campbell
Alternate	SC	J. Herman Blake
Commissioner	SC	Marqueta L. Goodwine
Alternate	SC	Nicole Green

The 10 state representatives and alternates nominated by the state historic preservation offices and selected by Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne are:

Commissioner	FL	Glenda Simmons Jenkins
Alternate	FL	William Jefferson
Commissioner	FL	Ralph Johnson

Commissioner	GA	Charles H. Hall
Alternate	GA	Amir Jamal Touré
Commissioner	GA	Althea Natalga Sumpter
Alternate	GA	Deborah L. Mack
Commissioner	NC	Shirlean Spicer
Commissioner	NC	Eulis Alexander Willis
Alternate	NC	Lana Carter
Commissioner	SC	Ronald Daise
Alternate	SC	Danny Cromer
Commissioner	SC	Louise Miller Cohen
Commissioner	SC	William Saunders
Alternate	SC	Veronica D. Gerald
Commissioner	SC	Willie B. Heyward

The Gullah-Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor was designated by Congress in 2006 as one of 37 National Heritage Areas throughout the nation. The corridor recognizes the rich and distinctive Gullah-Geechee culture that has flavored regional folklore, arts, crafts, food and music.

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