



# Board of County Commissioners

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## Press Release

Contact: Capt. William Terrell FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Phone: 912-510-5171

12:00PM EDT, February 16, 2014

### Heritage Awareness Brought to Coastal Communities

Woodbine, Ga. (February 16, 2014) On February 11, 2014, Griffin Lotson of the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission (GGCHCC) met with Camden County Administrator Steve Howard and Board of County Commissioners Vice Chairman Charles Clark to dedicate the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor (GGCHC) highway trail sign. The sign identifies the GGCHC by name and logo and have been approved through the Department of Transportation Office. The Gullah Geechee Corridor extends about 12,414 square miles and ranges from North Carolina to Florida. The signs will be installed at an entryway and exit within each county along US 17/A1A. Publisher of St. Marys Magazine, Barbara Ryan was also present during the dedication.



From left; County Administrator Steve Howard, Barbara Ryan, Chief Executive Officer Griffin Lotson, BOCC Vice Chairman Charles Clark

The Corridor was created for three main reasons. First, to recognize the important contributions made to American culture and history by African Americans known as Gullah Geechee who settled in the coastal counties of South Carolina, Georgia, North Carolina, and Florida. Second, to assist state and local governments and public and private entities in interpreting the story of the Gullah Geechee and preserving Gullah Geechee folklore, arts, crafts, and music. Lastly, to assist in identifying and preserving sites, historical data, artifacts, and objects associated with the Gullah Geechee for the benefit and education of the public.

Griffin Lotson is Chief Executive Officer of the non-profit Sams Memorial Community Economic Development Inc., as well as the manager of the nationally acclaimed Geechee Gullah Ring

*“Georgia’s Coastal Community of Choice”*

STEVE L. HOWARD  
County Administrator

WILLIS R. KEENE JR.  
Commissioner, District 1

CHUCK CLARK  
Commissioner, District 2

JIMMY STARLINE  
Commissioner, District 3

GARY BLOUNT  
Commissioner, District 4

TONY SHEPPARD  
Commissioner, District 5

Shouters. Lotson has traced his Gullah Geechee family history back seven generations. He has worked as a community input adviser with the National Park Service Low Country Gullah Culture Special Resource study and the GGCHCC. Lotson has raised over \$10 million with grants and other funding for communities in the area of cultural arts, economic development, housing and educational programs.

While traveling in Africa to Sierra Leone, Lotson met with the Gullah Kinship Association. Lotson has served as special consultant to the Sierra Leone Africa Government chief protocol office of foreign affairs, working also with Professor Joseph Opala, Director of the Bunce Island Coalition and Isatu Smith, a Sierra Leonean, who is the deputy director.

This press release was drafted and prepared by our BOCC Intern Jennifer Butler.

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