

Town of Moncks Corner

A Proclamation

"WHEREAS, American Indians, Alaskan natives, and Native Hawaiians have played a vital role in the life of our State and City, and Country and their many contributions have enhanced the freedom, prosperity and greatness of South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, There is one tribal community who is based in Moncks Corner, The Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians, organized and incorporated (chartered) in the State of South Carolina as "body politic", *"State Recognized"* and who maintain the history, culture, lifestyles and unique heritage of South Carolina Native American people; and

WHEREAS, from ancient times to present Native American Indians have called Moncks Corner their home from various Native American Indian tribal cultures and bands throughout history including: Ashepoo, Cape Fear Indians, Catawba, Cheraw, Cherokee, Edisto, Escamacu, Etiwan, Iroquois, Kussoe, Kiawah, Pamlico, Pee Dee, Santee, Saraws, Sewee, Stono, Tuscarora, Waccamaw, Wando, Wassamassaw and Winyah. Many of these Native American descendants still reside in South Carolina and in Moncks Corner today; and

WHEREAS, Historic Native American Indian missions and schools were established to serve the native people such as the Barrows Mission, Groomsville School and Varner Indian School; and

WHEREAS, Native American Indians of the Varnertown community, also historically known as Summerville Indians, have contributed significantly towards a greater society. Individuals such as Geneva Varner Clark who proclaimed her Native heritage during the Great Depression; Henry Clark, the first Indian to register with the state as a Native American business owner; and William and Mary Varner who donated land for school, businesses and a church. A state historic marker now stands to designate the contributions of the Varnertown Indian people; and

WHEREAS, Many Native North Americans, Central Americans, and Alaskan Natives; and South Americans of Indian descent have come to be citizens and residents of Moncks Corner and the State of South Carolina, from many different parts of the western hemisphere; and

WHEREAS, Native American South Carolinians have served with valor and distinction in wartime, and their artistic, entrepreneurial, and other skills have truly enriched our South Carolinian heritage; and

WHEREAS, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by resolution, recognize November as National Native American History Month and declare November 18th, as Native American Awareness Day in South Carolina.

NOW; THEREFORE, I, Michael A. Locklear, Mayor of the Town of Moncks Corner, South Carolina, along with my fellow members of Moncks Corner Town Council, do hereby proclaim **November 2023** as

South Carolina Native American Heritage Month

in the Town of Moncks Corner and urge all citizens of Moncks Corner, South Carolina, to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

Signed this 14th day of November, 2023

Michael A. Locklear, Mayor