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**Resolution of the Board of Directors of
Beaufort History Museum**

At the Beaufort History Museum, our mission is to preserve the rich history of the Beaufort District and to educate people about that history. Therefore, we join the City of Beaufort, South Carolina and other Beaufort County organizations whose missions are similar to ours, in urging the President of the United States to move forward with the designation of a new unit of the National Park Service in Beaufort County to remember Reconstruction.

We believe:

- It is essential that the people of the United States understand all of America's past, and that our country benefits when we strive to understand our past so that we can shape a better future;
- The United States has struggled for a century and a half to appropriately remember what happened in the wake of the Civil War, Reconstruction and slavery's abolition;
- Most historical accounts of the period are incomplete and our history books must be rewritten to reflect accurately what transpired, to help guide future generations;
- All aspects of the Reconstruction story—the new educational and political opportunities, transitions in the economy, and the new religious and social institutions that were formed—are well represented in the numerous historic buildings and sites within Beaufort County.

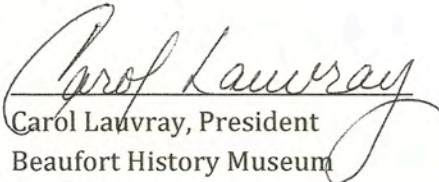
Beaufort's rich Reconstruction story is evidenced in Brick Church, which became Penn School on St. Helena Island in Beaufort County. Penn School was among the very first institutions established to educate freedmen and to help them transition from slavery to freedom, and it is the most prominent surviving institution of that period. Beaufort was also home to Robert Smalls who was born a slave. After the Civil War he became a champion of free public education and was elected to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives.

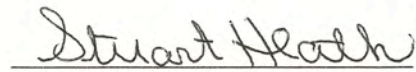
The Mission of the Beaufort History Museum is to preserve, promote, and interpret the experiences of our past that influence us now and in the future.

While the National Park Service has established more than 30 sites that focus on the Civil War, there is not one National Park Service monument or park dedicated to remembering the Reconstruction Era. An extensive study commissioned by the National Park Service recently concluded that Beaufort County, South Carolina is the most appropriate place in the country for telling the story of Reconstruction.

Sixteen years ago, with the help of Beaufort's most accomplished Civil War scholars, Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt recognized the importance of the Reconstruction Period and the unique role of Beaufort County in all aspects of what took place during that time. In 2016, Congressman James Clyburn introduced legislation in the U.S. Congress, cosponsored by S.C. First District Congressman Mark Sanford, to establish a Reconstruction Monument in Beaufort County.

We, the Board of Directors of the Beaufort History Museum, strongly urge the designation of a new unit of the National Park Service within Beaufort County to remember Reconstruction.


Carol Lavray, President
Beaufort History Museum


Stuart Heath, Secretary
Beaufort History Museum