

# PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Thomas Stowe "Tom" Mullikin is a world-renowned energy-environmental attorney and founding principal with the Camden, South Carolina-based Mullikin Law Firm.

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Mullikin has been recognized for his distinguished career serving businesses and communities around the world and educating on environmental sustainability and the importance of being a steward of, as he says, "the Lords garden."

**WHEREAS**, Mullikin was commissioned into the U.S. Army Reserve in 1998 as a Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps officer: Successfully completing the JAG Officer Basic Course and being assigned to the 12th Legal Support Organization where he served as prosecutor/trial counsel. He also served as International Legal Officer for the 360th Civil Affairs Brigade (Airborne). A graduate of the U.S. Army Physical Fitness School at Fort Benning, Georgia, certified as a U.S. Army Master Fitness Trainer, and holding a black belt in traditional karate, Mullikin served as an Army self-defense instructor. Mullikin was honorably discharged at the rank of captain in December 2006.

**WHEREAS**, Mullikin later served in a post-Army civilian capacity as special assistant to the Chief Prosecutor, Military Commissions, U.S. Department of Defense.

**WHEREAS**, Mullikin was commissioned into the S.C. Military Department (SCMD) where he initially served as both JAG officer and Counterterrorism Task Force officer (later Counterterrorism Advisory Team officer) for the SCMD's Joint Services Department (JSD).

**WHEREAS**, Mullikin was recognized for his "extraordinary leadership," he transferred from JSD to the S.C. State Guard (SCSG), quickly becoming deputy commander and chief of staff, and in 2014, commander (commanding general) of that historic military organization before retiring as major general in 2018.

**WHEREAS**, during his tenure as SCSG commander, Mullikin reengineered the historic South Carolina State Guard into one of the finest search-and-rescue organizations in North America.

**WHEREAS**, Governor Henry D. McMaster established the South Carolina Floodwater Commission in 2018 and tapped Mullikin to lead the organization as its first chairman. And the South Carolina Floodwater Commission's missions – among many – are the first-ever installations of tech-smart artificial reef systems off the South Carolina coastline to help in the tracking of storms, sea level rise, and other coastal monitoring operations.

**WHEREAS**, for the past seven years, the Mullikin Law Firm under Mullikin's direction has been the named presenting sponsor for the historic Carolina Cup, sponsoring both the steeplechase race as "title sponsor" as well as the entire day's racing events as the sole "presenting sponsor." The Carolina Cup, one of the nation's most prestigious races and one of the most important on the national steeplechase circuit, holds the National Steeplechase Association's attendance record of 71,000 people, including both spectators and participants.

**WHEREAS**, Mullikin, through the non-profit environmental organization, Global Eco Adventures (GEA), which he founded, has supported environmental education and awareness in Kershaw County through programs such as the GEA Adventure Club for adolescents and their families; and through a partnership with the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor (of the U.S. National Park Service) establishing the SOUTH CAROLINA SEVEN (SC7) annual July expedition showcasing the state's seven natural wonders and all of South Carolina's extraordinary natural treasures in between and including a full day of environmental education-and-awareness activities in Camden and Kershaw County – the Camden/Kershaw County SC7 day in 2022 incorporated "Yaking the River", and the grand opening and inaugural hike of the 3.5-mile "Chotty Trail," a newly created urban Palmetto Trail spur connecting the Camden Riverfront Environmental Park with the Revolutionary War Visitor Center adjacent to Historic Camden.

**WHEREAS**, Mullikin was inducted into the South Carolina Black Belt Hall of Fame during a ceremony in Camden in 2019, later the National Black Belt Hall of Fame.

**WHEREAS**, Mullikin is a world-renowned explorer having hiked and climbed mountain ranges stretching across every continent on earth, achieving four (so far) of the world's seven great summits, SCUBA diving in all of the world's oceans, and having earned parachutist wings from numerous foreign military forces.

**WHEREAS**, Mullikin has performed incalculable hours (days, weeks, and months) of tireless pro-bono work for and in support of citizens living in the Republic of Fiji, the Republic of Moldova, Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands. And he helped lead a National Geographic expedition across a stretch of the Alaskan wilderness as a "National Geographic Expert."



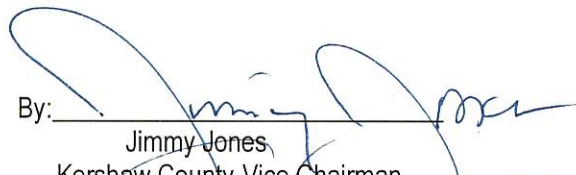
**WHEREAS**, Mullikin has organized and led racial reconciliation events and statewide bus tours aimed at bringing disparate communities together. Mullikin has demonstrated generous nonpartisan support of political candidates on both sides of the aisle with resources, counsel, and the hosting of campaign events. And he has organized military staff rides to historic battlefields for military officers, senior staff NCOs, business and political leaders, professional historians, fellow university professors, and other academicians here in Kershaw County and across the Palmetto State.


**WHEREAS**, Mullikin has for years supported U.S. military special operations forces and American military veterans as well as indigenous forces and their families allied to U.S. forces overseas.

**WHEREAS**, Mullikin led a record-setting statewide planting of 3.4-million loblolly pine tree seeds and saplings in 2021, and he has organized litter cleanups from S.C. to Hawaii to the Galapagos for World Ocean Day and other non-specifically designated days here in Kershaw County, statewide, across the U.S. and around the world.

**WHEREAS**, on this day, Tuesday, May 23, 2023, Kershaw County, SC recognizes this day in honor of Dr. Tom Mullikin and in name from here on forward into the future.


  
Katie Guinn  
Kershaw County Chairwoman

By:   
Jimmy Jones  
Kershaw County-Vice Chairman

By:   
Russell Brazel  
Kershaw County Councilman

By:   
Sammie Tucker, Jr.  
Kershaw County Councilman

By:   
Brant Tomlinson  
Kershaw County Councilman

By:   
Danny Catoe  
Kershaw County Councilman

By:   
Derek Shoemake  
Kershaw County Councilman

ATTEST:  
By:   
Hannah M. Parler  
Clerk to Council

