



Proclamation

By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, in 1860, decades after the United States outlawed importing Africans for manual labor, some 110 west African men were captured by a rival tribe in present-day Benin and sold into slavery to an Alabamian; and

WHEREAS, the ship *Clotilda* brought 110 Africans against their will in squalid conditions to the shores of Mobile Bay and was last slave ship to arrive in America; and

WHEREAS, the ship was scuttled and burned to hide the crime of importing slaves into this country; and

WHEREAS, the slaves were eventually freed, and they created a community which came to be known as *Africatown*; and

WHEREAS, they formed a local government based on the principles of self-government as had existed in their native land; and

WHEREAS, a group of their descendants in 1984 organized as *The Africatown Direct Descendants of the Clotilda* to "to preserve and perpetuate the culture and heritage of the last Africans brought to America"; and

WHEREAS, historians and divers have recently discovered the location of the remains of the legendary slave ship which has focused worldwide attention on historic *Africatown*; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Senator *Vivian Figures*, with decades of service in the Alabama Legislature benefitting residents of her district, has championed the cause of the descendants of the *Clotilda*;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, *Kay Ivey*, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim February 8, 2020 as

"Honor the Descendants of the Clotilda Day"

in the state of Alabama.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on the 8th day of February 2020.

Kay Ivey

Kay Ivey, Governor