



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

OMAR IBN SAID DAY

2019

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Omar Ibn Said was born in 1770 in Futa Toro (modern day Senegal) and was an accomplished scholar of Islam; and

WHEREAS, Omar was kidnaped, enslaved and brought to the Carolinas in 1807; and

WHEREAS, Omar wrote 14 manuscripts including the only surviving autobiography written by a slave in their native language currently housed in the Library of Congress; and

WHEREAS, Omar began his autobiography citing surat Al-Mulk, a chapter in the Quran discussing how only God is the true Master; and

WHEREAS, Omar in his autobiography wrote about his family and educational training which were taken away from him and destroyed by the institution of Slavery; and

WHEREAS, Omar and other slaves helped build North Carolina and did not receive compensation or even recognition for their contributions; and

WHEREAS, Omar Ibn Said, died as a slave in Bladen County, near Fayetteville, North Carolina in 1864 one year before the Civil War ended; and

WHEREAS, the contributions of Omar Ibn Said and other people who were enslaved in North Carolina are important and deserve to be remembered and celebrated;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim May 23, 2019, as **“OMAR IBN SAID DAY”** in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-second day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand and nineteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-second.