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NATIONAL TOURISM WEEK

(Beaufort, SC) – The Beaufort Visitor Center, located at 2001 Boundary Street, will celebrate the 25th Annual National Tourism Week May 12-16, from 9 am until 5:30 pm daily. The purpose of National Tourism Week is to promote a wider understanding of travel as a major U.S. industry that is vital to the economic stability, security and perception of the United States and that contributes substantially to its cultural and social well-being.

Businesses displaying products and services during National Tourism Week include the Arts Council of Beaufort County, Red Piano Too Art Gallery, Hilton Garden Inn, Friends of Hunting Island, Fripp Island Resort, Penn Center, the Beaufort Inn, Best Western Sea Island Inn, Donut Connection, Beaufort County Library, HWY 21 Drive-In and Port Royal Landing Marina.

On Monday, May 12, from 4 pm until 6 pm, Patricia Bee, author of *Mama's Pearls: Gullah Poetry to Live By*, will be signing books. John C. Stephens III will be signing his book, *Court Martial at Parris Island*, from 9 am until 12 pm on Thursday, May 15.

The Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce invites residents to greet visitors any time throughout the week. For more information please contact Leta Salazar, 843-986-5400, ext. 26 or lsalazar@beaufortsc.org.

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The Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce has more than 900 business members. The chamber plays a leading role in representing businesses and providing a common voice to bring concerns and solutions to local, state and federal governing bodies. Educational opportunities provided by the chamber are designed to enhance and support the growth of small businesses. The Chamber is the designated marketing organization for tourism to the City of Beaufort, the Town of Port Royal and the unincorporated areas of Beaufort County. The Chamber partners with a wide variety of non-profit organizations and businesses to market the hospitality industry and to attract visitors.