



WHEREAS, America 250 NC invited fourth-grade students from all around the state to participate in the North Carolina County Flag Challenge, where students design county flags that represent how they see their region of the state and write an essay about their work, making them think critically about local history, culture, and geography and how to symbolically represent it; and,

WHEREAS, America 250 NC provided worksheets and educational resources to assist in including the anniversary of America in the curriculum along with their curriculum on local North Carolina History; and,

WHEREAS, Jase Joyner, who attends First Wesleyan Christian School, is one of the fourth-grade students who participated in the competition; and,

WHEREAS, Jase chose to represent Gaston County with their current logo, seeing it as a positive shift for the community with its use of yellow, symbolizing prosperity and industry, navy blue, symbolizing authority and reliability, and teal, symbolizing rivers and communication, representing local strengths and showing progress while still honoring the past; and,

WHEREAS, Jase also chose to include the year 1846, representing the year Gaston County was founded; and,

WHEREAS, Jase added the sign for the Loray Mill, as Gaston County grew through the Industrial Revolution and Loray Mill was the largest of the contributions Gaston County made, being the largest single-building mill in the South and the centerpiece of textile processing in the South.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners commends and recognizes

**JASE JOYNER**

for his flag and essay representing Gaston County and hereby award him as our winner of the NC County Flag Challenge!

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chad Brown, Chairman

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Jim Bailey

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Bob Hovis, Vice-Chairman

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Cathy Cloninger

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Tom Keigher

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Allen R. Fraley

\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Shehan



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WHEREAS, America 250 NC provided worksheets and educational resources to assist in including the anniversary of America in the curriculum along with their curriculum on local North Carolina History; and,

WHEREAS, Sterling Elliott, who attends school at W.A. Bess Elementary, is one of the fourth-grade students who participated in the competition; and,

WHEREAS, Sterling chose to represent Gaston County with a butterfly, a flower, trees, a sunset, and Crowders Mountain to represent the nature and beauty within our County; and,

WHEREAS, Sterling also chose to put a heart around the seal of Gaston with the text "I love Gaston County" in it to represent her love of the County; and,

WHEREAS, Sterling included many different colors, and highlighted her love of Tony's Ice Cream, while including in her accompanying essay that her family enjoys visiting the Schiele Museum and Crowders Mountain.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners commends and recognizes

**STERLING ELLIOTT**

for her flag and essay representing Gaston County and hereby award her as our runner-up for the NC County Flag Challenge!

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chad Brown, Chairman

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Jim Bailey

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Bob Hovis, Vice-Chairman

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Cathy Cloninger

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Tom Keigher

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Allen R. Fraley

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Scott Shehan



# Gaston County

Gaston County  
Board of Commissioners  
www.gastongov.com

## Communications

### Board Action

File #: 26-138

Commissioners Bailey & Keigher - Commendations - North Carolina America 250 Initiative - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Flag Challenge Winner Jase Joyner and Runner-up Sterling Elliott

#### STAFF CONTACT

Adam J. Gaub - Director of Communications

#### BACKGROUND

As part of the America 250 Initiative, North Carolina conducted a flag design contest for 4<sup>th</sup> grade students across the state, and a panel of judges from our Museum has selected the winner and runner-up for Gaston County.

The runner-up is Sterling Elliott, from W.A. Bess Elementary in the South Point Township.  
The winner is Jase Joyner, from First Wesleyan Christian School in the Gastonia Township.

#### ATTACHMENTS

Commendations

DO NOT TYPE BELOW THIS LINE

I, Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the County Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of action taken by the Board of Commissioners as follows:

NO.	DATE	M1	M2	JBailey	CBrown	CCloninger	AFraley	BHovis	TKeigher	SSpahan	Vote
2026-112	04/28/2026	TK	BH	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	U

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