



- WHEREAS, service to others is a hallmark of the American character, and central to how we meet our challenges; and,
- WHEREAS, the nation's counties are increasingly turning to national service and volunteerism as a cost-effective strategy to meet their needs; and,
- WHEREAS, AmeriCorps and Senior Corps participants address the most pressing challenges facing our communities, from educating students for the jobs of the 21st century and supporting veterans and military families to providing health services and helping communities recover from natural disasters; and,
- WHEREAS, national service expands economic opportunity by creating more sustainable, resilient communities and providing education, career skills, and leadership abilities for those who serve; and,
- WHEREAS, AmeriCorps and Senior Corps participants serve in more than 50,000 locations across the country, bolstering the civic, neighborhood, and faith-based organizations that are so vital to our economic and social well-being; and,
- WHEREAS, national service participants increase the impact of the organizations they serve, both through their direct service and by managing millions of additional volunteers; and,
- WHEREAS, national service represents a unique public-private partnership that invests in community solutions and leverages non-federal resources to strengthen community impact and increase the return on taxpayer dollars; and,
- WHEREAS, national service participants demonstrate commitment, dedication, and patriotism by making an intensive commitment to service, a commitment that remains with them in their future endeavors; and,
- WHEREAS, since 1994 more than 200 Gaston County residents have served more than 310 thousand hours through national service programs and have qualified for AmeriCorps education awards totaling more than \$720,000; and,
- WHEREAS, the Corporation for National and Community Service shares a priority with county officials and mayors nationwide to engage citizens, improve lives, and strengthen communities; and is joining with the National League of Cities, National Association of Counties, Cities of Service, and mayors and county officials across the country for the Mayor and County Recognition Day for National Service on April 4, 2017.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners proclaims April 4, 2017 as

National Service Recognition Day

in Gaston County and encourage residents to recognize the positive impact of national service in our county, to thank those who serve, and to find ways to give back to their communities.

Chad Brown, Chairman

Allen R. Fraley

Tom Keigher

Donald J. Grant, Jr.

Tracy L. Philbeck

Bob Hovis

Ronald E. Worley, Vice-Chairman

To be Adopted the 28th Day of March 2017