



- WHEREAS,** on July 4, 2026, our country celebrated the 250th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence by the Second Continental Congress, marking the birth of the United States of America and affirming the enduring principles of liberty, equality, self-governance, and the unalienable rights of all people; and,
- WHEREAS,** while the year 2026 marks the anniversary of our nation's founding, it also recognizes that the struggle to secure American independence continued beyond 1776, through years of courage and sacrifice, culminating in the Treaty of Paris in 1783; and,
- WHEREAS,** North Carolina citizens made lasting contributions to America's fight for independence, through pivotal Revolutionary War engagements that shaped the Southern Campaign and helped pave the way for the British surrender at Yorktown, Virginia on October 19, 1781; and,
- WHEREAS,** the Carolina backcountry played a significant role in the American Revolutionary cause, and the citizens of historic Tryon County, from which Gaston, Lincoln, Cleveland, Polk and Rutherford Counties would later be formed, declared their commitment to resist British oppression and tyranny through the Tryon Resolves of August 14, 1775; and,
- WHEREAS,** the Patriot militiamen of the South Fork settlements along the Catawba River, later known as the South Fork Boys, and other citizens of present-day Gaston County, served as members of the Lincoln County Regiment, helping to secure the Patriot victory at the Battle of Ramsour's Mill on June 20, 1780, before joining fellow Patriots less than four months later in the decisive victory at the Battle of Kings Mountain on October 7, 1780, victories that helped turn the tide of the Southern Campaign; and,
- WHEREAS,** this historic anniversary serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made by citizens in North Carolina and across the nation to secure the blessings of freedom for future generations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners hereby celebrates the

250th Anniversary of the Founding of the United States of America

and further encourages all citizens to honor those whose courage and sacrifice secured our freedoms by recognizing the significant milestones of 1776 to 1783 which shaped the course of American history and continue to serve as a lasting inspiration for people around the world. May we recommit ourselves to the timeless principles of liberty, equality, and government by the consent of the governed.

Chad Brown, Chairman

Jim Bailey

Bob Hovis, Vice-Chairman

Cathy Cloninger

Tom Keigher

Allen R. Fraley

Scott Shehan

To be Adopted the 25th Day of August 2026