



WHEREAS, the residents of Gaston County hold deep respect and gratitude for all who have served our country in the Armed Forces, and each November 11th we have the solemn privilege of honoring our Veterans, who have bravely defended our independence and safeguarded the freedoms that allow us to live in the land of the free and the home of the brave; and,

WHEREAS, Veterans continue to serve our community in the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, religious groups, civil service, and by functioning as County Veterans Service Officers in 29 states, helping service members access more than \$52 billion in federal health, disability and compensation benefits each year; and,

WHEREAS, approximately 200,000 service members transition to civilian life each year, with an estimated 20 percent increase expected in the near future; and,

WHEREAS, studies indicate that 44-72 percent of service members experience significant stress while transitioning from military to civilian life and face an elevated risk for suicide during their first year after military service; and,

WHEREAS, as our nation prepares to commemorate its 250th Anniversary, the Board of Commissioners believes it is important to observe Veterans Day and to pay tribute to those whose courage and devotion have preserved the liberties upon which our Country was founded; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners calls upon all Gaston County citizens to participate in *Operation Green Light for Veterans* by honoring the service and sacrifices of the men and women in uniform who are transitioning from active duty, and by displaying green lights in a window of their place of business or residence from November 4th through Veterans Day, November 11th, 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim November 4-11, 2025 as

OPERATION GREEN LIGHT FOR VETERANS

and encourages all citizens of Gaston County to participate in this observance, and to honor the brave men and women, past and present, who have made immeasurable sacrifices in defense of America's ideals and enduring values. Let us remember our solemn obligations to our Veterans and reaffirm our commitment to upholding the founding principles of our great Country, so that our rights and freedoms are preserved for future generations.

Chad Brown, Chairman

Jim Bailey

Bob Hovis

Cathy Cloninger, Vice-Chair

Tom Keigher

Allen R. Fraley

Scott Shehan

To be Adopted the 28th Day of October 2025