



WHEREAS, IBMA (International Bluegrass Music Association) award winners & GMA (Gospel Music Association) - nominees Darin & Brooke Aldridge, known by many in the Bluegrass music industry, have achieved nationwide stardom and earned recognition abroad for their critically acclaimed Bluegrass, Gospel, and Americana catalog. The multi-award-winning, husband-and-wife duo have spent nearly two decades cultivating their shared love of music and their hard work has led to a string of highly celebrated albums and number-one singles; and,

WHEREAS, together, these two gifted musicians have created a unique sound crafted by rich vocals, accomplished songwriting skills, and impeccable instrumentation. Their music reflects their deep roots in North Carolina heritage and traditions. Darin hails from Cherryville, North Carolina with roots in Avery County, deep in the Blue Ridge Mountains, where he met his wife, Avery County Native, Brooke Justice Aldridge. Darin recalls spending time in Avery County as a child but he has always called Cherryville home and has spent most of his youth and adult life in Gaston County. Cherryville is also where the couple resides today; and,

WHEREAS, Darin, a long-time veteran of the music business, got his start around the age of 8, playing guitar, and eventually branching out to banjo and mandolin. Surrounded by a family of musicians, Darin knew early on that music would be a part of his life. He is a highly sought-after multi-instrumentalist and has had several successful stints with well-known bands, including the Country Gentlemen, The Circuit Riders, and Acoustic Syndicate. In 2017, Darin was named the IBMA's Mentor of the Year by the International Bluegrass Music Association, for his contributions to mentoring and teaching music to the youth of his community and for giving back so much to the bluegrass industry; and,

WHEREAS, Brooke, a 4-time IBMA female vocalist of the year, grew up in Avery County and graduated from Appalachian State University with a degree in Early Childhood Education. She was encouraged at an early age by her parents to explore singing, after recognizing her innate ear for music and her strong, distinctive voice. She won numerous singing competitions in her youth and was a finalist in the regionals for Nashville Star competition. Known for outstanding vocals, she also picked up mandolin and guitar along the way to add to her powerful repertoire; and,

WHEREAS, while they were both making their way through the circuits, they finally met face-to-face, and the rest, as they say, was history! Their friendship and mutual admiration bonded them professionally in 2005, and their relationship eventually blossomed into something much more. The duo married in 2008 and have been going strong ever since. They knew from the very beginning that they wanted their music to inspire and lift people up and they have remained true to those ideals over the years; and,

WHEREAS, following a Gospel album debut, Darin and Brooke have since released eight acclaimed studio albums as well as a concert album. The duo has notched several tracks at the top of Bluegrass and Gospel charts, and their video for the gospel single "Jordan", released March 2023, has already received more than one million views and downloads and is set to appear on their forthcoming album with Billy Blue Records. Their unmistakable sound has earned them many accolades and opportunities, but perhaps their biggest dream was recognized in 2017 when they were asked to play the Grand Ole Opry. They've since graced that storied stage more than fifty times; and,

WHEREAS, the down-to-earth couple has remained true to their roots and have been recognized locally over the years for their many contributions. In 2010, Darin was named Citizen of the Year in Cherryville, and in 2023, the couple was recognized again by the city, when renowned Chapel Hill artist Scott Nurkin, was commissioned to paint a downtown mural to honor Darin and Brooke.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners, in recognition of their success and gratitude for the honor they have brought to our County, proclaim October 24, 2023, in Gaston County as

Darin and Brooke Aldridge Day

Chad Brown, Chairman

Cathy Cloninger

Kim Johnson

Allen R. Fraley

Tom Keigher

Bob Hovis, Vice-Chairman

Ronald E. Worley

To be Adopted the 24th Day of October 2023