



WHEREAS, the Citizens of Gaston County elected Joe D. Carpenter to the Gaston County Board of Commissioners in November 1998 and again in November of 2000, 2004, 2008 and 2012 as a representative from the Crowders Mountain Township; and,

WHEREAS, Commissioner Carpenter was elected twice as Chairman of the Board during his first term in December 1990 and 1991, and in later terms in December 2002 and 2003. He was also elected Vice-Chair of the Board in December of 1988 and December of 2013 and 2014; and,

WHEREAS, in his official capacity, Commissioner Carpenter has diligently served the State, Region and County as well as many other affiliate organizations including:

- Air Park Facility Committee 1997-1998
- Airport Advisory Board 1989-1992
- Carolina Counties Coalition Task Force 1989-1991
- Centralina Council of Governments - 2005-2012
- Centralina Economic Development Commission - 2005-2012 2016-2019
- Charlotte Douglas International Airport Commission – 2013- 2016
- Charlotte Regional Partnership - 2001-2016
- Family Advisory Board 2001-2009
- County Master Plan Subcommittee
- Greater Gaston Dev. Corp Negotiation Committee 2001-Analyst Position
- Consolidated Human Services Subcommittee – 2013
- Economic Development Commission - 2002-2005; 2008 - 2016
- Farmers Market Advisory Board - 2001-2004; 2008-2016
- Gaston College Board of Trustees
- Indigent Obstetric Care Task Force 1989
- Mental Health/DD/SA Gaston-Lincoln-Cleveland Area Authority "Pathways" - 2001-2004
- North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) - 2001-2004; 2008-2012
- NCACC Legislative Goals Conference Voting Delegate – 2002
- NCACC Annual Conference Voting Delegate - 2003, 2004, 2006
- NCACC Annual Conference Alternate Voting Delegate - 2008
- NCACC Legislative Liaison - 2009-2012
- NACO Annual Conference Voting Delegate - 2009
- NACO Transportation Committee – 2003
- Quality of Natural Resources Commission - 2002-2004
- Regional Greenway Network Steering Committee as Ex-officio - 2003-2004
- Social Services Site Study Committee-1991
- Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Alternate & Delegate – 2003-2016
- Piedmont Equestrian Authority Park – 2005

WHEREAS, throughout his tenure, he brought a sense of fiscal responsibility to the Board coupled with a genuine interest in addressing the myriad of diverse issues facing the County. He weathered numerous budget years in a time of reduced federal and state funds and worked feverishly to address the County's reliance on fund balance. Known for taking on tough challenges, Commissioner Carpenter stood firmly in rigorous budget deliberations to achieve a more financially sound environment for County government; and,

WHEREAS, he was instrumental in the 1991 formation of Gaston Family Health Services, Inc. (GFHS), a community health center, established to address a crisis-level physician shortage in Gaston County and to meet the primary health needs of the medically indigent population. GFHS reduced the burden on Gaston County's Emergency Department, which at one time was ranked the "second busiest ER in North Carolina". It also provided preventive and continued care to Gaston County citizens who could not afford private health care; and,

WHEREAS, Commissioner Carpenter has played an instrumental role in many initiatives that have had a significant impact on the County and Region's growth over the last twenty years, especially in the areas of economic development, industry recruitment, strategic planning, and comprehensive land use development and zoning ordinances. He was also a vocal proponent of education initiatives and advocated for the State to fully fund the operation costs of schools and to address school spending inequities between low-wealth and high-wealth counties in North Carolina. In recognition of his unwavering commitment to the betterment of Gaston County and our Region, his colleagues unanimously voted to rename the Gaston County Visitors Center in his honor on October 25, 2016.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the citizens of Gaston County, commends and extends grateful appreciation to

Joe D. Carpenter

for his strategic vision and his extensive community involvement, making our County a better place to live.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Commendation, as adopted this 10th day of November 2016, be set forth in the Minutes of this County Commission.