



WHEREAS, the Governor's Volunteer Service Award honors the true spirit of volunteerism by recognizing individuals, groups and businesses that make a significant contribution to their community through volunteer service; and,

WHEREAS, any person, group, or entity from the public – non-profit and private sector – may be nominated for an award through a county award coordinator. County award coordinators submit their top 10 volunteer nominations per county; and,

WHEREAS, there are eligibility requirements and several categories for the type of nominee (senior, youth, faith-based, family, group, business, etc.). Additional categories are based upon the area of service (animal, environmental, disaster, youth, preservation, etc.). County recommendations are reviewed by the State Commission and awards are given out in the counties; and,

WHEREAS, United Way of Gaston County coordinates our county efforts, advertises, collects applications, and with a review panel, makes recommendations to the State of North Carolina; and,

WHEREAS, due to the pandemic, the Board of Commissioners and the Gaston County United Way have coordinated to publicly recognize the 2020 recipients of the Governor's Service Award at the Commissioners March 9, 2021 Work Session.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners congratulates and extend its deepest appreciation to

*William "Gus" Anthony, Monica Canipe, Sarah Cerilli,  
Valarie Jefferson and Doris Sellers*

upon being named the 2020 recipients of the Governor's Volunteer Award and further recognizes the recipients for their outstanding and exemplary volunteer service to Gaston County.

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Tom Keigher, Chairman

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Chad Brown

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Kim Johnson

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Allen R. Fraley, Vice-Chairman

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Tracy L. Philbeck

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Bob Hovis

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Ronnie Worley

To be Adopted the 23rd Day of March 2021

## 2020 Governor's Volunteer Awards

### William "Gus" Anthony

For almost 20 years attorney Gus Anthony has been a volunteer with the Gaston County Teen Court, a diversion program that assists young people ages 12-18 who have been charged with a criminal offense. Mr. Anthony was nominated by Program Coordinator, Wendy Whist. This program gives youth the opportunity to be held accountable for their actions but give them the opportunity to have their records cleared. Mr. Anthony has helped this program from its inception in 2001 developing policies and guidelines and has presided over many of the courtroom since that time, offering encouragement to teen defendants. . Teen Court has heard over 1500 cases since the program began

### Monica Canipe

Gaston County's Adult Nutrition Program provides meal services for older adults throughout the county. According to Amanda Dawson, County Adult Nutrition Specialist, Monica Canipe has volunteered for approximately 15 years with the meal site in Cherryville, and her work is much appreciated by the Meals on Wheels clients as well as the site coordinator who uses her feedback to improve the services provided to clients in the area.

### Sarah Cerilli

As a Guardian ad Litem (GAL), Sarah Cerilli volunteers to help meet the needs of children who have been removed from their homes and are in the legal custody of the Department of Social Services, residing in foster or other family care. The GAL volunteers many hours during the month, visiting the children, appearing regularly in court, all to help determine what is in the best interest of the child. Gerald Mack, District Administrator of the program states that Sarah is a role model for other Guardians ad Litem as she carries multiple cases at one time to support the children about which she is passionate.

### Valarie Jefferson

Leah Hedgepath states that "dependable" is one of the best words she can use to describe Valarie Jefferson, Mrs. Val. As a volunteer with Dallas High Shoals Christian Ministry, nothing slows her down. Leah says her kind heart, loving spirit, encouraging words, and hours of work with donations and organization keep the organization running efficiently as they work to meet the needs of those less fortunate in the community. She also gives many hours to help the homeless, reach more people with her kindness that she knows.

### Doris Sellers

Doris Sellers also works with Dallas High Shoals Christian Ministry where she has volunteered for almost 10 years. Doris has helped as the organization has changed and grown, working in many areas of the agency including packing food bags and assisting clients answering questions they may have.



# Gaston County

Gaston County  
Board of Commissioners  
www.gastongov.com

## Commissioners

## Board Action

File #: 21-089

Commissioner Keigher - BOC - Commendation - Governor's Volunteer Service Award

### STAFF CONTACT

Donna S. Buff - Clerk to the Board - 704-866-3196

### BUDGET IMPACT

N/A

### BUDGET ORDINANCE IMPACT

N/A

### BACKGROUND

Due to the pandemic, the Board of Commissioners and the Gaston County United Way coordinated to publicly recognize the following 2020 recipients of the Governor's Service Award at the Commissioners March 9, 2021 Work Session: William "Gus" Anthony, Monica Canipe, Sarah Cerilli, Valarie Jefferson and Doris Sellers.

### POLICY IMPACT

N/A

### ATTACHMENTS

Governor's Volunteer Service Award Commendation / Recipient Information

DO NOT TYPE BELOW THIS LINE

I, Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the County Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of action taken by the Board of Commissioners as follows:

NO.	DATE	M1	M2	CBrown	AFraley	BHovis	KJohnson	TKeigher	TPhilbeck	RWorley	Vote
2021-075	03/23/2021	CB	RW	A	A	A	A	A	AB	A	U

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