



- WHEREAS, the residents of Gaston County have great respect, admiration, and the utmost gratitude for all the men and women who have selflessly served our country and this community in the Armed Forces; and,
- WHEREAS, the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women that served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by our citizens; and,
- WHEREAS, Gaston County seeks to honor individuals who have made countless sacrifices for freedom by placing themselves in harm's way for the good of all; and,
- WHEREAS, there are approximately 700,000 veterans in the State of North Carolina, with over 14,000 of them being in Gaston County; and,
- WHEREAS, veterans continue to serve our community in the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, religious groups, civil service; and,
- WHEREAS, approximately 200,000 service members transition to civilian communities annually; and,
- WHEREAS, an estimated 20% increase of service members will transition to civilian life in the near future; and,
- WHEREAS, studies indicate that 44% to 72% of service members experience high levels of stress during transition from military to civilian life; and,
- WHEREAS, Active Military Service Members transitioning from military service are at a high risk for suicide during transition from military to civilian service life; and,
- WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties encourages all counties, parishes and boroughs to recognize Operation Green Light for Veterans; and,
- WHEREAS, the Gaston County Board of Commissioners appreciates the sacrifices of our United States military personnel made while defending freedom and believes specific recognition should be accorded them in appreciation of their service to demonstrate the honor and support they have earned.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as we approach Veterans Day in 2023, the Gaston County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaim that Gaston County recognizes **Operation Green Light** and encourages its citizens and businesses to honor those whose immeasurable sacrifice helped preserve our freedom by displaying green lights in a window of their place of business or residence from November 6th through the 12th, 2023.

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