



- WHEREAS, Mrs. Mary Frances Forrester was honored for her lifelong commitment to arts and culture at the “*A Night of the Arts in Gaston County*” event, held at Gaston Christian School on October 15, 2018, as part of the **GO Month** campaign – a month-long celebration of Gaston County businesses, culture, recreation, education and workforce development; and,
- WHEREAS, Mary Frances has been a constant champion of the value and importance of the arts in our society and has made significant contributions locally and statewide; her passionate work has helped to enrich the lives of so many and is a reflection of the measurable impact of arts and culture in our society – from individual health and wellbeing to academic and economic success; and,
- WHEREAS, a dance major in the Jordan College of Music at Butler University, Mary Frances taught ballet at Vinnie Fredrick’s Studio in Winston Salem, choreographed for the Winston Salem Little Theater and was a founder and artistic director of the Winston Salem Festival Ballet, a semi-professional regional ballet company; and,
- WHEREAS, Mary Frances helped to raise funding for the establishment of the North Carolina School of the Arts and was involved in the formation of its dance department; and,
- WHEREAS, she partnered in the creation of the Barn Dance Studio in Charlotte, worked closely with Pat Wall in founding Gaston Dance and serving as President of the Board for 10 years, and she has served on the Mayor’s Advisory Council for Art and the Gaston Arts Council Board; and,
- WHEREAS, she received the Juliette Award from The Girl Scouts of America for her efforts in raising funds for sculptures for the Girl Scout Camp at Golden Valley and has also produced local Christmas and Easter pageants, as well as Miss America preliminary pageants; and,
- WHEREAS, Mary Frances secured the naming rights for the Forrester Dance Studio in the M.O. Owens Jr. Worship and Fine Arts Center at Gaston Christian School.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioner hereby commends

Mrs. Mary Frances Forrester

upon being honored for her lifelong passion and support of the arts. The Board further commends her for her philanthropic and business leadership and for helping to make Gaston County and North Carolina a great place to live, work and visit.

Chad Brown, Chairman

Jack B. Brown

Tom Keigher, Vice-Chairman

Allen R. Fraley

Tracy L. Philbeck

Bob Hovis

Ronald E. Worley