



- WHEREAS, the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 have forever changed the lives of Americans and twenty-one years later, the people of the United States and around the world continue to mourn the tremendous loss of innocent life; and,
- WHEREAS, on the morning of Tuesday, September 11, 2001, the al-Qaeda terrorist group coordinated a series of attacks on the United States, using four hijacked passenger airliners to kill more than 3,000 people and injure over 6,000 others; and,
- WHEREAS, passengers of American Airlines Flight 11, United Airlines Flight 175, American Airlines Flight 77 and United Airlines Flight 93, along with thousands of victims in the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Arlington County, Virginia, perished in the attacks; and,
- WHEREAS, America will forever be grateful for the diligent acts of bravery and sacrifice of first responders, law enforcement personnel, state and local officials, volunteers, and countless others who aided the innocent victims of those attacks and, in doing so, bravely risked, and gave their own lives; and,
- WHEREAS, our Country's resolve has been demonstrated time and again over the last twenty-one years by the sacrifices of those who have stepped forward to protect the cause of freedom. Members of the United States Armed Services, intelligence agencies, diplomatic service, homeland security, law enforcement personnel and first responders, and their families, have given so much to protect our freedom and defend the security of the United States; and,
- WHEREAS, because of those sacrifices, September 11th will never, and should never be just another day in the hearts and minds of all people of the United States.
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners recognizes the 21st Anniversary and commemorates the lives of those lost and injured in the attacks of

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and honors their loved ones for their courage and faithfulness to endure and carry on. The Board further salutes the heroes that placed themselves in harm's way on that fateful day, and the sacrifices of those who served, and continue to serve, to keep us safe at home and abroad, as we stand together, united and steadfast as a nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners recognizes September 11th as ***"First Responder Day"***, an annual legal holiday as established by the North Carolina General Assembly as part of the 2017 Appropriations Act (HB 257).

Chad Brown, Chairman

Allen R. Fraley

Tom Keigher

Bob Hovis, Vice-Chairman

Tracy L. Philbeck

Kim Johnson

Ronald E. Worley