

Proclamation

HONORING DONNIE JONES

WHEREAS, Donnie Jones of Hendersonville, North Carolina, has dedicated his life to serving others and enriching the lives of children and families throughout Henderson County and Western North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, recognizing a need within the community, Donnie Jones founded **Special Needs Sports** in 2001 and later established the **Special Needs Baseball League**, creating opportunities for children and adults with disabilities to experience the joy, camaraderie, and life lessons that come through participation in organized sports; and

WHEREAS, through his vision, leadership, and tireless volunteer efforts, Special Needs Sports has grown to serve more than 200 participants across seven counties in Western North Carolina, providing a welcoming environment where every player is valued, included, and celebrated; and

WHEREAS, Donnie Jones has worked tirelessly to ensure that financial barriers never prevent participation, relying on community partnerships, volunteers, sponsors, and charitable support so that every athlete has the opportunity to play; and

WHEREAS, his unwavering commitment to inclusion has extended beyond the playing field, helping to promote accessible recreation opportunities and advocating for facilities and programs that serve individuals of all abilities; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his extraordinary contributions, Henderson County honored Donnie Jones by naming the **Donnie Jones All-Inclusive Playground at Jackson Park**, ensuring that his legacy of inclusion and service will inspire generations to come; and

WHEREAS, Donnie Jones has exemplified the highest ideals of community service, compassion, and leadership, touching countless lives through his dedication and his belief that every child deserves the opportunity to belong, participate, and succeed; and

WHEREAS, his heartfelt description of the athletes he serves as "**my kids**" reflects the love, commitment, and personal investment he has made in helping special needs individuals and their families feel valued and supported.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that I, Mayor Barbara Volk, Mayor of the City of Hendersonville, on behalf of the City Council, hereby recognize and honor **Donnie Jones** for his outstanding service, visionary leadership, and unwavering dedication to the special needs community and to the citizens of Henderson County and Western North Carolina.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that all citizens are encouraged to join in celebrating Donnie Jones for his remarkable achievements and for the lasting impact he has made by creating opportunities, building community, and demonstrating that there are no limits to what can be accomplished through service, compassion, and inclusion.

PROCLAIMED this 4th day of June, 2026.

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Barbara G. Volk
Barbara G. Volk, Mayor
City of Hendersonville

Attest: Jill Murray
Jill Murray, City Clerk