

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on March 22, 1972, President Richard Nixon signed into law a measure that amended the Older Americans Act of 1965 and established a national nutrition program for seniors 60 years and older; and

WHEREAS, Meals on Wheels America established the National March for Meals Campaign in March 2002 to recognize the historic month, the importance of Older Americans Act Nutrition Programs – both congregate and home-delivered – and raise awareness about the escalating problem of senior hunger in America; and

WHEREAS, the 2016 observance of the March for Meals campaign provides an opportunity to support Meals on Wheels programs that deliver vital and critical services by donating, volunteering and raising awareness about senior hunger and isolation; and

WHEREAS, Older Americans Act Nutrition Programs – both congregate and home-delivered – in Virginia have served our communities admirably for more than 40 years; and

WHEREAS, volunteer drivers for Meals on Wheels programs such as Senior Services of Alexandria, in partnership with the City’s Division of Aging and Adult Services, are the backbone of the program, delivering nutritious meals to Alexandria homebound seniors and individuals with disabilities 7 days a week, 365 days a year, and also showing concern and attention to their welfare; and

WHEREAS, Meals on Wheels programs in Virginia provide nutritious meals to seniors throughout the State and help them maintain their health and independence and avoid unnecessary hospitalizations and/or premature institutionalization, and Meals on Wheels programs in Virginia provide a powerful socialization opportunity for millions of seniors to help combat loneliness and isolation; and

WHEREAS, Meals on Wheels programs in Virginia deserve recognition for the contributions they have made and will continue to make to local communities, our State and our Nation.

NOW THEREFORE, I, ALLISON SILBERBERG, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim March 8, 2016 as:

“MARCH FOR MEALS MONTH”

And urge every citizen to take time this month to honor our Meals on Wheels programs, the seniors they serve and the volunteers who care for them. Our recognition of, and involvement in, the National 2016 March for Meals campaign can enrich our entire community and help combat senior hunger and isolation in America.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 8th day of March, 2016.

ALLISON SILBERBERG MAYOR
On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, MMC City Clerk