

P R O C L A M A T I O N

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

WHEREAS, for more than five decades, this landmark law has helped to fund community-based organizations – like Meals on Wheels – and it is still the only federal program designed specifically to meet the nutritional and social needs of older adults; and

WHEREAS, this year, Meals on Wheels programs from across the country are joining together for the March for Meals awareness campaign to celebrate its success and garner the support needed to ensure these critical programs can continue to address food insecurity and malnutrition, combat social isolation, enable independence, and improve health for years to come; and

WHEREAS, volunteers for Meals on Wheels programs in the City of Alexandria, Virginia, are the backbone of the program and they not only deliver nutritious meals to seniors and individuals with disabilities who are at significant risk of hunger and isolation, but also caring concern and attention to their welfare; and

WHEREAS, Meals on Wheels programs, such as the program managed by Senior Services of Alexandria and the City's Division of Aging and Adult Services, provide nutritious meals to seniors that help them maintain their health and independence, thereby helping to prevent unnecessary falls, hospitalizations and/or premature institutionalization; and

WHEREAS, Meals on Wheels programs in the City of Alexandria, Virginia, provide a powerful opportunity for social connection for hundreds of seniors to help combat the negative health effects and economic consequences of loneliness and isolation; and

WHEREAS, Meals on Wheels programs in the City of Alexandria deserve recognition for the heroic contributions and essential services they have provided amid the COVID-19 pandemic, inclement weather and other emergencies; and

WHEREAS, the senior population is increasing substantially, and action is needed now to support local Meals on Wheels programs through federal, state and local funding; volunteering; donations; and raising awareness to ensure these vital services can continue to be delivered for years to come.

NOW, THEREFORE, I JUSTIN WILSON, as Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, do hereby proclaim March 2023 as a month celebrating:

“MEALS on WHEELS”

In the City of Alexandria, and urge every community member to take this month to honor our senior nutrition programs, the individuals they serve and the volunteers who care for them. Our recognition of, and involvement in, the national March for Meals celebration can enrich our entire community and help combat senior hunger and isolation in America.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have here unto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 14th day of March, 2023.

MAYOR JUSTIN M. WILSON
On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk

