



## *Proclamation*

### **Declaring March 2022 as a Month Celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Older Americans Act Nutrition Program**

**WHEREAS**, fifty years ago, 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 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 50 years of 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**, Meals on Wheels programs – both congregate and home-delivered, in Jackson County have served our communities admirably for 50 years for North Carolina and 28 years for Jackson County; and

**WHEREAS**, volunteers for Meals on Wheels programs in Jackson County 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 in Jackson County provide nutritious meals to seniors throughout Jackson County 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 Jackson County provide a powerful opportunity for social connection for thousands of seniors to help combat the negative health effects and economic consequences of loneliness and isolation; and

**WHEREAS**, Meals on Wheels programs in Jackson County deserve recognition for the heroic contributions and essential services they have provided amid the COVID-19 pandemic and will continue to provide to local communities, our State and our Nation long after it is over; 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 another 50 years.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS** hereby proclaims March 2022 as a month celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Older Americans Act Nutrition program and urge every community member to take 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 celebration can enrich our entire community and help combat senior hunger and isolation in America.

Date: March 15, 2022.

Attest:

By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to the Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman