

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

23-47

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

April 2, 2019

To recognize, honor, and raise community awareness about older Americans in the United States and in the District of Columbia, and to declare the month of May as “Older Americans Month” in the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, President Kennedy first celebrated older Americans by designating May 1963 as Senior Citizens Month;

WHEREAS, in 1980, President Jimmy Carter’s proclamation changed the name to Older Americans Month, and the month of May continues to be a time to celebrate those 65 years and older through ceremonies, events, and public recognition;

WHEREAS, the theme for 2019’s Older Americans Month is Connect, Create, Contribute, which encourages older adults and their communities to connect with friends, family, and services that support participation, create by engaging in activities that promote learning, health, and personal enrichment, and contribute time, talent, and life experience to benefit others;

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia is home to over 107,000 seniors who richly contribute to our community;

WHEREAS, older Americans of every race, class, and ethnic background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of the District of Columbia in countless recorded and unrecorded ways;

WHEREAS, the Department on Aging and Community Living under the leadership of Executive Director Laura Newland, is dedicated to serving the needs of senior residents in the District of Columbia;

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia is one of the most age-friendly cities in the United States and on pace to become only the third U.S. city designated by the World Health Organization as an Age-Friendly City in October 2017;

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WHEREAS, the District of Columbia acknowledges the contributions and sacrifices older persons have made to ensure a better life for the future generations of Washingtonians and Americans, especially those seniors who defended our freedoms as veterans of the United States Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia strives to provide opportunities to enrich the lives of individuals of all ages by involving older adults in the redefinition of aging in our community, promoting home and community-based services that support independent living, encouraging older adults to speak up for themselves and others, and providing opportunities for older adults to share their experiences.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Older Americans Month Recognition Resolution of 2019”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia declares May 2019 as “Older Americans Month” in the District of Columbia and urges every resident to take time during this month to acknowledge older adults and the people who serve them as influential and vital parts of our community.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take into effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Registrar.