

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, Washington State is home to over 1.5 million older Americans who richly contribute to our community; and

**WHEREAS**, we acknowledge that what it means "to age" has changed – for the better; and

**WHEREAS**, more than ever before, older Americans are changing attitudes about what is possible as we age by reinventing themselves through new passions, new careers, mentoring others, becoming students, or getting involved in new activities or the arts; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington State is committed to supporting older adults as they take charge of their health, explore new opportunities and activities, and focus on independence through high-quality expanded service options in support of family caregivers and by promoting dementia-friendly communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington State will continue to combat and raise awareness of the exploitation, neglect, and abuse of older adults and prioritize the health and safety of older Washingtonians; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington State can 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 and knowledge; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2018 theme of Older Americans Month, Engage at Every Age, is intended to give aging a new voice – one that reflects what today's older Americans have to say about aging as they advocate for themselves and all generations with a clear and robust voice;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim May, 2018, as

### *Older Americans Month*

in Washington, and I encourage all people in our state to join me in this special acknowledgement of older adults and the people who serve them as powerful and vital individuals who greatly contribute to our society.

Signed this 24<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2018

Governor Jay Inslee

