

Proclamation

by Governor Joe Manchin III

Whereas, West Virginia's older citizens are the foundation of our way of life; their ingenuity and creativity, hard work and sacrifice, and their inspirational courage are responsible for the freedoms and security we now enjoy; and,

Whereas, citizens age 60 and older currently make up 20.1 percent of the state's population, and each year we will see a rise of 27,000 citizens age 60 and older; and,

Whereas, poor physical and mental health are not inevitable consequences of aging, and can be alleviated by adopting healthy habits such as regular exercise, a healthy diet and behavioral changes; and,

Whereas, our state government has recognized the need to provide basic necessities and health care to our older citizens by allocating state funds to aid in providing in-home services for citizens in their later years, allowing them to remain in their homes and communities, and to live safe, independent lives with dignity; and,

Whereas, services funded by the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended, are also allocated by the State to help senior West Virginians remain secure, healthy and independent; and,

Whereas, it is appropriate for West Virginia to join in the 46th national observance of Older Americans Month with its theme, "Living Today for a Better Tomorrow," and offer a special tribute to senior citizens for their contributions to the growth and well-being of our state;

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Joe Manchin III, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *May 2009* as:

Older Americans Month

in the Mountain State and encourage all West Virginians to pay tribute to senior citizens and renew commitments to develop and maintain a responsive system of supportive services.


In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the First day of May, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Nine, and in the One Hundred Forty-sixth year of the State.




Joe Manchin III
Governor

By the Governor:


Natalie E. Tennant
Secretary of State