

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

*WHEREAS*, Washington state is home to a growing number of older Americans who enhance our communities through their diverse life experiences; and

*WHEREAS*, older Americans are living healthier, longer lives and enjoying life to the fullest through mentoring others across their lifespan, participating in the arts, sports, and other wellness endeavors; and

*WHEREAS*, Washington State is committed to strengthening our communities by connecting with and supporting older adults, their families, and caregivers and acknowledging their valuable wisdom and important contributions to society; and

*WHEREAS*, Washingtonians recognize the importance of bringing together all generations and engaging in activities that promote physical, mental, and emotional well-being for the benefit of all; and

*WHEREAS*, Washingtonians recognize that when communities support and recognize older adults, especially those raising grandchildren, it makes communities stronger; and

*WHEREAS*, Washington State can enhance the lives of older Americans in our communities by; promoting home and community based services that support independent living such as balance and fitness programs and home delivered meals; involving older adults in community events and other activities like Powerful Tools for Caregivers training, Alzheimer's cafés, and other Memory Care and Wellness Services; providing opportunities for older adults to work, volunteer, learn, lead, and mentor in programs like Volunteer Services, volunteering in elementary schools as reading tutors, as State Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA), and advocating for vulnerable adults through the Long-Term Care Ombudsman programs; and

*WHEREAS*, the 2019 theme of Older Americans Month, "Connect, Create, Contribute" reminds us that to enjoy great health, we all need to be involved in our communities, to have outlets for our creativity, and to have opportunities to give back and mentor the generations that come after us.

*NOW, THEREFORE*, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim May 2019 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 17<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2019

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee".

Governor Jay Inslee

