**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO PROCLAIM THE MONTH OF MAY 2015 AS “OLDER AMERICANS MONTH” AND TO URGE SOUTH CAROLINIANS TO TAKE TIME TO CELEBRATE OLDER ADULTS AND THE PEOPLE WHO SERVE AND SUPPORT THEM AS SUPPORTIVE AND VITAL INDIVIDUALS WHO GREATLY CONTRIBUTE TO THE WELL‑BEING OF SOUTH CAROLINA’S GROWING AGING POPULATION.

Whereas, the State of South Carolina includes a thriving community of approximately 950,000 seniors over the age of sixty who deserve recognition for their valuable contributions and many sacrifices to ensure a better life for future generations; and

Whereas, the Lieutenant Governor’s Office on Aging and its dedicated staff are committed to helping all individuals live longer, healthier lives in the communities of their choice for as long as possible; and

Whereas, the members of the General Assembly applaud the good work of the ten regional area agencies on aging and their providers who deliver aging services using federal and state funding provided by the Lieutenant Governor’s Office on Aging. These agencies include the Appalachian Area Agency on Aging, the Upper Savannah Area Agency on Aging, the Catawba Area Agency on Aging, the Central Midlands Area Agency on Aging, the Lower Savannah Area Agency on Aging, the Santee‑Lynches Area Agency on Aging, the Pee Dee/Vantage Point Area Agency on Aging, the Waccamaw Area Agency on Aging, the Trident Area Agency on Aging, and the Lowcountry Area Agency on Aging; and

Whereas, since 1965, the Older Americans Act has provided services in South Carolina that help older adults remain healthy and independent by complementing existing medical and health care systems, helping prevent hospital readmissions, and supporting some of life’s most basic functions, such as bathing or preparing meals; and

Whereas, these programs also support family caregivers, address issues of exploitation, neglect and abuse of older adults, and adapt services to the needs of Native American elders; and

Whereas, the Lieutenant Governor’s Office on Aging and its aging partners can provide opportunities to enrich the lives of individuals of all ages by promoting and engaging in activity, wellness, and social inclusion, by supporting multipurpose senior centers which enhance the daily lives of seniors who would otherwise be socially isolated, by emphasizing home and community‑based services that support independent living, and by ensuring community members of all ages benefit from the contributions and experience of older adults; and

Whereas, the Lieutenant Governor’s Office on Aging is hosting a senior expo on May 1, 2015, in Columbia, in honor of the fiftieth anniversary of the Older Americans Act and to recognize older South Carolinians for their contributions to our nation and state. The theme for Older Americans Month in South Carolina is “Get into the Act”; and

Whereas, the members of the General Assembly recognize the value of community engagement and service in helping older adults remain healthy and active while giving back to others. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

That the members of the General Assembly, by this resolution, proclaim May 2015 as “Older Americans Month”. We urge every resident to take time this month to celebrate older adults and the people who serve and support them as supportive and vital individuals who greatly contribute to the well‑being of South Carolina’s growing aging population.

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