

**State of Vermont**  
**Executive Department**  
**A Proclamation**

**WHEREAS**, on March 22, 1972, President Nixon signed into law a measure that amended the Older Americans Act of 1965 and established a national nutrition program for seniors 60 years and older; and

**WHEREAS**, Meals on Wheels America established the March for Meals campaign in March 2002 to recognize the historic month, the importance of the Older Americans Act Nutrition Programs, both congregate and home-delivered, and raise awareness about the escalating problem of senior hunger in America; and

**WHEREAS**, over 39,000 seniors are isolated and living alone in Vermont, and over 17,500 are threatened by hunger; and

**WHEREAS**, nationwide, 50 percent of older Americans admitted to the hospital suffer from malnutrition severe enough to have caused their illness or to impede their recovery, and 85 percent of older Americans have chronic illnesses that could be helped by better nutrition; and

**WHEREAS**, seniors remaining at home, out of hospitals and nursing homes, saves billions in Medicare and Medicaid costs; and

**WHEREAS**, Meals on Wheels is a public-private partnership that effectively addresses the challenges of aging by promoting health and improving quality of life for our most vulnerable seniors; and

**WHEREAS**, Meals on Wheels are delivered by community volunteers five days a week to seniors and individuals with disabilities who may face the threat of hunger and social isolation; and

**WHEREAS**, Meals on Wheels delivers a healthy meal, warm smiles, a safety check, and the support that keeps seniors in their own homes, where they want to be; and

**WHEREAS**, the Meals on Wheels Programs served 16,005 Vermonters - 4,910 through home-delivered meals and 11,095 congregate meals in 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, the Meals on Wheels Programs served a total of 1,142,674 meals in 2015 - 785,664 home-delivered and 357,000 congregate meals; and

**WHEREAS**, the Vermont Area Agencies on Aging served approximately 30,000 more home-delivered meals in 2015 than 2014.

**WHEREAS**, as our aging population continues to grow, dedicated community volunteers and Meals on Wheels' public-private partnerships is essential to ensuring that no Vermonter goes hungry now or in the future; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Peter Shumlin, Governor, do hereby proclaim March 2016 as

**MARCH FOR MEALS MONTH**  
in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of  
Vermont on this 24th day of February, A.D. 2016



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Shumlin", is written over a horizontal line.

Peter Shumlin  
Governor