

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 Senior Nutrition Programs, both congregate and home-delivered, and raise awareness about the problem of senior hunger in America; and
- WHEREAS,** 40,000 older Vermonters are isolated and living alone, and over 20,000 are threatened by hunger; and
- WHEREAS,** nationwide, 33 percent of older Americans admitted to the hospital suffer from malnutrition severe enough to have caused their illness or to impede their recovery, and 50 percent of older Americans living in the community may be malnourished; and
- WHEREAS,** isolation and loneliness are associated with higher rates of chronic health conditions, weakened immune system, depression, dementia, and admission to nursing homes and emergency rooms; and
- WHEREAS,** seniors remaining at home, and out of hospitals and nursing homes, save billions in Medicare and Medicaid costs; and
- WHEREAS,** the Senior Nutrition Programs are successful through 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,** congregate meals are provided in senior centers and dining halls in communities across the state, so that seniors have the opportunity to enjoy a nutritious meal and group activities amid the company of their peers and neighbors, effectively combatting social isolation and loneliness; and
- WHEREAS,** home delivered meals are carried by community volunteers five days a week to the homes of seniors and individuals with disabilities who may face the threat of hunger and malnutrition, delivering not only a healthy meal, but also warm smiles, a safety check, and the support that keeps them in their own homes, where they want to be; and

WHEREAS, the Senior Nutrition Programs served 19,067 Vermonters – 5,616 through home-delivered meals and 13,451 congregate meals – in 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Senior Nutrition Programs served a total of 1,165,587 meals in 2016 – 812,423 home-delivered and 353,164 congregate meals; and

WHEREAS, the Vermont Area Agencies on Aging and their senior center and meal provider partners served approximately 15 percent more seniors at high nutritional risk in 2016 than 2015; and

WHEREAS, as our aging population continues to grow, dedicated community volunteers and public-private partnerships are essential to ensuring that no Vermonter goes hungry now or in the future.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, do hereby proclaim the month of March 2017 as

SENIOR NUTRITION MONTH

in Vermont.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 15th day of March, A.D. 2017.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip B. Scott", written over a horizontal line.

Philip B. Scott
Governor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brittney L. Wilson", written over a horizontal line.
Brittney L. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs