

A PROCLAMATION PROCLAIMING MARCH 2021 AS THE 19th ANNUAL MARCH FOR MEALS MONTH

WHEREAS, on March 22, 1972, President Richard 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, the 2021 observance of March for Meals celebrates 19 years of providing an opportunity to support Meals on Wheels programs that deliver vital and critical services by donating, volunteering and raising awareness about senior hunger and isolation; and

WHEREAS, Meals on Wheels nutrition programs have served Rhode Island communities admirably for 52 years, serving 2,748 homebound Rhode Islanders and delivering 336,678 home-delivered meals in 2020; and

WHEREAS, volunteers for Meals on Wheels of Rhode Island are the backbone of the program and they not only deliver nutritious meals to seniors and individuals with disabilities who are at significant risk of hunger and isolation, but also caring concern and attention to their welfare; and

WHEREAS, Meals on Wheels of Rhode Island programs provide nutritious meals to seniors throughout the state that help them maintain their health and independence, thereby preventing unnecessary falls, hospitalizations and/or premature institutionalization; and

WHEREAS, Meals on Wheels of Rhode Island programs provide a powerful opportunity for social connection for millions of seniors to help combat the negative health effects and economic consequences of loneliness and isolation; and

WHEREAS, Meals on Wheels of Rhode Island programs deserve recognition for the heroic contributions and essential services they have provided amid the COVID-19 pandemic and will continue to provide to local communities, our State and our Nation long after it is over.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kevin M. Aguiar, as President of Portsmouth Town Council do hereby proclaim March 2021 as the 19th Annual March for Meals Month and urge every citizen to take this month to honor our Meals on Wheels programs, the seniors they serve and the volunteers who care for them. Our recognition of, and involvement in, the national 2021 March for Meals can enrich our entire community and help combat senior hunger and isolation in America.

Dated this 8th day of March, 2021

Kevin M. Aguiar, President
Portsmouth Town Council