

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, Washington State includes nearly 1.4 million older Americans who deserve recognition for the contributions and sacrifices they have made to ensure a better life for future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington State is committed to helping all individuals live longer, healthier lives in the communities of their choice for as long as possible; and

**WHEREAS**, this year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Older Americans Act, which since 1965 has provided services that help older adults remain healthy and independent by connecting them to local resources, complementing existing medical and health care systems, helping prevent hospital readmissions and supporting some of life's most basic needs, such as receiving nutritious 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 2015 theme of Older Americans Month, Get Into The Act, promotes and supports engagement in physical activity, wellness and social inclusion, as well as encouraging community members of all ages to learn and benefit from the contributions, talents and expertise of older adults; and

**WHEREAS**, the state of Washington builds on individual and community strengths to empower older Americans to continue a quality of life complete with dignity, choice and respect by recognizing valuable leadership and ongoing life achievement that are essential contributions to our society;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim May 2015 as

### *Older Americans Month*

in Washington, and I urge all people in our state to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 21<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2015

Governor Jay Inslee

