

PROCLAMATION

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

WHEREAS, for more than five decades, this landmark law has helped to fund community-based organizations, like Meals on Wheels, and is still the only federal program designed specifically to meet the nutritional and social needs of older adults; and,

WHEREAS, this year, Meals on Wheels programs from across the country are joining together for the March for Meals awareness campaign to celebrate its success and garner the support needed to ensure these critical programs can continue to address food insecurity and malnutrition, combat social isolation, enable independence and improve health for years to come; and,

WHEREAS, Meals on Wheels programs – both congregate and home delivered in Lee's Summit, Missouri, have served our community admirably for more than 50 years; and,

WHEREAS, volunteers for Meals on Wheels 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 programs in Lee's Summit provide nutritious meals to seniors throughout our community that help them maintain their health and independence and provides powerful opportunity for social connection for hundreds of seniors to combat the negative health effects and economic consequences of loneliness and isolation; and,

WHEREAS, the senior population is increasing steadily, and action is needed now to support local Meals on Wheels programs through federal, state and local funding; volunteering; donations; and raising awareness to ensure these vital services can continue to be delivered for years to come.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, William A. Baird, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Lee's Summit, Missouri, do hereby proclaim the month of March 2024 as

MARCH FOR MEALS MONTH

and urge our community to honor our senior nutrition programs, the individuals they serve and the volunteers who care for them. Our recognition of, and involvement in, the national March for Meals celebration can enrich our entire community and help combat senior hunger and isolation in America.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the City of Lee's Summit, Missouri, this 27th day of February 2024.

MAYOR WILLIAM A. BAIRD