

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, fifty years ago today, on March 22, 1972, President Richard 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 five decades, this landmark law has helped to fund community-based organizations, like Meals on Wheels, and is the only federal program designed specifically to meet the nutritional and social needs of older adults; and,

WHEREAS, Meals on Wheels of Lee' Summit has served our community admirably for almost 50 years, providing nutritious meals to seniors that help them maintain their health and independence; and,

WHEREAS, volunteers for Meals on Wheels are the backbone of the program delivering nutritious meals to seniors and individuals with disabilities who are at significant risk of hunger and isolation, and demonstrating caring concern and attention to their welfare by providing social connections for seniors to help combat the negative health effects and economic consequences of loneliness and isolation; and,

WHEREAS, Meals on Wheels of Lee's Summit deserves recognition for the heroic contributions and essential services provided amid the COVID-19 pandemic and will continue to provide to local communities, our State and our Nation long after it is over; and,

WHEREAS, the senior population is increasing substantially, 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 another 50 years.

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 2022 as

MARCH FOR MEALS MONTH

to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Older Americans Act Nutrition program and urge every community member to take this month to honor our Meals on Wheels programs, the seniors they serve and the volunteers who care for them.

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 22nd day of March 2022.

MAYOR WILLIAM A. BAIRD