

1 Title: Designating May 2017 as ``Older Americans Month".
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4 Whereas President John F. Kennedy first designated May as “Senior Citizens Month” in 1963;

5 Whereas, in 1963, only approximately 17,000,000 individuals living in the United States were
6 age 65 or older, approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ of those individuals lived in poverty, and few programs
7 existed to meet the needs of older individuals in the United States;

8 Whereas, in 2017, there are more than 47,800,000 individuals age 65 or older in the United
9 States, and those individuals account for 14.9 percent of the total population of the United
10 States;

11 Whereas approximately 10,000 individuals in the United States turn age 65 each day;

12 Whereas, in 2015, more than 9,300,000 veterans of the Armed Forces were age 65 or older;

13 Whereas older individuals in the United States rely on Federal programs, such as programs under
14 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) (including the Medicare program under title
15 XVIII of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) and the Medicaid program under title XIX of that
16 Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.)), for financial security and high-quality affordable health care;

17 Whereas the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) provides supportive services
18 to help individuals of the United States who are age 60 or older maintain maximum
19 independence in the homes and communities of those individuals;

20 Whereas that Act provides funding for programs, including nutrition services, transportation, and
21 care management, to assist more than 11,000,000 older individuals in the United States each
22 year;

23 Whereas compared to older individuals in the United States in past generations, older individuals
24 in the United States in 2017 are working longer, living longer, and enjoying healthier, more
25 active, and more independent lifestyles;

26 Whereas more than 5,300,000 individuals in the United States age 65 or older continue to work
27 as full-time, year-round employees;

28 Whereas older individuals in the United States play an important role in society by continuing to
29 contribute their experience, knowledge, wisdom, and accomplishments;

30 Whereas older individuals in the United States play vital roles in their communities and remain
31 involved in volunteer work, mentoring activities, the arts, cultural activities, and civic
32 engagement; and

33 Whereas a society that recognizes the success of older individuals and continues to enhance their
34 access to quality and affordable health care will encourage the ongoing participation and
35 heightened independence of those individuals and will ensure the continued safety and well-
36 being of those individuals: Now, therefore, be it

37 Resolved, That the Senate—

38 (1) designates May 2017 as “Older Americans Month”; and

39 (2) encourages the people of the United States to provide opportunities for older
40 individuals to continue to flourish by—

- 1 (A) emphasizing the importance and leadership of older individuals through public
2 recognition of the ongoing achievements of the older individuals;
- 3 (B) presenting opportunities for older individuals to share their wisdom, experience,
4 and skills with younger generations; and
- 5 (C) recognizing older individuals as valuable assets in strengthening communities
6 across the United States.