

PROCLAMATION

The State of California is home to more than 5.3 million residents aged 65 and older who enrich our communities and our families through diverse life experiences, cultures and contributions. Over the next decade, California's older population will grow faster than all other age groups and double by 2030, leading our state into the future with great knowledge, wisdom and experience.

In tribute to the resilience of older Californians and in memory of all older Californians whose lives have been lost during the COVID-19 pandemic, there is no moment more significant than now to honor their sacrifices and service, and we offer our comfort and support to their loved ones.

The State of California is committed to strengthening our communities by engaging and serving all diverse older adults, adults with disabilities, families and caregivers. Older Californians have helped shape our Golden State and will have an important role as we work together to build a California for all ages, as envisioned in the Master Plan for Aging released in January this year.

The theme of this year's Older Californians Month is "Communities of Strength." Older Californians have built resilience and strength over their long lives through successes, failures, joys and difficulties. Their stories and contributions help to support and inspire others of all generations, and should be heard, preserved and shared with future generations. The California State Library and Department of Aging's new California Chronicles Project is capturing and sharing some of these stories in oral histories, journal entries, artwork, poems and more.

I ask all Californians to join me in recognizing the invaluable contributions of the older Californians in our lives and recommitting ourselves to advancing an equitable California for all ages.

NOW THEREFORE I, GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim May 2021 as "Older Californians Month."

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 3rd day of May 2021.

GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of California

ATTEST:

SHIRLEY N. WEBER, Ph.D.
Secretary of State