



STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Due to unparalleled scientific and industrial progress, our people lead longer, healthier lives than ever before. Consequently, our population comprises a rapidly growing segment of older individuals. On a daily basis, hundreds of Texans celebrate their 65th birthday, and experts believe that by the year 2030, our state's 65-and-older population will have tripled since 2000.

At the very heart of the Texas spirit lies a reverence for tradition, and as such, we have always celebrated our elders and their manifold contributions to society. Our predecessors built the strongest, freest, most prosperous civilization mankind has yet known, and today, older Texans stand as a living link to the great men and women of yesteryear.

We would be remiss, though, if we were to assume that their contributions are limited to the past. With an abundance of wisdom and experience, older Texans wield tremendous influence in the present—as beloved family members and as pillars of business, government, and civic life. Older Texans continue to shape our state for the better, and they therefore deserve our gratitude and support.

To meet older Texans' needs effectively and compassionately, we must recognize the unique, age-specific challenges they face. Older Texans, despite their knowledge and skills, sometimes contend with discriminatory attitudes and practices in the workplace; illness and injury pose a heightened risk for older patients; and tragically, older individuals are frequent targets for fraud and theft. The passage of time, moreover, is often accompanied by psychological and emotional difficulties, such as loneliness, anxiety, and depression.

In Texas, however, we know that it is not our challenges that define us, but rather how we rise above them. To this end, countless service groups, ministries, and government agencies have long labored in common cause to protect older Texans from all manner of harm and to provide necessary care and accommodations. The State of Texas—through such entities as the Texas Health and Human Services Commission and its Aging and Disability Resource Center—enables older Texans to live out their golden years in the comfort and dignity they rightfully deserve. But ultimately, intergenerational support is not the sole responsibility of government bureaucracies.

As members of a just, civilized society, the duty befalls each one of us to care for our elders by any means necessary. If we are blessed with friends and family of advanced age, we must cherish our time with them and do everything in our power to improve their quality of life. Additionally, hospitals, churches, and assisted living facilities provide many meaningful opportunities to help older Texans by serving meals, assisting with household chores, or building social relationships.

Each year, the month of May is set aside in order to shed light on the experiences of older Texans and to celebrate their significant impacts on the larger story of Texas.

At this time, I encourage all Texans to connect with the older individuals in their lives and to honor them. As we work together to secure the Texas of tomorrow, people of every age will have a key role to play.

Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim May 2023 to be

Older Texans Month



in Texas and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof,
I hereby affix my signature this the
10th day of April, 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott".

Governor of Texas