

RESOLUTION ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Education, Veterans & Aging
Services Committee
INITIATED BY



Joyce Lubben
DRAFTED BY

Education, Veterans & Aging
Services Committee
SUBMITTED BY

March 21, 2012
DATE DRAFTED

Older Americans Month 2012 A Proclamation

1 **WHEREAS**, the County of Rock includes 30,279 citizens aged 60 and older; and

2
3 **Whereas**, the Rock County Council on Aging is committed to helping all individuals maintain their
4 health and independence in later life; and

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6 **WHEREAS**, the older adults in Rock County have an important role in sharing knowledge, wisdom,
7 and understanding of the history of our community through interactions with children, youth, and adults
8 from other generations; and

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10 **WHEREAS**, the fruits of knowledge and experience can be effectively transferred from generation to
11 generation through meaningful social interactions; and

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13 **WHEREAS**, their interactions with family, friends, and neighbors across generations enrich the lives of
14 everyone involved; and

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16 **WHEREAS**, our community can provide opportunities to enrich citizens young and old by:

- 17 • Emphasizing the value of including elders in public and family life
- 18 • Creating opportunities for older Americans to interact with people of different generations
- 19 • Providing services, technologies, and support systems that allow older adults to participate in social
- 20 activities in the community

21
22 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly
23 assembled this 26 day of April, 2012 does hereby proclaim May 2012 to be
24 Older Americans Month and urge every citizen to take time this month to engage with our older
25 citizens through enjoyable social interactions such as sports, games, contests, and other forms of play.

Respectfully submitted,

Education, Veterans & Aging Services

Terry Thomas
Terry Thomas, Chair

Absent
Marvin Wopat, Vice Chair

Wayne Gustina
Wayne Gustina

David Innis
David Innis

Absent
Fred Yoss

12-4C-009

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

May is Older Americans Month, a perfect opportunity to show our appreciation for the older adults in our community. Since 1963, communities across the nation have joined in the annual commemoration of Older Americans Month—a proud tradition that shows our nation’s commitment to celebrating the contributions and achievements of older Americans.

The theme for Older Americans Month 2012—*Never Too Old to Play!*—puts a spotlight on the important role older adults play in sharing their experience, wisdom, and understanding, and passing on that knowledge to other generations in a variety of significant ways, such as spirited participation in social and faith groups, service organizations, and other activities.

As large numbers of baby-boomers reach retirement age, efforts are increasing to provide meaningful opportunities for older adults—many of whom remain physically and socially active through their 80s and beyond. Current trends show that people over age 60 account for an ever-growing percentage of participants in community service positions, faith-based organizations, online social networking as well as arts and recreational groups.

Lifelong participation in social, creative, and physical activities has proven health benefits, including retaining mobility, muscle mass, and cognitive abilities. But older adults are not the only ones who benefit from their engagement in community life. Studies show their interactions with family, friends, and neighbors across generations enrich the lives of everyone involved. Young people who have significant relationships with a grandparent or elder report that these relationships helped shape their values, goals, and life choices and gave them a sense of identity and roots.

While the Rock County Council on Aging provides services, support, and resources to older Americans year-round, Older Americans Month is a great opportunity to show special appreciation for some of our most beloved citizens.