



**WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PROCLAMATION
Proclaiming August 21, 2023 as “National
Senior Citizens Day”**

WHEREAS, On August 21st, National Senior Citizens Day recognizes the achievements of the more mature representatives of our nation who have spent their lives contributing to society and have impacted everyone’s lives for the better; and

WHEREAS, Wake County is seeing a shift in its population demographics. The county has 40 percent more people aged 65 and older than it had in 2011. Census data shows since 2011 there's been a 40 percent increase in the 65 and up age group and that group now makes up 12 percent of the population, instead of 8.4 percent it made in 2011. By 2029, Wake County will have more residents over the age of 65 than children under the age of 18.

WHEREAS, Improved healthcare has changed demographics and increased productivity of older citizens, allowing them to be more active than ever before.

WHEREAS, President Ronald Reagan took the initiative to honor seniors in 1988 when he signed Proclamation 5847 and marked August 21 as the day seniors will be celebrated. Reagan proclaimed, “For all they have achieved throughout life and for all they continue to accomplish, we owe older citizens our thanks and a heartfelt salute. We can best demonstrate our gratitude and esteem by making sure that our communities are good places in which to mature and grow older — places in which older people can participate to the fullest and can find the encouragement, acceptance, assistance, and services they need to continue to lead lives of independence and dignity.”

WHEREAS, Millions of American seniors are changing the way we view old age. Far from fading into the sunset, these men and women are serving as brilliant points of light in their communities. They are serving others through a host of volunteer programs and personal acts of kindness; they are sharing their ample knowledge and experience in the workplace; and they are quietly enriching their families with a wealth of love and wisdom. Across the United States, older Americans are proving that the senior years -- like any other season in life -- hold great opportunities and rewards of their own.

WHEREAS, National Senior Citizens Day is important because Seniors give wise and useful advice and seniors give generously, as it is widely known that seniors make more charitable donations than any other age group.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wake County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim the 21st day of August 2023 as “National Senior Citizens Day” in Wake County. This day and beyond, we call upon all Wake County Citizens to celebrate older adults for their contributions, support their independence, and recognize their unparalleled value to our County.

ADOPTED August 2023.

Shinica Thomas, Chair
Wake County Board of Commissioners