

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of May 2016 as "Older Americans: Blaze a
2 Trail Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives recognizes the energy,
4 aspirations and ongoing achievements of senior citizens; and

5 WHEREAS, Senior citizens are the pillars upon which our
6 families have been built; and

7 WHEREAS, The increasing population of older adults in this
8 Commonwealth reflects a dramatic nationwide trend; and

9 WHEREAS, By 2050, the number of people reaching retirement
10 age will almost double; and

11 WHEREAS, Rural residents, on average, are older than urban
12 residents in this Commonwealth; and

13 WHEREAS, The number of senior citizens in rural Pennsylvania
14 is projected to increase 58% through 2030; and

15 WHEREAS, May is traditionally recognized as "Older Americans
16 Month" in the United States; and

17 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Health and Human

Services Administration for Community Living has announced that the theme of Older Americans Month 2016 is "Blaze a Trail"; and

WHEREAS, This year's theme raises awareness about important issues facing older adults and highlights the ways older Americans are advocating for themselves, their peers and their communities; and

WHEREAS, This year marks the 51st anniversary of the Older Americans Act, signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson in 1965; and

WHEREAS, The Older Americans Act continues to provide a nationwide aging services network and funding that helps older adults live with dignity in the communities of their choice for as long as possible; and

WHEREAS, Older adults are productive, active and influential members of society, often having a positive impact on the lives of others through the experiences and knowledge they share; and

WHEREAS, Systems and services in this Commonwealth must adequately address the unique needs of current and future generations of older Pennsylvanians to optimize health and maintain independence; and

WHEREAS, This Commonwealth owes a great debt to older adults who, united by historical experiences and strengthened by diversity, interpret events through varied perspectives and backgrounds to bring wisdom and insight into our communities; and

WHEREAS, Older adults deserve recognition for the contributions they have made and continue to make to the culture, economy and character of the United States and this Commonwealth; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor

1 Pennsylvania's senior citizens by recognizing the month of May
2 2016 as "Older Americans: Blaze a Trail Month" in Pennsylvania;
3 and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge all
5 residents of this Commonwealth to honor senior citizens and
6 persons who care for them during the month of May and throughout
7 the year and to assist in their journeys toward optimal health
8 and quality of life.