WHEREAS, Arizona currently has 1.3 million older adults, and by 2020 it is expected that more than 23 percent of Arizonans will be over the age of 60; and

WHEREAS, Arizona recognizes its older adults as a treasured resource that merits a life of dignity and independence in community settings, and tapping into the knowledge and skills of older adults brings great benefit to the health and economy of all Arizona communities; and

WHEREAS, generations of older Arizonans have done their duty in building our communities and serving as role models; and embody the courage, commitment, and sacrifice upon which this country and state were founded; and

WHEREAS, the older adults in Arizona should be commended for their role in creating and strengthening the fiber of our state and nation; and

WHEREAS, Arizona recognizes the necessity of injury prevention and safety awareness in helping older adults remain healthy and active and older adults who maintain healthy lifestyles will have fewer chronic diseases, falls-related injuries, and less cognitive decline; and

WHEREAS, unintentional injuries result in at least 6 million medically treated injuries each year to citizens ages 60 and older; and

WHEREAS, our community can provide opportunities to help older adults take control of their safety and well-being by conducting activities and providing safety information on a variety of topics related to injury prevention; and

WHEREAS, in order to prevent further harm and/or injuries to vulnerable adults, the Adult Protective Services Program makes referrals to community agencies for services that will alleviate the self-neglecting behaviors and mistreatment by others; and

WHEREAS, Arizona recognizes the many agencies and programs that support older adults and the importance of working together with community partners.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janice K. Brewer, Governor of the State of Arizona, do hereby proclaim May 2014 as

* OLDER AMERICANS MONTH *

and I further urge every Arizonan to take time this month to recognize older adults and the people who serve and support them as powerful and vital citizens who greatly contribute to the community and celebrate the contributions of older adults and provides information to help them live longer – live better.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona

Janice K. Brewer
GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this thirteenth day of April in the year Two Thousand and Fourteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Thirty-eighth.

ATTEST:

Kim Berlinski
Secretary of State