

2021 -- H 6056

LC001438

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

HOUSE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING MARCH OF 2021 AS THE 19TH ANNUAL MARCH FOR MEALS MONTH
IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Ruggiero, Cassar, Serpa, Caldwell, Casimiro, Alzate,
Fenton-Fung, Tanzi, Newberry, and Blazejewski

Date Introduced: March 02, 2021

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, On March 22, 1972, President Richard Nixon signed into law a measure that
2 amended the Older Americans Act of 1965 and established a national nutrition program for
3 seniors 60 years and older; and

4 WHEREAS, Meals on Wheels America established the March for Meals campaign in
5 March 2002 to recognize the historic month, the importance of the Older Americans Act
6 Nutrition Programs, both congregate and home-delivered, and raise awareness about the
7 escalating problem of senior hunger in America; and

8 WHEREAS, The 2021 observance of March for Meals celebrates 19 years of providing
9 an opportunity to support Meals on Wheels programs that deliver vital and critical services by
10 donating, volunteering and raising awareness about senior hunger and isolation; and

11 WHEREAS, Meals on Wheels nutrition programs have served Rhode Island communities
12 admirably for 52 years with 2,748 home bound seniors served and 336,000 meals and safety
13 checks made every year; and

14 WHEREAS, Volunteers for Meals on Wheels of Rhode Island are the backbone of the
15 program and they not only deliver nutritious meals to seniors and individuals with disabilities
16 who are at significant risk of hunger and isolation, but also caring concern and attention to their
17 welfare; and

18 WHEREAS, Meals on Wheels of Rhode Island programs provide nutritious meals to
19 seniors throughout the state that help them maintain their health and independence, thereby

1 preventing unnecessary falls, hospitalizations and/or premature institutionalization; and

2 WHEREAS, Statewide 58 percent of those receiving Meals on Wheels reside in
3 Providence, 17.5 percent in Kent County, 11 percent in Washington County, and 5 percent in
4 Bristol County; and

5 WHEREAS, More than ever, over this past year's COVID-19 pandemic, Meals on
6 Wheels of Rhode Island programs have provided a powerful opportunity for social connection for
7 millions of seniors to help combat the negative health effects and economic consequences of
8 loneliness and isolation. More than 50 percent of those receiving services are over the age of 80
9 and the majority live alone. Veterans and veteran spouses comprise more than 20 percent; and

10 WHEREAS, Meals on Wheels of Rhode Island programs deserve recognition for the
11 heroic contributions and essential services they have provided amid the COVID-19 pandemic and
12 will continue to provide to local communities, our State and our Nation long after it is over; now,
13 therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
15 proclaims March of 2021, as the 19th Annual March for Meals Month and urges every citizen to
16 take this month to honor our Meals on Wheels programs, the seniors they serve, and the
17 volunteers who care for them. Our recognition of, and involvement in, the national 2021 March
18 for Meals can enrich our entire community and help combat senior hunger and isolation in
19 America; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
21 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Meghan Grady, Executive Director of Meals on
22 Wheels of RI.

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