

**Older Americans Month Proclamation**  
**May 2026**

*Whereas, Ashe County is home to a growing population of older Americans whose experience, skills, and wisdom continue to strengthen our community, economy, and civic life through service, caregiving, leadership, and volunteerism; and*

*Whereas, Older Americans Month is observed nationally each May to recognize the vital contributions of older adults and to reaffirm our shared responsibility to support their independence, dignity, and well-being; and*

*Whereas, the 2026 Older Americans Month theme, "Champion Your Health," calls attention to the importance of prevention, wellness, informed decision-making, and community-based supports that empower older adults to advocate for their own health and live full, engaged lives; and*

*Whereas, Ashe County recognizes that healthy aging is supported when communities of all ages work together to promote access to preventive programs, nutritious food, physical activity, social connection, caregiver support, and services that allow individuals to age safely and independently in their homes and neighborhoods; and*

*Whereas, Ashe County is committed to building an age-friendly community by expanding our understanding of aging, challenging outdated stereotypes, highlighting the strengths and resilience of older adults, encouraging lifelong engagement, and embracing the diversity of our residents; and*

*Whereas, Generations Ashe and its community partners promote independence, choice, well-being, and dignity for persons aged 60 and over, adults with disabilities, and their families through a coordinated system of home- and community-based services that support health, safety, and quality of life; and*

*Whereas, Generations Ashe and its community partners have provided leadership in addressing the needs and opportunities of an aging population by connecting residents to essential services, supporting caregivers, providing nutrition and wellness programs, fostering social engagement, and serving as a trusted advocate for older adults in Ashe County; and*

*Whereas, the work of Generations Ashe and its community partners exemplifies the 2026 theme, "Champion Your Health," by empowering older adults to take an active role in their physical, mental, and emotional well-being while strengthening partnerships that support healthy aging for all;*

*Now, therefore, the Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim May 2026 as*

**OLDER AMERICANS MONTH**

*and encourages all residents to recognize and celebrate the contributions of older Americans, promote healthy aging at every stage of life, and support efforts—such as those led by Generations Ashe and others—that help older adults champion their health and continue to thrive in our community.*

---

Chairperson, Ashe County Board of Commissioners

---

Date