



*Whereas*, on March 22, 1972, President Nixon signed into law a measure that amended the Older Americans Act of 1965 to include a national nutrition program for individuals 60 years and older; and

*Whereas*, for more than five decades, this landmark law has helped to fund community-based organizations and it is still the only federal program designed specifically to meet the nutritional and social needs of older adults; and

*Whereas*, this year, meal-delivery programs from across the country are joining together for the March for Meals awareness campaign to celebrate its success and garner the support needed to ensure that these critical programs can continue to address food insecurity and malnutrition, combat social isolation, enable independence, and improve health for years to come; and

*Whereas*, these programs have served Ventura County admirably, with approximately 685,000 meals expected to be provided in 2022-23 via both home-delivered and congregate meals; and

*Whereas*, recognizing the need goes beyond what can be provided through Older Americans Act funds, the County has stood up additional meal programs to help meet the gap, which has led to more than 8 million meals being served since 2020. These include UCAAA's Food Box Service, Project Room Key, Great Plates, Medically Supportive Meals, and others; and

*Whereas*, volunteers for meal-delivery programs in Ventura County are the backbone of the program and they not only deliver nutritious meals to older adults and individuals with disabilities who are at significant risk of hunger and isolation, but also provide care, concern, and attention for their welfare; and

*Whereas*, meal-delivery programs in Ventura County provide culturally appropriate and nutritious meals to older adults throughout the county that help them maintain their health and independence, thereby helping to prevent unnecessary falls, hospitalizations, and/or premature institutionalization; and

*Whereas*, meal-delivery programs in Ventura County provide a powerful opportunity for social connection for thousands of older adults to help combat the negative health effects and economic consequences of loneliness and isolation; and

*Whereas*, meal-delivery programs in Ventura County deserve recognition for the heroic contributions and essential services they have provided amid inclement weather and various emergencies, including the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved**, the County of Ventura Board of Supervisors hereby recognizes March 2023 as the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual March For Meals Month in Ventura County. We celebrate the County's meal-delivery programs and urge residents of Ventura County to take this time to honor our senior nutrition programs, the individuals they serve, and the volunteers who care for them. Our recognition of, and involvement in, the national March for Meals celebration can enrich our entire community and help combat hunger, food insecurity, and isolation in Ventura County.

*Presented On This 28th Day of March 2023*

  
Jeff Gorell, Supervisor 2nd District

  
Kelly Long, Supervisor 3rd District

  
Chair of the Board of Supervisors  
Matt LaVere, Supervisor 1st District

  
Janice S. Parvin, Supervisor 4th District

  
Vianey Lopez, Supervisor 5th District