



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, New York State is home to a population of more than 3.4 million elder citizens who are respected and recognized for the wisdom of their experiences, their lifelong legacy of accomplishment, and the valuable lessons they have taught to following generations, all of which have made a positive difference in the lives of New Yorkers, young and old; and

Whereas, each year, on both a nationwide and statewide level, May is designated as the month during which we take the opportunity to honor older persons for their contributions to their families, friends, communities and our entire country; and

Whereas, our seniors offer their experience and energy to help others in times of need and to create and sustain vital communities through ongoing active participation in civic life; and

Whereas, these elders inspire their children and grandchildren to strive to improve the lives of others and our society as a whole, and to explore ways through which they can continue to build a better world; and

Whereas, all of us have a responsibility to reach out to our elders and bring them into decision-making roles so that they might advocate for themselves and, at the same time, ensure their continued inclusion in various aspects of community life, as an significant sector of our population; and

Whereas, this year's celebration theme, "*New York at Home – Independent Living for Older New Yorkers*" reminds us that seniors have the right to a life of self-sufficiency, independence and involvement in society, and we acknowledge the meaningful role that so many active older New Yorkers have today as an energized population that represents a vital network of support in building stronger communities, and each of us is encouraged to further our own roles as productive individuals, following the fine example set by our senior community from which we derive immeasurable benefits;

Now, Therefore, I, David A. Paterson, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim May 2008 as

SENIOR CITIZENS' MONTH

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the privy seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-fifth
day of April in the year two thousand eight.

David A. Paterson

Governor

[Signature]

Secretary to the Governor