

# *Proclamation*

## **June 15<sup>th</sup> Elder Abuse Awareness Day**

**WHEREAS**, older adults deserve to be treated with respect and dignity to enable them to serve as leaders, mentors, volunteers and vital participating members of our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2006, the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, in support of the United Nations International Plan of Action, proclaimed a day to recognize the significance of elder abuse as a public health and human rights issue; and

**WHEREAS**, June 15, 2026 marks the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. Its recognition will promote a better understanding of abuse and neglect of older adults; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA) and the City of Smithville recognize the importance of taking action to raise awareness, prevent and address elder abuse; and

**WHEREAS**, as our population lives longer, we are presented with an opportunity to think about our collective needs and future as a nation; and

**WHEREAS**, ageism and social isolation are major causes of elder abuse in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, recognizing that it is up to all of us, to ensure that proper social structures exist so people can retain community and societal connections, reducing the likelihood of abuse; and

**WHEREAS**, preventing abuse of older adults through maintaining and improving social supports like senior centers, human services and transportation will allow everyone to continue to live as independently as possible and contribute to the life and vibrancy of our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, where there is justice there can be no abuse; therefore, NCEA urges all people to restore justice by honoring older adults.

**THEREFORE, I**, Damien Boley, Mayor of the City of Smithville do hereby proclaim June 15, 2026 as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day in Smithville and encourage all of our communities to recognize and celebrate older adults and their ongoing contributions to the success and vitality of our country.



**PROCLAIMED THIS 2<sup>ND</sup> DAY OF JUNE 2026**

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Damien Boley, Mayor