



## **Rutherford County World Elder Abuse Awareness Month Proclamation**

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina ranks eighth nationally in the number of people ages 65 and older; and

**WHEREAS**, elder abuse is a growing concern as the number of adults over age 65 in North Carolina grows; this year, one in five residents will be over age 65, and with greater longevity there will be more opportunities for older adults to experience maltreatment, whether physical, emotional, or financial; and

**WHEREAS**, elder abuse is under-reported, overlooked, and often ignored, and each resident has a legal responsibility to report any suspicion of abuse, neglect, or exploitation without fear of reprisal to their local county social services department; and

**WHEREAS**, in the state Fiscal Year 2022-2023, there were around 35,400 reports of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of vulnerable and older adults made to North Carolina's 100 county departments of social services; and

**WHEREAS**, encouraging, strengthening, and increasing support to prevent abuse allows vulnerable and older adults to exercise their independence and their right to self-determination; and

**WHEREAS**, we must utilize every tool available to ensure our older adults live with confidence and security in their later years, free from fear, harassment, and harm; and

**WHEREAS**, Rutherford County joins the world in recognizing June as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day by taking a stand and making it known that it is not acceptable for any older adult to live in fear, be mistreated, or experience intentional harm;

I, Chairman of the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim **June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026**, as **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day** and encourage all Rutherford County's residents to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Rutherford County's seniors.

Adopted this 1<sup>st</sup> day of June 2026.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Bryan King,  
Chairman Rutherford County Commissioners

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Clerk,  
Board of Commissioners

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date