

STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

- WHEREAS, *the essence of American Democracy is a government of the people, by the people and for the people, and that democracy reflects the engagement of the citizenry and the premise that everyone can serve; and*
- WHEREAS, *the Illinois population 50 years of age and older is projected to increase from 3.2 million in 2000 to 5.3 million by 2030, an increase of 63 percent, and these older Illinoisans will spend 10, 20, 30 or more years in retirement; and*
- WHEREAS, *the maturing of Illinois compels the state and local communities to prepare for the aging of the population by assessing and mobilizing the experience, knowledge, wisdom, talents, and skills of citizens 50 years of age and older in developing livable communities for all ages and championing a world class education system; and*
- WHEREAS, *"civic engagement" includes opportunities to pursue meaningful roles through lifelong learning, service and work, which will bring personal fulfillment, increased physical and mental health, and stronger social connections and will change the mindset of retirement from one of leisure to a time of engagement; and*
- WHEREAS, *our society will also benefit from the experience, talent, energy, and leadership that older Illinoisans contribute, and as a result, reinforce our P-20 educational system, strengthen our economy, and enrich the cultural and historical heritage for all generations; and*
- WHEREAS, *research shows that eighty percent of baby boomers either want or need to engage in some form of work after retiring from their primary occupations, that two-thirds of this generation either currently volunteer or intend to volunteer after retiring, and that sixty-eight percent of those who don't volunteer would if asked; and*
- WHEREAS, *the National Governors Association has established the Illinois Policy Academy on the Civic Engagement of Older Adults to stimulate a new movement for engaging older adults in work, service, and learning; and*
- WHEREAS, *the Illinois Policy Academy will enlist a broad range of non-profit organizations, corporations, foundations, education organizations, community organizations and state agencies to promote public awareness and build an infrastructure of civic engagement throughout the state; and*
- WHEREAS, *the Illinois Policy Academy considers service a vital part of civic life and should be acknowledged as an important contribution to a government of the people, by the people, and for the people:*

THEREFORE, I, Pat Quinn, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim January 1 to December 31, 2010, as **THE YEAR OF THE ENGAGED OLDER ADULT** in Illinois, and encourage all citizens to recognize the constructive impact of civic engagement of older Illinoisans, and to promote these vital activities in their personal and professional lives.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.



Done at the Capitol, in the City of Springfield,
this TWENTY-THIRD day of APRIL, in
the Year of Our Lord two thousand and
NINE, and of the State of Illinois
the one hundred and NINETY-FIRST

Jose White
 SECRETARY OF STATE

Pat Quinn
 GOVERNOR