



SPONSOR: Sen. Townsend on behalf of all Senators & Rep. Yearick  
on behalf of all Representatives

DELAWARE STATE SENATE  
151st GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 87

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MEALS ON WHEELS NATIONALLY AND THE 25TH  
ANNIVERSARY YEAR OF MEALS ON WHEELS DELAWARE.

1           WHEREAS, 2022 is a historic year for Meals on Wheels, nationally and locally, as it marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of  
2 the founding of Meals on Wheels and the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of Meals on Wheels Delaware; and

3           WHEREAS, the first known delivery of meals to seniors happened in 1954 in the City of Philadelphia to help  
4 neighbors who could not afford meals; and

5           WHEREAS, Meals on Wheels was established nationally in March 1972, when President Nixon signed into law a  
6 measure that amended the Older American Act of 1965. This amendment provided funding for a national nutrition program  
7 for seniors 60 years and older. Today, there is a Meals on Wheels program in almost every community in the nation; and

8           WHEREAS, Meals on Wheels Delaware was founded to ensure there would be no waiting list in the State for a  
9 home delivered meal; and

10           WHEREAS, one of the driving forces in forming this new organization was the late Eleanor Cain who was then  
11 the Director of the Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities and a champion for seniors in the  
12 State of Delaware. Eleanor recognized the potential for a funding gap, and the need to bring resources to bridge the gap.  
13 Thanks to their founding principles, Meals on Wheels Delaware continues to celebrate a strong public/private partnership  
14 that meets the needs of Delaware's homebound seniors; and

15           WHEREAS, Meals on Wheels Delaware was formally recognized as a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization in  
16 August 1996 by the IRS, after a few years of working under the umbrella of the Delaware Community Foundation; and

17           WHEREAS, Meals on Wheels Delaware's goal has stayed constant over the years: to raise funds and awareness,  
18 and to ensure every senior who needs a hot lunch can receive a meal delivered to them with no waiting list; and

19           WHEREAS, Meals on Wheels Delaware collaborates closely to support the 5 partner programs that deliver the  
20 Meals on Wheels in the State. Meals on Wheels Delaware is proud to partner with senior focused programs at City Fare  
21 Meals on Wheels, Newark Senior Center, Modern Maturity Center, CHEER, and Meals on Wheels Lewes-Rehoboth; and

22 WHEREAS, Meals on Wheels Delaware in its first year of operation distributed \$80,000 to the then partner  
23 programs. In recent years, \$225,000 is available annually to meet the needs according to the percentage of meals delivered  
24 statewide; and

25 WHEREAS, Meals on Wheels Delaware continues to recognize the important work of the State of Delaware,  
26 through the Delaware Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities, in caring for all our seniors; and

27 WHEREAS, by working together, Delaware is one of a few states that continues to have no wait list for a freshly  
28 prepared, balanced meal, delivered each weekday; and

29 WHEREAS, these meals could not be delivered without the dedication of the many hundreds of volunteers, who  
30 contribute thousands of hours each year. These volunteers not only deliver meals, but they deliver kindness and  
31 compassion; and

32 WHEREAS, during 2020, at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, all partners in the Meals on Wheels program  
33 came together with one goal: to overcome challenges and continue to serve some of the most isolated and at risk in our  
34 community. Not one meal was missed despite a 25% increase in requests for help. In addition, many services were added to  
35 meet the changing needs; and

36 WHEREAS, last year in Delaware, the numbers served by Meals on Wheels Delaware continued to rise. Over  
37 6,600 seniors received 898,509 hot and nutritious meals through the Older Americans Act, and when all meals are included,  
38 close to 1 million home delivered meals were prepared, packed, and delivered; and

39 WHEREAS, Meals on Wheels Delaware continues to champion the call of all seniors who wish to remain  
40 independent, safe in their homes, and receiving hot and nutritious meals delivered daily.

41 NOW, THEREFORE:

42 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the 151<sup>st</sup> General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the House of  
43 Representatives concurring therein, that the General Assembly hereby recognize the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Meals on Wheels  
44 nationally and the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Meals on Wheels Delaware and expresses its gratitude for all Meals on Wheels have  
45 done for seniors in the State of Delaware.

#### SYNOPSIS

This resolution recognizes the 50th anniversary of Meals on Wheels nationally and the 25th anniversary of Meals on Wheels Delaware.

Author: Senator Townsend