State of North Carolina

JOSH STEIN
GOVERNOR

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

2026

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is a progressive brain disease that can begin 20 years or more before memory loss and other symptoms appear; and more than 7 million Americans age 65 and older are living with Alzheimer's; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 211,000 North Carolinians age 65 and older are living with Alzheimer's disease; and more than 338,000 family members and friends each year provide 446 million hours of unpaid care, valued at $8.3 billion; and

WHEREAS, 12.7 percent of North Carolinians age 45 and older report increasing confusion or memory loss; a conversation with a health care provider is usually the first step toward understanding the cause and getting the right care; and

WHEREAS, early detection and accurate diagnoses give people the opportunities to connect with support services, clinical trials, and treatment options for the early stages of the disease; this also proves time to plan for the future and make legal, financial, and care decisions while the people can take part fully; and

WHEREAS, advances in diagnosis, including the first blood test cleared by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in 2025 to aid in diagnosing Alzheimer's disease, are making evaluation less invasive and easier to access; and

WHEREAS, the Dementia-Capable North Carolina State Plan identifies early detection and diagnosis as a priority; the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services has identified normalizing early detection through baseline screenings, statewide awareness, and risk education as one of five critical shifts in the state's dementia work; and

WHEREAS, the people of North Carolina can support individuals, families, and caregivers by learning the early warning signs, reducing the fear and stigma that can delay a conversation about memory, promoting research, and advocating for education and support services in our communities; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina joins interested agencies and organizations in commemorating those who have passed and honoring those living with Alzheimer's disease, as well as their dedicated caregivers, at Candlelight Reflections ceremonies across the state during November and throughout the year;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSH STEIN, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim November 2026 as **"ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH"** in North Carolina and commend its observance.

JOSH STEIN
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-sixth day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-sixth and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fifty-first.