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## GOVERNOR BALDACCI SIGNS PROCLAMATION DECLARING THE MONTH OF MAY AS OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

(Statewide - May 17, 2007) – Governor John Baldacci, joined by the Maine Association of Area Agencies on Aging and the Director of the Office of Elder Services, signed a proclamation on May 17 declaring the month of May, 2007 as ‘Older Americans Month’.

This Proclamation is especially meaningful here in the state of Maine because Maine is the oldest state, based on median age, in the union. In fact, the older citizens of Maine represent a dramatic trend in our nation’s demographic make up. The Proclamation notes that older persons are diverse, respected citizens who continue to contribute to our nation’s social and economic well-being. It also states that a growing number of baby boomers are rapidly becoming older citizens, and the number of individuals providing care to family members and friends is expanding significantly.

Pam Allen, President of the Maine Association of Area Agencies on Aging, a participant in the signing ceremony, stated that “This Proclamation recognizes the valuable contributions of older adults to our society, and that they, and those that care for them, deserve to be honored during May and throughout the year.”

The Maine Association of Area Agencies on Aging advocates for social and economic policies, as well as resources, that promote independence, dignity and self-sufficiency for Maine’s older adults. Towards that end, Maine’s Area Agencies on Aging provide older Mainers with access to information and community services; information about cost-effective prevention practices and activities that will improve health and quality of life; and innovative, affordable options of care and support that provide an array of choices about how and where to live.

The Proclamation urges all citizens of the State of Maine to honor older adults and those that care for them.

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Governor John Baldacci (center front) signing proclamation declaring the month of May as Older Americans Month. Also in photo from left to right; Pam Allen, President of the Maine Association of Area Agencies on Aging (M4A), Diana Scully, Director of Office of Elder Services, Graham Newson, Executive Director of M4A, and Muriel Scott, President and CEO of Senior Spectrum.