



**A PROCLAMATION - ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH
May 9 - June 16, 2014**

WHEREAS, each year, more than two million vulnerable and older adults are victims of abuse, neglect and exploitation, and national and international research reveals older adults who are abused, neglected and exploited are three time more likely to die within ten years than those who are not; and

WHEREAS, according to national statistics, elder abuse, is grossly under reported because vulnerable and older adults who are being abused find it difficult to tell anyone due to shame and fear; and

WHEREAS, Nags Head's vulnerable and older adults of all social, economic, racial and ethnic backgrounds may be targets of abuse, neglect or exploitation, which can occur in families, long-term care settings and communities; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina enacted the nation's first elder abuse law in 1973; and

WHEREAS, protecting Nags Head's vulnerable and older adults is a community responsibility and all citizens are charged under North Carolina General Statute (GS 108A-102) to report suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation to the Dare County Department of Health and Human Services; and

WHEREAS, in 2013 there were more than 21,000 reports of abuse, neglect or exploitation made to North Carolina's 100 county departments of social services by not only by doctors and other professionals, but by family members and concerned citizens in our communities; and

WHEREAS, By 2025, 86 of North Carolina's counties are projected to have more people age 60 and over than age 17 and younger, and 1 in 4 North Carolinians will be age 60 and over; and

WHEREAS, Mother's and Father's Day are national holidays intended to honor, respect and promote the dignity and well-being of our parents and grandparents.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Edwards, Mayor of the Town of Nags Head, do hereby proclaim May 9 - June 16, 2014, including Mother's Day and Father's Day, as "ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH" in Nags Head, and commend its observance to all citizens, asking them to wear purple Elder Abuse Awareness ribbons, and I further do hereby proclaim June 15, 2014, "NATIONAL ELDER ABUSE DAY" in Nags Head; and I further ask all citizens to work together to help protect adults from abuse, neglect and exploitation. It is imperative that we refuse to tolerate the indignity of Elder Abuse.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand in the Town of Nags Head this 7th day of May 2014.

Robert C. Edwards, Mayor

Carolyn F. Morris, Town Clerk