WHEREAS, long-term care facilities have been serving North Dakota’s most vulnerable population for more than 125 years; and

WHEREAS, the 218 assisted living, basic care and nursing facilities in North Dakota employ about 16,000 dedicated professionals who deliver high-quality medical care and other essential services to elderly and disabled individuals; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota’s facilities put in place protocols to protect the almost 10,000 residents under their care; and

WHEREAS, long-term care facilities worked with the North Dakota Department of Health to provide COVID-19 testing to all residents and staff supporting the ND Smart guidelines; and

WHEREAS, long-term care staff have responded to the challenges and pressures of the COVID-19 pandemic by providing tireless, compassionate care; and

WHEREAS, long-term care staff are exceeding demands in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; their passion and dedication has become a “silver lining” during challenging times.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim June 23, 2020, SILVER LININGS DAY in the State of North Dakota.