



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, in 2013, the Nashville Gaelic Athletic Club was founded by John Watson and Anji Wall, the first of its kind in the State of Tennessee to promote Irish culture through sports and camaraderie; and

**WHEREAS**, these ancient sports, with history dating three thousand years or more, have previously been known only in Ireland but have spread through the world as a result of the diaspora; and

**WHEREAS**, the Irish sports culture has grown to include clubs in Memphis and Knoxville and a university team at Middle Tennessee State University; and

**WHEREAS**, the Gaelic athletic clubs promote unity and acceptance among people of diverse backgrounds; and

**WHEREAS**, the focus of the Gaelic athletic clubs is to foster an active lifestyle, an appreciation for Irish culture, an understanding of Irish history, and a connection to our heritage, whatever that heritage may be; and

**WHEREAS**, the Nashville Gaelic Athletic Club continues to spread awareness of the contributions the Irish made to the great State of Tennessee, especially during this month of March; and

**WHEREAS**, the Nashville Gaelic Athletic Club has invited Gaelic sports clubs from across the country to celebrate these historic games, as well as the immense influence the Irish people have had on our nation;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim March 25, 2017, as

*Irish Sports Day*

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.



**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this second day of February, 2017.

*Bill Haslam*

Governor

*Heidi Kopp*

Secretary of State