



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, the week beginning the third Friday of September and extending through the following Thursday of each year shall be designated as Tennessee POW/MIA Recognition Week in recognition of the sacrifices of the citizens who were captured by the enemy or are missing in action; and

**WHEREAS**, "until every story ends" is a solemn promise to those who wear the uniform of the United States that they will never be left behind or forgotten; and

**WHEREAS**, on National POW/MIA Recognition Day, we pay tribute to the American men and women who never returned home from combat, to those who faced unthinkable suffering as prisoners of war in distant lands, and to all service members who have defended American lives and liberties with unwavering devotion; and

**WHEREAS**, as a grateful Nation, we can never repay the profound debt to our heroes, and we are committed to accounting for the missing members of our Armed Forces; and

**WHEREAS**, we demonstrate our deep gratitude and admiration for our brave patriots not in words alone, but in our actions to bring them home by specialists in our Department of Defense scouring foreign battlefields and burial sites each year, interviewing witnesses, and searching national and international archives for information about those missing from the Vietnam War, Korean War, Cold War, World War II, and other conflicts; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 16, 2011, the stark black and white flag honoring America's prisoners of war and those missing in action will be flown over the Tennessee State Capitol and other locations across our country as a powerful reminder that our Nation will never cease in our task to recover, remember, and honor the courageous men and women who have served and sacrificed so much for each of us;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim September 16-22, 2011, as

## POW / MIA RECOGNITION WEEK

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 12th day of September, 2011.

Governor

Secretary of State