



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, the Department of Defense distributes a Gold Star lapel pin to the immediate family of a service member who died in conflict or in support of certain military operations; and

WHEREAS, on the Friday before Memorial Day every year we celebrate the memories of our loved ones who pledged their allegiance to the United States of America and gave the ultimate sacrifice for the protection of its' citizens; and

WHEREAS, we understand the magnitude of our responsibility to ensure family members they left behind are taken care of in their stead; and

WHEREAS, Chris Ring, a Tennessean and former Navy SEAL, swam the Mississippi river in 2015 to raise awareness of Gold Star Families and to show "appreciation for the sacrifice that was paid" by them and their loved one; and

WHEREAS, the immensity of their sorrow is something we can never fully know. The husbands, wives, mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, sons, daughters and grandparents endure unfathomable pain that will not be comforted; and

WHEREAS, our homeland is secure and stronger because of the heroes that gave their lives defending our freedoms, and we vow to their survivors that we shall always honor and remember the depth of the commitment to our Country made by their loved one;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim May 27, 2016 as

Gold Star Family 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 twenty-first day of April, 2016.

Bill Haslam

Governor

Joe Rye

Secretary of State