



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, first known as “Decoration Day”, Memorial Day began when Civil War widows honored the fallen in decorating their grave sites, this practice was seen by General John Logan's wife, and she so moved by the action, relayed it to her husband; and

WHEREAS, in 1971, more than 100 years after the first Decoration Day, an act of Congress made Memorial Day a federal holiday; and

WHEREAS, at all Tennessee State Veteran Cemeteries, Memorial Day is marked by the standing of a small United States flag at the head of every grave site; and

WHEREAS, on the last Monday of May we recognize the men and women who so courageously laid down their lives in defense of this great Nation; and

WHEREAS, we especially honor the Tennesseans who, since our founding as the 16th state, have inspired the name of the “Volunteer State” by readily attending the call to defend our country; and

WHEREAS, we remember the Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, Airmen, and Coast Guardsmen who died in service to their homeland; and

WHEREAS, grateful for the opportunity to pause and reflect on Memorial Day, the strength of our Nation protected and made sacred by those who were dedicated and committed to values for which is was founded to the extent they were willing to lay down their lives; and

WHEREAS, we will ensure the legacy our heroes leave us lives on through every sunrise and sunset of the United States of America on this holiday;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim May 30, 2016 as

Memorial 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 Wright

Secretary of State