



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, the Country Music Association (CMA) created Country Music Month, first observed in October of 1964, to celebrate the format and highlight pinnacle events including "The 50th Annual CMA Awards," which will broadcast Wednesday, Nov. 2 live on the ABC Television Network, casting Tennessee and Country Music in an international spotlight following the patronage of "Then. Now. Forever Country."; and

WHEREAS, country music is a primary thread in the tapestry of Tennessee's uniquely rich heritage and is beloved far beyond the Smoky Mountains and Mississippi shore, in large part due to the efforts of CMA, with the mission of heightening awareness of the genre around the world; and

WHEREAS, from its birthplace in Bristol, to the soulful streets of Memphis, and echoing from WSM's radio tower in Nashville, Tennessee has long been the vanguard heralding this entertaining and honest snapshot of life in America in song form; and

WHEREAS, country music is more popular than ever before - a timeless expression reflecting life's joys, sorrows, and ideals, not only of Tennessee citizens, but of the American people; and

WHEREAS, although country music's humble origins echo from the Tennessee hills and valleys of long ago, the format has become an international phenomenon attracting fans from Tennessee to Taiwan, and everywhere between; and

WHEREAS, this uniquely American music reveals the beauty and simplicity often hidden in everyday life, honoring the same attributes valued by the pioneers of the genre;

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

Country Music Month

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 eleventh day of August, 2016.

Bill Haslam

Governor

Lee Hargett

Secretary of State