



STATE OF TENNESSEE
P R O C L A M A T I O N
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, on July 18, 1979, a ceremony was held at the National Cathedral in Washington D.C. to honor and remember those who were taken as prisoners of war and those who were still missing in action. Seven years later, the third Friday in September was proposed to be National P.O.W./M.I.A Recognition Day; and

WHEREAS, truer words could not have been spoken, when then President Ronald Reagan said in 1985, "the bravery, suffering, and profound devotion to duty of our POWs and MIAs have earned them a preeminent place in the hearts of all Americans"; and

WHEREAS, as of July 8, 2016, there are over 80,000 Americans still unaccounted from past conflicts as outlined by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency. Thankfully, they still continue the search and recovery of missing members of our Armed Forces from World War II, the Korean War, the Cold War, the Gulf Wars and recent conflicts; and

WHEREAS, we remember those, whose stories have not yet ended, and the family members and friends of those Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, and Airmen as we fly the POW/MIA flag over the Tennessee State Capitol and throughout the Volunteer State; and

WHEREAS, as Tennesseans we are grateful for the opportunity we have on the designated third week in September, to honor and pray for the Americans whom we hope will once again be returned to their country; and

WHEREAS, there are men and women made of steel that walk among us who have endured great suffering as prisoners of war in past conflicts. Let us recognize and thank them for sacrificing their safety and comfort to protect the ideals of our Nation; and

NOW THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim September 16 through September 23, 2016 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 twelfth day of August, 2016.

Handwritten signature of Bill Haslam in blue ink.

Governor

Handwritten signature of the Secretary of State in blue ink.

Secretary of State

