



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, Robert E. Lee was born January 19, 1807, in Virginia, a state which furnished many who became leading citizens of Tennessee; and

**WHEREAS**, Robert E. Lee graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1829 and entered public service as an officer in the United States Army; and

**WHEREAS**, Robert E. Lee ably fulfilled various assignments in that capacity until resigning April 20, 1861 to accept appointment as an officer in the Army of Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, Robert E. Lee concluded in 1865 that the Confederate States could no longer successfully resist the Union Army and surrendered his army to General U. S. Grant at Appomattox Court House, thus ending the war, and

**WHEREAS**, Robert E. Lee after Appomattox devoted his life as a civilian to binding up the wounds of the war and reuniting the United States of America; and

**WHEREAS**, Robert E. Lee ministered to the young men of the postwar period through his office as President of Washington University, an institution that later added his name to its own: Washington and Lee University of Lexington, Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee Code requires that the Governor proclaim January 19 of each year as "Robert E. Lee Day;" and

**WHEREAS**, Robert E. Lee is widely recognized as one of the outstanding Americans of the nineteenth century;

**NOW THEREFORE**, I Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim January 19, 2017 as

*Robert E. Lee 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 ninth day of December, 2016.

*Bill Haslam*  
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Governor

*LeRoy C. Hargrett*  
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Secretary of State