



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, on March 17, 1917, Civitan was formed as an independent service organization in Birmingham, Alabama; and

**WHEREAS**, Civitan, coined from the Latin word *civitas*, means, "citizenship"; and

**WHEREAS**, "Builders of Good Citizenship" became the natural motto for the civic-minded group; and

**WHEREAS**, Civitan encourages clubs to seek and fill needs within their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Knoxville Civitans helped pioneer the health focus raising \$100,000 to build a three-story hospital for indigent tuberculosis patients in 1923; and

**WHEREAS**, Developmental disabilities became the major organizational focus, which has led to the Civitan International Research Center at UAB in Birmingham, Alabama; and

**WHEREAS**, the Civitan International Research Center has become a world leader in developmental disability research, along with major advances in the study of autism, Down syndrome, brain tumors, epilepsy, Alzheimer's, Lewy Body Dementia, among other afflictions;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim March 17, 2017 as

*Civitan 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 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 second day of February, 2017.

*Bill Haslam*

Governor

*Joe Bergatt*

Secretary of State