



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, mediation in Tennessee continues to grow and assist citizens and the courts in alternative dispute resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 31 was enacted in January 1996 to establish court-based alternative dispute resolution on a statewide basis; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of Rule 31's promulgation, there are more than 1,200 Rule 31 mediators in Tennessee who have reported serving as conflict resolution professionals in thousands of mediations in 2016; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tennessee General Assembly and the Administrative Office of the Courts support state-funded Victim Offender Reconciliation Program (VORP) centers; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Tennessee wishes to acknowledge the contribution of mediation and encourage its further growth; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 3, 2017 mediators are gathering for conflict resolution training at the annual meeting of the Tennessee Association of Professional Mediators (TAPM) and presentation of the Grayfred Gray Public Service in Mediation Award by the Coalition of Mediation Awareness in Tennessee to Linda Warren Seely;

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim March 3, 2017 as

*Mediation 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-fourth day of February, 2017.

*Bill Haslam*

Governor

*Joe Mangatt*

Secretary of State