



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, the Gold Star's significance was officially recognized after World War One when the Women's Committee of National Defenses asked President Woodrow Wilson to approve a new national sign of mourning for those Killed in Action: a black armband with a gold star; and

**WHEREAS**, a Blue Star hung in a home's front window signifies a member of that household is serving in the military; a Blue Star color change to Gold is a crushing one, as the change in color signifies the loss of that family member while serving; and

**WHEREAS**, we find examples of American greatness in military members who gave their lives for our country, and the Gold Star families they left behind who bear the burden of their loss for the identity they wish they did not have to claim; and

**WHEREAS**, the pride of a military family can never be diminished and we recognize all family members today; mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, wives, husbands, children, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins; and

**WHEREAS**, we understand that the words on this page do little to ease the suffering of those families who have lost their loved one in their service to our country; and

**WHEREAS**, our commitment to Gold Star Families is to forever honor and remember their fallen hero, keeping their memory burning brightly in our hearts;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim May 25, 2017 as

*Gold Star Family 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 twelfth day of May, 2017.

Handwritten signature of Bill Haslam in blue ink.

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Governor

Handwritten signature of Scott Westcott in blue ink.

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Secretary of State

