



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, Gold Star Wives of America, Incorporated was founded in 1945 to include widows and widowers of military members who died while serving on active duty or who died as a result of a service-connected disability; and

**WHEREAS**, Gold Star Wives is a Congressionally Chartered non-profit service organization whose mission is to support Gold Star Wives by offering comfort, friendship, guidance and advocacy to members for military survivor benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, Eleanor Roosevelt was a member and one of 15 signers of the original Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. papers; and

**WHEREAS**, sometimes referred to as military widows, the Gold Star Wives are a tightly knit group who bond together to share experiences, gain strength together to face the challenges confronting them following their loss, gain courage together to grow, and gain wisdom to provide a voice for the families of the fallen heroes; and

**WHEREAS**, Gold Star Wives Day has been designated to honor and recognize our Gold Star Wives; and

**WHEREAS**, April 5, 2018 marks the 73<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the first meeting of the Gold Star Wives held in 1945;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim April 5, 2018 as

*Gold Star Wives 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 eleventh day of July, 2017.

*Bill Haslam*

Governor

*Heidi Dargatz*

Secretary of State