



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, in May of 1885, a riverboat captain named Thomas Green Ryman found salvation at a tent revival at what was then Spruce Street (8th) and Broadway in downtown Nashville, led by Reverend Samuel Porter Jones; and

WHEREAS, with so many trying to crowd under the tent to hear Jones preach, Ryman was inspired to build a grand tabernacle, where all would be welcome to worship in brotherly love, regardless of race, denomination or economic standing; and

WHEREAS, Ryman led the fundraising efforts, contributed much of his own wealth, and was aided by the popular Reverend Jones through additional fundraising revivals to construct a building Ryman stated would be, "...an ornament, not only to the city, but to the state, and when completed as it should be it will certainly be a pride to all of us;" and

WHEREAS, in 1892, 125 years ago, the Union Gospel Tabernacle opened for events that included sermons, lectures, conventions and performances by the renown Fisk Jubilee Singers; and

WHEREAS, at Ryman's funeral on Christmas Day in 1904, while delivering the eulogy for the man whose unwavering Christian faith and relentless determination led to construction of the building in which they gathered, Reverend Sam Jones suggested that the tabernacle be renamed Ryman Auditorium, to unanimous consent; and

WHEREAS, Ryman Auditorium, renowned for its acoustics, world famous as home to the Grand Ole Opry from 1943-1974, having hosted a wide variety of the greatest entertainers and speakers of each generation for these 125 years, continues to be a place where all are welcome for experiences that can only be Made in Tennessee; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby congratulate Ryman Hospitality Properties, all those who have worked to make this building successful past and present, including the incomparable Lula C. Naff, who managed it for nearly fifty years, the descendants of Captain Ryman; and furthermore, proclaim December 23, 2017 as a day to remember Thomas Green Ryman and celebrate

125 Years of Ryman Auditorium

and encourage all citizens of Tennessee 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 first day of December, 2017.

Bill Haslam

Governor

Jeffrey J. Bland

Secretary of State