



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, the National Guard's 74-nation, 25-year-old State Partnership Program provides unique partnership capacity-building capabilities to combatant commanders and U.S. ambassadors through partnerships between the U.S. states, territories, and the District of Columbia and foreign countries; and

WHEREAS, the State Partnership Program supports U.S. national interests and security cooperation goals by engaging partner nations via military, socio-political, and economic conduits at the local, state, and national level; and

WHEREAS, the State Partnership Program evolved from a 1991 U.S. European Command decision to set up the Joint Contact Team Program in the Baltic Region with Reserve component Soldiers and Airmen and a subsequent National Guard Bureau proposal paired U.S. states with three nations emerging from the former Soviet Union Bloc and the State Partnership Program was born, becoming a key U.S. security cooperation tool, facilitating cooperation across all aspects of international civil-military affairs, and encouraging people-to-people ties at the state level; and

WHEREAS, since 1993, the Republic of Bulgaria has been a valued partner of the United States and the State of Tennessee in the ongoing mission to foster strategic relationships and develop mutual knowledge and understanding between our nations; and

WHEREAS, this partnership assisted the Republic of Bulgaria in becoming a participating member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and fostered co-deployments of Bulgarian Armed Forces and Tennessee National Guard units in support of the Global War on Terror; and

WHEREAS, the continuation of this partnership will foster ongoing exchanges between the soldiers, airmen, political leaders, and citizens of the Republic of Bulgaria and the State of Tennessee, increasing the safety and economic vibrancy of our two great nations;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim July 3, 2018, as a day to honor the

25th Anniversary of the State Partnership between the Republic of Bulgaria Armed Forces and the Tennessee National Guard

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 first day of June, 2018.

Bill Haslam

Governor

Jill Kargotz

Secretary of State