



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, Friends of the Smokies was founded in 1993 by prominent Tennesseans including The Honorable Gary Wade, Lyndsay Young, Natalie Haslam, and others with support from 151 charter members including Governors Lamar Alexander and Phil Bredesen; and

WHEREAS, the mission of Friends of the Smokies is to assist the National Park Service in its mission to preserve and protect Great Smoky Mountains National Park by raising funds and public awareness, and providing volunteers for needed projects; and

WHEREAS, this day also recognizes and honors the thousands of dedicated park volunteers and National Park Service employees who work tirelessly to preserve and protect Great Smoky Mountains National Park; and

WHEREAS, Friends of the Smokies has raised more than \$62 million in its effort to support America's most-visited national park and maintain its place as a crown jewel of the National Park Service; and

WHEREAS, by example of their leadership and ongoing philanthropic efforts, the board of directors and president James Hart have inspired thousands of donors from all 50 United States and countries around the world to support Great Smoky Mountains National Park with their time, talent, and treasure;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim September 3, 2018 as

*Friends of the Smokies
25th Anniversary 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 July, 2018.

Bill Haslam

Governor

John R. Hargett

Secretary of State