



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, Fred David Gray, a native of Montgomery, Alabama, vowed to become a lawyer and end segregation in his state once and for all by defending the rights of his fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, in pursuing his goals, Fred Gray sought and earned his education at the Nashville Christian Institute, Alabama State University, and Case Western Reserve University; and

WHEREAS, Fred Gray began his fight for civil rights by representing Rosa Parks after she refused to give up her seat on a city bus, and continued his fight by serving as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s first civil rights attorney, beginning a legal career spanning more than fifty years; and

WHEREAS, among Fred Gray's most notable cases are City of Montgomery v. Rosa Parks, State of Alabama v. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Gomillion v. Lightfoot, which laid the foundation for the concept of "one man, one vote;" and

WHEREAS, Fred Gray served as the first African-American elected as president of the Alabama Bar Association, was among the first African-Americans to serve in the Alabama Legislature since reconstruction, and also served as the forty-third president of the National Bar Association, a fellow of the American Bar Foundation, the American College of Trial Lawyers, the International Society of Barristers, and a member of the 2007 Merit Selection of Appellate Judges Committee; and

WHEREAS, Fred Gray is the recipient of the Charles Hamilton Houston Medallion of Merit from the Washington Bar Association, Harvard University Law School's Charles Hamilton Houston Medallion, the American Bar Association's Thurgood Marshall Award, and the Federal Bar Association's Sarah T. Hughes Civil Rights Award; and

WHEREAS, Fred Gray is an accomplished author whose works include Bus Ride to Justice, The Tuskegee Syphilis Study, and The Sullivan Case: a Direct Product of the Civil Rights Movement; and

WHEREAS, Fred Gray is the principle founder of the Tuskegee Human and Civil Rights Cultural Center, a non-profit corporation which serves as a memorial to the participants of the Tuskegee Syphilis Study, and which educates the public on the contributions made in the fields of human and civil rights by Native Americans, Americans of African descent, and Americans of European descent; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career, Fred Gray has worked tirelessly to transform the cultural landscape of America through desegregation, integration, the defense of constitutional law, voting rights, housing, education, and medical ethics; and

WHEREAS, in honor of his lifetime of achievements, Fred David Gray will receive an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Lipscomb University in Nashville on Friday, June 8, 2012;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim June 8, 2012, as

FRED DAVID GRAY 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 thirty-first day of May, 2012.

Governor

Secretary of State

