



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, between 1979 and 1981, a series of high-profile missing children cases and murders of children and young adults brought attention to the lack of coordinated efforts among federal, state, and local law enforcement to search for missing children; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, the Missing Children Act (Public Law 97-292, 96 Stat. 1259) was enacted, allowing information on missing children to be entered into the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Crime Information Center; and

WHEREAS, in 1984, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children was created to partner with the Department of Justice and help law enforcement find missing children, eliminate child sexual exploitation, and prevent child victimization; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Center, approximately 800,000 children are reported missing each year; and

WHEREAS, of these cases, more than 200,000 are victims of family abductions, and an estimated 58,000 are victims of nonfamily abductions; and

WHEREAS, annually, an estimated 115 children are victims of kidnappings in which the perpetrator is a stranger or slight acquaintance and involves a child being placed in grave danger; and

WHEREAS, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children has assisted law enforcement in the recovery of more than 193,000 missing children since being founded in 1984. The agency's recovery rate has grown from 62 percent in 1990 to more than 96 percent of domestically missing children as of 2015, but too many children still remain among the missing; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee Code requires that the governor proclaim March 4 of each year as an occasion to remember those children who are missing and give hope to their families;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim March 4, 2019 as

Missing Children's 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 fourth day of March, 2019.

Bill Lee

Governor

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Secretary of State