



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, in 1839 the last detachment of Cherokees arrived in Indian Territory after removal from their ancestral homeland in the Southeast by the federal government on the infamous Trail of Tears; and

**WHEREAS**, this year commemorates the one hundred and eightieth anniversary of the end of that 1,000 mile journey where about 4,000 Cherokees perished along "The Place Where They Cried"; and

**WHEREAS**, the state of Tennessee is one of the states on the route the Cherokee people traveled in 1838 and 1839; and

**WHEREAS**, the will to survive and thrive enabled the Cherokee to rebuild their government in Indian Territory, what is now modern-day Oklahoma and

**WHEREAS**, each year, a group of Cherokee youth retrace the Trail of Tears Northern Route on bicycle, traveling more than 1,000 miles through seven states in memory of their ancestors; and

**WHEREAS**, this year marks the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the memorial "Remember the Removal" Bike Ride; and

**WHEREAS**, this ride will travel through Tennessee on June 3-6, 2019;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the week of June 2-8, 2019 as

*Trail of Tears 180<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Remembrance Week*

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 May, 2019.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Lee".

Governor

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lee Hargett".

Secretary of State

