



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, Wilma Rudolph was born on June 23, 1940 in Saint Bethlehem, Tennessee, and

WHEREAS, Wilma Rudolph contracted polio at age four causing the loss of movement in one of her legs, which she eventually overcame through determination and treatment, and

WHEREAS, Wilma Rudolph grew up and attended school in Clarksville, Tennessee where she excelled in basketball and track, and

WHEREAS, Wilma Rudolph attended Tennessee State University where she competed on the Tigerbelles Track and Field team, and

WHEREAS, at only sixteen years old, Wilma Rudolph competed in the 1956 Summer Olympics in Melbourne, Australia, and

WHEREAS, Wilma Rudolph also competed at the 1960 Summer Olympics in Rome, Italy where she won three gold medals in the 100 meter, 200 meter, and 4 x 100 meter events, and

WHEREAS, Wilma Rudolph set world records in the 100 meter, 200 meter, and 4 x 100m events, and

WHEREAS, Wilma Rudolph served as a goodwill ambassador to West Africa for the U.S. State Department, and was well known as a civil rights activist, and

WHEREAS, Wilma Rudolph is also remembered as a beloved teacher and coach, and for her tenacity in overcoming obstacles, and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Code Annotated § 15-2-115 states that the Governor shall proclaim June 23 of each year as "Wilma Rudolph Day";

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim June 23, 2019 as

Wilma Rudolph 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-third day of June, 2019.

Bill Lee

Governor

Lee Hargitt

Secretary of State