



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee has the honor of being the crucial thirty-sixth state to ratify the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, which granted women the right to vote; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tennessee legislature was the focus of national attention and was subjected to intense lobbying by persons on both sides of the issue; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tennessee Senate easily ratified the Nineteenth Amendment, but the House appeared to be evenly divided; and

**WHEREAS**, a majority vote in the House was required to ratify the amendment; and

**WHEREAS**, young legislator Harry Burn from East Tennessee was leaning toward voting against the amendment; and

**WHEREAS**, Harry Burn made a last minute decision on August 18, 1920, to vote for the amendment, breaking the tie and enfranchising women throughout the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, when he was called to answer for his change of heart, Harry Burn attributed his actions to a letter written by his mother, Febb Burn, urging him to support the amendment; and

**WHEREAS**, when efforts were made to rescind the vote and representations were made that Harry had misunderstood his mother's intent, Febb Burn urged him to "support suffrage to the end"; and

**WHEREAS**, Febb Burn's actions demonstrate the power of a single person to influence the course of history; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee statutes require the governor to proclaim August 18 of each year as "Febb Burn Day" to honor her role in the enfranchisement of women;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim August 18, 2019 as

*Febb Burn 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-second day of July, 2019.

*Bill Lee*

Governor

*Lee Hargett*

Secretary of State

