



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, as Military Governor of the State of Tennessee, then-future-President Andrew Johnson freed his personal slaves on August 8, 1863 and;

**WHEREAS**, August 8<sup>th</sup> was a day to celebrate freedom in African American communities beginning in East Tennessee and gaining in popularity across the state in the 1800's and

**WHEREAS**, every American deserves the rights and freedoms afforded to them through the United States Constitution and given to them by Tennessee State Constitution and

**WHEREAS**, it is fitting to honor and remember a day that brought about freedom from bondage and slavery;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim August 8, 2019 as

*Emancipation 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

*Joe R. Holt*

Secretary of State

