



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, Harriet Tubman was a leading figure in the movement to abolish slavery; and

WHEREAS, she was born around 1822 in Dorchester County, Maryland, on a plantation where her parents were enslaved; and

WHEREAS, she escaped from slavery in 1849, at the age of 27; and

WHEREAS, Harriet demonstrated great courage and resolve by returning to guide her family to freedom; and

WHEREAS, at great risk to her own life, she returned to Maryland thirteen times to rescue over seventy enslaved families and friends; and

WHEREAS, she became one of the most prominent conductors on the Underground Railroad; and

WHEREAS, after the outbreak of the Civil War, Harriet Tubman served as a nurse in the Union Army, tending to injured soldiers and assisting escaped slaves; and

WHEREAS, Harriet Tubman became the first woman to lead an armed assault during the war, freeing more than 750 slaves from a collection of plantations along the Combahee River; and

WHEREAS, Harriet Tubman continued her activism in the post-war period, by advocating for women's suffrage and increased civil rights for African-Americans; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee Code Annotated § 15-2-111 requires that the governor proclaim March 10 of each year as "Harriet Tubman Day";

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim March 10, 2020 as

Harriet Tubman 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 tenth day of March, 2020.

Bill Lee

Governor

Joe Kergett

Secretary of State

