



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, all species of elephants are keystone species and vital to their native ecosystems; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important for the public to be educated about the welfare of all species of elephants in captivity as well as the need for wildlife conservation; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee is home to The Elephant Sanctuary, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing captive elephants with individualized care, the companionship of a herd, and a secure environment for these highly intelligent and emotional creatures; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2020 The Sanctuary is celebrating 25 years of providing a safe haven and natural habitat refuge dedicated to the wellbeing of retired captive elephants and educating the public about the needs of elephants in captivity and the crisis facing elephants in the wild; and

**WHEREAS**, The Elephant Sanctuary is committed to improving the lives of all elephants;

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

## *Elephant Awareness Month*

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 second day of September, 2020.

*Bill Lee*

Governor

*Lee Hargatt*

Secretary of State