



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, on June 1, 1796, Congress passed an Act of Admission granting statehood to Tennessee, making it the 16th state to join the Union; and

WHEREAS, even through its admission to the Union, Tennessee pioneered an approach to statehood henceforth known as the “Tennessee Plan”, its people having demanded recognition as a state by a vote of 73% approval and ratifying a Constitution for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, from the native inhabitants of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, and other tribes who thrived in the thick forests of the Mississippi delta and Cumberland highlands to the earliest settlers who transformed this terrain into farms and bustling towns, to the innovators of modern science who studied the atom, invented the electronic touchscreen, and remain on the forefront of science, technology, and innovation; and

WHEREAS, from its earliest days Tennesseans have answered the call to serve their country in its armed forces, earning our state’s nickname, “The Volunteer State”, which began as a recognition of a disproportionately high contribution of soldiers towards the defense of our country during the War of 1812, further affirmed through bravery and heroism of servicemembers in conflicts to come, among the most notable of which is WWI Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. Alvin C. York of Pall Mall; and

WHEREAS, Tennesseans like Sam Houston and David Crockett made indelible marks not only on the history of our state but also feature prominently in the creation of the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, many Tennesseans have served our country in high federal office, with three of its citizens holding the office of President of the United States: Andrew Jackson, James K. Polk, and Andrew Johnson; and

WHEREAS, generations of Tennesseans have been engaged in the pursuit of justice and equality, with homes on the “Underground Railroad” leading enslaved persons towards freedom and notable sites in the struggle for civil rights being located here, along with opportunities for educating future generations on our past at Memphis’ National Civil Rights Museum; and

WHEREAS, on August 18, 1920, Tennessee became the crucial state that, upon its ratification of the nineteenth amendment to the United States Constitution, permanently enshrined that the right to vote could not be denied on the basis of sex; and

WHEREAS, from the majesty of the Great Smoky Mountains, the nation’s most visited National Park, to the breathtaking waterfalls and rolling hills in our state’s parks and natural areas, to a sunset along the Mississippi River, people of Tennessee inhabit among the most beautiful lands in the nation; and

WHEREAS, our land, our history, and the spirit of our people converged to create the perfect birthplace for music that is known around the world; and

WHEREAS, these songs radiate from every corner of our state – country music from the mountains of Northeast Tennessee leading to artists blossoming into national stars at the Grand Old Opry, in Nashville and Memphis’ Sun Studios and Stax distributing blues, rock-and-roll, and soul music to worldwide audiences; and

WHEREAS, music lovers descend on the two most famous streets for music in the world: Memphis’ Beale Street and Nashville’s Broadway; and

WHEREAS, Tennesseans have also been prolific producers of other arts, from Appalachian craftsmen to distillers of the world’s finest spirits; and

WHEREAS, for one year commencing June 1, 2021, events and celebrations will be held around our state to recognize the 225th year since its admission to the Union; and

WHEREAS, as we remember and celebrate our storied history for the past 225 years, the people of Tennessee are filled with optimism, hope, and faith that our brightest days are still ahead of us;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim June 1, 2021 as the

225th Anniversary of Tennessee Statehood

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 first day of June, 2021.

Bill Lee

Governor

Je Nantz

Secretary of State