



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, the people of Tennessee recognize the sacrifice of the members of our Armed Services and their families; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our freedom; and

WHEREAS, we remember the families who have lost their loved ones in combat; and

WHEREAS, Chief Water Tender Claude White of Yorkville, Tennessee, was killed December 7, 1941, while serving his country aboard the USS *Oklahoma* which was moored in Battleship Row at the Naval Base Pearl Harbor Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, at approximately 7:55 am the first wave of Japanese aircraft struck the USS *Oklahoma* with aerial torpedoes and machine-gun fire killing 429 Sailors and Marines; and

WHEREAS, CWT White received the following awards and decorations: Purple Heart Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal (with three stars), American Defense Service Medal (with Fleet Clasp), Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal (with Bronze Star), American Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, and Pistol Sharpshooter; and

WHEREAS, his remains have been returned to his native state and are to be laid to rest at Bells Chapel Cemetery in Yorkville, Tennessee on April 19, 2022; and

WHEREAS, we are grateful to finally welcome home this brave soldier who made the ultimate sacrifice for his country;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim April 19, 2022, as a

*Day of Mourning in Remembrance of Chief
Water Tender Claude White*

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 eighteenth day of April 2022.

Bill Lee

Governor

Joe Hargett

Secretary of State