WHEREAS, Blue Star Families annually designates the last week in September as "Blue Star Welcome Week"; and

WHEREAS, during this week, we recognize the 600,000 active-duty and transitioning military families who move to new communities each year; and

WHEREAS, nearly half of these permanent change of station (PCS) moves occur during the summer; and

WHEREAS, only 30% of military family respondents to the 2021 Military Family Lifestyle Survey reported that they feel a sense of belonging to their local civilian community; and

WHEREAS, a sense of belonging is essential to the well-being and readiness of military families, so we commit to ensuring that military families feel a strong sense of belonging to their local civilian communities; and

WHEREAS, we express gratitude for the sacrifices made by service members and transitioning Veterans and their families, and we encourage civilians nationwide to welcome military families into their communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the week of September 24, 2022 through October 2, 2022 as

Blue Star Welcome Week

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 seventeenth day of June, 2022.