WHEREAS, about half a million babies are admitted to the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) every year; and

WHEREAS, families of NICU babies struggle to find resources, support, and education; and

WHEREAS, funding for research into the causes of a NICU stay as well as the holistic care of NICU families is vital; and

WHEREAS, NICU Awareness Day provides an opportunity for families whose lives have been affected by the NICU to share their stories, honor dedicated health professionals, and meet others and know they are not alone; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of NICU Awareness Day will also provide visibility into research that improves the quality of life for NICU babies and their parents;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim September 30, 2022 as

NICU Awareness 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 sixth day of September, 2022.

Governor

Secretary of State