



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, a Blue Star hung in a home's front window signifies a member of the household is serving in the military; a Blue Star color changed to Gold is a crushing one, as the change in color signifies the loss of that family member while serving; and

**WHEREAS**, in an instant, a family is thrust into a group in which none wants to lay claim; one defined by selflessness, humility and grace, that of a Gold Star Family; and

**WHEREAS**, we find examples of American greatness in military members who gave their lives for our country, and their Gold Star Families they left behind who bear the burden of their loss; and

**WHEREAS**, the pride of a military family can never be diminished, and we recognize the sacrifice that all Gold Star Family members, mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, wives, husbands, children, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins make, and will continue to make; and

**WHEREAS**, the debt our fallen warriors and their families pay is one for which our country can never return or can sufficiently express its` gratitude; for in their sacrifice, 308 million Americans enjoy the freedom and liberty on which our country was founded; and

**WHEREAS**, our homeland is secure and stronger because of the heroes that gave their lives defending our freedoms, and we vow to our Gold Star Families that we shall always honor and remember the depth of the commitment made to our State and to our Country by their fallen heroes; and

**WHEREAS**, we understand the magnitude of our responsibility to ensure family members they left behind are taken care of in their stead; and

**WHEREAS**, it is on the Friday before Memorial Day that we recognize the Gold Star Families in our Tennessee communities and honor the memory of their loved ones who died while serving our Nation while on military duty; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim May 26, 2023 as

*Gold Star Family 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 second day of May 2023.

*Bill Lee*

Governor

*John R. Ragsdale*

Secretary of State