



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 electric touchscreen, and remain on the forefront of science, technology, and innovation; 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, including three Presidents 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 in Tennessee, 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 a woman's right to vote; and

WHEREAS, throughout our state's history, Tennesseans' remarkable commitment to service of their country, state, community, and neighbor long ago earned Tennessee the distinction of being known as the "Volunteer State"; and

WHEREAS, our land, our history, and the spirit of our people converged to create the perfect birthplace for music that is known worldwide, with songs radiating from every corner of our state - country music from the mountains of Northeast Tennessee, to artists blossoming into national stars at the Grand Old Opry in Nashville, to Memphis' Sun Studios and Stax distributing blues, rock-and-roll, and soul music worldwide; and

WHEREAS, from the majesty of the Great Smoky Mountains, the nation's most visited National Park, to the breathtaking waterfalls and rolling hills of 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, as we remember and celebrate our rich history for the past 227 years, the people of Tennessee are filled with resilience, 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, 2023, as the

227th Anniversary of Tennessee Statehood

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 first day of June, 2023.

Bill Lee

Governor

Lu Vergath

Secretary of State