



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, the history of the State of Tennessee has been strongly influenced by our Native American Indian tribes; and

**WHEREAS**, the contributions of the American Indians have enhanced the freedom, prosperity, and greatness of our state and nation; and

**WHEREAS**, their customs and traditions are respected and celebrated as a part of a rich legacy throughout the United States that must be protected and preserved; and

**WHEREAS**, Native American Awareness Week began in 1976 and recognition was expanded by Congress and approved by President George H.W. Bush in August 1990; designated the month of November as National American Indian Heritage Month; and

**WHEREAS**, an Act by the Tennessee General Assembly, TCA § 15-2-106, specifies that the fourth Monday in September of each year is to be observed as "American Indian Day" in Tennessee; and

**WHEREAS**, in honor of National American Indian Heritage Month, community celebrations as well as numerous cultural, artistic, educational and historical activities have been planned; and

**WHEREAS**, these observances are encouraged to be honored by Tennesseans with suitable ceremony and fellowship;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim September 25, 2023 as "American Indian Day" and October 2023 as

*Native American Heritage Month*

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 fifth day of June 2023.



*Bill Lee*

Governor

*DeVonta*

Secretary of State