



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, the National Guard's 100-nation, 30-year-old State Partnership Program provides unique partnership capacity-building capabilities to the combatant commands and U.S. Ambassadors through partnerships between the U.S. states, territories, the District of Columbia and foreign countries; and

WHEREAS, the State Partnership Program supports global stability, economic integrity and security cooperation goals for all participating partner nations via military, socio-political, and economic conduits at the local, state, and national level; and

WHEREAS, the program evolved from a 1991 U.S. European Command decision to set up the Joint Contact Team Program in the Baltic Region with Reserve component Soldiers and Airmen and a subsequent National Guard Bureau proposal paired U.S. states with key partner nations when the State Partnership Program was born, becoming an essential security cooperation tool that has facilitated peaceful cooperation across all aspects of international civil-military affairs, and forged personal relationships and organizational ties at all levels; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, the State of Tennessee and the Republic of Bulgaria became one of the first thirteen partnerships to lead the ongoing global mission to foster strategic relationships and develop mutual knowledge and understanding between our nations; and

WHEREAS, our 30-year partnership has resulted in more than 590 military to military engagements, unmeasurable mutual benefit, development and growth between Tennessee's National Guard forces and the Republic of Bulgaria's Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, this partnership will continue to foster ongoing exchanges between the soldiers, airmen, political leaders, and citizens of the Republic of Bulgaria and the State of Tennessee, increasing the safety and economic vibrancy of our two great nations;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim July 14, 2023, as

30th Anniversary of the State Partnership between the Republic of Bulgaria Armed Forces and the Tennessee National Guard

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 seventh day of July 2023.

Governor

Secretary of State