



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, on August 5, 1924, the Company was founded as the Jarman Shoe Company, by James Franklin Jarman and William H. Wemyss in Nashville, Tennessee; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1930, the Company opened its first retail store in Louisville, Kentucky. By the end of 1931 the Jarman Shoe Company had its biggest year ever earning the distinction of the "largest exclusive manufacturer of men's shoes in the world"; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1933, with the addition of a new footwear line and plans for more on the way, the Jarman Shoe Company changed its name to the General Shoe Company; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 15, 1939, General Shoe Company was listed on the NYSE and is said to be the second oldest publicly listed Tennessee company on the Exchange and 68th oldest listing on the entire exchange today; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1959, following decades of unparalleled growth and diversification beyond footwear, the Company was renamed to Genesco Inc; and

**WHEREAS**, Genesco accelerated its growth during the 1950s and 1960s to include ownership of major national retail stores and international operations, including controlling interest in Tiffany & Co; and

**WHEREAS**, in the late 1970s and 1980s, amid restructuring, divestitures, and thoughtful leadership, the Nashville-based Company began to focus primarily on footwear; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1989, Genesco founded its signature community outreach program, Cold Feet, Warm Shoes, and to this date has actively fitted more than 100,000 needy individuals with warm, proper fitting footwear; and

**WHEREAS**, Genesco today, a \$2.3 billion footwear-focused company has more than 1,300 stores calling Nashville, Tennessee home for the past 100 years;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee do hereby celebrate October 2, 2024 as the

*100th Anniversary of Genesco*

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 October 2024.

*Bill Lee*

Governor

*DeWitt*

Secretary of State