



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 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 neither return nor 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 securer 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 the 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;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim May 23, 2025 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 ninth day of May 2025.

Bill Lee

Governor

DeWitt

Secretary of State