



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, the citizens of the great State of Tennessee are proud to join in celebrating observances that are meaningful to the history of our state and nation and, during the month of February 2013, we come together for the commemoration of Black History Month, as this occasion offers us the opportunity to pay tribute to the unique, diverse, and groundbreaking contributions of the African American community to all areas of life in our great state and nation; and

WHEREAS, we are proud to host the original copies of the Emancipation Proclamation and the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, which will be on display at the Tennessee State Museum this month; and

WHEREAS, the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis chronicles key episodes of the American civil rights movement and the legacy of this movement to inspire participation in civil and human rights efforts through their collections, exhibitions, and educational programs; and

WHEREAS, African-Americans are prominent in Tennessee and American history, and the struggle and challenges overcome by African Americans throughout the centuries are inspiring to all Americans and reminders of the principles we share as a society; and

WHEREAS, it is important to learn from the many lessons of history's failures, successes, disappointments and triumphs as we continue to pursue our Founding Fathers' visions of liberty, justice and equality for all;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the month of February 2013 as

Black History 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 eighth day of March, 2013.

Handwritten signature of Bill Haslam in blue ink.

Governor

Handwritten signature of Joe Hargitt in blue ink.

Secretary of State