



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, the people of Tennessee recognize the sacrifice of the members of our armed services and their families; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our freedom; and

WHEREAS, we remember the families who have lost their loved ones in combat; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Christopher Michael Ward grew up in Arcadia, Florida; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Ward attended Oak Ridge High School in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, before earning his General Educational Development diploma; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Ward enlisted in the United States Army in November 2006; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Ward was serving with Troop A, 5th Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armor Brigade Combat Team, Fort Stewart, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Ward deployed with his unit to Afghanistan in support of Operation New Dawn; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Ward is the recipient of several Army Commendation Medals, the Army Achievement Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, the Iraq Campaign Medal with three Bronze Service Stars, and several other service-related awards, and will be posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal and the Purple Heart; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Christopher Michael Ward was fatally injured when his patrol was struck by a vehicle borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) which detonated on Saturday, April 6, 2013, in Kandahar, Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Christopher Michael Ward is survived by his mother Joyce Ward of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and brothers Brian Ward of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and Travis Ward of Tulsa, Oklahoma;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee do hereby proclaim April 13, 2013, as a Day of Mourning in Tennessee in remembrance of Staff Sergeant Christopher Michael Ward and encourage all citizens to join me in this solemn 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 eleventh day of April, 2013.

Handwritten signature of Bill Haslam in blue ink.

Governor

Handwritten signature of Joe Hargett in blue ink.

Secretary of State

