



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, moved by compassion for all the men who died in the American Civil War, some widows of Confederate soldiers started a tradition of honor and remembrance by placing flowers on the graves of all the soldiers who lost their lives; and

**WHEREAS**, three years after the Civil War ended, Major General John A. Logan, Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of former Union soldiers and sailors, proclaimed May 30, 1868, as Decoration Day by issuing an order for his posts to decorate graves with springtime flowers, as men and women on both sides of the war had been doing on their own; and

**WHEREAS**, feeling the need to remember, to give honor and to express gratitude by the citizens of our nation, the tradition continued, and in 1971, the observance was officially designated by the United States Congress as Memorial Day to be observed each year on the last Monday in May; and

**WHEREAS**, all Airmen, Marines, Sailors and Soldiers who died in service to our country should be honored through solemn observances; and

**WHEREAS**, on this Memorial Day, citizens across our Nation will pause to remember our heroes who paid the ultimate sacrifice to ensure our liberty; and

**WHEREAS**, we shall continue to preserve the legacy of these heroes and unite in hope that the ideals of peace, freedom and prosperity will brightly shine forever in the hearts and souls of this great nation;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim May 27, 2013, as

*Memorial 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 twenty-ninth day of April, 2013.

Handwritten signature of Bill Haslam in blue ink.

Governor

Handwritten signature of Lee Hargett in blue ink.

Secretary of State

