



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, in 1918, Grace Darling Seibold of Washington, D.C. lost her son in combat during World War I, and realizing that self-contained grief is self-destructive, devoted her time and efforts to extending the hand of friendship to other mothers whose sons had lost their lives in military service; and

**WHEREAS**, after years of planning on June 4, 1928, the members of a group led by Seibold established a national organization incorporated as American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. to provide support for mothers in the United States who had lost sons or daughters in World War I; and

**WHEREAS**, the organization was named after the Gold Star that families hung in their windows in honor of the deceased service member; and

**WHEREAS**, the Service Flag has a Gold Star which is displayed to indicate the number of members of the family who have died in service; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 23, 1936, the President of the United States issued a proclamation authorizing the last Sunday in September to be designated and known as Gold Star Mothers' Day; and

**WHEREAS**, the American Gold Star Mothers suffered the supreme sacrifice of motherhood in the loss of their sons and daughters in military service; and

**WHEREAS**, we publicly express our gratitude to these special matriarchs who extend comfort and support to other Gold Star Mothers and wounded warriors while fostering a deep sense of service and patriotism throughout our Nation; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim September 29, 2013, as

*Gold Star Mothers 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 twelfth day of August, 2013.

Handwritten signature of Bill Haslam in blue ink.

Governor

Handwritten signature of Joe Hight in blue ink.

Secretary of State

