



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, marriage in every known human society creates new families, binds men and women together in a network of affection, mutual aid and mutual obligation, commits fathers and mothers to their children and connects children to a wider network of welcoming kin; and

WHEREAS, a healthy, loving marriage deserves our special respect because it provides irreplaceable personal happiness and creates the safest place for children to flourish and to enjoy the full emotional, moral, educational and financial benefits of both parents; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that men and women who marry and stay married in mutually supportive relationships generally live longer, experience better health, and enjoy more satisfying lives; and

WHEREAS, marriage breakdown takes a toll on the emotional, physical and financial well-being of all family members and communities and also increases the cost to taxpayers of many public human services programs; and

WHEREAS, citizens of our state are encouraged to promote enrichment opportunities and resources that strengthen marital relationships and enhance personal growth, mutual fulfillment and family well-being; and

WHEREAS, I commend efforts by citizens, faith communities, businesses, organizations, and local government and community leaders to strengthen marriages in a variety of ways, including marriage education programs, conferences, enrichment seminars and public policies that support marriage;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim February 7-14, 2014 as

Marriage Week

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-second day of January, 2014.

Bill Haslam

Governor

Joe Bergatt

Secretary of State