



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, as early as the War of 1812, volunteers performed nursing duty in places that were often dangerous and required courage in the face of adversity such as aboard Navy ships and in Navy hospitals; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 13, 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt signed the Naval Appropriations Bill that authorized the establishment of the Nurse Corps as a unique staff corps of the Navy and the first twenty women joined, forever remembered as the "Sacred Twenty"; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1909, the Nurse Corps doubled in size, three nurses were authorized promotions as "chief nurse", and, for the first time, nurses were sent to medical facilities outside of Washington, DC - including Annapolis, MD; Brooklyn, NY; and Mare Island, CA; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1910-1911, Navy nurses were first sent to medical facilities overseas including Canacao, Philippines; Guam; Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; Haiti; Honolulu, HI; Samoa; and the Virgin Islands; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1911, Navy Medical Department established training schools in Guam, Samoa, and the Virgin Islands where Navy nurses educated native populations in health and hygiene; and

**WHEREAS**, during World War I, the Navy Nurse Corps grew from 160 military nurses to 1,034, some of whom were sent to base hospitals in France and the United Kingdom; and

**WHEREAS**, during the Spanish Influenza pandemic of 1918, members of the Navy Nurse Corps treated a total of 121,255 Navy and Marine influenza patients, losing thirty-three of their own to the disease; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 4, 1920, with the enactment of the Naval Appropriations Act the Navy Nurse Corps was recognized as part of the "Navy Establishment" entitling dependents of active duty Corps members to receive compensation as the result of a death in the line of duty; and

**WHEREAS**, in February 1921, eleven nurses reported aboard the Navy hospital ship USS Relief becoming the first military women to serve aboard a hospital ship; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 13, 1926, Public Law 217 was passed granting Navy nurses the same benefits of service at retirement as other service members; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 10, 1941, five Navy nurses became the first Nurse Corps prisoners of war by being captured on Guam and spent nine months in a military prison in Japan; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 6, 1942, eleven nurses were captured and held for thirty-seven months by Imperial Japanese forces in the Philippines yet continued to care for the sick and injured prisoners with precious little equipment and supplies, despite suffering from malnutrition, beriberi (thiamine deficiency), and chronic dysentery themselves;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim April 27-May 3, 2014 as

*Navy Nurse 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 thirtieth day of January, 2014.

A blue ink signature of Bill Haslam, the Governor of Tennessee.

Governor

A blue ink signature of Sue Wright, the Secretary of State of Tennessee.

Secretary of State

