



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, in 1961 our Nation was experiencing the untoward effects of racial discrimination; and

WHEREAS, in 1946 and 1960, the Supreme Court ruled that interstate transportation modes and interstate transportation facilities must be integrated; and

WHEREAS, in May of 1961, an intrepid band of activists, intent upon making the Supreme Court ruling a reality, departed Washington, DC in buses bound for the south; and

WHEREAS, these Freedom Riders were met with opposition and violence and endured indignities and injuries; and

WHEREAS, the Freedom Riders held fast to their commitment as they continued to face the grim reality of death; however, they reached a point where reorganization and restoration were needed; and

WHEREAS, a group of Nashvillian experienced in the nonviolent methods of the Civil Rights Movement, stepped in and revitalized the Freedom Rides; and

WHEREAS, this action on the part of the Nashville Freedom Riders served to inspire other activists, led to the banning, by the Interstate Commerce Commission, of segregation at interstate highway facilities, and is considered to be a pivotal point in the progression of the Civil Rights Movement;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim November 5, 2011 as

NASHVILLE FREEDOM RIDERS 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 27th day of October, 2011.

Governor

Secretary of State