



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, September 14, 2014, marks the 200th anniversary of the writing of *The Star-Spangled Banner* by Francis Scott Key, a defining moment in the War of 1812, America's second and final war for independence; and

WHEREAS, On March 3, 1931, Key's immortal words were officially declared the National Anthem of the United States of America by House Resolution #14; and

WHEREAS, It was the sight of the large 30 x 42-foot Star-Spangled Banner flag waving over Fort McHenry that directly inspired Francis Scott Key to compose the words of that Anthem; and

WHEREAS, The National Anthem and the American flag have evolved to become the strongest symbols of the spirit and resolve of the American people over the last 200 years; and

WHEREAS, One hundred years ago, on September 12, 1914, over 6,500 Baltimore citizens and schoolchildren donned red, white and blue silk capes and created what they termed "The Human Flag" on the grounds of Fort McHenry in honor of the Centennial anniversary of the writing of *The Star-Spangled Banner*; and

WHEREAS, On September 9, 2014, over 7,000 school students will honor that Centennial event, the 200th anniversary of the writing of the National Anthem, and the American flag, by recreating a larger living fifteen star, fifteen stripe flag on the grounds of Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, an event that will be broadcast nationwide to schools; and

WHEREAS, it is important that students learn how the American flag inspired Key to write the National Anthem; and

WHEREAS, communities can learn more about creating their own living flags at www.starspangledbannerlivingflag.org;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim September 9, 2014 as

Star-Spangled Banner "Living Flag" 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-seventh day of August, 2014.

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

Governor

A blue ink signature of Joe Kerpat, Secretary of State of Tennessee.

Secretary of State

