



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, the order of the Purple Heart for Military Merit is a uniquely American decoration – the oldest military honor in the world in present use and the first award made available to a common soldier; and

**WHEREAS**, on August 7, 1782, General George Washington devised the Badge of Military Merit in the figure of a heart in purple cloth and wrote that it was to be awarded “whenever any singularly meritorious action is preformed”; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 22, 1932, the United States War Department designated this honor as the Purple Heart; and

**WHEREAS**, the Order of the Purple Heart is a combat decoration awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the United States who are wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy and posthumously to the next of kin in the name of those who are killed in action or die of wounds received in action; and

**WHEREAS**, the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the United States of America was chartered by Congress on August 26, 1958, as the only organization of combat wounded veterans; and

**WHEREAS**, residents of Tennessee have a long and distinguished tradition of service to the nation in times of war that the state is recognized as the volunteer state; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee is home to countless veterans and active duty military personnel who have been decorated by presentation of the Purple Heart Medal; and

**WHEREAS**, the blessing of freedom and democracy we enjoy today are the direct result of the courage and sacrifice of generations of such Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, this year makes the 233<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Purple Heart by General George Washington and the State of Tennessee is proud to honor the recipients of this exceptional honor;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the month of February, 2015 as

*Purple Heart Month*

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 ninth day of February, 2015.

*Bill Haslam*

Governor

*Joe Hargett*

Secretary of State