



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, during World War I, a banner displaying a blue star in a field of white and red represented family members serving in the armed forces, only to be replaced by a gold star when a loved one was lost; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1936, our nation saw the first observance of Gold Star Mother's Day, and by the end of World War II the Gold Star Wives had been formed; and

**WHEREAS**, the family members who put our country ahead of their own needs, carry the devastating heartache and pain of losing their loved one while in service; and

**WHEREAS**, despite the pain and loss that they have suffered, these families carry on with the same pride and steadfastness shown by the their loved one who made the greatest sacrifice; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to the mothers and wives, all family members preserve the memories of the brave men and women who have been lost by serving their communities and striving for a better future with great courage and spirit; and

**WHEREAS**, we must honor the great strength and compassion shown by these families as they deal with the loss of their own loved while giving comfort and support to the men and women still serving in the Armed Forces and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, as we celebrate the memories of our Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, and Airmen who served and died for our freedom, let us remember and pay tribute to the parents, spouses, children, grandparents, and other family members left behind who are also paying an immeasurable price; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim May 15, 2015 as

## *Gold Star Family 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 thirtieth day of April, 2015.

Handwritten signature of Bill Haslam in blue ink.

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Governor

Handwritten signature of Julie Bergant in blue ink.

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Secretary of State

