



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, after the end of the Civil War a group of women decorated the graves of Confederate soldiers who had fallen in the battle of Shiloh where they were disturbed by the sight of the bare graves of the Union soldiers, and as an act of kindness they placed flowers on their graves as well; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 5, 1868, Decoration Day was established as a day for the nation to decorate the graves of both Union and Confederate soldiers with flowers; and

**WHEREAS**, towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the day became known as Memorial Day and was expanded to include deceased veterans of all wars fought by American forces, and in 1971 was declared a federal holiday by an act of Congress; and

**WHEREAS**, each year, on the last Monday of May, Tennesseans observe Memorial Day and honor the heroes who have laid down their lives in the cause of freedom, and resolve that they will forever be remembered by a grateful Nation; and

**WHEREAS**, this Memorial Day, each veterans cemetery in Tennessee will proudly bear a small United States flag standing at every headstone; and

**WHEREAS**, on this day we will honor the men and women who gave their lives in the most ultimate and selfless sacrifice so we can enjoy the blessings of freedom and liberty that they fought to protect; and

**WHEREAS**, as the last notes of taps are fading into the warm Tennessee breeze, our pride and remembrance of those heroes that we have known and loved as well as those that are nameless will resonate within our hearts;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim May 25, 2015 as

*Memorial 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 fourteenth day of May, 2015.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Bill Haslam".

Governor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Julie Hargett".

Secretary of State

