



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, on June 6, 1944, D-Day, also known as Operation Overlord, began when more than 150,000 Allied troops landed at five beaches along the heavily fortified coast of Normandy, France; and

WHEREAS, General Eisenhower addressed his troops saying, "You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you"; and

WHEREAS, D-Day saw the largest armada in history, with more than 5,000 ships and landing craft, which fought bitter enemy resistance as the Allies bravely battled to gain the beaches and push inland; and

WHEREAS, on a thickly clouded night more than 20,000 Allied paratroopers courageously dropped into the enemy held lands of Adolf Hitler's "Fortress Europe"; and

WHEREAS, at the end of that longest day, more than 9,000 Allied servicemen had been wounded or had given their lives, but more than 150,000 troops survived to begin the daunting march across Europe to defeat Hitler; and

WHEREAS, while this courageous and extraordinary operation was underway, the American people prayed and the Liberty Bell was rung to symbolize independence and liberty; and

WHEREAS, we must continue to remember the brave and heroic men and women who fought to protect those who had suffered under the cruel and unjust hands of tyranny and to teach our children the importance of their selfless and heroic acts; and

WHEREAS, our nation must honor those Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, and Airmen who earned the title of the "Greatest Generation" due to their valiant and courageous acts, who through their heroic determination changed the fate of the world; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim June 6, 2015 as

D-Day Remembrance 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 first day of June, 2015.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Haslam".

Governor

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe Rye".

Secretary of State

