



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, as Military Governor of the State of Tennessee President Andrew Johnson freed his personal slaves on August 8, 1863; and

WHEREAS, August 8th was a day to celebrate freedom in African American communities beginning in East Tennessee and gaining in popularity across the state in the 1800's; and

WHEREAS, every American deserves the rights and freedoms afforded to them through the United States Constitution and given to them by Tennessee State Constitution; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting to honor and remember a day that brought about freedom from bondage and slavery;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim August 8, 2015, as

Emancipation 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 fifth day of August, 2015.



Bill Haslam

Governor

Julie Knight

Secretary of State