



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, the people of Tennessee recognize the sacrifice of the members of our armed services and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, it is appropriate to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our freedom; and

**WHEREAS**, we remember the families who have lost their loved ones in combat; and

**WHEREAS**, 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Alexander Bonnyman, of Knoxville, Tennessee, was killed in action on November 22, 1943 while serving his country in World War II; and

**WHEREAS**, Bonnyman served with Company F, 2nd Battalion, 18th Marines Regiment, 2nd Marine Division; and

**WHEREAS**, at age 33, Bonnyman lost his life in the battle of Tarawa after several days of intense combat on the island of Betio, in what is now the Republic of Kiribati; and

**WHEREAS**, during this battle, Bonnyman personally led a 21-man team in an attack against Japanese forces holding a large concrete blockhouse; and

**WHEREAS**, he was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for acts of exceptional valor; and

**WHEREAS**, after 72 years, Lieutenant Bonnyman's remains were identified thanks to the efforts of History Flight, Inc., the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) and others; and

**WHEREAS**, Bonnyman's remains will be returned to his native state and laid at rest in Knoxville on September 27, 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, the story of Lieutenant Bonnyman's extraordinary valor and leadership has been shared all over the country for decades, and we are grateful to finally welcome home this hero and iconic Tennessean;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee do hereby proclaim September 27, 2015, as a

*Day of Mourning in Tennessee in remembrance of  
1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Alexander Bonnyman*

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 twenty-second day of September, 2015.

Handwritten signature of Bill Haslam in blue ink.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

Handwritten signature of the Secretary of State in blue ink.

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Secretary of State

