



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, the Bald Eagle was designated as the U.S.A.'s National Emblem on June 20, 1783, by our country's founding fathers at the Second Continental Congress; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bald Eagle is unique to North America, and represents such American values and attributes as freedom, courage, strength, spirit, justice, quality and excellence; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bald Eagle is the central image used in the Great Seal of the United States and in the logos of many elements of the U.S. Government, including the Presidency, Congress, Defense Department, Treasury Department, Justice Department, State Department, Department of Commerce and U.S. Postal Service; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bald Eagle's image, meaning and symbolism have played a significant role in the beliefs, traditions, religions, lifestyles and heritage of Americans from all walks of life, including U.S. military service men and women, American Indians, Christians, and members of various civic, fraternal, patriotic, veterans, youth, conservation, educational, outdoors, nature, sportsman, wildlife, political and sport organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bald Eagle's image, meaning and symbolism have played a significant role in American art, music, literature, architecture, commerce, education, and culture, and are featured on United States stamps, currency and coinage; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bald Eagle, once in danger of extinction, is making a gradual and encouraging comeback to America's skies; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bald Eagle was federally classified as an "endangered species" in the lower 48 states under the Endangered Species Act in 1973, and was upgraded to a less imperiled "threatened" status under that Act in 1995; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of the Interior and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service delisted the Bald Eagle from Endangered Species Act protection in 2007, but the species will continue to be protected under the Bald & Golden Eagle Act of 1940 and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918; and

**WHEREAS**, the recovery of the U.S.A.'s Bald Eagle population was largely accomplished due to the vigilant efforts of numerous caring agencies, corporations, organizations and citizens;

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim June 20, 2012, as

## AMERICAN EAGLE 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 15th day of March, 2012.

Handwritten signature of Bill Haslam in black ink.

Governor

Handwritten signature of Sue Tanglet in black ink.

Secretary of State