



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, in 1949, the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Air Force unified to fall under one department, now known as the Department of Defense; and

WHEREAS, the unification of the Armed Forces prompted then Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson to create Armed Forces Day which would replace each of the individual services days; and

WHEREAS, the theme for the first Armed Forces day was chosen as a way of expressing the unification of the military forces under a single department as well as to expand the public's understanding of what type of job was performed and the role that the military played in civilian life; and

WHEREAS, in 1953, President Dwight D. Eisenhower stated that "It is fitting and proper that we devote one day each year to paying special tribute to those whose constancy and courage constitute one of the bulwarks guarding the freedom of this nation and the peace of the free world; and

WHEREAS, whether at home or across the seas, our service members carry on the proud traditions duty and valor of those who wore the uniform before them; and

WHEREAS, today, we celebrate our men and women of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard who serve and protect our nation with the utmost courage, devotion and pride; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim Saturday, May 16, 2015 as

Armed Forces 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 fifteenth day of April, 2015.

Bill Haslam

Governor

Joe Wright

Secretary of State