



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, thousands of brave Tennesseans have demonstrated their courage and commitment to freedom by serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, both on active duty and in the Tennessee National Guard and Reserves; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee is the 17<sup>th</sup> largest state demographically but the 6<sup>th</sup> largest National Guard state, and the 4<sup>th</sup> most deployed National Guard state in the last ten years; and

**WHEREAS**, there are over 40,000 children and youth with a parent on active duty, in the National Guard or Reserves stationed in Tennessee; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee has committed to be an active participant in the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, which is designed to support military children when they transition from school system to school system across state lines; and

**WHEREAS**, children and youth of our service members are major contributors to the fabric of strength for their parents serving in the armed forces; and

**WHEREAS**, children and youth of our service members continue to make significant contributions to family, schools, communities, our state, and the nation, despite prolonged and repeat absences of one or both parents; and

**WHEREAS**, these children are a source of pride and honor to us all, and it is only fitting that we take the time to recognize their contributions, celebrate their spirit, and let our men and women in uniform know that while they are taking care of us, we are taking care of their children;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the month of April, 2016 as the

*Month of the Military Child*

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 nineteenth day of January, 2016.

*Bill Haslam*

Governor

*Lee Ward*

Secretary of State