



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, in keeping with the tradition of being the "Volunteer State", Tennessee witnessed 315,501 of its soldiers, sailors, and airmen put their lives in harm's way to serve in the various theaters of World War II, with 5,731 making the ultimate sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, on August 14, 1945, the people of the United States received word of Japan's unconditional surrender subsequently ending World War II; and

WHEREAS, news of the Allies' noble victory was greeted around the world with celebrations by those in uniform and on the home front who had fought, worked, and sacrificed greatly since the beginning of the war; and

WHEREAS, this great victory marked the culmination of a national effort that defeated the forces of aggression, brought freedom to subjugated nations, and ended the horrors of the Holocaust; and

WHEREAS, August 14, 1945 marked not only the end of the war, but also the beginning of an unprecedented era of rebuilding, during which the World War II generation created an array of organizations that helped to strengthen American democracy by promoting civic engagement, volunteerism, and service to community and country; and

WHEREAS, the entire World War II generation, military personnel, and civilians alike, have provided a model of unity and community that continually serves as a source of inspiration for current and future generations of Americans to come together to work for the betterment of the United States and the world; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim August 9-16, 2015, as

*WWII 70th Anniversary
Spirit of '45 Commemorative Week*

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 twenty-seventh day of July, 2015.

Handwritten signature of Bill Haslam in blue ink.

Governor

Handwritten signature of Sue Bergatt in blue ink.

Secretary of State

