



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, on July 18, 1979, the first official commemoration of POW / MIAs was held at the National Cathedral in Washington D.C.; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1986, it was proposed that the third Friday in September be the day to annually recognize and remember the POWs / MIAs from all wars as that day is not related with any particular war; and

**WHEREAS**, the National League of Families POW/MIA Flag was recognized by the 101st Congress on August 10, 1990, as "the symbol of our Nation's concern and commitment to resolving as fully as possible the fates of Americans still prisoner, missing and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia, thus ending the uncertainty for their families and the Nation." It has since come to embody that of the POWs/MIAs from all previous wars; and

**WHEREAS**, we, as a nation, still have more than eighty-three thousand Americans missing or unaccounted for since World War II, more than two hundred of which are Tennesseans; and

**WHEREAS**, we must remember those valiant servicemen who sacrificed their freedom and are still missing as well as the everlasting love of their families and friends who still suffer the sorrow and bitterness that war has brought them; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 18, 2015, the stark black and white flag honoring our nations prisoners of war and those still missing in action, will be flown over the Tennessee State Capitol as well as other locations in our towns and cities and throughout the entire country as a symbol of commitment to achieving the fullest possible accounting for the courageous American service members who are still unaccounted for as a result of hostile action;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim September 18 through September 24, 2015, as

*POW/MIA Recognition 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-fourth day of August, 2015.

*Bill Haslam*

Governor

*Joe Vogel*

Secretary of State