

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, April is the month in which the people of the Confederate States of America began and ended a four-year heroic struggle for states' rights, individual freedom, local government control, and a determined struggle for deeply held beliefs; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee supplied many citizen soldiers and officers who fought for their beliefs in the cause of Southern liberty; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee has long recognized its Confederate history, remembering the officers and enlisted men of the Confederate States Army and Navy and those at home who made sacrifices on behalf of their families, homes, communities, and country; and

WHEREAS, the noble spirit and inspiring leadership of the officers, soldiers, and citizens, free and not free, of the Confederate States is an integral part of the history of all America; and

WHEREAS, upon the conclusion of the war, many of these Tennessee Confederate leaders and citizens worked tirelessly to reunite and rebuild this country and forge reconciliation; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee is proud to recognize and celebrate the devotion of her Confederate soldiers and all those from Tennessee who fought and sacrificed in the great struggle that divided families, the nation, and our State; and

WHEREAS, knowledge of the role of the Confederate States of America in the history of our nation and our State is vital to understanding who we are and what we are; and

WHEREAS, it is important for all Tennesseans to honor our past, draw from it courage, strength, and wisdom to reconcile ourselves and go forward into the future together as Tennesseans and as Americans; now, therefore,

I, Randy McNally, Speaker of the Senate of the One Hundred Thirteenth General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, in conjunction with the undersigned, do hereby proclaim that we join with citizens from across this State in commemorating the month of April 2023 as Confederate History Month and encourage all Tennesseans to increase their knowledge of this momentous era in the history of this State.

Proclaimed in Nashville, Tennessee, on this the 3rd day of February 2023.

Randy McNally Speaker of the Senate

> Mark Pody, Sen 17th Senate District