

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: The 13th amendment, which formally abolished slavery in the United States, passed the Senate on April 8, 1864 and the House on January 31, 1865. On February 1, 1865 President Abraham Lincoln approved the Joint Resolution of Congress submitting the proposed amendment to the state legislatures; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas ratified the 13th amendment on April 14, 1865, and the necessary number of states ratified it by December 6, 1865. The 13th amendment to the United States Constitution provides that “Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.”; and

WHEREAS: On April 14, 2015, the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission is sponsoring “Let Freedom Ring Day”. Churches, courthouses and other venues will ring their bells 13 times at 1300 hours to commemorate the passage of the 13th Amendment; and

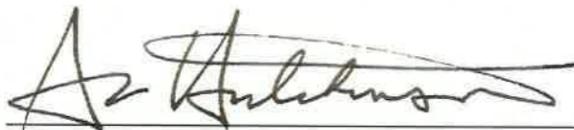
WHEREAS: The State of Arkansas recognizes our society’s rich diversity is one of our greatest strengths and we must work to ensure our laws, our actions, and our words honor the rights and dignity of every human being;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim April 14, 2015, as

LET FREEDOM RING DAY

in the State of Arkansas, and I encourage my fellow citizens to join me in commemorating this momentous event.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 12th day of February, in the year of our Lord 2015.



ASA HUTCHINSON, GOVERNOR

Attest:



MARK MARTIN, SECRETARY OF STATE

