



STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Freedom is the precious cornerstone upon which the Texas worldview is built. Centuries ago, Stephen F. Austin sought to carve a free, prosperous, and just society out of the New World's rugged frontier, and to this end, he led the fabled Old Three Hundred into the land that would become Texas. Propelled by bold, grand ambition, these early settlers dreamt of a better world and worked tirelessly to build it. This noble yearning, though, would require extraordinary sacrifice, and in due time, it would bring Texans into conflict with repressive tyrants and brutal invaders, but our people have long been willing to pay *any* price in the quest for liberty. The sons and daughters of Texas have always answered the call to duty—wherever it may lead—and we have proven in word and deed our desire to defend the very freedom that defines us. Texans have always led the charge in the global fight for freedom, and as a result, the Lone Star shines as a beacon of hope, strength, and honor to all. Our brave men and women in uniform are renowned the world over, and Texans past and present have always known that the freedoms we cherish so dearly have endured only because of our heroic military members.

Ours is a proud military heritage that has been passed down through the generations. The heroes who built and defended Texas are immortalized in the annals of the Lone Star State, and to this day, their memory is kept alive in classrooms, public spaces, and ceremonies. We shall never forget the incredible men whose ennobling desire for freedom gave them the strength to make the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of Texas.

The courageous settlers in Gonzales refused to yield to the Mexican army, and their defiant declaration, "Come and Take It," emboldens us to this day. At the hallowed Alamo, William Barret Travis, James Bowie, Davy Crockett, and their Texian compatriots gave the last full measure of devotion, and from the ashes of destruction arose the enduring spirit of sacrifice that begat our beloved Texas. At Goliad, James Fannin and his men were slain, but their death was not in vain, igniting our righteous fury and strengthening our resolve. On the battlefield of San Jacinto, amid shouts of "Remember the Alamo" and "Remember Goliad," General Houston defeated Santa Anna and emerged victorious against seemingly insurmountable odds.

In subsequent generations, Texans continued to bear the banner of bravery against any foe that dared to oppose us. In World War II, Texan Audie Murphy became America's most decorated soldier, and in the twenty-first century, Chris Kyle—the legendary *American Sniper*—defended Texas' values in the Middle East during the War on Terror. His life, though cut tragically short, proved that the eternal spirit of 1836 is alive well into modernity, and Texas shall always honor his legacy and the values to which he dedicated himself.

For Texans, "Victory or Death" is not a hollow adage—it is a promise. The great Texans of old imbued our people with a fierce independence and an unwavering loyalty—both to our fellow man and to our beloved homeland—and these traits live on in the hearts and minds of all true Texans to this day. This spirit has led countless sons and daughters of Texas to follow in the footsteps of their forebears by taking up the mantle of military service. Time and again, they have proven themselves to be instrumental on the battlefield, and they continue to safeguard our precious freedoms.

During the first full week of February, we pay tribute to all who have sacrificed and served on behalf of the Lone Star State. No matter the battle, no matter the branch—they each deserve our deepest gratitude and reverence. At this time, I encourage all Texans to honor our brave military heroes. They have secured our freedom for generations, and they shall no doubt ensure its survival throughout the ages long.

Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim February 5–11, 2023, to be

Texas Military Heroes Week



in Texas and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof,
I hereby affix my signature, this the
28th day of January, 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Greg Abbott".

Governor of Texas