



WHEREAS, over our nation's history, millions of men and women have made countless personal sacrifices to advance the tenets of freedom, liberty and justice for all, and it is imperative that we continually identify ways to recognize their achievement; and,

WHEREAS, after the American Civil War, the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America, which abolished slavery, was passed by the United States Congress on January 31, 1865, and ratified by the necessary number of states on December 6, 1865; and,

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln, of Springfield, Illinois, was instrumental in providing the leadership and direction necessary to abolish slavery and begin reconstruction; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois became the first state in the nation to ratify the 13th Amendment on February 1, 1865; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois was proud to lead the path in history that establishes equal rights for all people of the United States of America; and,

WHEREAS, the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery in 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, the year of 2015 is the 150th Anniversary of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and this anniversary is a reminder to future generations of the sacrifices made to abolish slavery and establish equality; and,

THEREFORE, I, Bruce Rauner, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim February 3, 2015 as "COMMEMORATION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 13TH AMENDMENT DAY" in Illinois, in recognition of the history of our nation and our state.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,

this THIRD day of FEBRUARY, in

the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and

FIFTEEN, and of the State of Illinois,

one hundred and NINETY-SEVENTH.



Besse White

SECRETARY OF STATE

Bruce Rauner
GOVERNOR