



THE BLUE PAGES TENNESSEE SECRETARY OF STATE Tre Hargett

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TO OUR VETERANS: “THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE.”

*From the
Secretary’s
Desk*

Please join me in honoring our nation’s approximately 25 million veterans on Veterans Day this Friday, November 11. These men and women, along with their families,

have made great sacrifices in demonstrating their dedication and commitment to the high ideals of the United States. They have given generously to the cause of freedom and I’m sure a personal acknowledgment of their sacrifice and commitment found in a simple “thank you for your service” as you encounter veterans this week especially will be appreciated.

I am grateful to live in a state where we openly thank our veterans. Last Sunday afternoon, I had the opportunity to attend the Tennessee Titans football game. My heart swelled with gratitude as the Screaming Eagles of the 101st Airborne out of Fort Campbell were welcomed with a thunderous standing ovation from those in attendance. Holding

true to our roots that identify us as the Volunteer State, it is Tennessee’s deep history of soldiers who have provided service and leadership to our nation in times of war and in peace that gives each of us a sense of pride and identity in these brave men and women.

It is my hope that we say “thank you” not only on November 11th, but also anytime we come face to face with these heroes. We can also find other ways through the use of our time and talents to provide assistance to those who have given so much. Should you want to find a way to help, I encourage you to research the various veterans-related charities found at <http://www.military.com/spouse/content/military-life/military-resources/military-charity-associations.html>.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Secretary of State.

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THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE RECOGNIZED FOR HR POLICIES OFFERING EXCEPTIONAL SUPPORT OF NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE EMPLOYEES

The Department of Defense has announced the Office of the Secretary of State as a semifinalist for the 2011 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award.

The Freedom Award is the Department of Defense's highest recognition given to employers for exceptional support of their employees serving in the National Guard and Reserve Forces. Nominations for The Freedom Award come from Guard or Reserve members who are employed by the organizations they are nominating or from their family members. Frederick Agee, who is on leave from the Administrative Procedures Division, nominated the office.

There were 4,049 nominations submitted by service members in 2011. Only 148 were chosen as semifinalists.

"We are honored to be a semifinalist for the 2011 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award," Secretary Hargett said.



FREDERICK AGEE, ON LEAVE FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES DIVISION, NOMINATED THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR A FREEDOM AWARD.

"Considering the number of organizations that so faithfully support our troops, this recognition is particularly humbling."

The Office of the Secretary of State currently offers 20 days per year of paid leave for any employees who are members of the reserves of

"WE ARE HONORED TO BE A SEMIFINALIST FOR THE 2011 SECRETARY OF DEFENSE EMPLOYER SUPPORT FREEDOM AWARD," SECRETARY HARGETT SAID. "CONSIDERING THE NUMBER OF ORGANIZATIONS THAT SO FAITHFULLY SUPPORT OUR TROOPS, THIS RECOGNITION IS PARTICULARLY HUMBLING."

the United States armed forces. This includes performance of duties and any training activities in the service of the state or federal government.

Employees with family members called to active duty are also eligible for time off under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) to attend certain military functions, handle child care arrangements and make legal or financial arrangements in preparation for active duty. FMLA grants up to 12 weeks per calendar year for Military Exigency.

The Freedom Award is given annually to the nation's 15 most supportive employers.

"The members of our armed forces have my highest regard and admiration for the critical work they do in defending freedom at home and abroad," Secretary Hargett said. 

TENNESSEE STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES PARTNERS WITH ANCESTRY.COM TO MAKE STATE RECORDS MORE WIDELY AVAILABLE

Millions of Tennessee historical records will be readily available to genealogists throughout the country as a result of the State Library and Archives' new partnership agreement with Ancestry.com, an online family history resource which has 1.7 million paying subscribers.

The State Library and Archives is commencing the relationship by sharing Tennessee death records from 1908 through 1959 with Ancestry.com and its users. This database includes 1.2 million digital images and indexes 3.4 million names that appear in those records.

The records are available free to Tennesseans by visiting the Tennessee Electronic Library (TEL) main web page at <http://tntel.tnsos.org/>, then clicking on the "genealogy" tab and then the "Tennessee Death Records" tab.

Gale Williams Bamman, a professional genealogist from Cross Plains who has been using resources at the State Library and Archives for decades, said the partnership with Ancestry.com should pay big dividends for researchers.

"While there is nothing better than doing research in person, having the original documents scanned and online is a great convenience," Ms. Bamman said. "The indexing that Ancestry.com has provided makes the records more accessible than they have ever been. And making the data free to Tennesseans through TEL is an excellent service."

In addition to being able to research their

own family histories, researchers can also use the records to learn about notable Tennessee figures such as Scopes Monkey Trial lawyer and presidential candidate William Jennings Bryan, former governor Austin Peay, Grand Ole Opry star Uncle Dave Macon and Gladys Presley, the mother of Elvis Presley – all of whose death certificates are part of this online collection.

"The State Library and Archives is dedicated to sharing Tennessee's history and the vast store of information contained in our archives," Secretary Hargett said. "The best genealogical and historical research is based on documentary evidence and we are delighted to share this vast collection of documents in a new way. Our partnership with Ancestry.com will help people with Tennessee heritage learn about their ancestors more easily than ever before."

The Tennessee death records from those years, along with other vital records collected from other states, are also available to Ancestry.com subscribers at www.ancestry.com/vitals.

"We are proud that our new relationship with the State Library and Archives will enable more Tennesseans and others to discover greater details of their family history," said Josh Hanna, Executive Vice President and GM, Ancestry.com. "We are looking forward to continuing to offer valuable content from the state of Tennessee on Ancestry.com in the near future." 



SECRETARY HARGETT MODERATES PANEL ON BUSINESS IDENTITY THEFT

Identity theft conjures up images of thieves rummaging through trash cans or trolling the Internet for personal information they can exploit for financial gain.

While individuals are certainly at risk for that type of crime, businesses must guard against identity theft, too.

According to the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS), business identity theft is a growing problem in the United States. In Colorado, for example, more than 300 businesses have been victimized by identity thieves, with their total losses in excess of \$3.5 million.

That is why NASS hosted a forum on the subject in Atlanta last month. Secretary Hargett was the moderator for one of the panel discussions.

Secretaries of State and senior business division leaders from 20 states attended the forum to learn about business identity theft and methods for combating it. NASS plans to release

a white paper highlighting some of the best ideas that were discussed at the forum.

“I want business owners to understand how identity thieves operate and what can be done to protect against identity theft,” Secretary Hargett said. “Protecting Tennessee’s businesses will continue to be a focus of our department in the months ahead.” 🌟



SECRETARY HARGETT (PICTURED ON THE FAR RIGHT IN THE BACK ROW) JOINED OTHER SECRETARIES OF STATE FOR A RECENT FORUM ON BUSINESS IDENTITY THEFT.

NEW BILLBOARDS PROMOTE TENNESSEE ELECTRONIC LIBRARY

The Tennessee Electronic Library (TEL) has launched a statewide billboard campaign to raise awareness about the services it offers to Tennesseans. The campaign includes a total of 20 billboards stretching from Memphis to the Tri-Cities.

TEL is an online resource with more than 400,000 reference materials, journals, essays, podcasts, videos and e-books. It provides free test preparation, family history materials and access to Tennessee’s metropolitan newspapers and the World Book Encyclopedia. Access to TEL is provided at no cost to Tennessee residents and is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week from

any computer or mobile device in the state.

The main goal of the campaign is to spread the word about TEL to the general public and make people aware of the web site address, which is www.tntel.info.

“We’ve done a great job so far letting librarians know about TEL, but it’s time to tell the rest of the state,” TEL Coordinator Wendy Cornelisen said.

The Outdoor Advertising Association of Tennessee donated the space for the billboards as part of its public service program. TEL paid for the materials and production of the billboards with funds provided by the U.S. Institute of

Museum and Library Services.

“We are excited about this opportunity to promote an important part of the Tennessee State Library and Archives,” Secretary Hargett said. “The Tennessee Electronic Library and the Outdoor Advertising Association of Tennessee have done a good job of producing a communications tool that will help inform

Tennesseans about a valuable online resource they can use to improve their knowledge and skills.”

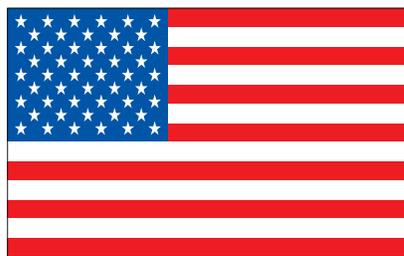
The campaign includes four billboards each in Memphis, Nashville, Knoxville and Chattanooga, two in the Tri-Cities and one each in Jackson and Clarksville. 



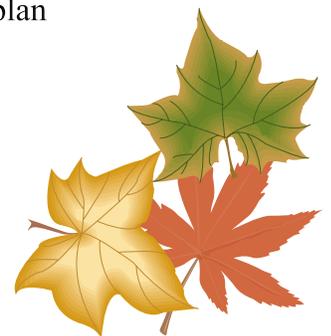
TEL BILLBOARD LOCATED AT WEST MARKET STREET IN JOHNSON CITY.

OFFICE CLOSURES FOR NOVEMBER

Consistent with the practices of other state offices, the Office of the Secretary of State will be closed Nov. 11 in honor of



Veterans Day and Nov. 24 and Nov. 25 in celebration of Thanksgiving Day. If you have business with any of the office’s divisions, please plan accordingly.



RULE MAKING HEARINGS AND LISTS OF RULES

Rule making hearings are open to the public. The web link below will provide information about the location and times of the hearings. Information about the rules going into effect includes changes or additions to rules.

To view the rule-making meeting notices online, go to: <http://tnsos.org/rules/RulemakingHearings.php?>

To view the rules scheduled to go into effect, go to: <http://tnsos.org/rules/PendingRules.php?>

If you have suggestions on how the online posting of the state’s rules could be more “user-friendly,” please contact Cody York at 615-741-2650 or email him at: Cody.York@tn.gov.



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