



# THE BLUE PAGES

## TENNESSEE SECRETARY OF STATE

### Tre Hargett

Vol. 3 No. 10

Our mission is to exceed the expectations of our customers, the taxpayers, by operating at the highest levels of accuracy, cost-effectiveness, and accountability in a customer-centered environment.

### From the Secretary's Desk

Early voting for the Nov. 6 election begins this week in Tennessee. Elections are always a busy and exciting time for our office – and of course this election is no exception. One aspect of my job that I enjoy the most is overseeing elections because they represent the very cornerstone on which our democracy is built.

I encourage all eligible Tennesseans to exercise their right to vote. To serve as a reminder of just how important that right is, our office recently launched the Honor Vote program. This program allows citizens to dedicate their votes to active and former members of our armed services – the people who have sacrificed so much to ensure that

Americans maintain their freedom to participate in the electoral process.

I wish I could take credit for this idea, but the program already exists in several other states. I learned about it during a recent conference sponsored by the National Association of Secretaries of State and decided to bring the program back home to Tennessee.

With a quick visit to our web site ([http://tnsos.net/Elections/honor\\_vote/form.php](http://tnsos.net/Elections/honor_vote/form.php)), people can pick a military or former military designee whom they choose to honor and write personal messages about the honorees. The whole process is free and takes only a few minutes to compete.



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Each participant in the program will receive a letter of thanks from me and an Honor Vote button. I encourage participants to wear their buttons to the polls to show their support for our veterans and active duty military personnel.

So far, participation in this program by Tennesseans has far exceeded our expectations. Based on the numbers of people who have participated in similar programs in other states, we were expecting to get a couple of thousand people to sign up over time. That turned out to be a very conservative estimate. Within the first week of launching the program, we had more than 2,000 people join the Honor Vote program!

I think that's a tremendous credit to Tennesseans and the respect they have for the people dedicated to protecting our national interests. I thank everyone who has participated and encourage others to sign up as well.

This program will not end after the Nov. 6 election. We plan to offer the program in future election cycles as well. Voting and supporting our military personnel are two of the most patriotic acts we can perform as Americans. This program provides a convenient way for people to do both.

As always, I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Secretary of State. If you have questions or comments about what we do, please contact our office. The contact information is available on the last page of this newsletter.




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## TRADEMARK/SERVICE MARK FORMS UPDATED

The Secretary of State's Division of Business Services files and maintains applications for trademarks and service marks under the Tennessee Trade Mark Act of 2000 (TCA 47-25-501 et seq.). There are currently more than 5,000 active Tennessee trademarks.

A trademark is any word, name, symbol, device or combination thereof used by a person to identify goods made or sold and to distinguish them from the goods made or sold by another person. A service mark is used in the same manner, but refers to a provided service instead of a good.

When applying to register a trademark or service mark, the applicant is required to indicate

the class designation of the good or service, as defined by the World Intellectual Property Organization. When the organization recently updated its classification codes, the division took the opportunity to update all of its trademark forms.

You can find the new forms, complete with detailed instructions, on the division's web pages ([www.tn.gov/sos/bus\\_svc/trademarks.htm](http://www.tn.gov/sos/bus_svc/trademarks.htm)). Also posted there are helpful frequently-asked questions and a searchable database of all currently registered Tennessee trademarks and service marks. 

## NEW PROGRAM GIVES VOTERS WAY TO HONOR VETERANS, ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY

Voting and paying tribute to our nation's active and retired armed services personnel are two of the most patriotic acts citizens can perform. A new program launched by the Secretary of State's Office last month allows people to tie the two together.

Secretary Hargett announced the "Tennessee Honor Vote" program, which will provide citizens with an opportunity to dedicate their votes in the upcoming election to the servicemen and servicewomen of their choice.

A new page has been developed on the Secretary of State's web site where people may sign up and dedicate a personal message to one or more active or retired members of the armed forces.

Once the messages have been reviewed, they will be posted online. Each participant in the program will receive an "Honor Vote" button and a letter of appreciation from Secretary Hargett.

The program will begin with dedications for the upcoming Nov. 6 election, but it will continue for future elections as well.

"Members of our armed services fight and sometimes make the ultimate sacrifice to protect our freedoms," Secretary Hargett said. "Their service highlights how important it is for us to exercise our constitutional right to vote. I encourage Tennesseans to participate in this program, which is absolutely free of charge. It only takes a few minutes to sign up and prepare a message. And those messages to our active military and veterans may mean more to them than we'll ever realize."

"More than 27,000 members of the Tennessee National Guard have deployed since 9/11, making Tennessee the fourth largest National Guard state

for deployments," Major General Max Haston, Tennessee's Adjutant General, said. "Many of these soldiers and airmen have seen firsthand in Iraq and Afghanistan just how important the right to cast your vote really is. This is a right we too often take for granted. Nothing means more to a service member than to be appreciated for their selfless service. The Tennessee Honor Vote program is just another way to show your support for the men and women defending the freedoms that we all enjoy."



"It is extremely important to remember and recognize those who have courageously served our state and country, for without their selfless service, we may not be able to hold elections with the democratic right to vote," Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs Commissioner Many-Bears Grinder said. "This is an innovative and unique way to reinforce the importance of voting as well as reminding our service members and veterans that we value and support their service and sacrifice."

To participate in the program, go to: [www.GoVoteTN.com/honor](http://www.GoVoteTN.com/honor) or call toll-free 1-877-850-4959. 

## MEET YOHANNES DUNLAP

Memphis residents Brad and Katie Dunlap bonded with their adopted son, Yohannes, the first time they met him. But they couldn't take him home right away.

The Dunlaps were one of the first families to be affected by a two-trip policy for adoptions that Ethiopia adopted in 2010. Previously, only one trip was required to adopt a child from Ethiopia. However, the African nation began requiring an initial visit so a court could declare parents eligible to adopt the child. On the second trip, parents visit the U.S. embassy, where they officially become the guardians of the child and are then permitted to bring the child home to America.

"It was a crazy but fun day," Katie said of the day they received word that their adoption agency had located a child for them. "Apparently the agency had sent out an e-mail the day before, seeing if anyone was interested in the child and heard nothing back. So we got the referral the day our paperwork was officially in."

After getting court approval on their first trip, they got to meet their soon-to-be adopted son for the first time.



*YOHANNES ON THE FIRST DAY THE FAMILY MET IN ETHIOPIA*

"When we pulled into the transition home where his adoption agency was, there were big metal gates," Katie said. "I remember pulling through them and Brad and I spotted him right away – he was swinging on the swing closest to us and it was so special that he was the first child we saw."



*THE DUNLAP FAMILY*

Parting ways with Yohannes wasn't easy.

"We tried to assure him that we had to return to America to get his room ready and to buy him clothes and toys," Katie said. "It was so hard, and we knew it would be hard, but we looked at it as fortunate to be given more time to experience our son's birthplace firsthand. But we were concerned about how he would respond when we came back – would he be angry, not wanting anything to do with us? Would he think he was abandoned yet again? We didn't know."

When the Dunlaps returned the second time, they received a wonderful welcome from Yohannes.

"Seeing him again is my favorite part of his adoption story and if you asked him too, he would tell you the same thing," Katie said. "We pulled in to the home in the van, with our flip camera in hand, and he was in the courtyard playing with

a soccer ball. He saw us pull in and he threw it down and ran to us.

“We were worried that we had somehow damaged that tiny hint of a relationship we had created the first time, and he must have believed us when we told him we were coming back, and it really couldn’t have gone better.”

*“WE HAVE, AS A FAMILY,  
LEARNED HOW TO SACRIFICE  
SOMETHING FOR SOMEONE ELSE AND  
WE HAVE LEARNED HOW TO LOVE  
SOMEONE IN A DIFFERENT WAY.”  
- KATIE DUNLAP*

The Dunlaps returned to America with their new son to a crowd of family and friends - people who had supported them throughout the adoption process.

“I will never forget walking down off the plane to everyone and seeing all the faces of the people who had invested so much – finances, prayer, encouragement, it really meant a lot to us to have them there,” Katie said.

Although transition to a new home can be difficult, the Dunlaps learned from the experience.

“We have, as a family, learned how to sacrifice something for someone else and we have learned to love someone in a different way,” Katie said. “It’s a good lesson for all of us to have, but a great lesson for my older boys to carry through their life.”



*KATIE AND YOHANNES ON TRIP ONE, DAY TWO*

And her advice for people looking to adopt?

“It’s worth it. A lot of people have to wait and their journey is a lot rockier than ours,” Katie said. “I don’t know why ours went so quickly, but I like to tell people no matter what, it’s worth the wait and the tears and all the paperwork.” 🌟

## INTERNATIONAL ADOPTIONS

Some people may have the impression that the only thing state employees do is push paper around. This story is an example of how state employees positively impact Tennessean’s lives and the lives of children worldwide. International adoptions require an apostille or authentication, depending on the nation of origin, by the secretary of state in the state where the documents were signed. This certification of the signatures’ validity on the documents is much like the notary publics would be on the local level. Apostilles/authentications are processed in the Secretary of State Division of Business Services. About 20,000 apostilles and authentications were processed last year.

Documents may be submitted by mail or in person.

For more information, contact: Division of Business Services, 312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, Snodgrass Tower, 6th Floor, Nashville, TN 37243, 615.741.0536, [business.services@tn.gov](mailto:business.services@tn.gov), or visit [www.tn.gov/sos/bus\\_svc/apostilles.htm](http://www.tn.gov/sos/bus_svc/apostilles.htm)

## TENNESSEE BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT PROMOTES TENNESSEE FRANCHISORS

Tennessee is home to several franchisors whose inventive business concepts have grown into phenomenally successful franchise opportunities for others. In recognition of these innovative and entrepreneurial organizations and the business opportunities they create, October is “Tennessee Franchisors” month.

Tennessee Business Spotlight is a feature on the Secretary of State’s web site that showcases some of the state’s businesses that create jobs, produce quality products and give back to their local communities. People visiting the Tennessee Business Spotlight web page can learn about the selected companies’ goods and services, operations, employment figures, photos and links to web and social media sites that provide more information.

The companies showcased in October are:

- BackYard Burgers, based in Nashville
- Petro’s Chili and Chips, based in Knoxville
- ServiceMaster family of companies, based in Memphis, which includes:
  - o AmeriSpec Inspection Services
  - o Furniture Medic
  - o Merry Maids
  - o ServiceMaster Clean
- ServPro, based in Gallatin

“These franchisors developed sound business opportunities and marketing strategies demonstrating their creativity, ingenuity and perseverance,” Secretary Hargett said. “These franchises create opportunity for aspiring entrepreneurs far beyond our state’s borders while also creating jobs here at home in Tennessee. I commend these organizations for their positive impact on the American business market.”



To visit Tennessee Business Spotlight, go to [www.spotlight.tnsos.net](http://www.spotlight.tnsos.net).

To nominate a company to be recognized in Tennessee Business Spotlight, please visit the web page and click the “Submit a Business” link or call (615) 741-3382. 



## VOTING IN TENNESSEE: IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE

As Tennesseans get ready to vote in the upcoming election, there are some important dates to note in the month of October and early November.



**Wednesday, Oct. 17** The first day of in-person early voting. Please contact your county election commission office to see where you can vote early. You can find the contact information for the 95 election commission offices by visiting [tnsos.org/elections/election\\_commissions.php](https://tnsos.org/elections/election_commissions.php).

**Saturday, Oct. 27** The last day for disabled/elderly voters assigned to inaccessible precincts to notify their election commissions of their intent to vote at the commission offices on Election Day.

**Tuesday, Oct. 30** The last day a written request for an absentee by-mail ballot can be received in an election commission office in order for the

ballot to be issued for the November election. This is also the last day for election commissions to receive physicians' statements allowing voters to be included on permanent absentee voting lists.

**Thursday, Nov. 1** The last day of early voting in Tennessee.

**Tuesday, Nov. 6** Election Day.

**Thursday, Nov. 8** The deadline for bringing acceptable photo IDs to election commission offices in order to have provisional ballots counted.

Remember, any of the following IDs may be used to vote, even if expired:

- Tennessee drivers license with photo
- United States Passport
- Photo ID issued by the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security
- Photo ID issued by the federal or any state government
- United States military photo ID
- State-issued handgun carry permit with photo

A college student ID, library card with photo, and photo IDs not issued by the federal or a state government are NOT acceptable. 🇺🇸

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## A LOOK AT THE LEGEND OF THE BELL WITCH, COURTESY OF TSLA

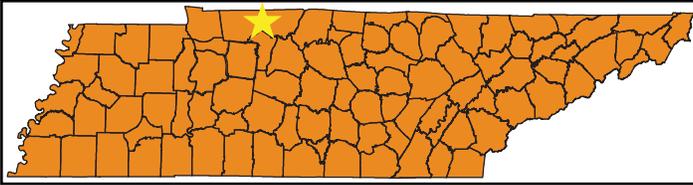
Looking for a ghost story with Tennessee ties to spice up this Halloween season? The Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA) has a wealth of information about the Bell Witch, whose hauntings have been called America's greatest ghost story.

In the decades since it first reportedly manifested itself around the Bell family farm in

Robertson County in the early 19th Century, the Bell Witch has attracted the attention of ghost hunters, skeptics, super naturalists, religious leaders, story tellers, authors, historians, and curious citizens from all over the world.

Here's what historical records available at TSLA show:

The Bell family moved to land in what is now the city of Adams in the early 1800s. When Mr. John Bell Sr., the family patriarch, was out in the cornfields surveying the land, he reportedly saw a “dog-like” creature, which vanished when he fired shots at it.



*ADAMS, TENNESSEE IS LOCATED ABOUT 50 MINUTES NORTHWEST OF NASHVILLE.*

The Bell children began to see strange creatures on the property and hear strange sounds around their house. Later the spirit increased its activity, physically abusing members of the Bell family by striking them, pinching them, and pulling their hair.

One of the witch’s main goals seemed to be the death of John Bell Sr. - “Old Jack Bell,” as the spirit called him - who finally took to bed and was cared for by John Jr. after physical torments, curses, and threats from the witch.

On December 19, 1820, when John Jr. went to the cupboard to retrieve medicine for John Sr., the voice of the witch is said to have gloated, declaring: “It’s useless for you to try to relieve Old Jack – I have got him this time; he will never get up from that bed again.”

John Bell Sr. died the next day. The Bell Witch then crashed the funeral and disrupted the service, singing bawdy drinking songs. Following John Bell Sr.’s death, the witch’s activity dropped off sharply. The spirit was still active through the winter and spring of 1821, but it soon bade the family farewell, telling them it would be gone for

seven years. The family remaining on the property claimed the witch did return in February 1828, but soon vanished again. Despite this, unexplained activity in and around the farm continues.

Various encounters near the property, which is located along the Old Nashville-Clarksville Road, and in the famous Bell Witch Cave still draw tourists and ghost hunters. The Bell Witch has been the subject of countless modern books, analyses, documentaries, and movies, including the 2006 motion picture, *An American Haunting*, which is very loosely based on the Bell Witch legend.

To learn more about the legend of the Bell Witch, visit the Tennessee State Library and



*THE BELL HOUSE, AS IT LOOKED IN 1820*

Archives or view the online exhibit at [www.tennessee.gov/tsla/exhibits/myth/bellwitch.htm](http://www.tennessee.gov/tsla/exhibits/myth/bellwitch.htm).

In addition to books, the library also has vertical file folders containing newspaper clippings and other loose material, which can be helpful to research or fun to peruse.

TSLA’s building is located at 403 Seventh Avenue North, just west of the state Capitol in downtown Nashville. Limited parking is available in front and beside the building. 🇺🇸

## RULEMAKING HEARINGS AND LISTS OF RULES

Rulemaking 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 rulemaking meeting notices online, go to: [tnsos.org/rules/RulemakingHearings.php?](http://tnsos.org/rules/RulemakingHearings.php?)

To view the rules scheduled to go into effect, go to: [tnsos.org/rules/PendingRules.php?](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](mailto:Cody.York@tn.gov).

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Blake Fontenay, Communications Director  
Melissa Fisher, Publications Division

**Secretary of State**  
Tre Hargett  
Tawnie Mathieu, Executive Assistant  
**615-741-2819**

**Administrative Procedures**  
615-741-7008

**Business Services**  
615-741-2286

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