

A PROCLAMATION
BY THE
GOVERNOR

ADVANCE
HOLD FOR RELEASE

-7⁰⁰ PM- CST- DEC 31 1960

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WHEREAS, by Act of September 7, 1957, the Congress of the United States authorized the National Civil War Centennial Commemoration and a National Commission to sponsor this Centennial Observation throughout the Nation; and

WHEREAS, the basic objectives of the Centennial Commemoration are 1) to honor the men and women on both sides of the war for devotion to principle, heroism and sacrifice unsurpassed in the annals of warfare; 2) to foster a better understanding of the war and a deeper appreciation of the great heritage that has come down to us from from the war, and 3) to promote the writing of a more adequate history of the war and the contributions of each State to the war; and

WHEREAS, high ideals and lofty principles that motivated our forebears of the war and the unutterable sacrifices they made in defense of the right as they say it; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Alabama authorized by an Act approved by the Governor on September 28, 1959, the creation of the Alabama Civil War Centennial Commission to sponsor throughout the State a coordinated series of Centennial programs that will do justice to the great role played by Alabama in the War Between the States:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN PATTERSON, Governor of the State of Alabama, do hereby designate January 8, 1961, as the official date of the

BEGINNING OF THE CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION IN ALABAMA

of the Civil War or War Between the States, a date which coincides with the official beginning of the Centennial commemoration throughout the Nation and one which is also significant in view of the fact that the Secession Convention of Alabama was in session at Montgomery 100 years ago on this date, having assembled on the previous day.

I call upon the people in every community of the State to actively support the Centennial commemoration to the end that Alabama's great story in the war may be adequately told and the State may have a conspicuous place among its sister States in the Centennial observance.

Since the church of the State made great spiritual and many valuable temporal contributions to the war, I respectfully suggest that the ministers may very appropriately set the tone of the Centennial at their morning services on Sunday, January 8, 1961, by the ringing of their church bells at 11 A.M., by fitting remarks about the war and the purposes of the Centennial, and by prayers for world peace and for the country of the men in the Blue and Gray and their descendants.

As the schools of the State will have an active part in the restudy of the war and in the Centennial itself, I urge that in the week following the official opening of the Centennial on January 8, 1961, that each school plan a brief discussion of the war and the purposes of the Centennial both in classes and in assemblies.



ATTEST:

Betty Frank
SECRETARY OF STATE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State to be affixed, done at the Capitol in the City of Montgomery, on this the 30th day of December, 1960.

John Patterson
GOVERNOR