



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**EXECUTIVE ORDER**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

No. 56

**AN ORDER RENAMING THE TENNESSEE PRISON FOR WOMEN  
AS THE DEBRA K. JOHNSON REHABILITATION CENTER**

**WHEREAS**, Debra K. Johnson was a brave and dedicated public servant who tragically lost her life in the line of duty on August 7, 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Johnson served the state and Tennessee Department of Correction with distinction for 38 years; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Johnson began her career as a Correctional Officer and steadily rose through the ranks before being promoted to Deputy Warden of the Tennessee Prison for Women in 2005, Deputy Warden of the Lois M. DeBerry Special Needs Facility in 2009, Warden of the Tennessee Prison for Women in 2011, and Warden of the Turney Center Industrial Complex in 2013; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2016, Ms. Johnson was promoted to Correctional Administrator, and, by 2019, she oversaw four correctional institutions in the western region of the State of Tennessee; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Johnson held the admiration and respect of fellow employees and was regarded as a knowledgeable professional whose positivity and support made her a mentor and role model to others; and

**WHEREAS**, in carrying out the Department's mission to enhance public safety, Ms. Johnson worked tirelessly to support and coach offenders in rehabilitation efforts and programs; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Johnson was a devoted daughter, sister, mother, and grandmother; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Tennessee has benefitted immeasurably from Ms. Johnson's law enforcement and corrections service, professional and personal contributions, integrity, and valor; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tennessee Prison for Women, located in Nashville, is the primary prison for female offenders in the state and offers a range of educational and vocational programs to serve the rehabilitative needs of offenders; and

**WHEREAS**, permanently renaming the Tennessee Prison for Women to honor and remember the life and legacy of Debra K. Johnson is appropriate and fitting.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Tennessee Constitution and other applicable law, do hereby direct and order that the Tennessee Prison for Women shall be known from this day forward as the Debra K. Johnson Rehabilitation Center, and all signage and other materials shall reflect this change.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have subscribed my signature and caused the Great Seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed this 6th day of August, 2020.

  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

  
SECRETARY OF STATE

