



Proclamation

By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, the Birmingham Sunlights was organized in October 1978, by brothers Barry Taylor, James Taylor, Steve Taylor and Karlyn Smith. Over the years later, former members Eddie Washington, Wayne Williams, Reginald Speight and Everette Taylor, Jr. (deceased) were added to the group. Currently, Barry Taylor, James Taylor, Steve Taylor, Bill Graves, Brandon Taylor and Alfred Rodgers, respectively, are now the Birmingham Sunlights; and

WHEREAS, the Birmingham Sunlights have committed to advancing the musical art form of traditional acappella gospel that is rooted in the steel mills and coal mines of Jefferson County, Alabama. The Birmingham Sunlights have stayed true to their mission of carrying on a tradition of four-part acappella harmony inherited from older quartets such as the Sterling Jubilees, the Shelby County Big Four and the Four Eagles, by entertaining, educating and sharing with people all over the world the smooth "Sounds of the South;" and

WHEREAS, the Birmingham Sunlights have continued their community concerts and have sung at the National Folk Festival, Carnegie Hall, on the National Mall, served as U.S. Cultural Ambassadors, and toured Europe, Venezuela, Switzerland, five African countries, Canada, Australia, Italy, France, and the Caribbean; and

WHEREAS, the National Endowment for the Arts honored the Birmingham Sunlights with a National Heritage Fellowship Award in 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Birmingham Sunlights celebrates their 40th year of presenting the "Birmingham Sound" that traditional African American acappella vocal harmony, which has so influenced American popular music, and is among the most remarkable of Alabama's cultural jewels;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim October 21st through October 28th, 2018, as

The Birmingham Sunlights Week

and October 21, 2018, as

The Birmingham Sunlights Day

in the State of Alabama in recognition of the Birmingham Sunlights' contributions to this State, and in honor of the countless awards and recognitions secured by their pursuit of excellence.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on the 1st day of June 2018.

Kay Ivey
Kay Ivey, Governor