



Proclamation

By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, more than 50,000 Alabamians either serve in the military or are working as Department of Defense civilians; and

WHEREAS, every day, four installations across Alabama make a significant, global impact on our national security; and

WHEREAS, Redstone Arsenal is an Army installation and Federal Center of Excellence that is the economic engine of north Alabama. The Arsenal has a total annual economic impact of \$18 billion, which is equivalent to more than eight percent of the state's GDP. Every day employees provide critical support in Army readiness and logistics; space operations and missile defense; intelligence and homeland security; and research, development, testing, and engineering; and

WHEREAS, Maxwell Air Force Base provides the foundation for Airmen success at Air University, the intellectual and leadership center of the Air Force. Critical to national security, the more than 12,500 personnel on the Base ensure Airmen are ready to deploy in support of U.S. military operations worldwide. Maxwell Air Force Base and Gunter Annex are estimated to have an economic impact of \$2.6 billion annually across a three-county region; and

WHEREAS, Fort Rucker is the U.S. Army's Aviation Center of Excellence. More than 14,000 Soldiers and civilians train, educate and develop Army Aviation professionals and integrate Aviation capabilities across warfighting functions in support of commanders and Soldiers on the ground. Fort Rucker is the fifth largest employer in Alabama and the largest employer south of Montgomery; and

WHEREAS, Anniston Army Depot is a state-of-the-art maintenance facility recognized for its heavy combat vehicle, small arms weaponry and locomotive expertise. The Department of Defense's Center of Industrial and Technical Excellence for combat vehicles (minus the Bradley) employs nearly 4,000 employees and operates a more than \$550 million operating budget; and

WHEREAS, in Alabama the U.S. Army Reserves has a large presence with nearly 30 facilities across the state, more than 5,000 Soldiers and 200 civilians that create an approximate \$245 million-dollar economic impact. These Soldiers answer the call when needed and enrich the strength of our Army, defending the nation both at home and abroad; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama National Guard provides critical support to our state and the nation, since September 11, 2001, more than 25,000 Alabama National Guard Soldiers and Airmen have deployed and currently approximately 1,000 are deployed; and

WHEREAS, the Coast Guard Aviation Training Center in Mobile is a multi-mission unit, acting as the Coast Guard's aviation and capabilities development center, proving core training for rotary wing and fixed wing pilots, rescue swimmers and aircrews for air stations Coast Guard wide;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim February 15, 2018, as

Military Appreciation Day

in the State of Alabama.



*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 15th day of February 2018.*

Kay Ivey
Kay Ivey, Governor