



**TREATY OF PEACE
[CYTUNDEB HEDDWCH]
BETWEEN
COAL CREEK MINERS AND THE
TENNESSEE NATIONAL GUARD**



Whereas, after organizing in 1774 to face a threat from Shawnee Indians, the Tennessee Militia led by John Sevier and Isaac Shelby joined other colonial militiamen to attack Maj. Patrick Ferguson's Corps, which was protecting the left flank of Lord Cornwallis' army during the American Revolution. That 1780 Battle of Kings Mountain was the turning point against Britain's southern campaign during our Nation's fight for freedom; and

Whereas, Maj. Gen. Andrew Jackson, commander of the Tennessee Militia, who eventually became the seventh U.S. president, penned these words to Pvt. David Crockett, Lt. Sam Houston and 5,000 other militiamen as they mobilized for the War of 1812: *With little notice, these citizen-soldiers left their jobs and families, laying the cornerstone for Tennessee's "volunteer" tradition;* and

Whereas, Jackson's troops defeated a veteran British Army at the Battle of New Orleans during the War of 1812; and

Whereas, many Tennessee militiamen, including Crockett and his band of Tennessee Mounted Volunteers, died defending the Alamo in 1836 in Texas' fight for independence; and

Whereas, Tennesseans served on both sides during the Civil War, with the Provisional Army of Tennessee serving as the core of the Confederate Army in the western theater and roughly 31,000 Tennesseans—primarily from eastern Tennessee—providing more soldiers to the Union cause than all other Confederate states combined; and

Whereas, community leaders in East Tennessee saw development of the area's coal, iron, zinc, and copper reserves as the way to rebuild from the Civil War, but lacked the skill to do so. Welsh [*Cymry*] miners and industrial workers provided that expertise, teaching native Tennesseans those skills; and

Whereas, Tennessee's 45th General Assembly in 1887 established the Tennessee National Guard, as it is known today, thus making the Coal Creek War of 1891 to 1892 its first engagement. From the Guard's base of operations at Fort Anderson on Militia Hill, it finally subdued the Coal Creek miners, but no peace treaty was signed. According to the Tennessee Blue Book, a History of Tennessee, *Violence in the coal fields peaked during the summer of 1892, when state militia fought pitched battles with armed miners, arrested over 500 of them, and killed 27. The miner uprisings prodded the General Assembly to end convict leasing, making Tennessee one of the first Southern states to get rid of the system;* and

Whereas, Colonel Kellar Anderson and Colonel J. Perry Fyffe, veterans of the Coal Creek War, led two of Tennessee's four regiments during the Spanish-American War of 1898; and

Whereas, other veterans of the Coal Creek War died in mine explosions at Fraterville in 1902 and Briceville (Cross Mountain) in 1911. Education was important to the Welsh, so most in those communities were literate. Poignant farewell letters they wrote before suffocating in the mines raised public awareness about the dangers of early 20th coal mining, leading to advances in mine safety. Fittingly, one of the first successful mine rescues occurred at Cross Mountain; and

Whereas, as part of the 30th Division in World War I, Tennessee units earned fame as the first to break the Hindenburg Line, hastening the end of the war, for which five Tennessee Guardsmen earned Congressional Medals of Honor, more than any other division in the theater; and

Whereas, during World War II, the 117th Infantry Regiment, primarily Tennessee Guardsmen, defended against Adolf Hitler's 1st SS Panzer Division, preventing the Germans from splitting the 1st and 3rd Allied Armies. It also made a stand during the Battle of the Bulge, once again defeating Hitler's 1st SS Panzer Division. The 117th received five presidential unit citations by the end of the war, making it one of the most decorated Army infantry regiments; and

Whereas, coal miners have continued to provide the fuel that keeps our lights on; and

Whereas, members of the Tennessee National Guard have continued to serve with distinction and honor in Korea, Vietnam, and the Gulf, with nearly 20,000 Tennesseans having been deployed since 2001 for the global war on terror.

Now therefore, be it resolved that the Coal Creek miners achieved their mission of ending the convict lease system in Tennessee while fueling the industrial revolution. Furthermore, the Tennessee National Guard continues to achieve its historic dual mission, providing the state with units trained and equipped to protect life and property, while providing the Nation with units ready to defend the United States and its interests around the world.

**In recognition of the above, this treaty of peace is hereby signed on this 17th day of May, 2013, thus ending the Coal Creek War.
[Ar gydnabod yr uchod, llofnodir y cytundeb heddwch hwn ar yr 17eg o Fai 2013, gan ddod â therfyn i Ryfel Nantglo.]**

Signed on behalf of:

Coal Creek Miners
