TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DESIGNATES LAKE COUNTY AS EAGLE CAPITAL OF THE STATE

Tiptonville, Tenn. (April 27, 2026) — Lake County is celebrating a milestone that honors both its natural beauty and its long-standing reputation as a premier destination for wildlife enthusiasts. With the passage of House Bill 1981 and Senate Bill 1615, the Tennessee General Assembly has officially designated Lake County as the Eagle Capital of Tennessee**.**

This new designation recognizes the county's extraordinary population of eagles and its decades-long commitment to conservation, education, and ecotourism. As noted in the legislation, "*Lake County has become a mecca for eagle enthusiasts, annually holding the Reelfoot Lake Eagle Festival, attracting bird watchers from far and wide*."

The area is home to over ninety active eagle nests, and each winter migrating eagles gather around Reelfoot Lake and the Mississippi River, creating one of the most remarkable wildlife spectacles in the region.

"Reelfoot Lake State Park proudly celebrates the Tennessee General Assembly's official designation of Lake County as the *Eagle Capital of Tennessee",* Doug Robertson, Reelfoot Lake State Park Manager shared. "This recognition reflects the extraordinary natural resources found here at Reelfoot Lake, where the largest concentration of wintering bald eagles in the state can be observed each year. Each season, visitors from across the country travel to Lake County to experience the beauty and majesty of these iconic birds. We are honored to play a role in preserving this habitat and sharing it with the public, and we are proud to be part of a community now officially recognized as the Eagle Capital of Tennessee."

Eagle-watching tours are available in January and February drawing visitors from across the country, providing a meaningful economic boost to Lake County and the Reelfoot Lake area through lodging, dining, photography excursions, and guided outdoor experiences. As the bill states, these activities "*provide a positive economic impact for Lake County from the many overnight visitations for eagle watching, photography, and tours*."

With the Eagle Capital designation now enshrined in state law, Lake County leaders say the recognition will further elevate the region's profile as a

premier destination for nature lovers, bird watchers, and families seeking outdoor adventure.

“Reelfoot Lake and the bald eagles that call it home are truly magical and unlike anywhere else in the country,” said Commissioner Mark Ezell, Tennessee Department of Tourist Development. “This designation recognizes what visitors and locals alike have known for years. Lake County offers a one-of-a-kind experience that brings visitors in, supports local businesses and creates real impact for the community.”

Reelfoot Lake Tourism Council invites you to visit the Reelfoot Lake area to enjoy the unique ecosystem of Tennessee’s only large natural lake surrounded by century-old cypress trees and walking trails. Visit Freedom Silo showcasing America’s largest full-body eagle and American flag mural on a 90-foot-tall silo.

For more information about eagle tours, events, and conservation efforts, visitors are encouraged to contact Reelfoot Lake Tourism Council, Reelfoot Lake State Park or the Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge.