



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

ASSISTANCE DOG WEEK

- WHEREAS: Assistance dogs transform the lives of their human partners by providing specific services that support an individual's physical, mental, or emotional disability; and
- WHEREAS: Assistance dogs include guide dogs, hearing dogs, service dogs, seizure alert dogs, and medical alert and medical response dogs. These animals are essential in offering those with disabilities an opportunity to maintain safe and independent lives; and
- WHEREAS: Guide dogs assist individuals who are blind or visually-impaired by guiding them safely around physical obstacles and directing them to various destinations, such as available seating, crosswalks, elevators, and stairways. Hearing dogs alert individuals with hearing loss to the presence of specific sounds that are necessary for everyday safety and comfort, such as doorbells, telephones, sirens, and smoke or fire alarms; and
- WHEREAS: Service dogs are individually trained to assist those with varying types of disabilities by performing certain tasks proven difficult for the owner, such as retrieving and carrying items, opening doors and drawers, and pushing buttons. Seizure alert dogs alert their owner and others to medical conditions, such as seizures and epilepsy, and help to relieve an owner's dizziness, balance problems, or chronic pain. Medical alert and medical response dogs alert or respond to oncoming medical conditions, such as a stroke, panic attack, anxiety attack, blood sugar warnings, epilepsy, and post-traumatic stress disorder; and
- WHEREAS: Assistance dogs offer individuals the ability to address and potentially overcome disability-related limitations. They are devoted partners and companions whose service helps to ensure an owner's overall health and well-being; and
- WHEREAS: Assistance Dog Week presents an opportunity to raise awareness of the services provided by assistance dogs and recognize their vital role in helping those with disabilities overcome daily struggles and maintain self-sufficient lifestyles; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim August 6-12, 2017, as ASSISTANCE DOG WEEK in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 30th day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen.



Nathan Deal

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley

CHIEF OF STAFF