



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, assistance dogs transform the lives of their human partners with physical, mental and/or emotional disabilities; and

WHEREAS, they serve as devoted partners, companions, helpers, aides, best friends and close family members; and

WHEREAS, assistance dogs include guide dogs, hearing alert dogs, service dogs and seizure alert/response dogs; and

WHEREAS, guide dogs assist people with vision loss, leading these individuals around physical obstacles and to destinations such as seating, crossing streets, entering or exiting doorways, elevators and stairways, etc.; and

WHEREAS, hearing alert dogs alert people with a hearing loss to the presence of specific sounds such as doorbells, telephones, crying babies, sirens, another person, buzzing timers or sensors, knocks at the door as well as smoke, fire and clock alarms; and

WHEREAS, service dogs assist people with disabilities walking, balance, dressing, transferring from place to place, retrieving and carrying items, opening doors and drawers, pushing buttons, pulling wheelchairs and aiding with household chores such as putting in and removing clothes from the washer and dryer; and

WHEREAS, seizure alert/response dogs alert or respond to medical conditions, such as seizures, epilepsy, dizziness, balance issues and chronic pain; and

WHEREAS, medical alert/medical response dogs alert or respond to oncoming medical conditions, such as heart attack, stroke, diabetes, epilepsy, panic attack, anxiety attack, post-traumatic stress disorder; and

WHEREAS, International Assistance Dog Week, August 6-12, 2017, provides an opportunity to raise awareness of the selfless way all types of assistance dogs assist individuals with mitigating their disability-related limitations; and

WHEREAS, My Assistance Dog Inc. is joining forces with assistance dog partners, organizations, and concerned citizens throughout the State of Tennessee and America to raise awareness of assistance dogs and observe International Assistance Dog Week;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim August 6-12, 2017 as

Assistance Dog Week

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this twenty-seventh day of June, 2017.

Bill Haslam

Governor

Joe Hatfield

Secretary of State