



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, service dogs are specially trained to perform specific tasks for people with disabilities such as retrieving objects, assisting with balance, providing seizure or diabetic alerts and assisting those with mental health issues; and

WHEREAS, service dogs serve our nation's wounded warriors suffering from conditions including post-traumatic stress syndrome (PTSD) and traumatic brain injury; and

WHEREAS, these pups demonstrate the amazing healing power of the human/animal bond. They are loyal, devoted, loving, and dependable; and

WHEREAS, both expertly-trained service dogs and ongoing support are needed to ensure quality partnerships that empower people with disabilities to live life with greater independence; and

WHEREAS, nonprofit organizations who ensure the best match between a service dog and their handler plus provide quality training to both can be an important factor in a positive outcome; and

WHEREAS, unfortunately a substantial gap exists between the number of trained service dogs and the number of people awaiting their life-changing canine partnership; and

WHEREAS, during the month of September individuals and organizations devoted to this work are focused on increasing education, awareness, and support while highlighting the canines who making the difference;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim September as

Service Dog Month

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 sixteenth day of August 2023.



Bill Lee

Governor

Lee Dargatz

Secretary of State