



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 who suffer 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 are making the difference;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim September 2024 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 first day of August 2024.

*Bill Lee*

Governor

*Joe Wargrett*

Secretary of State