

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

25-120

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

October 3, 2023

To recognize and declare September 2023 to be Service Dog Month in the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, service dogs are trained to assist individuals with disabilities in essential daily tasks, increasing independence and improving quality of life;

WHEREAS, service dogs perform essential tasks, such as guiding people with visual impairments, signaling sounds for those who are deaf, retrieving items for those with mobility issues, and alerting about impending health episodes;

WHEREAS, to support individuals with disabilities, businesses and nonprofits open to the public and state and local governments are required to allow service dogs to go most places members of the public can go;

WHEREAS, in the United States, 64 million adults and children have a disability, including more than 116,000 adults in the District;

WHEREAS, only 16,000 service dogs from accredited training programs exist nationwide and the need is growing;

WHEREAS, public understanding of service dogs' training, tasks, and importance can improve service dogs' ability to provide assistance;

WHEREAS, Service Dog Month aims to educate our community about the benefits of service dogs and the laws protecting them; and

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia continues to work toward becoming an inclusive community in which all citizens, and their service dogs, are embraced fully in social and economic life.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Service Dog Month Recognition Resolution of 2023".

Sec. 2. The Council recognizes September 2023 as Service Dog Month in the District of Columbia, in support of individuals with disabilities' right to use service dogs and in recognition

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of service dogs and the support and services they provide to adults and children with disabilities in our community.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.