

Senate Resolution 200

By: Senators Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, Payne of the 54th, Parent of the 44th, Albers of the 56th and Orrock of the 36th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending HOPE AACR (Animal-Assisted Crisis Response); and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, HOPE AACR (Animal-Assisted Crisis Response) was incorporated as a
4 501(c)(3) in 2001 with the mission of providing comfort and encouragement to individuals
5 affected by crises and disasters through animal-assisted support; and

6 WHEREAS, consisting of highly trained handlers and crisis-response canines, HOPE AACR
7 teams are prepared to support mental health professionals on location and adapt to
8 unpredictable situations, often deploying on short notice; and

9 WHEREAS, HOPE AACR response teams are extensively trained in the Incident Command
10 System, First Aid/CPR for both humans and canines, emotional first aid techniques, and
11 trauma recognition, enabling them to respond effectively to emotionally and environmentally
12 intense situations; and

13 WHEREAS, the organization's teams work alongside local and national response agencies
14 such as Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster, FEMA, the National Organization for
15 Victim Advocacy, the Salvation Army, and the American Red Cross as well as with fire

16 departments, law enforcement agencies, schools, and the United States Secret Service, Coast
17 Guard, Navy, and National Guard; and

18 WHEREAS, in the aftermath of hurricanes Debbie, Helene, and Milton, HOPE AACR
19 response teams deployed to the Florida State Operations Center in Tallahassee, supported
20 staff working at the FEMA Region IV Regional Response Coordination Center in Atlanta,
21 and assisted impacted communities in South Georgia; and

22 WHEREAS, in 2024 alone, HOPE AACR's Southeast Region logged close to 150 volunteer
23 hours and engaged in 1,200 meaningful interactions with Georgia disaster victims; and

24 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this outstanding organization be
25 appropriately honored.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
27 recognize and commend the volunteers and canines of HOPE AACR (Animal-Assisted Crisis
28 Response) for their dedicated, effective, and selfless service on behalf of those in need as
29 well as extend best wishes for continued success.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
31 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to HOPE AACR
32 (Animal-Assisted Crisis Response).