

# Proclamation



*Jane Castor, Mayor*

**WHEREAS**, dogs have been a part of human families since the end of the Ice Age, and they have been domesticated and evolved into diverse and valuable animals with approximately 300 different breeds with distinct and unique traits and personalities; and

**WHEREAS**, skilled and trained service dogs can be of great benefit to a person who may have physical and mental challenges who may need assistance with daily chores including opening doors, retrieving items, and alerting the individual of an upcoming event such as a seizure, and they provide comfort, support, safety, and companionship; and

**WHEREAS**, there are approximately 5,000 service dogs throughout the United States, and while they provide a valuable service to those they assist, most often these loyal dogs become a member of the family and are beloved and appreciated by the person they serve and their family members; and

**WHEREAS**, established in 2008 and designated annually each September, *National Service Dog Month* is celebrated to show appreciation to our four-legged friends who play such a huge role in the lives of human beings, to recognize their importance in significantly enhancing the quality of life of those they assist, and to pay tribute to the special training involved for their success; and

**WHEREAS**, the oldest and largest nonprofit service dog organization in the United States, **Canine Companions** was established in 1975 and has six centers, including the Southeast Regional office in Orlando, Florida that serves the Tampa Bay area, and it is dedicated to quality in-class training and cutting-edge research, and it expertly trains assistance dogs who provide support for children, adults, and military veterans, at no cost, so those individuals can live their lives to the fullest, and the organization also train facility dogs for professionals working in healthcare, criminal justice, and educational settings; and

**WHEREAS**, Canine Companions is dedicated to its mission of being the lead in the service dog industry so that their dogs and clients can optimally live with greater independence, and with inclusion whereby citizens and their service dogs are respected, and the organization is fully committed to providing outstanding services to all qualified clients and it remains true to its core values of *Teamwork, Compassionate Service, Integrity, Community, Excellence, and Innovation*.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as the Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim the month of September 2022 as

## ***“NATIONAL SERVICE DOG MONTH”***

in the city of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to join in support of this awareness initiative and in thanking the Canine Companions organization and their community supporters for partnering people and dogs for a beneficial relationship that fosters independence and love.

Dated in Tampa, Florida this 31<sup>st</sup> day of August, 2022.

  
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Mayor

