



June 2nd, 2016

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Governor of the State of South Carolina
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley,

My named is Edward Crane and I am the President of a nonprofit organization, called: "My Assistance Dog Inc.", located in Clovis, California.

"My Assistance Dog Inc." a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization striving to provide the disabled community the most reliable, up-to-date, useful information about acquiring, working with, and benefiting from an "Assistance Dog". But we're also enthusiastic about sharing news and other content to promote awareness and acceptance in the community at large and advancement in the industry.

Governor Haley, I am writing to you today, seeking your assistance in obtaining, a "Proclamation" from you to acknowledge:

"International Assistance Dog Week", August 7 -13, 2016.

During this special week we recognize all the devoted, hardworking assistance dogs helping individuals mitigate their disability related limitations. Assistance dogs transform the lives of their human partners with debilitating physical and mental disabilities by serving as their companion, helper, aide, best friend and close member of their family.

During "International Assistance Dog Week", we recognize and honor the hardworking assistance dogs; raise awareness and educate the public about how these specially trained animals are aiding so many people in our communities; honor the puppy raisers and trainers of assistance dogs; and recognize heroic deeds performed by assistance dogs in our communities. The celebration takes place each year, starting on the first Sunday of August.

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Governor Haley, assistance dogs not only provide a specific service to their partners, but also greatly enhance the quality of their lives with a new sense of freedom and independence. It is important that we recognize and honor the wonderful work that they do for us and this "Proclamation" from you is an important part of this worldwide recognition.

Thank you for your time and for considering my request.

Sincerely,



Edward Crane
President
My Assistance Dog Inc.



August 7-13, 2016

www.assistancedogweek.org

2016 International Assistance Dog Week Fact Sheet

When is it?

International Assistance Dog Week is August 7-13, 2016.

What is it?

International Assistance Dog Week was created to recognize all the devoted, hardworking assistance dogs helping individuals mitigate their disability-related limitations

What do assistance dogs do?

Assistance Dogs transform the lives of their human partners with debilitating physical and mental disabilities by serving as their companion, helper, aide, best friend and close member of their family.

What are the goals of International Assistance Dog week?

The goals are to recognize and honor the hardworking assistance dogs; raise awareness and educate the public about how these specially trained animals are aiding so many people in our communities; honor the puppy raisers and trainers of assistance dogs; and recognize heroic deeds performed by assistance dogs in our communities.

Are all assistance dogs retrievers or are they other breeds as well?

Assistance Dogs can be from a variety of breeds including, but not limited to: Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, Standard Poodles, as well as shelter dogs.

Where can I get more information about Assistance Dogs?

You can go to the websites for International Assistance Dog Week (www.assistancedogweek.org) and Working Like Dogs (www.workinglikedogs.com). You can also check out Assistance Dogs International (www.assistancedogsinternational.org) and the International Association of Assistance Dog Partners (www.iaadp.org).

What kind of activities can I take part in during International Assistance Dog Week?

You can take part in an event someone else is organizing in your community or organize your own. It can be small or large. See the list of suggested events that is part of this package or find it posted on the International Assistance Dog Week website, www.assistancedogweek.org.

International Assistance Dog Week

PO Box 4578

Santa Fe, NM 87502

1-866-445-3647

International Assistance Dog Week is a program of Soulful Presence, a 501(c) 3 organization

Who is sponsoring International Assistance Dog Week?

International Assistance Dog Week was established due to the efforts of Marcie Davis, a paraplegic for over 35 years and CEO of Davis Innovations, a consulting firm based in Santa Fe, NM. Davis is the author of “Working Like Dogs: The Service Dog Guidebook,” and she is the host of the Internet radio program, “Working Like Dogs,” at www.petliferadio.com. International Assistance Dog Week is facilitated as a program of Soulful Presence, a nonprofit Davis established to empower underserved populations.

What types of assistance dogs are there?

While many people are familiar with Guide Dogs, those that assist people with vision loss, not as many people are aware of the other types of assistance dogs working today. Here is a description of the various types of assistance dogs:

Guide Dogs – Assist people with vision loss, leading these individuals around physical obstacles and to destinations such as seating, crossing streets, entering or exiting doorways, elevators and stairways.

Service Dogs – Assist people with disabilities with walking, balance, dressing, transferring from place to place, retrieving and carrying items, opening doors and drawers, pushing buttons, pulling wheelchairs and aiding with household chores, such as putting in and removing clothes from the washer and dryer.

Hearing Alert Dogs – Alert people with a hearing loss to the presence of specific sounds such as doorbells, telephones, crying babies, sirens, another person, buzzing timers or sensors, knocks at the door or smoke, fire and clock alarms.

Seizure Alert/Seizure Response Dogs – Alert or respond to medical conditions, such as heart attack, stroke, diabetes, epilepsy, panic attack, anxiety attack, post-traumatic stress and seizures.

Medical Alert/Medical Response Dogs – Alert to oncoming medical conditions, such as heart attack, stroke, diabetes, epilepsy, panic attack, anxiety attack, and posttraumatic stress disorder.

Are assistance dogs allowed to go in to restaurants and other businesses even though other pets can't?

Yes, assistance dogs are allowed to accompany their human partners to places of business including restaurants and shops. Under state law and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), they are guaranteed equal access to any and all establishments and accommodations; no extra charge can be levied because of the dog.

2016 International Assistance Dog Week Sample Proclamation

International Assistance Dog Week, August 7-13, 2016

Whereas, assistance dogs transform the lives of their human partners with physical and mental disabilities;

Whereas, they serve as devoted companions, helpers, aides, best friends and close family members;

Whereas, assistance dogs include service dogs, guide dogs, hearing alert dogs and alert/seizure response dogs;

Whereas, guide dogs assist people with vision loss, leading these individuals around physical obstacles and to destinations such as seating, crossing streets, entering or exiting doorways, elevators and stairways, etc.;

Whereas, service dogs assist people with disabilities with walking, balance, dressing, transferring from place to place, retrieving and carrying items, opening doors and drawers, pushing buttons, pulling wheelchairs and aiding with household chores such as putting in and removing clothes from the washer and dryer;

Whereas, hearing alert dogs alert people with a hearing loss to the presence of specific sounds such as doorbells, telephones, crying babies, sirens, another person, buzzing timers or sensors, knocks at the door as well as smoke, fire and clock alarms;

Whereas, seizure alert/seizure response dogs alert or respond to medical conditions, such as heart attack, stroke, diabetes, epilepsy, panic attack, anxiety attack, post-traumatic stress and seizures;

Whereas, medical alert/medical response dogs alert or respond to oncoming medical conditions, such as heart attack, stroke, diabetes, epilepsy, panic attack, anxiety attack, post traumatic stress disorder;

Whereas, International Assistance Dog Week, August 7-13, 2016, provides an opportunity for us to raise awareness of the selfless way all types of assistance dogs assist individuals with mitigating their disability-related limitations; and

Whereas, *(Your organization)* is joining forces with assistance dog partners, organizations, and concerned citizens throughout *(your City/County/Parish/State/Tribe)* and America to raise awareness of assistance dogs and observe International Assistance Dog Week;

Now, therefore, I, *(insert name)*, as *(Governor/County Executive/Mayor/Other Title)* of *(insert state)*, do hereby proclaim the week of August 7-13, 2016, as

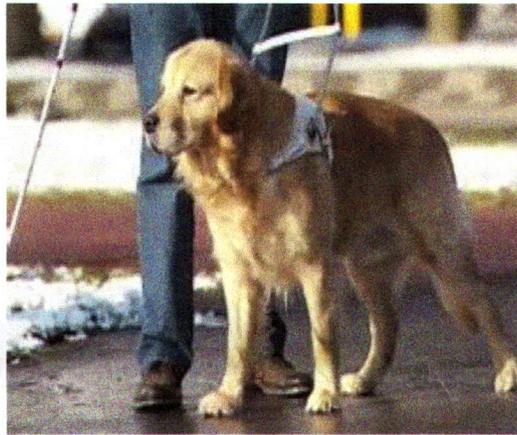
Assistance Dog Week

And reaffirm this *(City/County/Parish/State/Tribe's)* commitment to respect, celebrate and recognize assistance dogs and their partners this week and throughout the year in our community.

(signature)

(date)

INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE DOG WEEK - AUGUST 7-13, 2016



International Assistance Dog Week
SEEING - HEARING - SENSING - SUPPORTING





**MY ASSISTANCE
DOG inc.**

Information. Inspiration. Independence.

My Assistance Dog Inc.

Edward Crane

President

Member, Board of Directors

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