



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION MILITARY DOG HANDLER DAY

- WHEREAS: Military dog handlers and their dogs have long been an essential part of our Armed Forces operations, from combat missions in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, to their extensive use today in Operation Enduring Freedom. They are invaluable with the war on drugs, homeland security efforts, and domestic and international counterterrorism measures; and
- WHEREAS: Military dog handlers have trained dogs to be utilized in patrol, explosive detection, sentry, combat tracker, scout, narcotic detection, messenger and specialized search dog missions; and
- WHEREAS: The use of military working dogs has saved the lives of tens of thousands of American Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors and Marines, and has protected assets and citizens here and around the world; and
- WHEREAS: Handlers and their dogs are active on military bases across Georgia, including Moody Air Force Base, Robins Air Force Base, Fort Gordon, Fort Stewart, Fort Benning, Hunter Army Airfield, the Marine Corps Logistics Base in Albany, and King's Bay Naval Submarine Base; and
- WHEREAS: The State of Georgia remembers its Vietnam era canine heritage with Fort Gordon serving as the training ground for the Combat Tracker Teams and Fort Benning, home of Scout Dog training, now home to the War Dog memorial honoring all military dog handlers and their dogs; and
- WHEREAS: Georgia is proud to recognize and honor the United States Armed Forces Canine Handlers and their dogs, who have given of themselves to ensure our continued freedom, liberty and way of life; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim March 19, 2013, as MILITARY DOG HANDLER DAY in Georgia in honor of America's military working dogs and their handlers and call upon our citizens to recognize the outstanding contributions these men, women and their dogs have made in the defense of our nation.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 28<sup>th</sup> day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand thirteen.



*Nathan Deal*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*C. W. R.*

CHIEF OF STAFF