



Introduced Version

**HOUSE
RESOLUTION No. _____**

Introduced by: McNamara

A HOUSE RESOLUTION honoring Soldier Dogs for Independence for their service to Hoosier veterans.

Whereas, Soldier Dogs for Independence is a nonprofit, 501(C)(3) organization designed to help our local veterans who live with physical and/or mental injuries;

Whereas, Soldier Dogs for Independence offers hand-picked dogs from local shelters that are available for trial or adoption, or veterans may enroll with their own dogs upon SDI approval;

Whereas, Each veteran and dog joins a 24-week training program;

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Whereas, With the help of local dog behavioral trainers and evaluators, who have a combined 30 years of experience, and volunteers, the veterans will train their soldier dogs;

Whereas, After completing the 24-week training program, the veterans' dogs are eligible to take the AKC Canine Good Citizen Test and the Public Access Test that are required by Assistance Dogs International;

Whereas, The ability of Soldier Dogs for Independence to pair a veteran and a dog enables these veterans to rejoin their family and community;

Whereas, All soldier dogs follow the regulations set forth in the American Disabilities Act Approved Service Dogs for America;

Whereas, Soldier dogs provide companionship, service, are capable of assisting with many day-to-day tasks, and have the potential to make the veteran's life much easier;

Whereas, This service is provided to veterans by Michael Barrentine, president of Soldier Dogs for Independence and an Iraq War veteran; Linda Drake, secretary and matchmaker; Dana Markee, treasurer; Kevin Crum, vice president and an Iraq War veteran; Krystle Working Drury, senior instructor; and Karen Cantner, AKC approved CGC evaluator; and

Whereas, Soldier Dogs for Independence provides an ongoing line of support to veterans 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If a veteran is in a crisis, mentally, physically, or financially, a board member or volunteer is available at all times. All board members and volunteers have received suicide prevention training: Therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

- 1 SECTION 1. That the Indiana House of Representatives recognizes
- 2 Soldier Dogs for Independence and the outstanding work it does. Our
- 3 brave Hoosier veterans deserve all the help and guidance we are able
- 4 to provide them on their road to recovery.
- 5 SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of



- 1 Representatives transmit a copy of this resolution to the members of
- 2 Soldier Dogs for Independence.

