

HR 9055

2010

## 1 House Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing Southeastern Guide Dogs for its  
3 many years of exemplary selfless service to the State of  
4 Florida.

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6 WHEREAS, Southeastern Guide Dogs is a nonprofit  
7 organization whose mission is to create and nurture a  
8 partnership between a visually impaired individual and a guide  
9 dog, facilitating life's journey with mobility, independence,  
10 and dignity, and

11 WHEREAS, since 1982, Southeastern Guide Dogs has partnered  
12 more than 830 visually impaired individuals and guide dogs,  
13 including more than 344 partnerships in Florida, and anticipates  
14 an additional 70 guide dog graduates this fiscal year, and

15 WHEREAS, Southeastern Guide Dogs is accredited by the  
16 International Guide Dog Federation in Reading, England, and is a  
17 member of the United States Council of Dog Guide Schools, and

18 WHEREAS, the Southeastern Guide Dogs Gifted Canines program  
19 provides law enforcement agencies, hospitals, assisted living  
20 facilities, nursing homes, schools, and individuals with special  
21 needs with dogs who excel in narcotic or arson detection, search  
22 and rescue, therapy, and other specialized careers, and

23 WHEREAS, the Southeastern Guide Dogs Paws for Patriots  
24 program provides professionally trained guide dogs, in addition  
25 to certified instructors who provide 26 days of individualized,  
26 residential instruction and a lifetime of followup and support,  
27 to visually impaired military veterans, and

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28 WHEREAS, with the assistance of more than 500 volunteers,  
29 including 200 active puppy raisers, 100 breeder host families,  
30 and 240 onsite volunteers, Southeastern Guide Dogs currently  
31 employs more than 70 individuals, including 12 trainers, and

32 WHEREAS, Southeastern Guide Dogs maintains service areas  
33 for first-time students in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia,  
34 Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma,  
35 South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas, NOW, THEREFORE,

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37 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
38 Florida:

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40 That the House of Representatives recognizes Southeastern  
41 Guide Dogs for its many years of exemplary selfless service to  
42 the State of Florida.