

Senate Resolution No. 2281

**BY:** Senator MURRAY

**MEMORIALIZING** Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim September 2026 as Service Dog Month in the State of New York

**WHEREAS,** Service dogs provide critical assistance, independence, safety, and companionship to individuals living with physical disabilities, sensory impairments, post-traumatic stress disorder, autism spectrum disorders, seizure disorders, diabetes, and other medical conditions; and

**WHEREAS,** Highly trained service dogs perform essential tasks, including guiding individuals who are blind or visually impaired, alerting individuals who are deaf or hearing impaired, detecting medical emergencies, assisting with mobility, interrupting psychiatric episodes, and enhancing the daily lives of their handlers; and

**WHEREAS,** The partnership between a service dog and its handler fosters dignity, confidence, self-sufficiency, and fuller participation in community life, employment, education, and civic engagement; and

**WHEREAS,** The training, placement, and support of service dogs are made possible through the tireless efforts of nonprofit organizations, trainers, volunteers, puppy raisers, veterinarians, and advocates dedicated to improving the lives of New Yorkers with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS,** National Service Dog Month is observed each September to recognize the extraordinary contributions of service dogs, raise public awareness regarding the rights and responsibilities associated with service animals, and encourage support for the organizations that provide these invaluable services; and

**WHEREAS,** Increased public understanding of service dogs can help reduce discrimination, improper denial of access, and confusion regarding the distinction between trained service animals and untrained pets or emotional support animals; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim September 2026 as Service Dog Month in the State of New York; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York.