

MILITARY DOG HANDLER DAY

WHEREAS: Military dog handlers and their dogs have been a vital part of our Armed Forces operations, from combat missions in World War II, Korea and Vietnam to their extensive use in the war on drugs, fighting domestic and international terrorism, and current war homeland security efforts; and

WHEREAS: Handlers have trained and worked with scout dogs, combat tracker dogs, sentry dogs, military police dogs, messenger dogs and mine and tunnel dogs; and

WHEREAS: The U.S. Army Scout Dog teams have been credited with reducing the American casualty rate in Korea by 60 percent where they were utilized and with saving the lives of at least 10,000 American soldiers in Vietnam. Army dog handlers and their dogs participated in over 88,000 missions in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS: Canine handlers and their dogs are still active on military bases across Georgia, including Fort Benning, home of the Scout Dog Teams of the Vietnam era and where a War Dog Memorial has been placed to honor all Military Dog Handlers and their dogs; Fort Gordon, training grounds for the Combat Tracker Teams; and Moody Air Force Base; and

WHEREAS: Georgia is proud to recognize 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, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim May 10, 2003, 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 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 31st day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand three.

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