



PROCLAMATION

Special Recognition of National Therapy Animal Day

WHEREAS, therapy animals play an essential role in improving human health and well-being through the human-animal bond; and

WHEREAS, therapy animals and their handlers interact with a variety of people in our community, including veterans, seniors, patients, students facing literacy challenges, and those approaching end of life; and

WHEREAS, therapy animal teams help people of all ages in settings such as hospitals, pediatric care units, schools, nursing homes, and hospice; and

WHEREAS, Hudson citizen and 16-year old student Jack Lehman suffered from Acute Disseminated Encephalomyelitis (ADEM), a rare life-threatening autoimmune disease in early 2016, which resulted in significant disabling affects; and

WHEREAS, during Jack's lengthy recovery period, involving intense physical and occupational therapy, Christine Witschey and her dogs Francis and Gracie of the Akron Children's Doggie Brigade™, developed a close relationship with Jack, offering quality of life and motivation for him to exercise, which were vital to his healing and restored health; and Jack sincerely wishes to acknowledge the important role of therapy animals; and

WHEREAS, Pet Partners has designated April 30th as National Therapy Animal Day™ to recognize exceptional therapy animals who partner with their human companions to bring comfort and healing to people in need.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, David A. Basil, Mayor of the City of Hudson, Ohio, do hereby proclaim April 30, 2017, as

“National Therapy Animal Day” in Hudson

and encourage our citizens to celebrate therapy animals and their human handlers. Further, I publicly salute the service of therapy animal teams in our community and in communities across the nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF:

I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Hudson to be affixed on this 18th day of April, 2017.

David A. Basil, Mayor
City of Hudson, Ohio