

House Resolution 708

By: Representatives Cooper of the 43rd, Silcox of the 52nd, Anulewicz of the 42nd, Rich of the 97th, and Douglas of the 78th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta's therapy dogs known as "Canines For
2 Kids," and for the retirement of their first therapy dog, Casper; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Canines For Kids Program was established
4 in 2009; and

5 WHEREAS, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta employs 16 full-time facility dogs in various
6 departments at Egleston, Scottish Rite and the Marcus Autism Center; and

7 WHEREAS, facility dogs undergo a comprehensive and intensive training process for a
8 duration of 18 months; and

9 WHEREAS, Casper, a Golden Retriever born on December 11, 2007, was the first-ever
10 facility dog at a pediatric hospital; and

11 WHEREAS, along with his handler, Lisa Kinsel, Casper pioneered a hospital-based
12 community service dog program, Canines For Kids, in which other children's hospitals across
13 the country now replicate the model and best practices gained from our program at their own
14 institutions; and

15 WHEREAS, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Canines For Kids program has had a positive
16 impact on the emotional well-being and physical health of patients; and

17 WHEREAS, Children's Facility dogs provide support and accompaniment during procedures,
18 motivation to reach therapeutic and treatment goals, and promote coping, normalization, and
19 engagement; and

20 WHEREAS, Casper, after more than nine years of service, along with Lisa, retired in 2018
21 having touched the lives of countless patients.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
23 the members of this body commend Casper, Lisa Kinsel, and the Children's Healthcare of
24 Atlanta therapy dogs, known as "Canines for Kids."

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
26 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to
27 Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.