



**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF COOK COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Virtual Meeting**

**Consent Agenda**

**Thursday, January 28, 2021, 10:00 AM**

[21-0808](#)

**Sponsored by:** TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**HONORING FOUR HEROIC U.S. ARMY CHAPLAINS**

**WHEREAS**, February 3, 2021 marks the 77th anniversary of the sinking of the U.S. troop ship, SS Dorchester; and

**WHEREAS**, on that day in 1943 while transporting soldiers overseas over the North Atlantic, the SS Dorchester was struck by a torpedo which knocked out the ship's electrical system, leaving the ship dark which created panic among the men aboard, many of them trapped below deck. It is what happened during these crucial 20 minutes before the ship sank, the reason we remember this day; and

**WHEREAS**, in a final act of valor and courage, four U.S. Army first lieutenant chaplains Methodist Reverend George L. Fox, Roman Catholic Priest John P. Washington, Jewish Rabbi Alexander D. Goode, Dutch Reformed Faith Reverend Clark V. Poling calmed the men and organized an orderly evacuation of the ship; and

**WHEREAS**, as they helped guide wounded men to safety into lifeboats and as life jackets were passed out to the men, the supply ran out. The chaplains removed their own life jackets and gave them to others. They then linked arms while praying and went down with the ship as it sank into the cold waters of the North Atlantic; and

**WHEREAS**, every year hence, citizens across our country have remembered the courage and extraordinary display of bravery from these four heroic men of faith, and

**WHEREAS**, this year's memorial program is hosted by the Marine Corp Veterans and is sponsored annually by the Combined Veterans Association.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that, I, Toni Preckwinkle, President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners, do hereby designate Sunday, January 31, 2021 **FOUR CHAPLAINS SUNDAY IN COOK COUNTY**, in honor to preserve the memory of these individuals who demonstrated the ultimate supreme sacrifice at sea.

[21-0931](#)

**Sponsored by:** TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. changed our nation forever through his courage, leadership, service and commitment to the principles of nonviolence; and,

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. challenged America to end racial discrimination, segregation and to make good on its promise of human equality and civil rights for all Americans; and,

**WHEREAS**, Martin Luther King Day is a long fought-for, nationally and federally recognized holiday with deep personal and symbolic meaning for Cook County residents and Americans of all ethnic, racial and religious backgrounds; and,

**WHEREAS**, President Ronald Reagan signed legislation on November 3, 1983 establishing the 3rd Monday of every January as Martin Luther King Day, beginning in 1986; and,

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s leadership of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, which lasted from December of 1955 to December of 1956, created the conditions for the federal court decision in the case of *Browder vs. Gayle* that racial segregation on buses was unconstitutional; and,

**WHEREAS**, on August 28, 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered the celebrated "I Have a Dream" speech at the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, in which envisioned an America void of racial inequality; and,

**WHEREAS**, Dr. King's continued advocacy and peaceful protest efforts played a central role in the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by the United States Congress; and,

**WHEREAS**, Dr. King's organizing efforts around the issue of Voting Rights, particularly in the State of Alabama, played a central role in the passage of the National Voting Rights Act of 1965 by the United States Congress; and,

**WHEREAS**, for a period of time in 1966 Dr. King moved his residence to Cook County, specifically the City of Chicago, where he partnered with the Coordinating Council of Community Organizations to lead the Chicago Freedom Movement, which sought to improve housing conditions and civil rights in Chicago; and,

**WHEREAS**, up until his death by an assassin's bullet on April 4, 1968, Dr. King never abandoned the

principles of nonviolence upon which he based his life's work; and,

**WHEREAS**, on October 16, 2011, a monument was dedicated in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., making him the only African-American to be honored in such fashion; and,

**WHEREAS**, despite the fact Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. lived for only a short period of time, he irrevocably changed the course of American and world history.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the President of Cook County and the Cook County Board of Commissioners that we honor, celebrate, and give thanks for the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

[21-1133](#)

**Sponsored by:** FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, LUIS ARROYO JR, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, DENNIS DEER, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, BRANDON JOHNSON, BILL LOWRY, DONNA MILLER, STANLEY MOORE, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEAN M. MORRISON, TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), PETER N. SILVESTRI, DEBORAH SIMS and LARRY SUFFREDIN, Cook County Board of Commissioners

#### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF HARVEY AND AVIVA RUBIN**

**WHEREAS**, Aviva Rubin (nee Epstein), 91, of Evanston, passed away on January 4, 2021. Harvey, her beloved husband of 64 years, preceded her in death on December 23, 2020 at the age of 93. They are the parents of Dr. Rachel Rubin, current co-director of the Cook County Department of Public Health; and

**WHEREAS**, Aviva was born in Jerusalem, while her mother was staying with her parents and siblings who had immigrated there in the mid 1920's. Aviva's mother, Rebecca, had to leave the United States for several months while her husband, Rabbi Sholom Epstein, awaited the confirmation of his American citizenship. Rebecca returned to the United States with Aviva after her husband became a citizen; and

**WHEREAS**, Aviva grew up in Missouri and Iowa as her father moved between synagogue congregations while pursuing his rabbinical career. Aviva graduated from high school at 16 years of age and attended college at the University of Iowa. After college, she moved to New York for a year to pursue graduate studies. Eventually she returned to Chicago, to join her parents and sister, and eventually met her husband, Harvey; and

**WHEREAS**, Harvey grew up in Humboldt Park above his grandfather's bakery and was a graduate of the University of Illinois. He spent his 40-year career in advertising, starting out as a copywriter, eventually becoming the creative director of an agency; and

**WHEREAS**, Aviva had several careers during her lifetime. The first one was as a speech pathologist for

Chicago Public Schools. Then she was a stay-at-home mother with her three children. The third phase of her career was at Northwestern University as a senior editor at University Relations. She loved her job at Northwestern and found nothing was more satisfying as wielding a red pencil to correct other people's writing errors; and

**WHEREAS**, Harvey was witty, funny, and loved a good party and a gin martini. He was a wonderful dancer. Harvey spent many years performing in community theater in Chicago, where he met Aviva in the early 1950s. He was especially proud of his Boris Karloff impression and sang songs to his children from the musical, *The Boyfriend*. Theater companies especially close to his heart back in the 1960s and 1970s were the Hull House Theater and the Old Town Players. Harvey later served as a committee member of the Joseph Jefferson Awards for decades, judging dozens of theater productions every season; and

**WHEREAS**, an accomplished gourmet cook, Aviva was a devotee of Julia Child and was an avid watcher of her early television cooking shows. In addition, she was an incredibly skilled knitter and sewer, enjoying making sweaters and clothes for herself and her family; and

**WHEREAS**, travel and dining were a huge part of Harvey and Aviva's lives. They loved Italy, but their many travels included Vietnam, Russia, China, India, Israel, Thailand, England and elsewhere in Europe and Mexico. Aviva loved to research their trips far in advance to assure that no museum or historical sites were overlooked. They especially loved their cruise down the Nile River and exploring the Dalmatian Coast in Croatia, in addition to visiting Prague, Spain and Portugal; and

**WHEREAS**, always a fervent supporter of equal rights, Aviva was an active protester and campaigner for the Equal Rights Amendment as well as for local Democratic politicians in Chicago and Evanston. Both Aviva and Harvey were active members of Beth Emet The Free Synagogue in Evanston. Through their synagogue, they participated in a Jewish-Catholic dialogue with parishioners at St. Mary's Catholic Church, also in Evanston, the purpose of which was to promote understanding and cooperation between the two groups; and

**WHEREAS**, Aviva and Harvey brought great joy to all they met; and instilled to all a commitment to justice through their actions; and

**WHEREAS**, Aviva and Harvey are survived by their children; David (Rachel), Rachel (Sam Evens) and Mimi; Aviva's sister Adina (the late Robert) Romain, and Harvey's sister, Sheila (Joe) Wolinsky. They are the devoted grandparents of Julia, Ben, and Alea.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of Cook County, on behalf of the 5.2 million residents of Cook County, honors the life and contributions of Aviva and Harvey Rubin, and herewith expresses its sincere gratitude for the invaluable contributions they made to the Citizens of Cook County, Illinois; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body and that an official copy of same be tendered to the family of Aviva and Harvey Rubin.

[21-1134](#)

**Sponsored by:** FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, LUIS ARROYO JR, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, DENNIS DEER, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, BRANDON JOHNSON, BILL LOWRY, DONNA MILLER, STANLEY MOORE, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEAN M. MORRISON, TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), PETER N. SILVESTRI, DEBORAH SIMS and LARRY SUFFREDIN, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**HONORING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF RICHARD (RICH) KENNETH MEANS**

**WHEREAS**, renowned election attorney Richard (Rich) Kenneth Means died on December 17, 2020, at the age of 78, due to complications of SARS-CoV-2; and

**WHEREAS**, Rich was born in Champaign, IL and raised in Western Springs, IL. He graduated from Lyons Township High and attended college at Eastern New Mexico University and the University of Stockholm. He graduated from Northwestern University Law School in 1968; and

**WHEREAS**, Rich practiced election and public service law for more than 50 years, until the time of his death. He was one of the first attorneys appointed to the then newly formed Cook County State's Attorney's Election Enforcement Division and helped to shape the direction and purpose of that unit. After leaving the State's Attorney's Office, he established a private practice through which he represented and counseled many currently elected officials and others who did not succeed in their bid for elective office. Rich often stated that his proudest professional accomplishment was serving as the election attorney for Harold Washington's successful Chicago mayoral campaign in 1983; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout his career, he educated both attorneys and the public in the intricacies of election law. He was a member of the Chicago Bar Association's Election Law Committee and served twice as its chairman; and

**WHEREAS**, Rich was long involved in both civic and progressive politics. He was the executive director of the Chicago Council of Lawyers from 1970 to 1972. He is a past state chairman of Independent Voters of Illinois (IVI). Most recently, he served as the Illinois Chapter Chair of the liberal advocacy group Americans for Democratic Action (ADA). "He was a very significant figure in independent politics and the go-to counsel to many an independent office seeker," said Dan Lauber, who served with him on the IVI board; and

**WHEREAS**, Rich was the beloved husband of Anne L. Rooney; father of Chris (Michele) Means, Annika (Andrew) Rothbaum, and Alex Means; grandfather of Logan Means, and Eve and Soren Rothbaum; dear brother of James (Linda) and Dexter (Lynne) Means and Margaret "Peggy" (James) Newman. He will be missed by his family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of Cook County, on behalf of the 5.2 million residents of Cook County, honors the life and contributions of Richard (Rich) Means, and herewith expresses its sincere gratitude for the invaluable contributions he has made to the Citizens of Cook County, Illinois; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body and that an official copy of same be tendered to the family of Richard (Rich) Means.

[21-0828](#)

**Sponsored by:** DONNA MILLER and TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**HONORING ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY ON THEIR 113TH ANNIVERSARY**

**WHEREAS**, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® (AKA) originated January 15, 1908, from the vision of Ethel Hedgeman and eight other African-American college student leaders on the campus of Howard University, Anna Easter Brown, Beulah Burke, Lillie Burke, Marjorie Hill, Margaret Flagg Holmes, Lavinia Norman, Lucy Diggs Slowe and Marie Woolfolk (Taylor), becoming the first African-American Greek-letter sorority; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 15, 2021, worldwide members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated will pause to honor the founding of their beloved sisterhood and pay homage to the vision, courage, tenacity, and oneness of purpose of the extraordinary women who dared to create the first organization for college-trained women designed to support and promote sisterhood, scholarship and service; and

**WHEREAS**, Alpha Kappa Alpha was incorporated on January 29, 1913, which facilitated the growth of an international service organization that now consists of 1,026 chapters, including many active chapters within Cook County, and 300,000 members in more than 55 nations and all 50 states, including the District of Columbia, the US Virgin Islands, the Bahamas, Germany, Liberia, South Korea, Japan, Canada, South Africa and the Middle East; and

**WHEREAS**, Alpha Kappa Alpha's mission is to cultivate and encourage high scholastic and ethical standards, to promote unity and friendship among college women, to study and help alleviate problems concerning girls and women in order to improve their social stature, to maintain a progressive interest in college life, and embodied in their philosophy to be of "Service to All Mankind"; and

**WHEREAS**, for more than a century, the AKA Sisterhood has been an indomitable force for good in their communities, state, nation, and the world; and

**WHEREAS**, Alpha Kappa Alpha has maintained its focus in two key areas: the lifelong personal and professional development of each of its members; and galvanizing its membership into an organization of

respected power and influence, consistently at the forefront of effective advocacy and social change that results in equality and equity for all citizens of the world; and

**WHEREAS**, this year's Founder's Day is especially poignant because on January 20, 2021, five days after Founder's Day, one of its members, Senator Kamala Harris, will become the 1st woman, the 1st African-American, the 1st Asian-American, the 1st graduate of a historically Black college or university (Howard University) and the 1st member of an African-American Greek-letter sorority (Alpha Kappa Alpha) to be sworn in as Vice President of the United States of America; and

**WHEREAS**, in this year's historic election, members of AKA and their brothers and sisters from the "Divine Nine" African-American Greek organizations played an integral role in helping to get out the vote with their "Stroll to the Polls" campaign; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. chapters located in Cook County include: Beta (Chicago), Theta Omega (Chicago), Delta Omicron (Chicago), Theta Rho Omega (Markham), Delta Chi Omega (Evanston), Lambda Alpha Omega (Westchester), Lambda Mu Omega (Chicago), Lambda Tau Omega (Matteson), Xi Nu Omega (Chicago), Xi Kappa (Chicago), Omicron Alpha (River Forest), Tau Gamma Omega (Chicago), Pi Nu (Chicago), Phi Epsilon Omega (Harvey), Phi Kappa Omega (Oak Lawn), Chi Alpha Omega (Schaumburg), Chi Omega Omega (Chicago), and Tau Mu (Chicago); and

**WHEREAS**, the President and members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners are pleased to congratulate the members of the Cook County Chapters of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Sorority, Inc. on the occasion of the sorority's 113th anniversary and celebrate the inauguration of AKA member, Vice President Kamala Harris on her historic achievement;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the President and Members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, honor Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated on their celebration of National Founders Day on January 15, 2021, and thank them for 113 years of service in the public interest; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body and that a suitable copy is presented to the International President of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Glenda Glover, and Vice President of the United States of America, Kamala Harris as a symbol of our respect and esteem.

[21-1131](#)

**Sponsored by:** DONNA MILLER, TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, LUIS ARROYO JR, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, DENNIS DEER, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, BRANDON JOHNSON, BILL LOWRY, STANLEY MOORE, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEAN M. MORRISON, PETER N. SILVESTRI, DEBORAH SIMS and LARRY SUFFREDIN, Cook County Board of Commissioners



**PROPOSED RESOLUTION****SALUTING THE HONORABLE RICHARD THEODORE GREENER AS THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN TO GRADUATE FROM HARVARD IN 1870**

**WHEREAS**, in 1905 Richard Greener began his residency here in our Great City of Chicago and departed on May 2, 1922; and

**WHEREAS**, Richard Greener was born in Philadelphia, PA on January 30, 1844; he quit school in his mid-teens to earn money for his family, but one of his employers helped him enroll in preparatory school at Oberlin College; he graduated from Phillips Academy in 1865 and spent three years at Oberlin College before transferring to Harvard College; his admission to Harvard was “an experiment” by the administration and paved the way for more black graduates of Harvard; he graduated from Harvard in 1870; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1875, Richard Greener became the first African American to be elected as a member of the American Philological Association; he graduated from law school at South Carolina University and practiced law in South Carolina and then Washington, DC before joining the Howard University School of Law as a professor and eventually dean; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1875, Richard Greener was chosen by the General Assembly of South Carolina to be a member of a commission to revise the South Carolina school system, and in 1880, he became a law clerk of the first Comptroller of the United States Treasury; from 1876 to 1879, he represented South Carolina in the Union League of America and was President of the South Carolina Republican Association in 1887; from 1885 to 1892, he served as Secretary of the Grant Monument Association, where he is credited with having led the initial fundraising effort that eventually brought in donations from 90,000 people worldwide to construct Grant’s Tomb, still the largest mausoleum in North America; from 1885 to 1890, he was Chief Examiner of the Civil Service Board for New York City and County; in the 1896 election, he served as the head of the Colored Bureau of the National Republican Party in Chicago; in 1898, he was appointed as the United States Commercial Agent in Vladivostok, Russia; he left the foreign service in 1905; and

**WHEREAS**, Richard Greener received several awards and recognitions; while at Harvard in 1868 and 1870, he earned the Bowdoin Prize; he received two honorary Doctorates of Law, one from Monrovia College in Liberia in 1882 and the other from Howard University in 1907; in 1902, the Chinese government decorated him with the Order of the Double Dragon; Phillips Academy has the Richard T. Greener 1865 Endowment Scholarship; the University of South Carolina’s Black Alumni Council sponsors the Richard T. Greener Endowment Fund; the central quadrangle at Phillips Academy was named in his honor in 2018, and the University of South Carolina has erected a statue honoring his legacy; and

**WHEREAS**, Richard Greener eventually settled in Chicago, where he worked for an insurance company and practiced law and occasionally lectured on his life and times; his Harvard diploma and other personal papers were rediscovered in an attic on the South Side of Chicago in 2009; and

**WHEREAS**, the President and members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners are pleased to honor the legacy of Richard Greener where this great man paved the way for many in our Cook County of Illinois and departed on May 2, 1922;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the President and Members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, honor the birthdate of the Honorable Richard Theodore Greener on January 30, 2021 as Richard Theodore Greener Day in Cook County; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body and a copy be presented to Dr. Anthony L. Green, Direct Descendant of Richard Theodore Greener as a symbol of our respect and esteem.