



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

**Cook County Building, Board Room,  
118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois**

**Consent Agenda**

**Thursday, October 19, 2023, 10:00 AM**

[23-5136](#)

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

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**COOK COUNTY VETERANS DAY RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, Veterans Day, formerly known as Armistice Day, was originally proclaimed a holiday on November 11, 1919 by President Woodrow Wilson to honor the end of World War I; and

**WHEREAS**, November 11, subsequently declared a legal holiday in 1938, was “dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be hereafter celebrated and known as “Armistice Day”. In 1954, at the urging of veterans organizations, the 1938 Act was amended by replacing Armistice Day with Veterans Day; and

**WHEREAS**, from the Revolutionary War to the present day, the contributions made to the United States of America by her citizen soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen who stand in our place to defend the freedoms we enjoy cannot be calculated; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Cook has the largest veteran population in this state with over 148,000 veterans; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Cook has always honored the immeasurable wartime and peacetime contributions and sacrifice of the men and women of the United States Armed Forces; and

**WHEREAS**, Americans still give thanks to veterans for their service on Veterans Day with ceremonies and speeches and at 11 a.m. many Americans observe a moment of silence in remembrance of those who fought and for those who gave their lives to preserve the freedom we now enjoy; and

**WHEREAS**, the willingness of our citizens who have answered the call to duty to give freely and unselfishly of themselves, in defense of our democratic principles, gives this great Nation continued strength and vitality; and

**WHEREAS**, even today, members of the military are stationed throughout the world, while their families remain in our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, families praying for the safe return of loved ones experience everyday life in a very different way than others, as their everyday thoughts and feelings never stray far from those they honor and are proud of for serving this great nation; and

**WHEREAS**, the willingness of our citizens who have answered the call to duty to give freely and unselfishly of themselves, in defense of our democratic principles; and

**WHEREAS**, Veterans Day is a day set aside to thank and honor living veterans who served honorably in the military for their service - in wartime or peacetime; and

**WHEREAS**, the commemoration of this day is a matter of historic and patriotic significance to all American citizens.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby recognize November 11, 2023 as Veterans Day and ask that on this day of honor all citizens express their gratitude to our veterans; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, with respect and gratitude, we salute all of our veterans, remembering “all gave some and some gave all” and devote special attention to those veterans who are sick and disabled, and show them through our actions that we remember and honor them.

[23-5137](#)

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

#### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **SUPPORTING OPERATION GREEN LIGHT FOR VETERANS**

**WHEREAS**, the residents of Cook County, Illinois have great respect, admiration, and the utmost gratitude for all the men and women who have selflessly served our country and this community in the Armed Forces; and

**WHEREAS**, the contributions and sacrifices of those who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by our citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County seeks to honor individuals who have made countless sacrifices for freedom by placing themselves in harm’s way for the good of all; and

**WHEREAS**, veterans continue to serve our community in the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, religious groups, civil service, and by functioning as County Veterans Service Officers in 29 states to help fellow former service members access more than \$52 billion in federal health, disability and compensation benefits each year; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 200,000 service members transition to civilian communities annually; and

**WHEREAS**, an estimated 20 percent increase of service members will transition to civilian life in the near future; and

**WHEREAS**, studies indicate that 44-72 percent of service members experience high levels of stress during transition from military to civilian life; and

**WHEREAS**, active military service members transitioning from military service are at a high risk for suicide during their first year after military service; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Association of Counties encourages all counties, parishes and boroughs to recognize Operation Green Light for Veterans; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cook County appreciates the sacrifices of our United States military personnel and believes specific recognition should be granted.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby declare from October through Veterans Day, November 11th 2023, a time to salute and honor the service and sacrifices of our men and women in uniform transitioning from active service; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, with designation as a Green Light for Veterans County, Cook County that in observance of Operation Green Light, Cook County encourages its citizens in patriotic tradition to recognize the importance of honoring all those who made immeasurable sacrifices to preserve freedom by displaying green lights in a window of their place of business or residence from November 6th through the 12th, 2023.

[23-5138](#)

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

#### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **IN HONOR OF THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART**

**WHEREAS**, The Purple Heart is the oldest military medal, it was created by George Washington in 1782, it was originally called the Badge of Military Merit; and

**WHEREAS**, the Purple Heart was the first American service award made available to the common Soldier, and is awarded to any member of the United States armed services wounded or killed in combat with a declared enemy of the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the mission of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, created by an act of Congress in 1932, is to foster an environment of goodwill among the members and their families; promote patriotism; support related legislative initiatives; and, most importantly, ensure as a nation that we never forget the sacrifices made by those so dedicated to our freedoms; and

**WHEREAS**, many veterans of Cook County have been the recipient of the Purple Heart Medal as a result of an act of courage to save fellow service members, by being wounded while engaged in combat with enemy forces, or as a singularly meritorious act of essential service to our nation; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Cook has always honored the immeasurable wartime and peacetime contributions and sacrifices of the men and women of the United States Armed Forces; and

**WHEREAS**, many men and women in uniform have given their lives to keep Americans safe at home during war-time and peace-time.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby recognize its gratefulness to veterans both local and nationwide, who have sacrificed so much for Americans by designating Cook County as a Purple Heart County.

[23-4694](#)

**Sponsored by:** JOHN P. DALEY, TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, SCOTT R. BRITTON, DENNIS DEER, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, MONICA GORDON, BILL LOWRY, DONNA MILLER, STANLEY MOORE, JOSINA MORITA, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEAN M. MORRISON, ANTHONY J. QUEZADA, TARA S. STAMPS and MAGGIE TREVOR, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**RECOGNIZING OCTOBER 23RD THROUGH 31ST AS RED RIBBON WEEK**

**WHEREAS**, Red Ribbon Week is the nation’s oldest and largest drug prevention awareness program, which is celebrated across the nation the week of October 23, 2023, and

**WHEREAS**, The National Family Partnership started Red Ribbon Week after the death of Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Special Agent Enrique “Kiki” Camarena, who was brutally tortured and murdered in 1985 by drug traffickers he was investigating in Mexico, and

**WHEREAS**, Today, millions of citizens demonstrate their commitment to drug-free lifestyles by wearing red ribbons and participating in drug prevention activities, and

**WHEREAS**, Alcohol and drug abuse affects individuals, families, and communities across the nation, and

**WHEREAS**, It is imperative that visible, unified efforts by community members be launched to prevent drug abuse, and

**WHEREAS**, Business, government, law enforcement, media, health care providers, religious institutions, schools, and other community-based organizations will demonstrate their commitment to healthy, drug-free lifestyles by participating in drug prevention activities and wearing red ribbons, and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County would like to encourage participation in drug prevention education activities throughout the year, and not only during Red Ribbon Week, and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby recognize October 23-31, 2023 as Red Ribbon Week in Cook County; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body, and an official copy of same be presented to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, Chicago Field Division

[23-4834](#)

**Sponsored by:** BILL LOWRY, JOHN P. DALEY and TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**HONORING AND RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF ROCKY WIRTZ**

**WHEREAS**, W. Rockwell “Rocky” Wirtz was born on Sunday, October 5, 1952, in Chicago, Illinois as the first of five children to Joan and Bill Wirtz, eventually inheriting ownership of the National Hockey League’s (“NHL”) Chicago Blackhawks team, which he led to three Stanley Cup Championships and 13-straight years of sold-out games at the United Center; and

**WHEREAS**, after graduating in 1975 from Northwestern University with a degree in Communications, Rocky worked in his family’s liquor distribution business, eventually assuming control of Wirtz Beverage Group in 2007 and staying on as co-chairman when it merged with Sunbelt to create the \$6 billion Breakthru Beverage Group. In 2014, Rocky received the Lifetime Achievement Award from Wine and Spirits of America for his international success in the beverage industry; and

**WHEREAS**, Rocky Wirtz became the half-owner of the United Center and the fifth principal owner of the Chicago Blackhawks in 2007. Rocky used his business ventures across the city to create a more fan-friendly team environment. Under Rocky’s leadership the Blackhawks became the leader in game attendance in the National Hockey League the following year while making a deep playoff run to begin over a decade of sold-out Blackhawks games; and

**WHEREAS**, after a record-setting season, the Blackhawks ended the National Hockey League’s second longest championship drought by defeating the Philadelphia Flyers to win the Stanley Cup Finals in 2010, the first of three championships the Blackhawks would win under Wirtz’s leadership. The Blackhawks would go on to defeat the Boston Bruins in 2013 and the Tampa Bay Lightning in 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, Rocky leaves behind his loving family, including his wife Marilyn Wirtz, his four children Danny (Anne) Wirtz, Hillary Wirtz (Erin Quaglia), Kendall (Brendan) Murphy, and Elizabeth Queen (Joe Barley), six grandchildren, and many loving fans across Chicago to mourn his passing from this life on Tuesday July 25, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, Rocky Wirtz lived a life prioritizing the fandom of Chicago sports and galvanized the Chicago Blackhawks franchise into history with one of the most legendary eras in American sports history, and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF COOK COUNTY:** the President and its members do hereby hold their reverence in honor of the historic life of Rocky Wirtz, as they offer their deepest condolences to his friends, family, and communities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Rocky Wirtz as an honorable expression of appreciation for his life and work.

[23-5220](#)

**Sponsored by:** MONICA GORDON, TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, DENNIS DEER, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, BILL LOWRY, DONNA MILLER, STANLEY MOORE, JOSINA MORITA, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEAN M. MORRISON, ANTHONY J. QUEZADA, TARA S. STAMPS and MAGGIE TREVOR, Cook County Board of Commissioners

## **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

### **HONORING THE LIFE OF JOYCE CHAPMAN**

**WHEREAS**, Joyce Chapman was born in Japan to a Japanese mother and an African American father. While stationed in Japan, her father, an Army service member, first met her mother. Early in life, Joyce lived the life of a typical “Army brat,” moving across the globe; and

**WHEREAS**, when Joyce was twelve years old, her parents relocated to Chicago’s Pullman area in June 1968. Joyce had never resided in an entirely black neighborhood. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in Memphis on April 4th just ten months later, leaving a lasting personal impact in Joyce; and

**WHEREAS**, Joyce recognized herself in both her neighbors and Martin Luther King, Jr. Her neighbors, who in 1925 established The Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, served as an inspiration for the late 1960s civil rights struggle; and

**WHEREAS**, Joyce started a profession in social services after graduating from college, where she fought for young people involved in the criminal justice system; she became her community’s voice and leader. She concentrated on figuring out how to make resources available to those who needed them; and

**WHEREAS**, Joyce held various positions up until her death, including those of president of the Pullman Community Development Corporation, which she founded; vice president of Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago, president of the 5th District Policing Advisory Council, chairwoman of the Far South Community Action Council for Chicago Public Schools, member of the Chicago Police Superintendent Advisory Panel, and most recently president of the Gately Park Advisory Council; and

**WHEREAS**, Joyce Chapman was more than just an activist; she was a beacon of hope, an unyielding force for positive change, and an inspiration to all who crossed paths with her. Her dedication to social justice, community empowerment, and equality was a motivating factor in her life, and it shone through in all she did. Her legacy will stand as a beacon for those who carry on the flame of activism, reminding us of all that one person’s motivation may spark, changing and inspiring a community to strive for a better future.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the President and members of the Board of Commissioners do hereby join the residents of Cook County in mourning the passing of a great luminary, advocate, and activist of the neighborhoods, recognizing her unwavering dedication to community service, social justice, community empowerment and equality, and offer our most heartfelt and deepest

condolences to the family of Joyce Chapman in their time of sorrow; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body, and a suitable copy of same be tendered to the family of Joyce Chapman so that her memory may be so honored and ever cherished

[23-5282](#)

**Sponsored by:** DONNA MILLER, TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, BRIDGET DEGNEN, JOSINA MORITA, KEVIN B. MORRISON, ANTHONY J. QUEZADA, TARA S. STAMPS and MAGGIE TREVOR, Cook County Board of Commissioners

### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **RECOGNIZING HEALTH LITERACY AWARENESS MONTH IN COOK COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, the month of October is National Health Literacy Awareness Month, a month-long initiative in the United States and worldwide, which aims to raise awareness about the importance of health literacy and promote the integration and expansion of health literacy programs; and

**WHEREAS**, better health literacy helps overcome barriers and challenges that may result in harm. Working collectively to improve health literacy can create a more equitable world where everyone can attain positive health outcomes; and

**WHEREAS**, health literacy and health outcomes are interconnected, with an estimated 14 percent, or 1 in 7, adults in the United States having below basic proficiency in health literacy; and

**WHEREAS**, limited health literacy is a barrier to accessing health information, proper medication use, and following instructions from a health care provider all of which may adversely affect health outcomes; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Healthy People 2030, which sets data-driven national objectives to improve health and well-being over the next decade, defines personal health literacy as the degree to which individuals have the ability to find, understand, and use information and services to inform health-related decisions and actions for themselves and others; and

**WHEREAS**, further, organizational health literacy is defined as the degree to which organizations equitably enable individuals to find, understand, and use information and services to inform health-related decisions and actions for themselves and others; and

**WHEREAS**, personal health literacy is a social risk, associated with worse health care and health outcomes because individuals with limited personal health literacy are at higher risk of misunderstanding information that is important to achieving and maintaining health or losing their way in the fragmented health care system; and

**WHEREAS**, the impetus to divide the definition into 2 parts came from the Health and Human Services



(HHS) Secretary’s Advisory Committee, which observed, “As health literacy research and practice have accumulated, we now more fully understand that responsibility for health literacy extends beyond individuals to include the organizations and professionals who create and deliver health information and services”; and

**WHEREAS**, health literacy is a foundational principle and overarching goal of Healthy People 2030 and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services have long recognized that health literacy is not just the result of individual capacities but also the health-literacy related demands and complexities of the health care system; and

**WHEREAS**, putting health literacy principles into action advances health equity because health literacy has been identified as a contributor to health disparities, which are preventable differences in the burden of disease, injury, violence, or opportunities to achieve optimal health that are experienced by populations that have been socially, economically, geographically, and environmentally disadvantaged, and there is significant overlap in demographic characteristics of those who are at risk for health disparities and low health literacy; and

**WHEREAS**, health literacy advances equity by making health information accessible to all populations. healthcare systems, public health organizations, and the people they employ can all play a role in making their information easy to find, understand, and use; and

**WHEREAS**, recognizing the connection between health literacy and health equity, this year’s National Minority Health Month theme was designated as “Better Health Through Better Understanding”. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health, has made it a priority to improve health outcomes for racial and ethnic minority communities by providing them with culturally and linguistically competent healthcare services, information, and resources; and

**WHEREAS**, when patients are provided with culturally and linguistically appropriate information by health care organizations, they are empowered to create healthier outcomes for themselves and their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, this Honorable Body wishes to promote and raise awareness of health literacy during the month of October;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the more than 5.2 million residents of Cook County, do hereby take this opportunity to acknowledge Health Literacy Awareness Month; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that in conjunction with National Health Literacy Awareness Month, that the month of October 2023 be hereby declared Health Literacy Awareness Month in the County of Cook; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body.

[23-5224](#)

**Sponsored by:** STANLEY MOORE, TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, DENNIS DEER, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, MONICA GORDON, BILL LOWRY, DONNA MILLER, JOSINA MORITA, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEAN M. MORRISON, ANTHONY J. QUEZADA, TARA S. STAMPS and MAGGIE TREVOR, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF CHARLES E. HOBSON, SR.**

**WHEREAS**, Charles was born December 4, 1936, in Chicago, Illinois, to the union of Charlene and James Hobson. Both his parents and his older brother James, Jr., preceded him into eternity. His wife of 53 years, Shirley and his son, Paul Anthony Hobson Sr., will both be there to meet him in eternity.

**WHEREAS**, Charles E. Hobson, Sr. love story with Shirley Spencer began at DuSable High School, and their 53-year marriage was a testament to their deep bond and enduring love; and

**WHEREAS**, Charles E. Hobson, Sr. graduated from Roosevelt University and obtained his bachelor's degree in psychology; and

**WHEREAS**, Charles E. Hobson, Sr. was an active member of St. Mark United Methodist Church whereby he proudly let everyone know that his faith was the cornerstone of his life, and he passionately served the Lord, as a member of the choir, and dedicated himself to various ministries; and

**WHEREAS**, Charles E. Hobson, Sr. led a successful career as an entrepreneur owning successful businesses, including shoe stores and a residential and commercial alarm system company, and leaving a lasting mark on the world of business; and

**WHEREAS**, Charles E. Hobson, Sr. departed from this earthly life on Saturday, September 23, 2023, leaving behind a host of cherished memories and a profound impact on all who had the privilege of knowing him; and

**WHEREAS**, our hearts are heavy as we reflect upon the life of Charles E. Hobson, Sr., a man whose gentle strength, warm elegance, unwavering faith, and nurturing spirit touched the lives of all who had the privilege of knowing him; and

**WHEREAS**, Charles E. Hobson, Sr. possessed a love for music, particularly jazz classics by artists such as John Coltrane and Miles Davis, and enjoyed traveling, culinary arts, and the game of scrabble; and

**WHEREAS**, Charles E. Hobson, Sr. enjoyed spending time with his family, church family and friends. He is survived by his beloved companion Darlene, his children Michelle, Charles Jr., Paul Anthony preceded him into eternity, and William (Billy), one daughter-in-law, Kimberly (Dwayne), a host of grandchildren, Charles III (Samantha), Paul II, Danielle, Sean, Vanessa, Venita, William III, and Evionne, Eliana, McKenzie, great grandchildren Paul III, Kendall, Austin, Peyton, and Ivory; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the board of Commissioners of Cook County, on behalf of the 5.2 million residents of Cook County does hereby honor and celebrate the life of Charles E. Hobson, Sr. and his many contributions bettering the lives of all residents in 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 the same be tendered to the family of Charles E. Hobson, Sr.

[23-5123](#)

**Sponsored by:** TARA S. STAMPS and SEAN M. MORRISON, Cook County Board of Commissioners

#### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **HONORING THE LIFE OF MARY MAGDALENE HOLCOMB ON THE OCCASION OF HER 97th BIRTHDAY**

**WHEREAS**, Mary Magdalene Holcomb was born October 10, 1926, in D'Lo, Mississippi, to the parents of Willie and Linnie Barnes; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Holcomb's mother and father did grueling work as field hands picking cotton in the 1930's. Tragically, her father died of heat stroke when she was 13 years old; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Holcomb's mother, Ma Linnie, re-married to Mr. James Burrows. Mrs. Holcomb had four siblings, Mr. Estus Barnes, Mrs. Gertrude Stenhouse, Mr. Lonnie Barnes, and Mrs. Gertis Anderson; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mary Magdalene Holcomb met and married Herbert Holcomb in her hometown of D'Lo, Mississippi in 1940 while he was on leave from the U.S. Army. She then moved to Oak Grove, Louisiana until he finished his tour of duty with the military in World War II. They later migrated to Chicago, to be near other family and friends; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Holcomb is a woman of faith and was baptized at the age of 13 while living in D'Lo, Mississippi. When she moved to Chicago, she joined the Union Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Reverend Little and has remained a lifelong faithful member of the church. She has a favorite scripture, Psalms 34, that she can still recite from memory to this day; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mary Holcomb was a full-time mother and homemaker while raising her children. Following the death of her husband, she worked various jobs including as a nurse's aide until she retired in 1990 from Oak Park Oasis Skilled Nursing Facility; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Holcomb is the mother of eight children Eloise Betty Jefferson, Herbert Holcomb Jr., William Holcomb, Sherry Smith, Mary Holcomb, Billy Holcomb, Bessie Holcomb, and Patricia Huggins. Being the sole surviving child to Mary, Patricia who now resides in Texas travels regularly and faithfully

to Chicago to care for her mother. Mary Holcomb is the grandmother of 22 grandchildren including Lynne Turner, Secretary to the Cook County Board of Commissioners, 50 great-grandchildren and 20 great-great-grandchildren. She has long enjoyed large gatherings for holidays and Sunday dinners with her family, siblings, and in-laws; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mary Holcomb has been a proud resident of Austin for the last 53 years. She loves her family, the community of Austin, and Cook County District 1 and has gained lifelong neighbors and friends. In March of 2023, Mary moved to a senior residence in Orland Park, located in the district of Commissioner Sean Morrison, as she embraced the next stage of being a senior citizen. Mary loves car rides, desserts, and looks forward to every holiday to celebrate with her daughter Patricia and granddaughter Lynne and,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, does hereby thank Mrs. Mary Holcomb for her life of faithful service and wishes her many blessings for her 97th birthday; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this Resolution be tendered to Mrs. Holcomb, as a token of the esteem in which she is held by the President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners and the Cook County Board of Commissioners.

[23-5235](#)

**Sponsored by:** TARA S. STAMPS and SEAN M. MORRISON, Cook County Board of Commissioners

#### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **HONORING THE LIFE OF MARY MAGDALENE HOLCOMB ON THE OCCASION OF HER 97TH BIRTHDAY**

**WHEREAS**, Mary Magdalene Holcomb was born October 10, 1926, in D'Lo, Mississippi, to the parents of Willie and Linnie Barnes; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Holcomb's mother and father did grueling work as field hands picking cotton in the 1930's. Tragically, her father died of heat stroke when she was 13 years old; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Holcomb's mother, Ma Linnie, re-married to Mr. James Burrows. Mrs. Holcomb had 4 siblings, Mr. Estus Barnes, Mrs. Gertrude Stenhouse, Mr. Lonnie Barnes, and Mrs. Gertis Anderson; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mary Magdalene Holcomb met and married Herbert Holcomb in her hometown of D'Lo, Mississippi in 1940 while he was on leave from the U.S. Army. She then moved to Oak Grove, Louisiana until he finished his tour of duty with the military in World War II. They later migrated to Chicago, to be near other family and friends; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Holcomb is a woman of faith and was baptized at the age of 13 while living in D'Lo, Mississippi. When she moved to Chicago, she joined the Union Missionary Baptist Church under the

leadership of Reverend Little and has remained a lifelong faithful member of the church. She has a favorite scripture, Psalms 34, that she can still recite from memory to this day; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mary Holcomb was a full-time mother and homemaker while raising her children. Following the death of her husband, she worked various jobs including as a nurse's aide until she retired in 1990 from Oak Park Oasis Skilled Nursing Facility; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Holcomb is the mother of eight children Eloise Betty Jefferson, Herbert Holcomb Jr., William Holcomb, Sherry Smith, Mary Holcomb, Billy Holcomb, Bessie Holcomb, and Patricia Huggins. Being the sole surviving child to Mary, Patricia who now resides in Texas travels regularly and faithfully to Chicago to care for her mother. Mary Holcomb is the grandmother of 22 grandchildren including Lynne Turner, Secretary to the Cook County Board of Commissioners, 50 great-grandchildren and 20 great-great-grandchildren. She has long enjoyed large gatherings for holidays and Sunday dinners with her family, siblings, and in-laws; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mary Holcomb has been a proud resident of Austin for the last 53 years. She loves her family, the community of Austin, and Cook County District 1 and has gained lifelong neighbors and friends. In March of 2023, Mary moved to a senior residence in Orland Park, located in the district of Commissioner Sean Morrison, as she embraced the next stage of being a senior citizen. Mary loves car rides, desserts, and looks forward to every holiday to celebrate with her daughter Patricia and granddaughter Lynne.; and,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, does hereby thank Mrs. Mary Holcomb for her life of faithful service and wishes her many blessings for her 97th birthday; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this Resolution be tendered to Mrs. Holcomb, as a token of the esteem in which she is held by the President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners and the Cook County Board of Commissioners.