

# Board of Commissioners of Cook County

# Legislation Details (With Text)

File #:	16-1509	Version: 1	Name:	RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NON-CITIZEN VETERANS REMOVED FROM THE UNITED STATES			
Туре:	Resolution		Status:	Approved			
File created:	2/4/2016		In control:	Board of Commissioners			
On agenda:	2/10/2016		Final action:	2/10/2016			
Title:	PROPOSED RESOLUTION						
	RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NON-CITIZEN VETERANS REMOVED FROM THE UNITED STATES						
	<ul> <li>WHEREAS, there are a significant number of non-citizen veterans of foreign wars, including World War II, Vietnam, Korea, Gulf Wars, Iraq and Afghanistan who have been removed from the United States; and</li> <li>WHEREAS, these veterans currently live in terrible and abject conditions after having served in the armed services of the United States; and</li> <li>WHEREAS, several of these veterans have asked for support in obtaining reentry into the United States to be with their families and U.S. citizen children; and</li> <li>WHEREAS, non-citizens compose a significant portion of the armed forces, enlisting more than 8,000 persons annually; and</li> <li>WHEREAS, according to the Department of Defense, more than 65,000 non-citizen immigrants were serving in the U.S. armed forces as of 2008- accounting for at least 5% of the total active-duty personnel; and</li> <li>WHEREAS, the Immigration Reform Act of 1996 broadened the criteria for removable offenses to include shoplifting, misdemeanor drug offenses and other minor offenses, allowing the Department of Homeland Security to quietly deport veterans who have fallen on hard times; and</li> <li>WHEREAS, the rams that have been deported do not have access to Veterans Affairs benefits or other benefits designed for veterans; and</li> <li>WHEREAS, the non-citizen parents, spouses and children of veterans and service men and women who have been killed during active duty still face risk of deportation; and</li> <li>WHEREAS, the non-citizen parents, spouses and children of veterans and service men and women who have been killed during active duty still face risk of deportation; and</li> <li>WHEREAS, these veteran family members also need adequate rehabilitation and mental health resources in order to cope with extreme hardship and loss that is a result of war; and</li> <li>WHEREAS, these valiant yet deported the riminal justice system, they are almost immediately afterwards dropped at the doorsteps of their country of birth - with no resources, no contacts and, at</li></ul>						
	NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners will bring to light the plight of these veterans and raise awareness to members of the United States Congress and to the President of the United States in a determined effort to gain equal treatment to these veterans, their families and communities in the United States.						
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Indexes:

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#### Code sections:

#### Attachments:

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
2/10/2016	1	Board of Commissioners	approve	Pass

### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

## **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NON-CITIZEN VETERANS REMOVED FROM THE UNITED STATES**

**WHEREAS**, there are a significant number of non-citizen veterans of foreign wars, including World War II, Vietnam, Korea, Gulf Wars, Iraq and Afghanistan who have been removed from the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, these veterans currently live in terrible and abject conditions after having served in the armed services of the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, several of these veterans have asked for support in obtaining reentry into the United States to be with their families and U.S. citizen children; and

**WHEREAS**, non-citizens compose a significant portion of the armed forces, enlisting more than 8,000 persons annually; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Department of Defense, more than 65,000 non-citizen immigrants were serving in the U.S. armed forces as of 2008- accounting for at least 5% of the total active-duty personnel; and

**WHEREAS**, the Immigration Reform Act of 1996 broadened the criteria for removable offenses to include shoplifting, misdemeanor drug offenses and other minor offenses, allowing the Department of Homeland Security to quietly deport veterans who have fallen on hard times; and

**WHEREAS,** according to Banished Veterans, a support group for deported veterans, there are currently 3,000 veterans in immigration detention centers or in removal proceedings at any given time; and

**WHEREAS**, veterans that have been deported do not have access to Veterans Affairs benefits or other benefits designed for veterans; and

**WHEREAS**, the nation owes these veterans adequate support and rehabilitation equal to that of veterans with full citizenship; and

**WHEREAS,** the non-citizen parents, spouses and children of veterans and service men and women who have been killed during active duty still face risk of deportation; and

**WHEREAS**, these veteran family members also need adequate rehabilitation and mental health resources in order to cope with extreme hardship and loss that is a result of war; and

WHEREAS, after having served time for their crimes in the criminal justice system, they are almost immediately afterwards dropped at the doorsteps of their country of birth - with no resources, no contacts and, at times, no knowledge of the language, resulting in compounded punishment; and

WHEREAS, these valiant yet deported veterans are solely allowed reentry into the United States posthumously

for their burial in a U.S. military cemetery.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Cook County Board of Commissioners will bring to light the plight of these veterans and raise awareness to members of the United States Congress and to the President of the United States in a determined effort to gain equal treatment to these veterans, their families and communities in the United States.