



Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL

Legislation Details

File #:	15-0656	Version:	1	Name:	HENRY J. "HANK" RUTKOWSKI, SR
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On agenda:	12/17/2014	Final action:	12/17/2014		
Title:	PROPOSED RESOLUTION				

HONORING HENRY J. "HANK" RUTKOWSKI, SR.ON THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
DOWNING OF THE BLANCO DIABLO

WHEREAS, Henry J. "Hank" Rutkowski, Sr., of the Archer Heights neighborhood in Chicago, is a decorated World War II veteran and former prisoner of war; and

WHEREAS, Hank Rutkowski enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps in 1943 at age 17; and

WHEREAS, Hank Rutkowski achieved the rank of Sergeant and served in the European Theater of Operations; and

WHEREAS, on December 6, 1944, while serving aboard a B-17 flying fortress named the Blanco Diablo, Hank Rutkowski and his crew were shot down shortly after bombing oil refineries in Marsberg, Germany; and

WHEREAS, the nine-member crew of the Blanco Diablo was forced to bail out and lost one crew member; and

WHEREAS, the surviving members of Hank Rutkowski's crew were captured by German forces near Meppel, Netherlands and transported to a prison in Barth Germany; and

WHEREAS, Hank Rutkowski and his crew were eventually freed by the Russian Army on May 8, 1945; and

WHEREAS, Hank Rutkowski received the Good Conduct Medal, the Air Medal, the European Theater of War Medal and the POW Medal; and

WHEREAS, following the war, Hank Rutkowski worked for 40 years at Schulze & Birch at 1133 W. 35th Street and retired in 1993; and

WHEREAS, every year Hank Rutkowski and his family have given thanks for his safe return home and for the example of his service and sacrifice for his country.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the President and Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby express their deep gratitude for the sacrifices of Hank Rutkowski, the crew of the Blanco Diablo and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this resolution be tendered to Hank Rutkowski in recognition of the service and sacrifice of the crew of the Blanco Diablo and the high esteem in which these men are held by the President and members of the Cook County Board.

Sponsors: JEFFREY R. TOBOLSKI, TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), LUIS ARROYO JR, RICHARD R. BOYKIN, JERRY BUTLER, JOHN P. DALEY, JOHN A. FRITCHEY, BRIDGET GAINER, JESÚS G. GARCÍA, ELIZABETH "LIZ" DOODY GORMAN, GREGG GOSLIN, STANLEY MOORE, JOAN PATRICIA MURPHY, TIMOTHY O. SCHNEIDER, PETER N. SILVESTRI, DEBORAH SIMS, ROBERT

STEELE, LARRY SUFFREDIN

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Code sections:

Attachments:

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
12/17/2014	1	Board of Commissioners	approve	Pass