



# Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street  
Chicago, IL

## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 15-0656, **Version:** 1

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### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **HONORING HENRY J. "HANK" RUTKOWSKI, SR. ON THE 70<sup>TH</sup> 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. 35<sup>th</sup> 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.