



Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL

Legislation Text

File #: 19-2263, **Version:** 1

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

JILL MORGENTHALER, IN MEMORIAM

WHEREAS, Almighty God in His infinite wisdom called Jill Morgenthaler from our midst on February 23, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Jill Morgenthaler was the beloved wife of Kerry Chambers; devoted mother of Neal and Jamie Chambers; loving sister of Terry Morgenthaler (Patrick Kerins), Jeffrey (Donna) Morgenthaler, and Sharon Morgenthaler; and dear aunt of many nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, Jill Morgenthaler was a retired U.S. Army Colonel with thirty years of military service; and

WHEREAS, Jill Morgenthaler was one of 83 female cadets to arrive at boot camp at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, in 1975, as part of the inaugural class of women in the Army; and

WHEREAS, Jill Morgenthaler rose through the ranks and became the first woman battalion commander in the 88th Regional Support Command, and later the first woman brigade commander in the 84th Division; and

WHEREAS, her military career took her to Germany and South Korea in the 1980s, and Bosnia and Kosovo in the 1990s, when she earned a humanitarian service medal for helping to resettle Kosovar refugees; and

WHEREAS, in 2004 Jill Morgenthaler was awarded the Bronze Star for leadership in Iraq and upon retirement in 2006 was awarded the Legion of Merit; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, Jill Morgenthaler became the first woman to run the Illinois Department of Homeland Security; and

WHEREAS, Jill Morgenthaler was a professional international speaker, leadership expert, and author of *The Courage to Take Command: Leadership Lessons from a Military Trailblazer*; and

WHEREAS, after retiring, Jill Morgenthaler served with the Army Reserves and helped coordinate the emergency response after the 2008 shootings at Northern Illinois University; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth said “Colonel Morgenthaler devoted her life to helping others be all they can be. A true patriot, she was a leader and decorated officer who knocked down barriers in the military and motivated a generation of women through her service and her inspirational speeches.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby offer its deepest condolences and heartfelt sympathy to the family and loved ones of Jill Morgenthaler; and

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