



# Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street  
Chicago, IL

## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 19-4229, **Version:** 1

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### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **IN HONOR OF VETERAN RICHARD A. OLUND'S SERVICE IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY DURING WORLD WAR II**

**WHEREAS**, Richard Olund was drafted in 1943, just before he was to graduate from Tilden Technical High School in Chicago, where he was a member of St. Basil Parish in the Wrightwood neighborhood; and

**WHEREAS**, he was assigned to the Army Medical Corps. as a medical technician, and trained in Portland, Tennessee, and Fort Devens, Massachusetts, before being sent to the 108<sup>th</sup> Evacuation Hospital in Manchester, England; and

**WHEREAS**, Richard Olund landed on Utah Beach in Normandy, France on July 18, 1944, the day the 3<sup>rd</sup> Army officially went into action; and

**WHEREAS**, he was originally assigned to General George Patton's 3<sup>rd</sup> Army formation, before being transferred to the 7<sup>th</sup> Army and later the 9<sup>th</sup> Army, as he made his way through England, France, Belgium Holland, Germany and Austria during his service, which ended in 1946; and

**WHEREAS**, an avid photographer to this day, Rich's prized possession throughout his tour of duty was a small camera brought from home. Throughout his tour of duty, and especially in the ten months he was in Europe after the war, Rich took a lot of photographs, and still has many of them; and

**WHEREAS**, as a surgical technician and, later, a dental technician, he knew how to develop X-ray photos, and often used the same supplies to develop his photos; and

**WHEREAS**, one of the many photographs is of Rich at Hitler's Eagle's Nest, the mountaintop chalet in Berchtesgaden, Germany, that served as a Nazi retreat, while others are of churches and other buildings damaged in Allied bombings; and

**WHEREAS**, Rich is compiling an album of his wartime photos with descriptions and more recent photos of the damaged buildings, which have been restored; and

**WHEREAS**, soon after he returned, Rich married his wife, Dorothy, and together they raised two daughters, Victoria and Claudia; and

**WHEREAS**, after leaving the war and attending television engineering school, Rich went on to have a 40-year career with General Electric's television laboratory in Chicago; and

**WHEREAS**, Rich is seldom without the World War II Army veteran cap that his granddaughter, Rachel, gave him. Listed on it are almost all of the countries he spent time in during the war - England, France, Holland, Germany and Italy; and

**WHEREAS**, Rich recently returned to Europe for the first time since the war to participate in the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration of D-Day on June 6. This time, as a guest of the National World War II Museum on its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cruise to Europe. The cruise made stops in Rotterdam, the Netherlands and Bruges, Belgium, before making stops along the coast of France, starting in Dunkirk, Calais and Le Havre, and then on to the Normandy region, beginning in Honfleur before visiting the beaches code-named Utah, Omaha, Juno, Gold and Sword. Many world leaders were present at the official commemoration on June 6, including President Donald J. Trump, who addressed those in attendance; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Cook County Board of Commissioners thank Rich Olund and all

those members of the Greatest Generation for their selfless service to our country; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of the Honorable Body, and an official copy be tendered to Richard Olund in sincere appreciation and acknowledgement of his dedicated service to our great nation.