

RESOLUTION
Sponsored by

THE HONORABLE ANTHONY J. PERAICA, COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Co-Sponsored by

THE HONORABLE BOBBIE L. STEELE, PRESIDENT, JERRY BUTLER, FORREST CLAYPOOL,
EARLEAN COLLINS, JOHN P. DALEY, ELIZABETH ANN DOODY GORMAN, GREGG GOSLIN,
CARL R. HANSEN, ROBERTO MALDONADO, JOSEPH MARIO MORENO,
JOAN PATRICIA MURPHY, MIKE QUIGLEY, PETER N. SILVESTRI, DEBORAH SIMS AND
LARRY SUFFREDIN, COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR VETERANS

WHEREAS, George Washington said, "The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportionate to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their country"; and

WHEREAS, President Lincoln said, in a letter on December 2, 1863 [to George Opdyke and others], "Honor to the Soldier, and Sailor everywhere, who bravely bears his country's cause"; and

WHEREAS, Brigadier General Casimir Pulaski said, "I came here, where freedom is being defended, to serve, and to live or die for it"; and

WHEREAS, when the United States military has been called upon to send forces into harms way, the sons and daughters of our great County of Cook, in the State of Illinois, have answered the call. These brave men and women enlisted to serve our country, as citizens of the United States agreed to provide benefits; and

WHEREAS, the legislative bodies of government at all levels have recognized the importance of supporting those who serve, however, the funding mechanisms for veterans are beset by numerous flaws preventing many veterans from receiving the financial support they deserve; and

WHEREAS, there should be mandatory fully-funded and equal benefits for all United States uniformed military, past, present and future; and

WHEREAS, our history has demonstrated that many of the debilitating health effects of military conflicts, such as, post-traumatic stress syndrome, the consequences of exposure to agent orange during the Vietnam War, the mysterious effects on veterans associated with the Gulf War may take years to manifest themselves or remain undetected, although clearly connected to military service. Additionally, these health problems may manifest themselves after the current limit of eligibility for related healthcare claims has expired; and

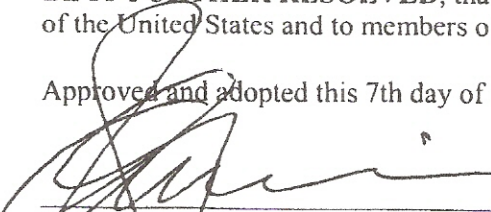
WHEREAS, these veterans, our heroes, have maintained their part of the bargain and now, we the people need to uphold ours; and


WHEREAS, the United States House of Representative and Senate must ensure that these obligations to our veterans reach the level of deserving healthcare funding that has been earned and promised for service to our great country, and as such, be the example of governments on this front.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of all citizens of the County of Cook, urge the United States House of Representative and Senate to increase the funding of veterans' benefits to the levels necessary to meet our moral obligation for the brave men and women of the United States military, past, present and future; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be prepared and presented to the President of the United States and to members of the United States Congress.

Approved and adopted this 7th day of September 2006.


ANTHONY J. PERAICA
Commissioner, 16th District


BOBBIE L. STEELE, President
Cook County Board of Commissioners

Cook County, Illinois

Cook County is a county located in the U.S. state of Illinois. As of 2000, the population was 5,376,741, making it the second largest county by population in the United States (after Los Angeles County, California). The county seat is Chicago, the principal city of its metropolitan area, Chicagoland; Chicago makes up about 54% of the population of the county, the rest being provided by various suburbs, and Cook county itself makes up 43.3% of the state population as of 2000. Cook County is the 19th largest government in the United States.

History

Cook County was created on January 15, 1831 by an act of the Illinois State Legislature. It was the 54th county established in Illinois and was named after Daniel Pope Cook, one of the earliest and youngest statesmen in Illinois history who served as the first U.S. representative from Illinois and the first Attorney General of the State of Illinois.

As mandated by State law, Cook County government has principal responsibility for the protection of persons and property, the provision for public health services and the maintenance of County highways.

The obligation to protect persons and property, commonly called public safety, is fulfilled by the provision of County judicial and law enforcement services: the Circuit Court of Cook County, which is the largest unified court system in the world - disposing over 6 million cases in 1990 alone, the Cook County Department of Corrections, which is the largest single-site jail in the nation and the Cook County Juvenile Detention Center, the first juvenile center in the nation and one of the largest in the nation, are solely the responsibility of Cook County government. The Cook County Law Library is the second largest County law library in the nation.

The obligation to provide public health services is fulfilled by the provision of comprehensive medical services to the citizens of the County, regardless of their ability to pay. The Bureau of Health Services administers the county's public health services and is the second largest public health system in the nation. Three hospitals are part of this system: John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County, Provident Hospital and Oak Forest Hospital, along with over 30 outpatient clinics.

The Cook County Highway Department is responsible for the design and maintenance of over 578 miles of roadways in the county. These thoroughfares are mostly composed of major and minor arterials, with a few local roads. Although the Highway Department was instrumental in designing many of the expressways in the county, today they are under the jurisdiction of the state.

The Forest Preserve District, organized in 1915, is a separate, independent taxing body, but the Cook County Board of Commissioners also acts as the Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners. The District is a belt of 68,000 acres of forest reservations surrounding the City of Chicago. The Brookfield Zoo (managed by the Chicago Zoological Society) and the Chicago Botanic Garden (managed by the Chicago Horticultural Society) are located in the forest preserves.