



City of Chicago



R2015-955

Office of the City Clerk

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Meeting Date:	11/18/2015
Sponsor(s):	Burke (14)
Type:	Resolution
Title:	Call for President Barack Obama to award Medal of Honor to Donald Hurst
Committee(s) Assignment:	



OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

Interview Date:	Subject(s):	Type:	Title:	Committee(s) / Assignment:
11/15/2001	Barack Obama	Resource	Call for President Barack Obama to award Medal of Honor to Donald Hunt	

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Donald Hurst is a World War II hero whose B-17 Flying Fortress was shot down by German fighters after a bombing mission over Stuttgart, Germany; and

WHEREAS, The plane had dropped its bombs and turned toward England when it was attacked by a swarm of at least ten German fighters; and

WHEREAS, The Messerschmitts unleashed a heavy barrage of bullets that shot out two of the aircraft's four engines and tore into its radio room and tail section; and

WHEREAS, With the aircraft's navigational controls no longer functioning, the pilot dropped the plane's altitude in an attempt to visually follow the Rhine River toward neutral Switzerland; and

WHEREAS, Donald Hurst, a gunner aboard the plane, was on his twelfth mission when his plane eventually ran out of fuel and was forced to crash land; and

WHEREAS, The massive impact killed the co-pilot and injured all of the other members of the crew, causing broken bones and lacerations; and

WHEREAS, Donald Hurst extricated the eight surviving members of the crew from the plane, dragging each of them to safety one-by-one on a rubber raft; and

WHEREAS, Shortly after Donald Hurst successfully completed the rescue, the plane burst into flames; and

WHEREAS, Donald Hurst grabbed for his machine gun and opened fire on German soldiers approaching the crash scene in two trucks, inflicting heavy casualties; and

WHEREAS, Donald Hurst then commandeered one of the trucks, loaded the vehicle with his wounded comrades, and began to drive toward the Swiss border; and

WHEREAS, Donald Hurst eventually encountered American OSS troops dressed as German soldiers and the crew members were transported back to France where they recuperated from their injuries; and

WHEREAS, Donald Hurst later married his sweetheart Lill and they raised a son together; and


WHEREAS, During his post-war career, Donald Hurst worked for the Crane Packaging Company and later was a manager at the Engis Corporation for 22 years; and

WHEREAS, A member of "Our Greatest Generation," Donald is an 86-year-old retiree living in Park Ridge; and

WHEREAS, Despite his heroics and the passage of many years, Donald Hurst has never been appropriately recognized for his remarkable bravery as a member of the United States Army Air Corps; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and the members of the Chicago City Council, assembled this eighteenth day of November, 2015 do hereby call upon President Barack Obama to officially bestow in the name of Congress the *Medal of Honor* upon Donald Hurst to belatedly recognize the heroism, courage and gallantry that he displayed in saving the lives of eight fellow crew members during World War II; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to President Barack Obama.



Alderman - 14th Ward

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