



Office of the City Clerk

City Hall
121 N. LaSalle St.
Room 107
Chicago, IL 60602
www.chicityclerk.com

Legislation Text

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RESOLUTION URGING THE DEDICATION OF A CABLE TELEVISION CHANNEL FOR MILITARY VETERAN'S PROGRAMMING

WHEREAS, Enough cannot be said or written to laud the honorable service that United States veterans who served in all branches of its military have performed in the defense of this nation and in securing its vital strategic interests throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, The veteran's families have sacrificed many long months separated from their loved ones or, worse yet, suffer from their permanent and devastating loss. Many families bear the burden of having to care for a severely maimed or wounded returning veteran. This places psychological and financial stress on both veteran and family caregiver. Many of them may not be aware of programs or benefits that may be made available to provide post-traumatic stress disorder counseling, legal assistance, medical, jobs, housing, education and the support they need to prevent their frighteningly high rate of suicide; and

WHEREAS, Many veterans and their families are not receiving the help they earned, were promised and are entitled by law to receive. This applies to not only those veterans from this nation's current conflicts. The Vietnam-era vet was by far more neglected than all previous military veterans. This nation owes an apology to this generation of fighting men and women and must resolve that such shabby treatment of our military personnel will never again happen; and

WHEREAS, In a 2007 address, the Honorable Phil Hare, United States Congressman from Illinois' 17th District, noted that the State of Illinois ranks 48th in awarding disability claims made by veterans. He related the story of one Vietnam veteran who waited through eight years of appeals for the veteran's disability award, having to start from scratch on several occasions. Unfortunately, the vet died before he collected any of the money to which he was entitled; and

WHEREAS, Whether one agrees with a particular conflict or not, these fighting men and women are doing what is required of them to fulfill their oath to defend our nation. When they return, they should be given all the respect and acknowledgement for their service. More importantly, they should be provided with whatever they need to put their life back together and be reintegrated into regular civilian life again; and

WHEREAS, A referendum in support of full funding for the Veterans Administration that had been initially placed on the ballot in the City of Chicago by this august body followed by the Cook County Board placing the same question before the Cook County voters. This non-binding referendum was ultimately put before the voters in the entire State of Illinois where it garnered a unheard of 96% of the vote, showing an overwhelming voter sentiment for funding support for veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, Our nation's veteran families, comprised of 26 million veterans, 20 million wives and 33 million mothers and fathers, make up approximately one third of this nation's population. It is incumbent that the citizens of this great metropolis respect the immense sacrifice that has been made by these veterans and their families by providing them with their own media platform to assist them in finding the information to get the help they need; and

WHEREAS, Throughout our nation's history, the spirit of initiative and volunteerism has created a multiplicity of veteran's agencies and organizations that do great work on behalf of or directly providing services for veterans and their families. However, they are only able to help as much as their funding, and an awareness of their existence, can reach. Veterans and their families have no idea that many of these programs are available; let alone how to access them. A Veterans Cable Television Channel with a supporting web Site would go far in raising awareness concerning these programs, consolidating communication and making them easy to find so

that services can be successfully delivered to those who are in desperate need of them; and WHEREAS, It is additionally incumbent upon this body to endorse the concept of and assist in finding funding for, a Veterans Cable Access Channel that will provide programming aimed at this underserved population The content would contain a viral video "One Stop Shop" with such shows as "John Marshall Law School Veteran's Law Clinic", "Finding a Job through the 'Helmets to Hardhats' Project", or "Wounded Veterans and Their Families; Help Through The Military Order of Purple Hearts". Such programming possibilities have never been available. The concept to provide such service for veterans and their families is unique; and WHEREAS, Partnering is possible with various educational institutions such as Columbia College or Northwestern University where media programs and facilities already exist. Such partnerships would be beneficial for all, giving their students much needed experience and the various veteran organizations a production crew for their shows. There are unused cable channels as well as private and public resources available to support such a project; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED That we, the undersigned members of the City of Chicago City Council, gathered this 18 Day of May, 2011 AD do hereby urge the Cable Commission to hold hearings at its earliest convenience for the purpose of facilitating the dedication of an unused cable channel to broadcast programs of, by and for the United States military veteran.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED suitable copies of this resolution be prepared and