

RESOLUTION

Sponsored by

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ROBERT STEELE, LARRY SUFFREDIN and JEFFREY R. TOBOLSKI,
COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**HONORING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE COOK COUNTY
COMMISSION ON WOMEN’S ISSUES 2011
“PEGGY A. MONTES UNSUNG HEROINE AWARD”**

Loretta Brown,	1 st District;
Patricia “Pat” Herrod,	2 nd District;
Dr. Grace G. Dawson,	3 rd District;
Dr. Sandra Neilson Givens,	4 th District;
Diane Latiker,	5 th District;
Rita Giertych,	6 th District;
Fatima Abu Eid,	7 th District;
Ofelia Navarro,	8 th District;
Barbara Weigand,	9 th District;
Christine Boyd,	10 th District;
Kathleen Gutierrez,	11 th District;
Lt. Patty Casey,	12 th District;
Aline Lauture,	13 th District;
Kristine M. Stabler,	14 th District;
Dianne Waddell,	15 th District;
Charlene Vickery,	16 th District; and
Jean Voss,	17 th District

WHEREAS, in the month of March we celebrate women’s history and women’s ongoing struggles to build a better world; and

WHEREAS, to commemorate Women’s History Month, the Cook County Commission on Women’s Issues established an award to honor a woman from each of the 17 districts in Cook County who has made exceptional contributions to her community, family, and/or profession; and

WHEREAS, the stories of these Unsung Heroines’ achievements are essential to the history and successful future of Cook County; and

WHEREAS, on this date of March 15, 2011, we recognize the recipients of the Cook County Commission on Women’s Issues, 14th Annual Peggy A. Montes Unsung Heroine Award; and

WHEREAS, we recognize Loretta Brown, from the 1st Cook County District for being a founding member and Market Director of the groundbreaking Maywood Multi-Cultural Farmers Market. We applaud Ms. Brown for her commitment to exposing economically disadvantaged urban youth from the Maywood and Proviso communities to the benefits of urban gardening through the innovative Cook County Green Corps; and

WHEREAS, we recognize Patricia “Pat” Herrod, from the 2nd Cook County District for over 20 years of service as a Community Outreach worker and clinical pastoral care counselor in the Lawndale community. We applaud Ms. Herrod’s dedication to this challenging but rewarding work, and we commend her for her talents in reaching such a diverse and multi-cultural population; and

WHEREAS, we recognize Dr. Grace G. Dawson, from the 3rd Cook County District for 40 years of work in the field of education, including providing critical leadership and guidance to new teachers. We applaud Dr. Dawson for volunteering her unique skill sets to important civic and community organizations, such as, Black on Black Love and the Martha Herrick Scholarship Society; and

WHEREAS, we recognize Dr. Sandra Neilson Givens, from the 4th Cook County District as an educational pioneer in the Chicago Public Schools, Dr. Neilson Givens never turned away from a challenge. We applaud Dr. Neilson Givens for giving of herself to organizations, such as, the St. Mark United Methodist Church, the “High Five for Youth” Committee of the Metropolitan Cluster, and the Bronzeville Children’s Museum; and

WHEREAS, we recognize Diane Latiker, or “Ms. Diane,” from the 5th Cook County District as the founder of the successful program “Kids Off the Block, Inc.” As the daughter of Evangelist Ruth Jackson, Ms. Diane witnessed firsthand how children in the neighborhood looked up to those successful individuals who frequented her home. We applaud Ms. Diane for providing opportunities for success to all children through KOB; and

WHEREAS, we recognize Rita Giertych, from the 6th Cook County District as an advocate and voice for those who had no voice, the developmentally disabled. As a mother of a child born 50 years ago with Downs Syndrome, Ms. Giertych and her late husband, Fritz, created opportunities where others saw only obstacles. We applaud Ms. Giertych for her efforts on behalf of her son Tommy, and on behalf of all the other lives she changed for the better; and

WHEREAS, we recognize Fatima Abu Eid, from the 7th Cook County District as the founder and Executive Director of Social Services Assisting Neighborhood Arab-American Development (“SANAD”). We applaud Ms. Abu Eid, who founded SANAD as a result of her own challenging immigrant experiences. SANAD is a culturally sensitive social service agency which offers assistance to Arab women on Chicago’s South Side, but is open to all; and

WHEREAS, we recognize Ofelia Navarro, from the 8th Cook County District as the Executive Director of the Spanish Coalition for Housing (SCH). For over 18 years, Ms. Navarro has worked with and now leads this important non-profit organization that serves Chicago’s growing Latino community. We applaud Ms. Navarro’s commitment to affordable housing and providing quality housing services to all low-income people; and

WHEREAS, we recognize Barbara Weigand, from the 9th Cook County District as a co-founder of the Strike at Cancer Foundation, a family founded organization which grew from a single fundraising event (a bowling tournament) to a foundation which now supports cancer patients of all ages, as well as their families. We applaud Ms. Weigand's passion as she directs programs, such as the Healing Arts Program, for these very special patients and their families; and

WHEREAS, we recognize Christine Boyd, from the 10th Cook County District as the principal of St. Thomas of Canterbury and St. Mary of the Lake grade schools, both located in the racially diverse and economically challenged Uptown neighborhood. We applaud Ms. Boyd's passion for her students and her commitment to extend the benefits of a Catholic school education to all those in the community, not just to those who have the financial means to afford such an education; and

WHEREAS, we recognize Kathleen Gutierrez, from the 11th Cook County District as the youth minister at St. Christina's Parish in Chicago since 1995. We applaud Ms. Gutierrez's dedication to the young people in her community, through Ms. Gutierrez's efforts, the young people of St. Christina are offered many opportunities to grow in their faith: dynamic liturgies, retreats, service projects, and a variety of social activities for Junior High, High School and College students; and

WHEREAS, we recognize Lt. Patty Casey, from the 12th Cook County District who broke a gender barrier when she became a Chicago Police officer in 1989. From Officer to Lieutenant, Lt. Casey's career has been distinguished by her passion for the job, as well as by her accomplishments on the job, and in her personal life as well. We applaud Lt. Casey for her steadfast focus on issues of domestic violence and for her efforts in co-founding the first external law enforcement support group for families with a special needs family member; and

WHEREAS, we recognize Aline Lauture, from the 13th Cook County District as a volunteer and Executive Director of the Haitian Congress to Fortify Haiti (Haitian Congress). Ms. Lauture has served the Haitian community and her community-at-large with a passion and dedication unmatched. We applaud Ms. Lauture for her herculean efforts in orchestrating and organizing a coordinated response to the catastrophic earthquake that devastated Haiti in January of 2010; and

WHEREAS, we recognize Kristine M. Stabler, from the 14th Cook County District as a lifelong resident of the northwest suburbs, and as an admired and respected community leader. We applaud Ms. Stabler for lending her time, experience and talents to businesses and organizations in the northwest suburbs, and for continuing to advocate for those in need. Ms. Stabler spearheads drives for the Wheeling Township Food Pantry and other worthwhile programs; and

WHEREAS, we recognize Dianne Waddell, from the 15th Cook County District who started volunteering for PADS in 1994 when she began providing haircuts for the homeless guests that stayed at the Christus Victor PADS site in Elk Grove Village. Ms. Waddell continues to volunteer at PADS, and has been in charge of organizing the PADS Walk, a major fundraiser for the organization. We applaud Ms. Waddell for her spirit of volunteerism, and for her very own personal work of love, Hats for Cancer; and

WHEREAS, we recognize Charlene Vickery, from the 16th Cook County District, a cancer survivor who has dedicated her time and energy to numerous worthwhile endeavors. Ms. Vickery is an organizer of the annual Goombay Bash at Navy Pier, which raises money for cancer research, and she has also been involved in the successful implementation of a “Pathway” grant which assists special needs students. We applaud Ms. Vickery for her ability to get the job done; and

WHEREAS, we recognize Jean Voss, from the 17th Cook County District as a passionate and dedicated advocate for people in need. Ms. Voss is celebrating her 20th year with the Bethshan Association, a non-profit agency which provides housing and support services for adults with developmental disabilities within the community in which they reside. We applaud Ms. Voss as she oversees the construction/remodeling of three residential properties that will soon be home to 16 developmentally disabled adults; and

WHEREAS, each of these Unsung Heroines, have made meaningful contributions to the growth and strength of Cook County in countless recognized and unrecognized ways; and

WHEREAS, it is important to salute these diverse and extraordinary women, in their diverse and extraordinary endeavors.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the President of the Cook County Board and Members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners in recognition of Women’s History Month, take this opportunity on behalf of the people of Cook County to bestow upon these 17 women, the 2011 Cook County Commission On Women’s Issues “Peggy A. Montes Unsung Heroine Award;” and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and Board Commissioners hereby express official personal gratitude and deep appreciation to each of these 17 extraordinary women for their outstanding public service and dedication; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the official proceedings of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County, and that a suitable copy thereof be transmitted to each Unsung Heroine as a testimonial of the high esteem and appreciation in which each of these 17 women are regarded by the President of the Cook County Board and Members of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County.