



Legislation Text

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PROPOSED RESOLUTION

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF THE ADMINISTRATOR OF ANIMAL AND RABIES CONTROL, DONNA M. ALEXANDER, VMD

WHEREAS, Dr. Donna M. Alexander was born in East Orange, New Jersey on October 24, 1956; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Alexander received her undergraduate and Veterinariae Medicinae Doctoris degree from the University of Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, while at the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Alexander was the winner of the New Bolton Esquire Award (1982), was published in the Journal of Biochemistry (1978) and Journal of Animal Behavior (1982); and

WHEREAS, Dr. Alexander helped catapult a historic decrease in animal euthanasia while previously working at Chicago Animal Care and Control from 1989 to 1999; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Alexander, a true advocate who dedicated her life's work in the caring of all animals, began her Cook County career in 2007; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Alexander supported the mission of the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the "Forest Preserves") and recognized the role of wildlife in the maintenance and dissemination of disease; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Alexander utilized real time field information in collaboration with the Forest Preserves and other agencies to make informed policy decisions benefitting the health of people and companion animals in Cook County; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Alexander used wildlife information to integrate public health and utilized wildlife as biomonitors to inform physicians as to the presence of disease and/or vectors; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves' work with Dr. Alexander resulted in required leptospirosis vaccinations for dog park users, as well as rabies vaccinations and registration of all cat colonies; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Alexander facilitated a "Health One" approach to issues of human/companion animal/wildlife health, and supported the use of telemetry and genetic modeling research methods to address environmental health questions; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Alexander was a voracious reader, avid Scrabble and Jeopardy player, an excellent cook that liked to prepare exotic meals from different ethnic groups, and was famously known for wearing socks that depicted animals; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Alexander passed away on May 29th, 2018 and has rejoined her sister Joyce Alexander Walker; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Alexander is survived by her mother Kathryn Edna Alexander; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Alexander was an integral partner to the Forest Preserves and will be sorely missed by colleagues,

friends, family and all the animals throughout Cook County; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners commemorate the life of Dr. Donna M. Alexander, and herewith expresses its sincere gratitude for the contributions she has made to the citizens and animals, both domestic and wild, of Cook County, Illinois; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body and that an official copy of the same be tendered to the family of Dr. Donna M. Alexander.