

# LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS RESOLUTION



JULY 8, 2021

## RESOLUTION TO HONOR AND RECOGNIZE VICTIMS OF AGENT ORANGE DURING THE VIETNAM WAR

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the United States have, throughout the years, been called upon to take up arms against the enemies of this great nation, risking their lives and leaving their loved ones behind to honorably safeguard the freedoms and liberties guaranteed to all Americans; and

WHEREAS, more than eight million citizens of this country honorably served during the Vietnam War, during which time Agent Orange was widely used in Vietnam by the United States Armed Forces as part of the herbicidal warfare program "Operation Ranch Hand" from 1961 to 1971; and

WHEREAS, nearly 20 million gallons of the orange mist were sprayed over the land from helicopters or low-flying aircraft, destroying vegetation and crops in order to deprive the enemy guerrillas of food and cover for their activities, thus exposing 2.6 million American soldiers to the herbicide and defoliant chemical; and

WHEREAS, Agent Orange is a dioxin and cancer-causing chemical that enters the body through physical contact or ingestion and moves into the human cell nucleus, where it attacks the genes and causes a number of serious illnesses, including leukemia, lymphoma, soft tissue sarcoma and cancers of the throat, prostate, lung and colon; and

WHEREAS, Agent Orange also causes genetic damage, and in some cases, the children and grandchildren of veterans exposed to Agent Orange have been born with spina bifida and other abnormalities; and

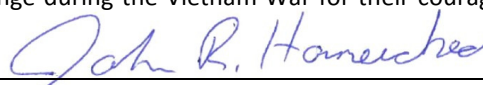
WHEREAS, today, only 600,000 Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange are alive and approximately 557 deaths occur among them every day; and

WHEREAS, while fallen comrades are memorialized on The Wall at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., those veterans who are victims of Agent Orange are not recognized as fatalities; and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that we should honor these veterans to the full extent of our ability, as they have made untold and innumerable sacrifices to preserve the liberties we enjoy today and that our progeny will hopefully continue to cherish for generations to come.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners, in and for Lake County, Ohio, hereby honor and recognize the victims of Agent Orange during the Vietnam War for their courageous service to our nation as some of America's most heroic citizens.

  
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JOHN PLECNIK, COMMISSIONER

  
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JOHN R. HAMERCHECK, PRESIDENT

  
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RON YOUNG, COMMISSIONER