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SENATE RESOLUTION

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

7 WHEREAS, Veterans' families have sacrificed many long
8 months separated from their loved ones or, worse yet, suffer
9 from their permanent and devastating loss; many families bear
10 the burden of having to care for a severely maimed or wounded
11 returning veteran; this places psychological and financial
12 stress on both veterans and family caregivers; many of them may
13 not be aware of programs or benefits that may be available to
14 provide post-traumatic stress disorder counseling, legal
15 assistance, medical care, jobs, housing, education, and the
16 support they need to prevent their frighteningly high rate of
17 suicide; and

18 WHEREAS, Many veterans and their families are not receiving
19 the help they earned, were promised, and are entitled by law;
20 this applies to not only those veterans from this nation's
21 current conflicts, but to the Vietnam-era vet, who was far more
22 neglected than all previous military veterans; this nation owes
23 an apology to this generation of fighting men and women and

1 must resolve that such shabby treatment of our military
2 personnel will never happen again; and

3 WHEREAS, In a 2007 address, the Honorable Phil Hare, United
4 States Congressman from Illinois' 17th District, noted that the
5 State of Illinois ranks 48th in awarding disability claims made
6 by veterans; he related the story of one Vietnam veteran who
7 waited through 8 years of appeals for the veteran's disability
8 award, having to start from scratch on several occasions;
9 unfortunately, the veteran died before he collected any of the
10 money to which he was entitled; and

11 WHEREAS, Whether one agrees with a particular conflict or
12 not, these fighting men and women are doing what is required of
13 them to fulfill their oath to defend our nation; when they
14 return, they should be given all the respect and
15 acknowledgement for their service that they deserve; more
16 importantly, they should be provided with whatever they need to
17 put their lives back together and be reintegrated into regular
18 civilian life; and

19 WHEREAS, A referendum in support of full funding for the
20 Veterans Administration had been initially placed on the ballot
21 in the City of Chicago, followed by the Cook County Board
22 placing the same question before the Cook County voters; this
23 non-binding referendum was ultimately put before the voters in

1 the entire State of Illinois, where it garnered an unheard of
2 96% of the vote, showing an overwhelming voter sentiment for
3 funding support for veterans and their families; and

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

12 WHEREAS, Throughout our nation's history, the spirit of
13 initiative and volunteerism has created a multiplicity of
14 veteran's agencies and organizations that do great work on
15 behalf of or directly providing services for veterans and their
16 families; however, they are only able to help as much as their
17 funding, and an awareness of their existence, can reach;
18 veterans and their families have no idea that many of these
19 programs are available, let alone how to access them; a
20 Veterans cable television channel with a supporting web site
21 would go far in raising awareness concerning these programs,
22 consolidating communication, and making them easy to find so
23 that services can be successfully delivered to those who are in
24 desperate need of them; and

1 WHEREAS, It is additionally incumbent upon this Body to
2 endorse the concept of, and assist in finding funding for, a
3 Veterans cable access channel that will provide programming
4 aimed at this underserved population; the content would contain
5 a viral video "One Stop Shop" with such shows as "John Marshall
6 Law School Veteran's Law Clinic", "Finding a Job through the
7 'Helmets to Hardhats' Project", or "Wounded Veterans and Their
8 Families: Help Through The Military Order of Purple Hearts";
9 such programming possibilities have never been available; the
10 concept to provide such service for veterans and their families
11 is unique; and

12 WHEREAS, Partnerships are possible with various
13 educational institutions, such as Columbia College or
14 Northwestern University, where media programs and facilities
15 already exist; such partnerships would be beneficial for all,
16 giving their students much needed experience and the various
17 veteran organizations a production crew for their shows; there
18 are unused cable channels as well as private and public
19 resources available to support such a project; therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL
21 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the Cable
22 Television and Communications Association of Illinois to look
23 into, at its earliest convenience, the possibility of

1 facilitating the dedication of an unused cable channel to
2 broadcast programs of, by, and for the United States military
3 veteran; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
5 delivered to the Cable Television and Communications
6 Association of Illinois.