



RESOLUTION No. 11-28-22-1

RESOLUTION IN MEMORY OF TRUSTEE STEPHEN RIESS

WHEREAS, it was on May 10, 1999, Steve Riess first took the oath of office to serve as Village Trustee for the Village of Hawthorn Woods, and since that time has been elected by the residents of Hawthorn Woods to serve another five terms; and

WHEREAS, in the early days of his public service to Hawthorn Woods, Steve was a founding member of Active Citizens for Responsible Expansion (ACRE) and was instrumental in blocking the development of land at Old McHenry Road and Route 12 into a regional shopping center, thus preserving 110 acres of land which remains undeveloped to this day; and

WHEREAS, as a trustee, Steve was a strong advocate for the purchase of equipment and technology to ensure Village staff had the best tools possible to smoothly perform their duties of customer service to our residents and business community. He was instrumental in securing radios in all Public Works trucks, he led the effort to provide recycling containers in all public parks and facilities, he was a member of the Village's Business Continuity Work Group, and was a strong leader in advising staff in the area of technology; and

WHEREAS, Steve's passion for service to the Hawthorn Woods community extended well beyond his position as a trustee in that he faithfully served on various Village committees; and

WHEREAS, Steve was the trustee liaison on the Technology Committee from 2001 to 2006; and

WHEREAS, Steve was first appointed to the Finance Committee on January 13, 2009, where he passionately advocated for the importance of providing a sustainable funding mechanism for the repair and maintenance of Village roads, and provided institutional knowledge about the funding of past road programs. Steve's vision and recommendations to the committee were always forward-thinking in what would be best for the Village not for the next year, but for the next generation; and

WHEREAS, since October 21, 1999, Steve also served on the Environmental Committee, now known as the Sustainability Committee, and became the committee's trustee liaison to the Village Board on November 2, 1999; and

WHEREAS, as a member and trustee liaison of the Sustainability Committee, Steve was instrumental in the implementation of numerous environmental initiatives that helped educate the residents of Hawthorn Woods on the importance of preserving our beautiful community for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, Steve's passion for environmental preservation included his work in establishing a relationship with the Chicago Regional Tree Initiative to collect data on the Hawthorn Woods tree canopy, his leadership in applying and the Village being awarded seven Tree City USA Awards from the Arbor Day Foundation, his efforts to secure a Tree City USA Growth Award from the National Arbor Day Foundation, his work in creating the Heritage Tree Designation for Hawthorn Woods, his

leadership in reviewing, revising and updating the Village's Tree Ordinance, his efforts in investigating the plausibility of creating floating habitat islands in the Village waterways, his creation of public education programs and workshops through the Environmental and Sustainability committees, his work to create a Tree Management Plan through a grant from the Morton Arboretum and the US Forestry Department, his involvement in implementing a village-wide annual Arbor Day observance distributing trees to District 95 students and residents with over 2,000 saplings being provided in the last seven years, his efforts to educate staff and residents about the impact of phosphorus in lawncare applications, his implementation of the Adopt-A-Highway Program along Old McHenry Road, and his volunteerism in planting flower bulbs throughout the Village; and

WHEREAS, Steve also faithfully served as a member of the Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT) for seven years; and

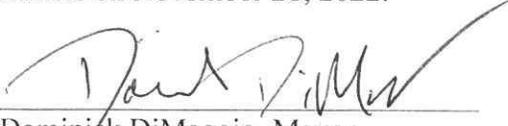
WHEREAS, Steve's commitment to public service extended beyond his work as a village trustee. Steve also dedicated his time by serving on the District 95 Alternative Employment Committee promoting careers that did not require a college education, such as the trades, truck driving, and landscaping, serving as a mentor to several high school and post high school students and recruitment of county businesses to provide internships or work/study programs. He also served as a Director to the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County, and was a frequent lecturer at both Elia Area and Fremont Public libraries; and

WHEREAS, generations of staff members will forever be grateful that Steve took it upon himself to provide much appreciated amenities for staff out of his own generosity. Steve also generously donated updated technology to assist staff with communications, but never wanted to accept praise for his donations. His humble concern for others before self will forever be a lasting legacy among staff; and

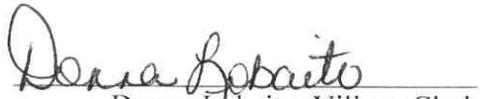
WHEREAS, the Village Board and staff will always remember Steve for his dedication and genuine commitment to public service, his institutional knowledge in guiding the Village, and the way he honorably and faithfully served the Hawthorn Woods community, treating fellow Board members, staff and residents with the utmost dignity, respect and courtesy in his words and actions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board of Trustees, on behalf of the residents and Village staff, does hereby express its gratitude and appreciation to the family of Stephen Riess for his public service faithfully performed over the past twenty-three years, and our deepest condolences are extended to his wife, MaryAnn, his daughters Sarah and Rachel, his grandson, Gabriel, and his brother, Martin.

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Hawthorn Woods, Illinois on November 28, 2022.



Dominick DiMaggio, Mayor



Donna Lobaito, Village Clerk