



## News Release

FROM: Chambers of the Chief Judge  
19th Judicial Circuit  
Lake County  
Waukegan, Illinois 60085-4359

Date of Release: November 10, 2020  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Waukegan, Illinois

### THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT CELEBRATES VETERANS

The Nineteenth Judicial Circuit is pleased to honor our veterans virtually for our 9<sup>th</sup> Annual [Veterans History Project \(VHP\)](#). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the VHP co-chaired by Judges Charles W. Smith and Elizabeth M. Rochford evolved into a [virtual recap](#) of past VHP events at the Lake County Courthouse and a recognition of local veterans.

“It is my privilege and honor to gather virtually to proudly honor our veterans. Due to the COVID pandemic, and with public health and safety as our highest priority, we are disappointed that we are unable to host veterans and their families at our courthouse this year. But our commitment to the celebration remains undeterred and we expect to complete and archive veteran interviews when it is safe for the veterans,” said Chief Judge Diane E. Winter.

Deputy Chief Judge Mark L. Levitt is joined on video by the Lake County Young Marines leading the Pledge of Allegiance, retired Circuit Judge Margaret J. Mullen, retired Associate Judge and Navy Reservist Veteran Michael J. Fusz, retired Associate Judge and Navy Captain Veteran John J. Scully, former Army Ranger from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Kris “Tanto” Paronto, and Highland Park Police Department’s Volunteer Chaplain Scott Baesman singing the National Anthem.

Additionally, Lake County Government employees and Lake Countywide first responders were encouraged to share their [veteran and active duty photos](#) to celebrate and recognize those who continue to serve our communities.

The Veterans History Project will resume an in-person celebration on Veterans Day 2021. For more information on the Court’s activities, please visit our [website](#).

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