

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

Proclaim April 2024 as Awareness of Veterans with Parkinson’s Month

In the United States, April is Parkinson’s Awareness month. The Parkinson’s Foundation estimates that close to 1 million people in the United States live with Parkinson’s disease, with approximately 90,000 Americans newly diagnosed each year. Parkinson’s disease (PD) is a progressive and incurable neurodegenerative disorder that can severely affect speech, gait and balance, movement control, and impact emotional health.

The Board of Supervisors wants to recognize the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for their pioneering and proactive treatment for the estimated 110,000 veterans who are affected by PD. While the exact cause is unknown, research suggests that PD may be linked to a combination of genetic and environmental factors. For many Vietnam veterans, developing PD is associated with exposure to Agent Orange. Veterans with Parkinson’s have access to specialized medical care through the VA that includes clinical care, education, research, outreach, and advocacy.

The VA of Greater Los Angeles and the Long Beach Healthcare Systems are notable for their service to Los Angeles County veterans, each offering unique treatment and support of veterans with PD. The Los Angeles VA hosts one of six nationwide Parkinson's Disease Research, Education and Clinical Centers. The Long Beach VA provides services for veterans

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through their innovative Home-Based Primary Care program, Parkinson's Support Group, and through a partnership with the Parkinson's Foundation to ensure access to information and resources.

The VA and organizations such as the Parkinson's Foundation continue to bring awareness about PD in order to help people learn more about the disease, recognize its symptoms, seek medical care, and to support those already living with it and their loved ones.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1) Proclaim April 2024 as Awareness of Veterans with Parkinson's Month in Los Angeles County to help raise awareness and improve knowledge about Parkinson's amongst the general public;

2) Encourage all County stakeholders to learn about the programs offered through VA of Long Beach and Greater Los Angeles, as well as organizations such as the Parkinson's Foundation by visiting Parkinson.org.

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