

# COUNTY OF KANE

**L. Robert Russell**  
**KANE COUNTY CORONER**  
719 South Batavia Avenue, Building E  
Geneva, Illinois 60134



Phone 630-232-3535  
Fax 630-232-3431  
Website: [www.co.kane.il.us](http://www.co.kane.il.us)

January 21, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

As the elected coroner in Kane County, IL, I have seen my share of trauma. Although I believe that people who are called to this type of career are mostly equipped to handle tragic incidents, I also realize that we are not immune from the negative ramifications that can occur in a person's emotional health and well-being. Because of this, I fully endorse the mission of Hero's Rest and Shalam Ministries.

Prior to being elected as coroner, I was a 20 year veteran of the DuPage County Sheriff's Office. I have personally witnessed dysfunction not only from those I served, but also from those I worked next to. I have had friends (that I worked with) abuse alcohol and drugs, get divorced and even kill themselves. This is not uncommon in the law enforcement field. Unfortunately there is a shortage of respite and/or advocacy groups designed to support first responders. Almost all of the civil service responders I know, have had at least one episode that he/she cannot overcome. I have found that it is not a matter of what will occur, but a matter of **when**. This is why I love the idea a creating a safe place for first responders and their families to heal and rebound when they are injured (psychologically, emotionally and physically).

Police and civil servants today are under intense scrutiny. By in large, most do a superb job serving and caring for those in need. Unfortunately, all too common we hear the stories of those who have made major errors in his/her civil service/law enforcement/public service career. The media likes to highlight these uncommon incidents of abusive authority and frame them as the rule rather than the exception. This causes apprehension and stress to those who perform their duties with grace and kindness. It also fills the general public with rage which can create a hostile society for the police to work in.

Hero's Rest mission is to create an oasis in this stressful desert. I can assure you, there is great need.

Please consider supporting this mission with whatever resources you have. Helping to care for those who stand in the gap between good and evil is a good thing. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rob Russell  
Kane County Coroner

**The first Accredited Coroner's Office in Illinois**

