

APPROVED

BY ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A VETERANS' HOSPITAL IN ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

SEP 09 2003 AA/CL

WHEREAS, our country owes an enormous debt to those who have served in our nation's Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, providing veterans and military retirees with timely access to the full range of health benefits earned through their service to this country is a central part of our national obligation; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Administration Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Project has determined that a large demand for hospital access in Central Florida remains and will continue to be present over the next 20 years; and

WHEREAS, a recent study from the General Accounting Office indicates that one million dollars is being wasted daily on underutilized hospitals and clinics in other areas of the country, while VA hospitals and clinics in Florida are overwhelmed; and

WHEREAS, the needs of Central Florida's 250,000 veterans from over seven counties for access to hospital, nursing home, and outpatient clinic services have been well documented; and

WHEREAS, the needs of Central Florida veterans were fully recognized on August 7, 2003, when Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs Anthony Principi endorsed plans for a VA hospital to be built in Orange County; and

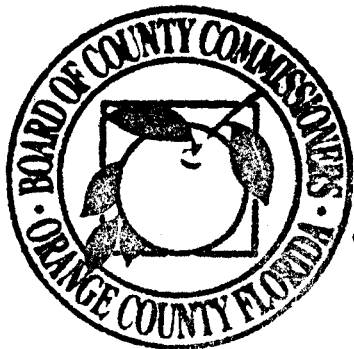
WHEREAS, the location of a VA hospital in Orange County will be a valuable addition to our growing commitment to excellence in medical services and will provide continuing direct and indirect economic benefit to the economy of Central Florida;

NOW, THEREFORE, Be It Resolved by the Board of County Commissioners, Orange County, Florida that:

**Section 1.** The Orange County Board of County Commissioners wishes to thank Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Anthony Principi for his commitment to the veterans of Central Florida by endorsing plans for a VA hospital to be built in Orlando, Florida.

**Section 2.** The Board further acknowledges and expresses its appreciation to the veterans of Central Florida and the Central Florida Veterans Association for their tireless efforts in supporting and lobbying for this much needed hospital facility and expresses its support of the plan to bring the VA Hospital to Orlando.

ADOPTED this 9<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2003.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: Richard T. Crotty  
Richard T. Crotty, County Chairman

9/9/03  
Date

ATTEST: Martha O. Haynie, County Comptroller  
As Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners

By: [Signature]  
Deputy Clerk