



# Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police

December 11, 2014

President  
Chief Fred W. Hayes  
*Elwood Police Dept.*

For immediate release  
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## Officers 2014-2015

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*Park Ridge Police Dept.*

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*Buffalo Grove Police Dept.*

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Executive Director  
Ed Wojcicki

## **Topinka honored as Public Official of the Year**

The late Judy Baar Topinka will be honored posthumously as the Public Official of the Year by the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, the Executive Board decided yesterday (December 10), the day that Topinka died.

The association's Legislative Committee had voted last month to recognize Topinka with that award for her extraordinary support of law enforcement and Illinois police chiefs in particular. It was only coincidence that the Executive Board had its quarterly meeting scheduled yesterday and planned to affirm to selection of Topinka as its Public Official of the Year.

In 2014, Topinka [honored women in law enforcement](#) as part of Women in History Month. Then in August during the Illinois State Fair, she issued a proclamation saluting law enforcements' voluntary efforts to raise substantial amounts of money for the Illinois Special Olympics. She issued another proclamation commending ILACP for its role in improving the "safety and success of our local communities."

"Comptroller Topinka was a tremendous advocate for law enforcement in Illinois and we mourn her loss," said Fred Hayes, the Elwood Police Chief who is the association's president this year. "We will miss her, and we are deeply grateful for her passionate service to the state of Illinois. There was no doubt that we still want to recognize her as our Public Official of the Year."

The association will notify Topinka's staff and family of the award and present it in March 2015 during its annual legislative reception.

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