

# Senate Concurrent Resolution 28

Sponsored by Senators MCLANE, MANNING JR, Representative LEVY B, Senator NASH, Representatives BOICE, LEWIS, MCINTIRE, OWENS, SKARLATOS, SMITH G; Senators ANDERSON, GIROD, HAYDEN, LINTHICUM, MEEK, ROBINSON, SMITH DB, WOODS, Representatives BREESE-IVERSON, EVANS, HARBICK, LIVELY, PHAM H, RESCHKE, WRIGHT, YUNKER

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: Honors the life and service of Chuck Mawhinney. (Flesch Readability Score: 71.8).  
In memoriam: Charles Benjamin "Chuck" Mawhinney, 1949-2024.

## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas Charles Benjamin "Chuck" Mawhinney was born on February 23, 1949, in Lakeview, Oregon; and

Whereas Chuck Mawhinney was the son of a United States Marine Corps (USMC) veteran who served in the Pacific Theater during World War II; and

Whereas Chuck Mawhinney grew up in rural eastern Oregon and became an avid outdoorsman and deer hunter, having learned to shoot and hunt from his father and grandfather; and

Whereas Chuck Mawhinney graduated from high school in June 1967, and he joined the USMC later that year—after deer season ended; and

Whereas the USMC had not had dedicated snipers since World War II, but by 1967 the Corps had changed its mind; and

Whereas Chuck Mawhinney was among the first to complete the new USMC Scout Sniper School at Camp Pendleton, and he graduated at the top of his class in April 1968; and

Whereas Chuck Mawhinney received orders to South Vietnam, where upon arrival he was assigned as a rifleman to Lima Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division, and then was reassigned to the 5th Marine Regiment HQ Scout Sniper Platoon; and

Whereas Chuck Mawhinney spent 16 months in Vietnam, and during his combat tour he was credited with 103 confirmed North Vietnamese Army and Viet Cong kills and 216 probable kills; and

Whereas Chuck Mawhinney had confirmed kills over 1,000 yards when the typical kill shot for snipers during the Vietnam War was taken at a distance of 300 to 800 yards; and

Whereas Chuck Mawhinney is the deadliest sniper in the history of the USMC, and he is widely considered to be the fourth deadliest sniper in American military history; and

Whereas Chuck Mawhinney was neither boastful nor bashful about his task, and he said that he did not relish killing but accepted it as an important part of keeping his fellow Marines safe; and

Whereas Chuck Mawhinney believed that snipers saved lives by sapping the enemy's will to fight; and

Whereas Chuck Mawhinney earned numerous medals and commendations for his Vietnam War service, including a Bronze Star with "V" device for combat valor, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with "V" device and two

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 Purple Hearts; and

2 Whereas Chuck Mawhinney returned to the United States in the spring of 1970, and he was  
3 honorably discharged from the USMC with the rank of sergeant; and

4 Whereas Chuck Mawhinney had a long career with the United States Forest Service until his  
5 retirement in 1997; and

6 Whereas Chuck Mawhinney married Robin Hood in 1977, and they settled in Baker City,  
7 Oregon, in 1981; and

8 Whereas Chuck Mawhinney never sought attention and he was quiet about his years as a sniper,  
9 so that his extraordinary accomplishments remained largely unknown to the general public and even  
10 to many close friends and family members; and

11 Whereas in 1991, a friend and fellow former sniper, Joseph T. Ward, published *Dear Mom: A*  
12 *Sniper's Vietnam*, in which he made public the details of Chuck Mawhinney's war service, including  
13 his kill count; and

14 Whereas after the revelation of his feats as a sniper, Chuck Mawhinney slowly increased his  
15 public profile, and he began speaking at conventions and public events and attending national sniper  
16 shooting competitions; and

17 Whereas in 2023, *The Sniper: The Untold Story of the Marine Corps' Greatest Marksman of All*  
18 *Time*, a biography of Chuck Mawhinney by Jim Lindsay, was published; and

19 Whereas an M40 sniper rifle Chuck Mawhinney used in combat is displayed in the National  
20 Museum of the Marine Corps; and

21 Whereas Chuck Mawhinney died on February 12, 2024; and

22 Whereas Chuck Mawhinney was survived by his wife, Robin; his three sons, Cody, Dennis and  
23 Don; and his daughter, Lisa; and

24 Whereas Chuck Mawhinney was a proud Marine who served his country with honor and great  
25 distinction; now, therefore,

26 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

27 That we, the members of the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly, celebrate the life and accom-  
28 plishments of Charles Benjamin "Chuck" Mawhinney, and we recognize and honor him for his ser-  
29 vice to his country; and be it further

30 Resolved, That a copy of this resolution shall be presented to the family of Chuck Mawhinney  
31 as an expression of our sympathy and condolences.

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