

Submitter: William Skiles
On Behalf Of: Chuck Mawhinney and Mawhinney family
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SCR28

As a 30-year Marine, I have had the pleasure and honor of serving with men and women in combat. Honor and humility are paramount in this environment and the highest example of a Marine with these qualities was Chuck Mawhinney. Chuck and I taught many federal and local law enforcement courses over the past 20 years, and he really wanted to share his experiences to keep them safe and save a life someday.

Chuck served with honor and never sought out glory but embellished a standard – a commitment to something larger than oneself. He understood that courage isn't boastful, and strength isn't about dominance. It's about quiet dedication, selfless service, and recognizing that any accomplishment is rarely a solo effort. We stand on the shoulders of men like Chuck and alongside the brave men and women fighting with us. Chuck also realized, humility isn't a weakness; it's the bedrock of trust, respect, and the understanding that true leadership comes from serving, not from being served. Chuck knew it was a privilege to wear the uniform with both unwavering integrity and a grateful heart. Chuck's service to this nation and to his state of Oregon should not go unnoticed and should be celebrated. Cuck once told me, "It wasn't about the numbers he killed in Vietnam that was important, it was the number of Marines he saved."

Additional notes on Chuck:

Chuck spent years trying to improve Oregon's natural resources through his forest service.

Chuck unselfishly spent time away from his family to promote ethics throughout the state through his teachings and courses.

Chuck was the epitome of a family man by always keeping his wife and boys a priority, no matter what was on his schedule.

Most important, Chuck turned down many monetary deals to promote himself (movie and book deals) and his Vietnam service to stay grounded to his family and Oregon home in Baker City.

This testimony is from the heart and is about honoring a man that embellishes honor, humility and sacrifice. Traits hard to find these days within our nation.

Respectfully, Bill Skiles