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Senate and House Republicans Pay Tribute to Heroic Vietnam War Sniper

SALEM, Ore. – Today, the Oregon House of Representatives unanimously passed [Senate Concurrent Resolution 28](#), a bipartisan tribute to **Charles Benjamin "Chuck" Mawhinney**, the United States Marine Corps' greatest marksman.

The resolution is chief sponsored by **Senator Nash (R-Enterprise)**, **Senator Mike McLane (R- Powell Butte)**, **Representative Bobby Levy (R-Echo)**, **Representative Mark Owens (R-Crane)**, **Representative Alek Skarlatos (R-Canyonville)**, **Representative Court Boice (R-Gold Beach)**, **Representative Rick Lewis (R-Silverton)**, **Representative Emily McIntire (R-Eagle Point)**, and **Representative Greg Smith (R-Heppner)**. In celebrating Mawhinney's extraordinary service and legacy, this resolution marks a significant moment in Oregon's military history.

Mawhinney, an Oregonian from Lake County and a Baker City resident, served as a sniper in the Vietnam War, achieving an unparalleled record of marksmanship. He spent **16 months** in Vietnam, and during his combat tour he was credited with **103 confirmed kills** and **216 probable kills**. During the Vietnam War, the typical sniper took kill shots from **300-800 yards**, while Mawhinney had numerous confirmed kills from **over 1,000 yards** away.

Chuck Mawhinney is the deadliest sniper in the history of the United States Marine Corps, and he is widely considered to be the fourth deadliest sniper in American military history. His courage and skill earned him the Navy Achievement Medal with "V" Device, two Purple Hearts, and an honorable discharge in 1970. After his service, Mawhinney led a humble life, raising a family in Oregon and working for the United States Forest Service until his retirement in 1997.

His remarkable achievements remained largely unknown until 1991, when a fellow sniper published details of his service. Mawhinney's legacy was further cemented with the 2023 publication of *The Sniper: The Untold Story of the Marine Corps' Greatest Marksman of All Time* by Jim Lindsay. One of his M40 sniper rifles is proudly displayed at the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

“Chuck Mawhinney’s story is one of quiet heroism and unwavering dedication to our nation,” said **Sen. Nash**. “This resolution ensures his legacy inspires future generations of Oregonians and Americans.”

“Honoring Chuck Mawhinney in the Senate and House was something we were all proud to do.” **Sen. McLane** added. “His life reflects the values of sacrifice and service that define the Marine Corps.”

“This resolution is a powerful acknowledgment of a true Oregon hero,” said **Rep. Levy**. “Chuck Mawhinney’s contributions to our nation’s history deserves to be celebrated.”

“As we honor Chuck Mawhinney, we also pay tribute to all Vietnam Veterans,” added **Rep. Owens**. “Their sacrifices, often underappreciated, shaped our nation’s resilience. It is our duty to ensure their service is never forgotten.”

“Chuck Mawhinney was a true American hero and a legendary sniper who inspired the next generation of American snipers—including me—who used his fame to bring attention to fellow veterans,” said **Rep. Skarlatos**, who served as a National Guard sniper. “In addition to being Oregon’s most impactful veteran, he was also a father of four and husband to Robin who made the long drive out just to see this resolution pass. Chuck’s legacy is the exact kind we should be honoring and aspiring to in the state.”

“Some people say the Vietnam War was the ‘Confusing War’. We always commit to never forgetting those very, very special American Servicemen who gave it all,” added **Rep. Boice**. “Oregon alone lost 838 Soldiers, Prisoners of War, and Missing in Action in Vietnam. SCR 28 brings important additional attention to our country never forgetting. I am so grateful to recognize all those who died for us.”

SCR 28 underscores the importance of recognizing Vietnam Veterans, whose sacrifices during a challenging era in American history often go overlooked. By commemorating Mawhinney’s life, Oregon reaffirms its commitment to honoring those who served our country with courage and dignity.

The Legislature will present a copy of **SCR 28** to Mawhinney’s family, including his wife, Robin, sons Cody, Dennis, and Don, and daughter, Lisa, as an expression of Oregon’s sympathy and gratitude.

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