

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF DR. CHARLES EUGENE  
COWLES, JR.

**HON. BRIAN BABIN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 1, 2021*

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my dear friend Dr. Charles Eugene Cowles, Jr. of Houston, Texas. Dr. Cowles went to be with the Lord on December 26, 2020 following a motor vehicle accident.

Charles was born on April 19, 1968, to Charles Eugene Cowles, Sr. and Carol Janice Wood Cowles in Houston, Texas, at Hermann Hospital. He grew up in the Houston area with varied interests and developed lifelong friendships in the process. Charles suffered a personal tragedy as a young adult when his father died unexpectedly.

In 1986, Charles completed an associate's degree and became a paramedic and firefighter with the Beaumont Fire Department. He pursued degrees in sports medicine and nursing and completed studies to become a registered nurse (RN) in 1998 and also worked in area trauma centers in the ER as a nurse. He continued as a paramedic supervisor until 1995, when he began teaching EMS courses at San Jacinto College. Charles also had the opportunity to assist in the creation of curricula for medical training of NASA astronauts serving aboard the International Space Station and personally instructed several classes of Astronauts and Cosmonauts in emergency medical response at the Johnson Space Center in Houston from 1995 to 2006. Charles obtained his bachelor's degree in Sports Medicine from the University of Houston in 1998. He later earned a master's degree in business administration from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in 2013.

Charles took the next step in his professional career when he began medical school at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center—Houston. He graduated in 2004 and accepted an anesthesiology residency at UT Houston, training in the same hospital where he was born. Upon completing his residency, he joined the faculty in the Anesthesia division at the world-renowned MD Anderson Cancer Center, working as a neuro-anesthesiologist, and rose to the rank of Professor before his untimely death.

Dr. Cowles used the knowledge and wisdom he gained as a first responder throughout his medical and professional career. He served on multiple institutional safety committees and was ultimately named the chief safety officer for the Anesthesiology Division in 2016. Charles was an international expert in operating room fire safety and traveled worldwide teaching from his unique experience as both a firefighter and anesthesiologist. He served on multiple committees for local, state, and national medical societies. Not wanting to limit his contributions solely to anesthesia, Dr. Cowles also served as the Tactical Medical Director of the Pasadena Police Department and as the Local Health Authority for the City of Pasadena, Texas. Additionally, Dr. Cowles advised my staff, and I, on health care policy matters.

Inside and outside of work, his family, and faith were essential to Charles. Dr. Cowles

was highly involved at First Baptist Church of Pasadena, where he served as a deacon and director of the church's medical committee. Charles was also a Board Member of First Baptist Christian Academy where his three sons attended elementary and middle school. He also served on the board of Youth Reach Houston, a home for troubled boys.

Dr. Cowles was a man of many personal and professional achievements, but more than all he was a family man. He and his loving wife Jennifer Kendrick Cowles met when she attended one of Charles' paramedic courses in 1995. Charles and Jennifer married on May 19, 2000 and celebrated twenty years of marriage earlier in 2020. Together they have three sons Christopher, Caleb and Jacob.

Dr. Charles Eugene Cowles, Jr. lived a full life focused on being a husband, father, man of faith, physician, first responder, teacher, medical leader, a connoisseur of barbeque, and grand storyteller. For all these things, he will be missed by many—myself included. I will continue to keep his family, medical family, and his friends in my prayers.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA NATIONAL  
GUARD HOME RULE ACT**

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 1, 2021*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia National Guard Home Rule Act, which would give the mayor of the District of Columbia control over the D.C. National Guard. I am very pleased that Congresswoman CAROLYN MALONEY, Chair of the Committee on Oversight and Reform, which has primary jurisdiction over this bill, is an original cosponsor, as is Congressman ANTHONY BROWN, a member of the Committee on Armed Services, which also has jurisdiction over this bill. The mayor of the District should have the same authority over the D.C. National Guard that governors of the states and territories have over their National Guards. Each governor—including the governors of the three U.S. territories with National Guards—has the authority to deploy their National Guard to protect his or her state or territory, just as local militia did historically. The events at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, and the events at Lafayette Square on June 1, 2020, are prime examples of why this bill is so important.

The National Guards in the states and territories operate under dual federal and local jurisdiction. Yet the D.C. National Guard operates under the sole jurisdiction of the president. Today, by far the most likely need for the D.C. National Guard here would be for natural disasters, such as hurricanes and floods, and to restore order in the wake of civil disturbances. The mayor, who knows the city better than any federal official and who works closely with federal security officials, should be able to call out the D.C. National Guard for local natural disasters and civil disturbances. The president should be focused on national matters, including homeland security, not local D.C. matters. If it makes sense that governors have control over their National Guards, it makes equal sense for the mayor of the District, with a population the size of a small state, to have the same authority.

My bill is another important step toward completing the transfer of full self-government powers to the District that Congress began with the passage of the Home Rule Act of 1973, when it delegated most of its authority over District matters to an elected mayor and Council. The bill follows that model.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

**HONORING THE MOLINE PUBLIC  
LIBRARY FOR ITS WORK WITH  
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 1, 2021*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Moline Public Library for its work with people with disabilities. The library received an award from the American Library Association for their efforts—becoming the only library in North America to win in this category.

The Moline Public Library has made a special effort in recent years to make their library more accessible for everyone in their community—beginning with a reading and education book club for people with disabilities. Additionally, the Moline Public Library works with ARC of the Quad Cities and Quad City Arts to provide programming and activities for engagement. I commend the Moline Public Library for its work with people with disabilities, and I thank them for their continued service to the Moline community.

It is because of community leaders such as the Moline Public Library that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally honor the Moline Public Library for winning an award from the American Library Association for its work with people with disabilities.

**RECOGNIZING NATIONAL SCHOOL  
COUNSELING WEEK**

**HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 1, 2021*

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the tireless work of school counselors across the country and in the 38th district of California that I am honored to represent. These public servants help develop well-rounded students by guiding them through their academic, social-emotional, and career development.

Marla Diaz, a counselor at El Rancho High School in Pico Rivera, California, is exactly the type of champion students need. Marla has been a counselor since 2001 and has been instrumental in the lives of the students she works with in the school.

Not only does Marla know all the students in her caseload of 400 but she also has created workshops and presentations for students and parents on the programs available at the school. Her leadership within the Project Lead the Way Biomedical Sciences and Engineering programs has helped students learn and apply a hands-on approach to solving and designing

solutions to health and engineering challenges, respectively. With her support, she has helped many students learn and find opportunities after high school. Her office is not only filled with her warmth but with pictures of former students, each one a life she has impacted and inspired. She is even known to have former students and families reach out for her guidance.

Counselors like Marla, provide so much for our students. Not only do they help with career and college choices, but they are often the ones who help students cope with serious and common challenges of growing up, including peer pressure, bullying, mental health issues, trauma, disciplinary problems, and more. Unfortunately, the average student-counselor-ratio is 430-to-1 nationally which is almost double the American School Counselor Association recommended ratio of 250-to-1. Our students deserve to have the support of school counselors, and school counselors deserve our support.

That is why I am proud to introduce a resolution to designate the week of February 1, 2021, through February 5, 2021, as National School Counseling Week. I ask that all Members join me in recognizing the extraordinary work and dedication our school counselors have done to better the lives of young students.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF JOHN E. MOORE, SR.

**HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 1, 2021*

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to the life and memory of John E. Moore, Sr., a distinguished community leader from my hometown of Dayton, Ohio, who passed away on January 7, 2021, four days before his 98th birthday.

John E. Moore, Sr. was a native of Birmingham, Alabama, whose family moved to Dayton, Ohio shortly after he was born. He graduated from Wilbur Wright High School in 1941. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and served in the 2261st Quartermaster Trucking Company in Bangladesh, during World War II. After the war, John earned a degree in business administration from the University of Dayton and went on to pursue graduate studies at Ohio State University.

He served for 35 years as a civilian employee at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. He was the first Equal Employment Opportunity officer at Wright-Patterson in 1960, and became the first African-American chief of civilian personnel in 1972.

In addition to serving our nation, John was involved with his church and his community his entire life. He gained a reputation as someone to go to when you needed something done. He had an active role in numerous civic organizations, including the Dayton Foundation, the Out-of-School Youth Task Force, Sinclair Community College's board of trustees, the Montgomery County Job Center, and was co-founder of Parity, Inc., which provides a mentoring program for urban middle school students that has helped many underserved young people gain the skills and self-confidence to become successful, productive adults.

John E. Moore's name can be found etched along the sidewalks on the Dayton Walk of Fame, among a small circle of distinguished citizens who have impacted our city for the better. In 2014, the Dayton International Peace Museum named John a Peace Hero, in recognition of his leadership in youth, education, health, and civil rights. His lifetime of public service set an example for all of us who work to serve our communities and our nation. I am honored to have known him as a friend.

On behalf of all those whose lives were touched by John's friendship and community service, I offer his family my heartfelt condolences.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 1, 2021*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I missed votes due to having been diagnosed with COVID-19. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 245; YEA on Roll Call No. 246; NAY on Roll Call No. 247; NAY on Roll Call No. 248; NAY on Roll Call No. 249; NAY on Roll Call No. 250; and NAY on Roll Call No. 251.

CONGRATULATING KAI SWANSON FOR WINNING THE "I HAVE A DREAM" AWARD FROM THE ROCK ISLAND MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMUNITY CENTER

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 1, 2021*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kai Swanson for winning the "I Have a Dream" Award from the Rock Island Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center.

Kai is a Rock Island native who works as the Special Assistant to Augustana College's President. Kai gives so much of himself to help others, and it is truly inspiring. He has also received several awards for his service to the Rock Island community, such as a Rock Island Rotary community service award, the Habitat Hero award from Quad Cities Habitat for Humanity, the Professional Citizen of the Year (1998) from the City of Rock Island, and the Outstanding Community Service Award from the Metropolitan Community Church. Kai is currently serving on the Quad Cities Holocaust Remembrance Committee, is a member of the Rock Island NAACP and is a board member for the Doris and Victor Day Foundation. Apart from his duties on those boards, he is also a Visit Quad Cities board member and a Rock Island County board member. Additionally, Kai is president of the county Forest Preserve Commission. His commitment to his community is palpable and I commend him on his work to better the Rock Island community through lifting others and addressing problems head-on to affect change.

It is because of leaders such as Kai Swanson that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally recognize Kai

Swanson for receiving the "I Have a Dream" Award from the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center in Rock Island, Illinois.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF JOHN T. "MIKE" WOLF

**HON. DEREK KILMER**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 1, 2021*

Mr. KILMER. Madam Speaker, I would like to take a moment to commemorate the 100th birthday of one of my constituents, John T. "Mike" Wolf. In 2015, Mr. Wolf was awarded Congress' highest civilian award, the Congressional Gold Medal. He and three dozen American Fighter Aces were honored for their war contributions in World War II and subsequent wars.

The ceremony that took place in May 2015 was convened by Seattle's Museum of Flight and recognized the accomplishments of the 1,447 American Aces who achieved the elite designation. Six years ago, only 77 Aces were alive, and approximately 36 of them gathered in Washington, D.C. to receive the recognition in person.

As Mr. Wolf celebrates his 100th birthday on February 4th, I wanted to take a moment to bring distinction once again to his service and dedication to our country. The stories of the Fighter Aces cover some of the most formative periods in aviation history. Some gained their victories in open-cockpit biplanes, others in the powerful propeller-driven fighters of World War II, and still others in the jets that fought over Korea and Southeast Asia. Aces come from each major combat branch of the U.S. military and nearly every state in the union.

Wolf trained in a Boeing N-25-3 Shearman, then fought in a Grumman F6F-3 Hellcat and the Grumman F4F-3 Wildcat. He was a member of Fighter Squadron Two during World War II, whose roster included Lt. Cmdr. Butch O'Hare, namesake of Chicago's O'Hare International Airport; and Cmdr. Roy "Butch" Voris, who is the founder of the Blue Angels.

Recounting his experience Mr. Wolf recalled, "I was more scared of not being able to do the right thing. We had received six months of training. My fear was, can I analyze [the situation] and do the right thing?" He didn't get a lot of time to analyze the situation. An engagement might last the few seconds it took to get some shots off, or it could be longer. All told, Wolf downed seven Japanese fighter planes—three in one day, and five between June 11 and 19, 1944. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross and four Air Medals.

After the war, Wolf embarked on a career in life insurance to support his young family. The discipline of a Navy pilot came in handy because he didn't exactly enjoy selling life insurance. He would tell you, "I got good at it and stuck with it."

Today, we honor and celebrate John "Mike" Wolf—whose love for the Navy has never wavered and whose service to his country and community is greatly appreciated and will be long remembered.