

Enrolled

Senate Concurrent Resolution 28

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

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 he served in Vietnam for 16 months; and

Whereas Chuck Mawhinney is the greatest marksman in the history of the USMC, and he is widely considered to be the fourth most effective 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 Purple Hearts; and

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

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

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

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

Whereas in 1991, a friend and fellow former sniper, Joseph T. Ward, published *Dear Mom: A Sniper’s Vietnam*, in which he made public the details of Chuck Mawhinney’s war service; and

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

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

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

Whereas Chuck Mawhinney died on February 12, 2024; and

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

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

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

That we, the members of the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly, celebrate the life and accomplishments of Charles Benjamin "Chuck" Mawhinney, and we recognize and honor him for his service to his country; and be it further

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

Adopted by Senate June 9, 2025

Obadiah Rutledge, Secretary of Senate

Rob Wagner, President of Senate

Adopted by House June 18, 2025

Julie Fahey, Speaker of House