

Chuck has been a key part of the team at the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, directing government affairs and serving as an absolutely indispensable resource on tribal fisheries policy and services for the Yakama, Warm Springs, Umatilla, and Nez Perce tribes. This has meant that we have collaborated on any number of issues and projects, from creating the Columbia River Basin Restoration Act to righting historic wrongs done by the federal government with respect to tribal housing along the Columbia. Along the way, Chuck has been a tremendous partner in engaging not just my office, but the entire Pacific Northwest delegation in advancing the fisheries and related priorities of the four Columbia River Treaty tribes. He is an extraordinarily trusted, knowledgeable, and effective advocate. The work that he's done will benefit tribal communities for generations to come.

My connection to Chuck is deeper than most, as I've also had the pleasure of working closely with his son, Stone, who served as an intern in my office and then on my staff. It's been a true honor to work with Stone, who, like Chuck, is a skilled communicator, a dedicated professional, and an engaged member of the community. I have deeply appreciated the opportunity to partner with both of these wonderful people on many initiatives.

I congratulate Chuck on his retirement and thank him for his tremendous service to tribal communities in the Pacific Northwest. I am proud to call him my friend and co-collaborator. I look forward to continuing to work together, as he writes the next chapter of his remarkable life.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ERIC  
JASON AMBERGE

**HON. JOHN KATKO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 14, 2020*

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Eric Jason Amberge, who passed away on July 13, 2020. A veteran, proud volunteer, and beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend, Mr. Amberge will be dearly missed.

After graduating from SUNY Fredonia with a degree in Electrical Engineering, Mr. Amberge entered the United States Air Force. During his time in the military, Mr. Amberge was stationed at Griffiss Air Force Base in Rome, NY, where he served as a Lead Systems Engineer and Air Defense Initiatives and Program Manager, at the Advanced Planning System in Rome Laboratory, Airforce System Command. After 10 years in the Air Force, Mr. Amberge retired as a Captain and was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for Outstanding Service, a distinction given to those who preform volunteer service that far exceed the duties required by a member of the Armed Services.

Following his retirement from the Air Force, Mr. Amberge went on to receive an MBA from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. During his career as an engineer, he worked for Kodak, Oracle, APG Technologies, and Aquila Technologies.

Outside of work, Mr. Amberge was an avid volunteer who was passionate about honoring

local veterans. He served as Commander of the Skaneateles American Legion Post No. 239 and as the Director of Honor Flight Syracuse, an organization that transports local veterans to Washington, DC, allowing them to visit the national memorials dedicated to their service and sacrifice. Throughout his life, he also remained dedicated to his wife, children and step-children, mother, siblings, and grandchildren. A man of strong faith, Mr. Amberge was an avid student of scripture and strived to always treat others with dignity and respect.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in honoring the life of Mr. Eric Jason Amberge. A cherished member of our Central New York community, Mr. Amberge will truly be missed. I ask my colleagues to keep him and his family in mind as we remember his life.

CELEBRATING THE SERVICE OF  
PATRICK KEPLINGER

**HON. RAUL RUIZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 14, 2020*

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Patrick Keplinger, a member of my staff who has contributed over 20 years of exceptional service to our Country.

Patrick was commissioned as an officer in 2001 and served two tours in Operation Iraqi Freedom before achieving the rank of Major in the United States Marine Corps. In 2015, Patrick made his way to the House of Representatives, where he joined my team as a Wounded Warrior fellow. In this role, Patrick helped fellow veterans navigate the Department of Veterans' Affairs and access the benefits they have earned and deserve. Later that year, he became a permanent staff member in my Hemet office, where he has since served as a field representative. For the past five years, Patrick has worked diligently to address the military's use of toxic burn pits and advocate for veterans in our community.

One of Patrick's most significant accomplishments in my office was the case of Jennifer Kepner, a 39-year-old veteran from Cathedral City. Jennifer served in Operation Iraqi Freedom, and in 2016 was diagnosed with Stage IV Pancreatic Cancer. Her doctors determined that her exposure to burn pits during her deployment was the cause of her cancer. The VA denied her claim for compensation, but Patrick helped her obtain 100 percent service-connected compensation. Additionally, Patrick helped bring the burn pit issue to the forefront, resulting in my burn pit bill, H.R. 4137, the Jennifer Kepner HOPE Act. Together, we continue to work to bring national attention to this issue.

Patrick's passion for serving our Country is not ending but starting a new chapter. He will be working at Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base in San Diego, where he will help active duty service members transition back to civilian life. I believe Patrick is perfect for this because wherever Patrick is, there is a purpose.

On behalf of our entire community, I thank Patrick, for his exceptional continued service and wish Big Marine good luck with his future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHARLES  
BATTISE "C.B." CELESTINE

**HON. BRIAN BABIN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 14, 2020*

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Vietnam War veteran Charles Battise "C.B." Celestine, who passed away on Wednesday, April 22, 2020, at the age of 84. Mr. Celestine was a long-time affiliate of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas and proudly served as a councilman.

C.B. Celestine was born on May 5, 1935, to Gus and Flanche Boatman Celestine in Livingston, Texas. As a young adult, he admirably joined the U.S. Army and fought bravely in the Vietnam War. Following his military service, C.B. worked for Triple S Construction in Texas, and after many years of service, retired as a Boilermaker Supervisor from the company. He spent much of his life in Livingston but had lived in Kountze, Texas, for the past nine years, married to his lovely wife Hazel and father to his four children.

Mr. Celestine was a proud member of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, a native speaker, and was known for his extensive traditional knowledge of the Tribe. C.B. was also the eldest member of the Beaver Clan. While growing up in the Tribe, he was in a singing quintet with a few of his tribal brothers called the Woody Woodrome quintet, and they produced an album together titled the Excitement of the Gospel. He spent much time of his adult life singing, playing gospel music, and celebrating the life of Christ with his family and friends.

C.B. reflected God's love daily in his service to his Tribe and others and leaves behind quite a legacy. A committed Christian, he spent much of his life as an active member of Indian Baptist Church in Polk County, Texas. In his spare time, he also enjoyed working on race cars with his son Jimmy, hunting, and spending time with his four wonderful grandchildren.

He is proceeded in death by his parents, Gus and Flanche Celestine; son, Timmy Celestine; daughter, Tania Honeycutt; brothers, Gus Celestine, Jr., Milton Warren Celestine, and Wesley Celestine; sisters, Florence Robinson and Claire Breaux. He is survived by his loving wife of 57 years, Hazel Celestine of Kountze; sons, Jimmy Celestine and Charles Celestine of Kountze; grandchildren, Maegan Drake, Morgan Celestine, Jordan Honeycutt, and Maddie Honeycutt.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the family of Mr. Celestine for C.B.'s faithful service and devotion to his country, Tribe, and community. My thoughts and prayers remain with his family and friends.

HONORING TANNERS TEAM  
SPORTS AS A FOURTH DISTRICT  
HERO

**HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 14, 2020*

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional work of Tanners Team Sports in Hot Springs, Arkansas.