

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