



In Memoriam to Charles N. Quigley, 1929–2022

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A Tribute to Chuck Quigley¹



Charles N. Quigley was dedicated to the commitment to ensuring that a 21st-century innovative civic and constitutional education is available to all. The Center for Civic Education carries forward Chuck's legacy by bringing authentic civic learning to students and teachers across the USA and other 80 countries through the We the People² and Project Citizen³ programs and by sharing resources with partners around the globe in the Civitas International Programs. The tradition continues the Center for Civic Education⁴ family this critical work for many generations to come. The Center for Civic Education and our colleagues around the world today remember the Center's

¹ https://www.civiced.org/remembrances-of-chuck-quigley-from-john-hale-and-mark-molli?fbclid=I-wAR3P_cuH90ZbZNAHRhTSPfrNURCzv7OONHCZbuhKxV_nxY_MihTcRxW9IXU

² <https://www.civiced.org/we-the-people>

³ <https://www.civiced.org/project-citizen>

⁴ <https://www.civiced.org/>

founder, Charles N. Quigley, a man who worked for over 50 years to educate responsible and engaged citizens and their educators committed to democracy and the rule of law. His efforts and those of the organization they founded have reached an estimated 42 million students and 440,000 educators worldwide since 1965, including at least 30 million students in the United States.

We remain determined in our commitment to ensuring that a 21st-century civic and constitutional education is available to all. The Chuck N. Quigley Center friend and partners will continue this critical work for many generations to come.



Erin Lewis⁵

He always made me laugh and smile. I was starstruck in my early years in the network like all alumni were. But as I got to watch him operate a little over the years, that wicked humor and sparkle in his eyes could sometimes distract you from the depth of the legacy. When you think about what he and Margaret and the others built, not just the curriculum but the beautiful network, it's so epic. Thank you, Chuck, for the friends I consider family, for my career, but now importantly for my now lifelong devotion to the importance of an enlightened and engaged citizenry. I can't even imagine what life would be like if I hadn't been lucky enough to go to a high school that had We the People. And thank you, John, for your beautiful words.



Alison E. Brody⁶

A scholar and a gentleman. He created programs that changed so many lives, including mine. I remember his warm and enthusiastic presence when I competed at 1989

⁵ Erin Lewis Executive Director for Center for Innovation and Change. In <https://www.evansville.edu/centerforinnovation/leadership.cfm>

⁶ Alison E. Brody is a former litigation attorney and longtime civic educator in Portland, Oregon. In <https://fordhaminstitute.org/about/fordham-staff/alison-e-brody>

We the People Nationals. And I always enjoyed catching up with him at Nationals when I returned as a coach. Another redwood has fallen in California.

The world's foremost authority on civic education for democracy, Chuck was the founder and executive director of the Center for Civic Education. He led a national network of educators, scholars, and volunteers in every state and a similar international educational network in more than 80 countries. The Center had its roots in a scholarly committee on civic education at UCLA and, under his leadership, began to work in 1965 with educators throughout California, dedicated to increasing students 'and teachers' knowledge and commitment to constitutional principles and values.

Although Chuck described himself as a "generalist", Dr. Margaret Branson⁷ told him more accurately as a genius many years ago. He could see things and do things in the field that most of us could not, and his accomplishments were profound. Chuck was a curricular and programmatic innovator who was the chief author and driving force behind programs and textbook series, including *We the People: The Citizen & The Constitution*, *Project Citizen*, and *Foundations of Democracy*. He served the same role in creating fundamental curricular documents, including the *National Standards for Civics and Government*, *CIVITAS: A Framework for Civic Education*, and *Res Publica: An International Framework for Education in Democracy*. His idea was to create the Campaign to Promote Civic Education that advocated for support for the subject by civic educators and legislators in every state. He initiated only a partial list of his numerous projects and publications. As Alvin Bell, an extraordinary educator from Ohio who assisted the Center in developing the National Standards, said he was a "Giant of Civic Education"⁸. The world's foremost authority on civic education for democracy, Chuck was the founder and executive director of the Center for Civic Education. He led a national network of educators, scholars, and volunteers in every state and a similar international educational network in more than 80 countries. The Center had its roots in a scholarly committee on civic education at UCLA. Under his leadership, they began to work in 1965 with educators throughout California, dedicated to increasing students 'and teachers' knowledge of and commitment to constitutional principles and values. Although Chuck described himself as a "generalist", Dr. Margaret Branson many years ago. As one might expect, because of his many contributions, Chuck received several awards over the decades, including one that he particularly cherished – a surprise designation as "Champion of Civic Education" more than 30 years ago from the state leaders of the *We the People* programs. The eminent former Congressman Lee Hamilton⁹ said of Chuck that "if there were a Hall of Fame for public service, Chuck Quigley would be elected on the first ballot."

⁷ Tribute to Margaret Branson. In <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=701AYliS7z8>

⁸ <https://civiced.org/remembering-charles-n-quigley-founder-of-the-center-for-civic-education?fbclid=IwAR33F6FCoGUP0XH6W7T5e9oPbqHAXC7jxjR67W-vJVeTctwMyS6aTnnz00>

⁹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lee_H._Hamilton

Despite all of his accomplishments, he was a modest person. Even before the creation of the Center, he always welcomed and even required close and critical comments on the books, texts, and other pieces that he wrote, never dismissing any point of view out of hand and including any reasonable and relevant perspective. He was delighted to work jointly with other authors as well as organizations. At the time of his death, he was collaborating on a book about democratic norms and their necessity for preserving constitutional democracy and the civic culture to sustain it. They also loved to laugh and enjoy life, whether at a staff meeting in Calabasas or a beer hall in Germany. If there was ever a tension in a gathering, there was a good chance that Chuck would come up with an insightful quip to dissolve it. He was also empathetic and sentimental, and tears rolled down his cheeks on several occasions when he learned of the severe misfortunes of his friends or his “second family”, the Center’s network of beautiful people.

He leaves behind his most beloved “first” family, including his wife and greatest supporter Nanette, daughters Lise (husband Jesse) and Monique, and grandchildren Bianca, Che, and Zev. Sending love to all and cherishing family, friends, and our brief time on Earth,



Mark Molli¹⁰

Center for Civic Education Associate Director¹¹. I first met Chuck when I worked as a congressional aide to Congressman Augustus F. Hawkins (D-California). He came to discuss support for a law-related education provision in an education bill that supported the Center’s work and other organizations in the field. When I later came to work for the Center during Congressman Hawkins’ retirement year, I told Chuck it would be an honor to work for him. He said, “No, Mark, not work for me, but work with me”. I was proud to work “with him” for almost 30 years. He was a mentor, colleague, friend, and a father-like figure in my life. His energy and enthusiasm were contagious. Even at his advanced age, and up to last week, he worked on a book with Dr. Diana Owen of Georgetown University has political norms. He was constantly in pursuit of the ideal of creating a “perfect union” and inspired others to do the same. In his words to the

¹⁰ https://www.civiced.org/remembrances-of-chuck-quigley-from-john-hale-and-mark-molli?fbclid=I-wAR3P_cuH90ZbZNAHRhTSPfrNURC.xv7OONHCZbuhKxV_nxY_MihTcRxW9IXU

¹¹ <https://civiced.org/mark-molli-retires-after-nearly-30-years-of-service-to-the-center>

students at the We the People national competition, “join in the struggle to narrow the gap between the ideals of our nation and the realities of our society.”

The Center cooperated and collaborated with numerous other education organizations, conducted joint professional development institutes, and invited them to speak at their conferences. The Center is the Representative Government at Indiana University, the National Education Association, the American Federation of Teachers, the National Conference of State Legislatures, the John Marshall Foundation, the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, and the Bill of Rights Institute are just some of the many organizations the Center collaborated with over the years. Under Chuck’s and Bob Leming’s leadership, the Center developed Justice Is Also Deaf, a civic education program for deaf students collaborating with Civication, Inc. This led to the inaugural Justice Is Also Deaf national competition at Gallaudet University in May 2011. The Congressional Conferences on Civic Education (2003–2006) held in Washington, D.C., were a signature initiative of cooperation and collaboration. The conferences brought together a wide array of national, state, and local policymakers, teachers, education experts, and other leaders to discuss improving civic education. The conferences were sponsored by the Center, the Center on Representative Government at Indiana University, and the National Conference of State Legislatures, which could have used the grant monies to further their programs, but instead used the opportunity to promote the field, inspired by the idea that “a rising tide lifts all boats.”

Many people did not realize that when the Center received a federal grant, 75% of that amount went directly into the field to the state network to deliver a free curriculum, teacher training, and technical assistance. But the most innovative collaborative effort devised by Chuck began with the We the People program in 1987 by creating a 50-state national network of educational leaders that could deliver civic education programs directly to the schools. The network was expanded into a more remarkable family of experts and mentor teachers, scholars, and others, creating a national constituency for civic education. For the We the People coordinators reading this, you should know Chuck’s high regard and respect for your efforts. He was proud of your leadership and hard work to bring the We the People programs into America’s classrooms.

One of our international colleagues once spoke up at a Council of Europe conference after feeling frustrated by an esoteric debate regarding launching an initiative to support democracy programs. The discussion was circular, and no progress was being made. She took the mic and told the conference participants, “the Center for Civic Education is like the Nike slogan: they ‘Just Do It’ ”, meaning that our Center was a no-nonsense organization that followed through and delivered tangible results on the ground without fanfare to schools, teachers, and students. We didn’t brag, we didn’t grandstand, and we didn’t strut. We just did it. That is the performance-type results that the Center under Chuck Quigley’s leadership epitomized, and I was proud to work alongside him for nearly 30 years in that pursuit of excellence in education.

Federal funding for We the People was derived from congressional authorization in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) through a subsection called the Education for Democracy Act (EDA). The EDA, at its zenith, provided \$ 35 million in national and international civic education funding, the majority for the We the People and Project Citizen programs. With funding from Congress for more than 24 consecutive years, the We the People Programs provide fair and equitable civic education resources to every state and congressional district. That is a remarkable achievement. It resulted from Chuck's genius and persistence in administering a national program instead of a nonprofit content with limited goals and impact. We the People were supported in the Congress by Republicans and Democrats from one end of the political spectrum. A U.S. Department of Education official once said that when she visited a high-needs school in Philadelphia, she was proud to see a We The People textbook¹² on a student's desk, knowing that her agency funded the program. Today, the We the People program alumni grace every aspect of our country, at every level of government, and every level of civil society. I will also never forget Chuck's leadership in developing and implementing the Civitas International Programs, which have trained over 400.000 teachers and brought interactive civic education programs to over 12 million young people in emerging and established democracies throughout the world. I remember when he worked with the United States Information Agency (USIA) to bring a team of teachers to help develop democracy programs in Bosnia and Herzegovina shortly after the war in 1996. The highlight of my professional career as part of that team of teachers. When there is darkness, someone has to light a candle. Chuck Quigley was that person. Today, 84 international sites have participated in the Civitas International Programs, hoping that a new generation of citizens will live in a democratic society.

As scripture says, "To everything, there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven, a time to be born, and a time to die". The world today is a better place because of the life work of Chuck Quigley. Rest in peace, my friend, and know that everything you devoted your life to was on the side of the angels.

¹² <https://wnnorton.com/books/9780393538793>