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United States Senate

November 21, 2025

The Honorable M. Courtney Watson
11436 Butterfruit Way
Ellicott City, MD 21042-1443

Dear Delegate Watson,

I was honored to submit a statement to the *Congressional Record* in tribute to your father Dr. Edward Cochran's memory and life of service. Enclosed is a copy of the *Record* of November 20, 2025 in which the statement appears. I hope that you and your family will treasure these documents.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may ever be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

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United States
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Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 171

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2025

No. 196

Senate

REMEMBERING DR. EDWARD COCHRAN

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of former Howard County Executive Edward Leo Cochran, Jr., a distinguished public servant and scientific researcher, who passed away earlier this month at the age of 96.

Born in Maryland on March 18, 1929, Dr. Cochran was committed to public service, education, science, and family. Dr. Cochran attended what was then Loyola College before pursuing a master's degree in chemistry at Duquesne University and a Ph.D. at the University of Notre Dame. It was during his time at the University of Notre Dame that he met his wife Catherine Joan Flanagan. The couple were married for 62 wonderful years and had six children.

Dr. Cochran was a tremendous Marylander, making a positive impact and leaving a lasting legacy in our State and for the good of our entire country. As a scientist, Dr. Cochran made significant contributions to the understanding of free-radical chemistry, which he worked on at Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory.

Beyond scientific discovery, Dr. Cochran's impact was felt through his dedication to public service. He served on the Howard County Board of Education and the Howard County Council prior to being elected as county executive in 1974. In each of these elected offices, he served his constituents with distinction and fulfilled his commitment to creating a more just community shaped by equal rights for all. During his service, he helped move that goal forward by working to end segregation in county schools. He also formed many government agencies, including the Citizens Services Department, the Office of Human Rights, the Office of Aging, the Office of Law, and the Office of Consumer Affairs, with a focus on bettering the community he served and the lives of Howard County residents. He made more affordable housing options available to local seniors and enhanced consumer protections. A true believer in the value of education, Dr. Cochran was critical to the founding of Howard Community College and served as the first chair of its board of trustees.

There is no doubt that Dr. Cochran's legacy lives on in Maryland and especially in Howard County. Just as enduring is the example he set at home, where he was an engaged and loving father who modeled for his children responsibility for the environment in a hands-on way while working on the family farm.

Dr. Cochran is survived by his brother Donald; six children; Maryland Delegate Courtney Watson, Ted Cochran, William Cochran, Mark Cochran, Mary Catherine Cochran, and Christopher Cochran; 23 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

The people of Maryland have lost an incomparable leader, but Dr. Cochran's many legacies will continue to shape the future of Howard County and beyond. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our condolences to his family.



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