

## Urban league tribute to Charles Nichols

Written by

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The Minneapolis Urban League (MUL) mourns the death of Charles Nichols, an educator, advisor, advocate, and public servant.

The League also pays tribute to Nichols' legacy as a trusted leader and mentor who championed efforts to inspire youth to become productive citizens and future leaders of their community. Those whose lives he touched will remember a patient instructor, a strict but caring school administrator, a principled professional, and a seriously fun-loving and witty colleague.

Nichols was identified as a candidate for the Minneapolis Urban League's board of directors back in 1987, and would eventually become board chair. He was trusted and admired amongst MUL funders and stakeholders, and because of his ability to effectively guide the MUL's mission, the agency moved progressively forward during a critical juncture in its history.

Nichols grew up admiring planes, and at the same time that he was teaching and lending his academic expertise to educators locally and nationally, he was working towards fulfilling a goal to one day fly his own plane. He didn't keep his fascination with flying to himself – he used it to inspire youth to excel in their studies so that they too could explore a career in aviation or aeronautic engineering. With the assistance of the Twin Cities Airport as it was known then, Nichols established the Flying Club, an aviation program for students of color.

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