

My name is Adam Sackowitz and I am a recent graduate of St. John's University in Queens, NY where I received my Masters Degree in American History. I wrote my graduate thesis on the life and legacy of Astronaut and Senator John Glenn, and conducted my graduate research at the Glenn Archives at the Ohio State University.

Growing up on Long Island, New York, a region known as the "Cradle of Aviation", and hearing stories from my grandparents who met John Glenn on July 16, 1957 at Brooklyn's Floyd Bennett Field, as Glenn landed at the airfield after setting the transcontinental flight speed record at under 3 1/2 hours, I became interested in John Glenn's life and legacy from a young age. I also remember as an elementary school student when John Glenn returned to space in 1998. I am now 27 years of age. I would eventually have the distinct honor and privilege of meeting with John & Annie Glenn on numerous occasions. I interviewed both of them for my graduate thesis.

One of the main focuses of my graduate thesis was John Glenn's connection to the City of Cambridge, Ohio. John Glenn was born in Cambridge, Ohio in a white clapboard house on July 18, 1921. The house is currently a private residence and is located at 1201 Foster Avenue. It was also in Cambridge, Ohio where John Glenn began his career in public service. Glenn signed up for military service after Pearl Harbor at the Cambridge Post Office, which now bears his name.

Last year I encouraged Ohio State Representative Antonio to introduce a resolution in the Ohio House of Representatives to memorialize the United States Congress to award John & Annie Glenn a Congressional Gold Medal. The Congressional Gold Medal, alongside the Presidential Medal of Freedom is the highest civilian award one can receive in the United States.

Although Senator Glenn was awarded a Congressional Gold Medal as a New Frontier Astronaut, alongside astronauts Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins in 2011, there is no limit to how many times an individual can receive a Congressional Gold Medal. Naval Admiral Hyman Rickover received the Congressional Gold Medal twice, as well as three other individuals in American history. It is time John Glenn is awarded a Congressional Gold Medal for his nearly 25 year service as a United States Senator and as a Statesman jointly with his widow Annie Glenn, who for years was America's leading advocate for American's with communicative and speech disorders. The most recent couple to receive a joint Congressional Gold Medal was Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and Coretta Scott King in 2004. This would be a fitting tribute for the late Senator Glenn and Mrs. Glenn.

The John & Annie Glenn Congressional Gold Medal Resolution passed the full house last session, and I am thankful that State Representative Galosnki re-introduced this resolution in the current session.