

honorable service to our Nation. During his exemplary career with the Army from May 2008 to January 2017, Captain O'Hern made an immense impact on those he worked with both in the Army and here in Congress.

Captain O'Hern was born at Madigan Army Medical Center at Fort Lewis, WA, and grew up in a military family before graduating from Belton High School in Belton, Texas, in 2004. He received his commission from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 2008. After completing the infantry office basic course, airborne school, and Ranger school at Fort Benning, GA, he was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division, Air Assault, at Fort Campbell, KY, where he served as a rifle platoon leader. He deployed to Kandahar in June 2010 and, after 7 months in Afghanistan was severely wounded, suffering the loss of both legs and a hand. In the course of his 2 and a half year recovery, Captain O'Hern completed the Defense Strategy Course and worked as a future operations planner at U.S. Army North. In 2013, Captain O'Hern was accepted into the Army's prestigious Congressional Fellowship Program. He earned a master's degree in legislative affairs from George Washington University and in 2014 served as my defense legislative fellow. Following his fellowship, Captain O'Hern continued to serve as an Army legislative liaison in the Office of the Chief Legislative Liaison.

Captain O'Hern has performed at the top of his profession throughout his career, providing motivation and serving as a role model for his fellow servicemembers and colleagues. Captain O'Hern demonstrated his impressive intellect in all duties, questioning assumptions and pushing team members to achieve their highest potential. He easily grasped the complexities of policymaking and the appropriations processes, greatly contributing to both while in my office.

Part of what makes Captain O'Hern such a remarkable leader is that his great intellect is coupled with incredible humanity and compassion. I witnessed his inexhaustible drive to provide assistance to fellow servicemembers and veterans, which is in the image of some of the Army's greatest leaders. I was privileged to have Captain O'Hern as an enormously important member of my legislative team. His contributions continue to resonate today.

Captain O'Hern models resilience and determination. His story is a testament to the power of a positive can-do attitude and a shining of example of the refusal to let obstacles stand in his way. Captain O'Hern's inspirational journey would not have been possible without the unfailing support from his exceptional wife. Mrs. Rachel Brooks O'Hern was an integral partner in Captain O'Hern's recovery. In addition to undertaking her substantial caregiver role, Rachel also built an impressive career of her own, serving the wider veteran community.

It is my honor to recognize this remarkable couple and congratulate Captain O'Hern on his military retirement as he proceeds to the next chapter of his life. I ask the entire country to thank him for his service and dedication.

TRIBUTE TO AYO GRIFFIN

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, for many years, the Judiciary Committee and the Senate have been well served by the distinguished service of Ayo Griffin. Ayo is a talented lawyer and a principled public servant, respected and admired by his peers, who has ably guided some of my most significant legislative initiatives.

Ayo's career has always demonstrated what Victor Hugo called "conscience in the service of justice." By the time Ayo joined my Judiciary Committee staff in 2011, he had already taken on difficult work conducting foreign corruption investigations in private practice. He had volunteered with human rights litigation and anticorruption training in Cambodia. In the important tradition of making legal aid available to all people, even unpopular defendants, he had represented pro bono detainees at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base detention center in Cuba.

Here in the Senate, Ayo took on legislation to improve our prisons and strengthen law enforcement, to prevent domestic violence and sexual assault, to reform our immigration regime, to curb gun violence, and to undo the damage done to our campaign finance system by the Citizens United Supreme Court decision. In the wake of the flood of secret money unleashed by Citizens United, Ayo helped me craft the DISCLOSE Act to require groups spending large amounts to influence our elections to identify their donors and to prevent corporations and other wealthy interests from using shell corporations to funnel secret money to super PACs.

Ayo worked closely with good governance advocates, campaign finance experts, and our colleagues here in Congress to build a strong coalition behind the legislation. When Republicans blocked the legislation from proceeding in 2012, Ayo helped me coordinate a midnight vigil, with the bill's Democratic sponsors holding the Senate floor into the morning hours until we secured a vote on the measure. In the end, the DISCLOSE Act twice won support from a majority of Senators in votes before this body. Ayo's contribution to that effort not only channeled a groundswell of popular support, but shone a bright light on an issue at the very heart of our democracy.

Today Ayo is facing a much different challenge. Some time ago, he was diagnosed with a rare form of brain cancer, requiring intensive therapy. He has tackled his treatment with signature determination, working intently with his specialists and therapists to stay

ahead of the disease. His wife, Mary Dewhurst, has shown great love and courage through this trying time and is Ayo's steadfast partner in every winding step of their journey.

"You must work very hard," Maurice Ravel once wrote to a fellow composer, "because someone who is gifted must work harder than someone who is not." I am grateful for both the ample gifts and hard work of Ayo Griffin.

I thank Ayo for his faithful service. My entire staff and I offer our unending support. And I wish him and Mary health and much happiness in their days to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO LISA M. CLINE

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I wish to recognize educator Lisa M. Cline for over 30 years of service as a K-6 STEM educator throughout the State of Montana. Mrs. Cline's love of STEM, particularly biology, was inspired by her mother, Nancy Yonkee, who grew up on a ranch during the Great Depression era and was among the first women to study premedicine at her university in the 1950's.

Mrs. Cline grew up on a ranch near Broadus and studied animal science at Montana State University, with the goal of becoming a veterinarian. Later, Mrs. Cline decided that she could have the greatest impact on her communities by sharing her love of STEM with children and earned an additional degree, also from MSU, in education. In her time as an educator throughout the State, including in the communities of Bozeman, Plevna, Great Falls, and Cut Bank, Mrs. Cline has passionately brought to her students a love for the STEM disciplines that is grounded in her agricultural upbringing, her background in biology, and her genuine excitement about asking tough questions, solving tricky problems, and learning along the way.

Throughout her career, Mrs. Cline strived to bring a rigor to her classroom that prepares her students to become the best scientists, engineers, and mathematicians. She does this both inside and outside of the classroom, working tirelessly over the years to organize innovative, inquiry-based assignments, student debates, local science fairs, field trips to archaeological sites, and voyages into the mountains. Most recently, she brought her sixth graders to Glacier National Park, where they learned about its intricate ecosystems and rich geological history.

I want to express my deep gratitude to Mrs. Cline for her dedication and service to educating our country's youth, particularly for cultivating within them a love for STEM and inquiry-based learning. And a big thank you to Dr. Angela Person for her nomination of Mrs. Cline as Montanan of the Week.●