

frostbite wounds, but he was overlooked. Mr. Cramer has never fully recovered from his frostbite injuries and currently receives a forty percent disability rating for the wounds he sustained in December of 1950.

Mr. Cramer has repeatedly been denied a Purple Heart due to a change in regulation made months after his injuries occurred. In inquiries submitted by my office, the Board of Corrections of Naval Records has acknowledged Mr. Cramer's injuries, but maintains that he does not qualify due to the Secretary of the Navy's 1951 decision to disqualify frostbite for the Purple Heart. They also state that fellow Marines were "erroneously awarded the Purple Heart". This is not a medal that is given out in error. The Purple Heart that is awarded due to an injury or wounds inflicted from an outside force or element, which is exactly how Mr. Cramer received his injuries.

Mr. Cramer is now in his 90s; he has fought and sacrificed a great deal for the country he loves. This December will mark 70 years since Mr. Cramer sustained his injuries. It is past time that he receives the recognition he has earned.

HONORING MELISSA GIRMSCHIED

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 7, 2020

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievement of Melissa Girmscheid, an extraordinary teacher at a public high school in my district.

Melissa has dedicated the last nine years to teaching Physics and STEM classes at Centennial High School in Peoria, Arizona. This year, she was selected as the Air Force Association of Arizona Teacher of the Year and placed second overall in the Air Force Association Rolls Royce 2020 National Aerospace STEM Teacher of the Year award.

Melissa's leadership has influenced organizations throughout the nation to increase educational opportunities and advocate for the value of STEM education and employment in their communities.

Melissa has created innovative STEM engagement opportunities that will continue to shape the perceptions of STEM education and employment into the future. I am confident that because of her efforts to expand access to high school physics and foundational STEM courses, Arizona students will be inspired to pursue careers as STEM professionals or future educators.

On this day, we as a community would like to congratulate Melissa Girmscheid on her selection as Air Force Association of Arizona STEM Teacher of the Year and thank her for her dedication and advocacy for quality education for our nation's youth.

HONORING BETTY FAIRFAX

HON. GREG STANTON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 7, 2020

Mr. STANTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Betty Harriet Fair-

fax, who passed away on November 7, 2010. An educator, philanthropist, and community leader, Betty devoted her life to ensuring that all students, regardless of background, have equal opportunity and access to the American Dream. Teaching in public schools for nearly 70 years, Betty's life was marked by service and generosity and today Arizona is a more just and equal place because of her work.

From an early age, Betty was ingrained with the belief that all children deserve a quality education. Growing up in Cleveland, Ohio with her parents, Dan and Inez Wood Fairfax, Betty was an accomplished student and received degrees from Kent State University and Western Reserve. After graduating with her master's degree, Betty began a public school career that would reflect the arc of the moral universe. Initially recruited by Phoenix Union High School District to teach at Carver High School, the legally segregated school for Black children, Betty ended her career over a half-century later as a beloved Dean of Students and with a high school named after her. Her lifelong devotion to public education was honored many times and upheld as an example of a selfless leader who dedicated her career—without fanfare or in pursuit of recognition—to the students she taught and counseled.

Betty's commitment to education extended beyond excellence in teaching and into creating endowments for those who suffered most from educational inequities. Together with her sister Jean, Betty formed permanent financial legacies that support the spectrum of public education, from scholarships for Black students committed to being public school teachers to funding professional development opportunities for educators. Today, students and teachers across the nation benefit from Betty's generosity and philanthropy, and her visionary leadership has created intergenerational prosperity and opportunity for families in Arizona.

Arizonans owe a debt of gratitude to Betty. Her investment in public education will be felt for generations to come and will ensure that more students be included in the American Dream. In this spirit of gratitude and remembrance, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Betty Harriet Fairfax.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF FORMER TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE JOHN CLIFFORD OTTO

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 7, 2020

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of former Texas State Representative John Clifford Otto who passed away after a lengthy battle with pancreatic cancer on August 1, 2020. Representative Otto served the people of House District 18 with distinction for six terms in the Texas House of Representatives.

John Otto was born on October 14, 1948 in Dayton, Texas to John Clifford Coffelt Otto and Susan Eugenia Forrest. John graduated from Dayton High School in 1966 where he was a pitcher on the baseball team, member of FFA, and was drum major for the DHS band. He married his high school sweetheart, Nancy Whitman, in 1969.

In 1970, Otto graduated from Texas A&M University with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration Accounting. While at Texas A&M, John Otto was a member of the Corps of Cadets; Ross Volunteer Honor Guard, official Honor Guard of the Governor of Texas; and the nationally famous Fightin' Texas Aggie Band. In his senior year at Texas A&M, he was head drum major of the Texas Aggie Band. On July 24, 2020, Texas A&M University announced that the Aggie Band will forever be led with the "John C. Otto '70 Drum Major Baton."

Following his graduation as a Distinguished Military Graduate, Otto received a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army where he served as a finance officer at Fort Benjamin Harrison. Otto served in the Army for eight years on active duty and in the Army Reserves before being honorably discharged. After his military service, John and Nancy Otto returned to Texas. John worked for Peat, Marwick, Mitchell in Houston for five years, then returned to Dayton to open a private practice, as a Certified Public Accountant serving clients for 35 years.

Prior to his service in the Texas Legislature, John was a member of the Dayton City Council, trustee of the Dayton Independent School District, board member of the Liberty County Central Appraisal District and the Dayton Chamber of Commerce, and director of the Dayton Community Development Corporation.

In November 2004, John Otto was elected to the Texas House of Representatives where he served House District 18 for six terms. During his service, Representative Otto represented the people of Liberty, San Jacinto, Walker, Polk, and Montgomery Counties. Representative Otto served on numerous committees in the Texas House, but the bulk of his time was spent on the Appropriations and Ways and Means Committees. Representative Otto served as Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, during his final legislative session he drafted and authored a bill that balanced the State Budget of more than 200 billion dollars. He loved serving in the Texas House and considered it a high honor and privilege to represent District 18.

During his tenure in the Texas Legislature, Representative Otto received numerous awards and distinctions. During his first term Otto was named "Freshman of the Year" by the House Republican Caucus, "Rookie of the Year" by Texas Monthly Magazine, and "Most Valuable Freshman" by Capitol Inside. In 2008, he earned the "Legislative Achievement Award" from the Texas Taxpayers and Research Association. He was also named "One of the 10 Best Legislators in Texas" by Texas Monthly in 2008 and 2015. Representative Otto additionally also received the "Citizen of the Year" award from the Liberty-Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce, "Fighter for Free Enterprise" award from the Texas Association of Business and named to the Texas PTA Legislative Honor Role. On June 15, 2020, the Dayton City Council renamed a portion of State Highway 146 the John Otto Expressway in recognition of his service to the citizens of Dayton.

John and Nancy were active members of the First United Methodist Church in Dayton, TX where they both sang in the choir and John served in many capacities including church treasurer for over 25 years. They recently transferred their membership to the