

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

A&M United Methodist Church. Following his retirement from the Texas Legislature and private sector, John and Nancy moved to Bryan, Texas.

From 2017 until the time of his death, John served as the Assistant Vice Chancellor and Director of Local Government Relations for the Texas A&M University System. He considered this his dream job, working with former colleagues in the Legislature and advocating for his beloved Texas A&M University and other schools and agencies in the TAMU System.

John is survived by his wife of 50 years, Nancy Whitman Otto; sons and daughters-in-law, Bryan and Lisa Otto, Jason and Brandee Otto; grandchildren, Brendon Olson, Maddie Olson, Hadley Otto, Bailee Otto, Emilee Otto, and Mallore Otto. Also surviving are his mother, Sue Otto Fendley; and siblings, Susan Harris and husband Wayne, Glenn Otto, Danita Otto Stovall and husband Bryan; aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and special friends Dr. Robert and Susan Seaberg.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the family of Representative John Clifford Otto for his lifetime of faithful service and devotion to his country, state, community, and university. My thoughts and prayers remain with his family and friends.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021

SPEECH OF

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 30, 2020*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this amendment to raise the funding for the Department of Defense National Innovation Security Network to \$40 million, and to ensure continuation of their critical Hacking for Defense program.

Hacking for Defense began as a college course created by Steve Blank at Stanford University in 2016 and has since expanded to more than 30 universities across the nation, with more added every year. This course teaches student teams to rapidly solve challenging national security problems by harnessing the lean start-up methodology developed in Silicon Valley.

Through this program, the Department of Defense and other national security partners have the opportunity to present their most pressing challenges to energetic talent within universities classrooms across the nation. U.S. military combat veterans and entrepreneurial mentors then guide students in applying cutting-edge research and problem-solving techniques to address these real-world problems. The program has led to innovations in areas such as video surveillance of working military dogs, 3-D printing spare parts for Marine field vehicles, and countering drones. To date, nine start-ups have spun-off to further develop and address solutions to these challenges.

The House Armed Services Committee report accompanying the FY21 National Defense Authorization Act noted that Hacking for Defense, "Supports solution development directly for the warfighter, improves U.S. military readiness and stimulates growth within the National Security Innovation Base, consistent with the 2018 National Defense Strategy." Further-

more, the Committee noted that Hacking for Defense fosters emerging national security leaders and mission-driven entrepreneurs.

In recognition of the importance of this work, the NDAA authorized the National Security Innovation Network at \$40 million. Unfortunately, the defense division of this bill in its current form only appropriates half of this funding. I helped offer this bipartisan amendment to reprogram an additional \$20 million in order to match the authorization level. This will allow Hacking for Defense to continue developing solutions to national security problems, and more importantly, to continue exposing students to the national security challenges and growing the national security workforce.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and the critical Hacking for Defense program.

HONORING THE SELFLESS CAREER  
AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF DEBBIE  
LAIRD ON THE EVENT OF HER  
RETIREMENT

**HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 7, 2020*

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Debbie Laird on the occasion of her retirement from Janus Developmental Services. Debbie has spent her career helping people, including her most recent role as the Senior Vice President of Development at Janus Developmental Services. She is a selfless, caring person with whom I am fortunate to know and call my friend.

Janus is a non-profit agency that has served our community for nearly forty years. I visited Janus multiple times throughout my time in Congress and I strongly believe in the work they do. The group provides opportunities for clients with developmental disabilities such as autism or cerebral palsy. They provide them an opportunity to get real world work experience and use their creativity to better our community. For many years, Debbie dedicated herself to helping these individuals. This speaks to her selflessness and her desire to better the lives of those in her community.

Along with her tremendous work at Janus, Debbie is the mother of fallen Indianapolis Police Officer Jake Laird, who was killed in the line of duty in 2004. She and her husband Mike have used their loss to create good in our community as well as in the law enforcement community. They were fervent advocates for red flag legislation named for their son that was enacted into law in the State of Indiana the year after his death. In honor of Jake's passion for public service, the Lairds created the Jake Laird Memorial Fund in 2004. For sixteen years Debbie and Mike have been raising money for those with the same passion as their son Jake.

The mission of the memorial fund is to provide financial contributions to law and fire department agencies for the purchase of new equipment, the institution of new instructional programs, or financial assistance to officers injured in the line of duty. The main event that contributes to this fund is the annual Jake Laird Memorial Golf Outing. What started as an event with eighty golfers in 2004, has grown to one with over 360 golfers in 2019.

As of January 2020, the Jake Laird Memorial Fund donated over \$950,000 to various police and firefighter causes throughout the state of Indiana.

I am very proud to be able to call Debbie a friend. Her advocacy for so many throughout her career has produced real and lasting change throughout our community. On behalf of the people of Indiana's Fifth District, I thank Debbie for her life-changing dedication to our community. I wish her a very happy and well-deserved retirement, although I know her service will continue.

HONORING HOT SPRINGS POLICE  
DEPARTMENT FOR THEIR SERV-  
ICE DURING COVID-19

**HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 7, 2020*

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the exemplary service of the Hot Springs Police Department. In these uncertain times, my hometown department's officers have continued serving and protecting our community.

Now more than ever, we've seen the impact of our communities' first responders and front-line workers, and in the Fourth Congressional District, none are more appreciated than our police. Throughout this pandemic, Hot Springs officers have continued to put their own safety on the line defending our streets, homes and businesses.

I take this time to honor these brave men and women who have stepped up, providing the Fourth District of Arkansas and the rest of the nation with a prime example of what it means to serve the people around you.

HONORING MICHELLE GARCILAZO

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 7, 2020*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Michelle Carmen Garcilazo for five years of exemplary service as an field representative for California's 2nd Congressional District. As a valued member of my staff, Michelle has been essential to my work in the congressional district, and of special note, has helped thousands of my constituents with complicated issues.

Michelle grew up in Sacramento, California. She earned a BA in Spanish with a minor in Chicano Latino Studies from Sonoma State University. She later obtained a Master's Degree in Public Administration and a Certificate in Non Profits, also from Sonoma State University. Michelle proceeded to work in the non-profit sector first as a family advocate in Bay Area public schools, then with the San Francisco-Marin Food Bank as a Senior Program Coordinator. In 2015 Michelle joined my staff as a Marin County field representative and constituent caseworker. She excelled in this role, steadily developing her skill set. In 2017 her responsibilities expanded to include immigration casework services for the entire congressional district, with a population of more