

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