

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

than 720,000. In this capacity Michelle has been able to leverage her college degrees and bilingual skills to help resolve complex problems for many individuals in need.

Michelle is deeply principled, a hard worker, and an excellent team player. She consistently took on challenges to serve others using her intelligence, diplomacy, and empathy. Recently, Michelle served as the only staffer supporting a congressional fact-finding visit, when I traveled to the U.S.-Mexico border along with my colleague Congressman COLIN ALLRED. Michelle's language skills, subject matter knowledge, and ability to build trust allowed us to communicate with individuals seeking asylum in the United States. This firsthand experience provided us with valuable insights on how the humanitarian crisis at the U.S.-Mexico border is impacting national security, and how the complexities and ambiguities of immigration law, as well as changes in the law's application, can affect families on both sides of the border. She has worked on high-profile cases for my constituents, including complicated immigration work for the Washington Post journalist Jason Rezaian and his family following his imprisonment in Iran.

Over the years; Michelle has developed a keen understanding of how her casework informs my legislative agenda. She has worked with all levels of government, non-profits, community groups, and businesses to help address key local problems. She has become an integral member of my district staff, and she will be sorely missed as she leaves us to pursue law school. Madam Speaker, I hope you will join me and my staff in extending to Michelle our deep appreciation for her many good deeds and wishing her the best in all her future endeavors.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. CARL REINER

#### HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 7, 2020*

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Mr. Carl Reiner, a beloved American and resident of California's 33rd Congressional District, who passed away at the age of 98 on June 29, 2020. With decades of work as an Emmy-winning writer, actor, director and producer, Carl's comedic genius and generous spirit impacted not only the world of comedy but also deepened our understanding of the human condition.

Born on March 20, 1922 in The Bronx, Carl graduated high school at 16 and started working as a shipping clerk and then as a machinist's helper before discovering a newspaper announcement for free drama classes sponsored by the Works Progress Administration.

From there, Carl began acting at a midtown Manhattan theater and joined a Shakespearean repertory company. He even took a job performing at Allaben Acres, a summer camp for adults in the Catskills where he met jazz singer Estelle Lebest, his wife for 65 years who passed in 2008.

Drafted into the Army during World War II, Carl trained as a French interpreter at Georgetown University before touring the South Pacific in G.I. revues in the Special Services en-

tertainment unit. After his honorable discharge in 1946, Carl branched into performing Broadway musicals, until landing a spot in an NBC comedy sketch show entitled "Your Show of Shows" as an actor and a writer. In this writing room with Mel Brooks, Mel Tolkin, Lucille Kallen, and Neil and Danny Simon, the idea of the 2,000-Year-Old-Man routine came to life with fellow comedian and director Mel Brooks.

Later, while writing for singer Dinah Shore's variety, Carl developed the idea for "The Dick Van Dyke Show," a comedy sitcom based on his own life experiences. This highly successful and well-crafted show would run for five seasons and earn Carl multiple Emmys for writing and producing.

After "The Dick Van Dyke Show," Carl transitioned into a full-time director, creating films like "The Jerk" (1979), "Dead Men Don't Wear Plaid" (1982), "The Man with Two Brains" (1983) and "All of Me" (1984) with actor Steve Martin during the 1970s and 1980s. In his later years, Carl would return to acting, with his reoccurring roles in the television sitcom *Frasier* and the *Ocean's Eleven* movie franchise, and even becoming a prolific writer of books. As Carl once said, "The absolute truth is the thing that makes people laugh."

Carl is survived by his son Rob Reiner, a noted actor, director, producer, and political activist; son Lucas Reiner, an artist; daughter Annie Reiner, a psychoanalyst; and his five grandchildren. May his compassion, kindness, and dedication to the craft of comedy continue to live on through the millions of people he brought joy to and inspired.

#### HONORING THE VOLUNTEERS OF THE IOWA MASK BRIGADE AS IOWANS OF THE WEEK

#### HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 7, 2020*

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, as millions of individuals, families, and essential workers struggle to obtain the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) required to keep them safe during these difficult times, volunteer organizations like the Iowa Mask Brigade have stepped up to provide these critical items to keep our citizens and communities safe. That is why today, I rise to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the Iowa Mask Brigade as this week's Iowan of the Week.

The Iowa Mask Brigade was founded earlier this year by Connie Klug after she received a distressed call from her niece, an emergency room doctor in desperate need of PPE. Connie immediately got to work researching protective masks and found that filters were the most important feature that made them effective. Although commercial face mask filters were not available, Connie used her problem-solving skills to create her own. She began cutting furnace filters from the company 3M, the same company that produces the coveted N95 masks. Sandwiching this filter in between two layers of high-quality cotton fabric, Connie produced her first mask in a process the New York Times would later consider the best method of making homemade masks. Connie, a quilter, enlisted the help of two of her seam-

stress friends, who enlisted the help of their friends, and an organization instantly formed as volunteers coalesced around one simple idea: to provide masks to those who need them.

In their first month of operation, the Iowa Mask Brigade used over 75 furnace filters. Today, the Iowa Mask Brigade consists of 35 volunteers who have collectively produced almost 8,000 masks since its inception in March.

One of those volunteers is Ray Getting, who handles much of the logistics within the Brigade. In a recent conversation, he mentioned everyone who has received a mask is so incredibly appreciative. The group maintains extremely high standards for quality, and if a mask wasn't perfect, it wasn't sent out. He's been able to send high quality masks to people he cares about in places he knows it's going to make a difference.

As the organization has grown, their mask-making has become more innovative. When the Brigade ran out of elastic bands for ear loops, they turned to hairbands. Today, they have purchased over 25,000 hairbands for their masks, and they have shared this technique, as well as many others they have developed, with other mask-making organizations.

The Iowa Mask Brigade has sent masks to people in need all over the United States. From the Iowa's Dallas County Hospital to San Antonio to the Navajo Nation in Arizona, for whom they have created a custom design to fit their preferences. Now, the Brigade mostly serves low income housing, hospitals, and nursing homes, such as the APEHA senior living apartments in Johnston, Iowa.

In honoring the Iowa Mask Brigade today, I want to underscore the values of hard work, dedication, persistence, and problem-solving that Iowans demonstrate in spades during this difficult time. As Connie Klug said, "A unique characteristic of Iowans is that we don't get defeated easily. We just went to work and overcame it. That to me is Iowans: we don't get discouraged; we just get to work. We're not helpless. We rolled up our sleeves and said, there are not problems that we can't figure out."

I am so proud to recognize the Iowa Mask Brigade for their outstanding work and their unwavering willingness to help all those in need. It is my hope that other individuals and organizations are inspired to take action of their own. The volunteers powering the Iowa Mask Brigade have not only given protective gear to people in need, but also instilled hope when we need it most. It is my honor to share the Iowa Mask Brigade's story and recognize the group as our Iowan of the Week.

#### CADET LAITYN TIPPY SELECTED AS OVERALL AFJROTC AND AFA CADET LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNER

#### HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 7, 2020*

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Cadet Laityn Tippy from Westside High School and the Air Force JROTC, Unit No. AR20061, in Jonesboro, AR,