



March 30, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For More Information:
Genia Ryan, President & CEO
Georgia Senior Living Association
404-583-1261

Representative John LaHood Receives GSLA Beth Cayce Leadership Award from Georgia Senior Living Association

Georgia Senior Living Association (GSLA) announced today that **John LaHood of The Fellowship Family, State Representative of Georgia District 175**, received the “**GSLA Beth Cayce Leadership Award.**” **Rep. John LaHood** is the first person to receive both the GSLA Legislator of the Year Award (2019) and the GSLA Beth Cayce Leadership Award.

The GSLA Board of Directors established the GSLA Beth Cayce Leadership Award in 2012 to recognize and honor outstanding leadership among the Georgia assisted living providers in the senior living industry. The award is named in honor of Past Board Chair Beth Cayce, who has served in various capacities on GSLA’s board since the organization’s founding in 1998.

In presenting the award to **LaHood**, Beth Cayce said, “I can’t say enough about John. He has been an exceptional advocate for senior living providers in Georgia and for seniors themselves.”

John LaHood was elected State House Representative for District 175 during a special election in February 2018. District 175 covers Brooks County and portions of Lowndes and Thomas counties. State Representative John LaHood is a resident of Brooks County.

“**Representative John LaHood** has made an unparalleled impact as a tireless advocate for Georgia’s senior citizens,” stated **Genia Ryan**, President and CEO of Georgia Senior Living Association. “In addition to being an Assisted Living Provider in Georgia, **Representative LaHood** works to champion legislation and policies designed to ensure that Georgia’s senior citizens can live their lives in dignity,” added Ryan. “His passion for the well-being of our seniors means we all have a champion in the state legislature.

Representative LaHood stated, “To be included on such a short list of distinguished professionals in the senior living industry is very, very humbling.” He added, “The real heroes to me are first our residents, who have managed somehow to keep good spirits through this, and the frontline workers who have demonstrated courage and perseverance with their

actions, rising to the challenge moment by moment, through every twist and turn of this crazy year.”

The senior living industry in Georgia faced scrutiny in the media last year and, as a result, advocates called for increased state regulations for long-term residential care communities. **Representative LaHood** worked closely with Representative Sharon Cooper and others during Georgia’s 2020 legislative session to craft legislation that would become House Bill 987, calling for significant reform in the operation of Assisted Living Communities and Personal Care Homes.

Representative LaHood currently serves as Secretary of the Human Relations & Aging Committee, which is responsible for legislation that concerns the care and needs of Georgia’s aging population. He also serves on three other committees in the House: The Game, Fish & Parks Committee, the Health & Human Services Committee, and the Information and Audits Committee.

In addition to representing his district in the Georgia Legislature, **LaHood** runs a business in the senior living industry. He is President and CEO of The Fellowship Family, which began as a family business with Fellowship Home at Brookside in Valdosta. Under **LaHood’s** leadership, The Fellowship Family has grown from one to five locations throughout south and middle Georgia. **LaHood** is a Registered Nurse and holds additional certifications that support him in this role.

John LaHood began his full-time senior living career in 1997. He has been recognized by the Georgia Department of Community Health for Best Practices in Personal Care Homes & Assisted Living Communities. He served as President of ALAG – the Assisted Living Association of Georgia – from 2010 to 2013. He participated in the DCH advisory workgroup in 2011-2012 for development of the rules and regulations for Georgia’s ALC licensure.

A South Georgia native, **LaHood** and his wife of 25 years, Crystal, have four children and three grandchildren. **LaHood** finds time to stay involved in family activities and in numerous civic and business organizations such as Leadership Georgia (Class of 2015), the Valdosta Boys & Girls Club, and the Boys & Girls Club of Brooks County.

About GSLA: GSLA represents Georgia's senior living industry and the growing population it serves. Since 1998, GSLA has advocated for choice, independence, dignity, and quality of life for all older adults. GSLA members range from freestanding assisted living residences and licensed personal care homes to retirement campuses where assisted living, personal care and memory care services are provided to older adults and their families. GSLA is the State Partner of Argentum, formerly Assisted Living Federation of America (ALFA).

###