

we have results, the sooner we can implement proper precautions and care. Solutions like the testing system that Fluxergy developed can help us save lives.

I launched a Constituent of the Month program to recognize individuals who have gone above and beyond to make our region and our country a stronger place for everyone to live and thrive. There are countless health care workers, first responders, grocery workers and many others who deserve recognition. Today, I am proud to recognize Tej and his team's innovation during this time of crisis for our country, which is both inspiring and encouraging. I am honored to recognize Tej Patel and the Fluxergy team as my Constituent of the Month and I thank them for being beacons of light and hope for our community as we fight this global pandemic together.

HONORING IOWA'S TEACHERS AS
IOWANS OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, in honor of National Teacher Appreciation Week, I am recognizing the incredible educators of Iowa's Third Congressional District as our Iowans of the Week. Their daily contributions to our children's lives have perhaps never been more evident than during the past couple of months while our nation battles the COVID-19 pandemic. As distance learning has become the new norm, parents-turned-home-educators have developed a whole new appreciation for the academic, social, and emotional support teachers provide our children.

It has been remarkable to see educators and school staff rise to the challenge of serving their students in the face of this unprecedented crisis. With little time to plan and while coping with the pandemic themselves, they transitioned lesson plans to fit the constraints of distance learning and have worked hard to find creative ways to keep students engaged. Within the Des Moines Public School district alone, teachers have now moved more than 6,300 Pre-K through 8th grade classes to an online learning platform and distributed nearly 21,000 laptop computers to students across grade levels. In districts across central and southwest Iowa, teachers have also packed countless bags of books, school supplies, games, and other supports for students and families. And at Thomas Jefferson High School in Council Bluffs, teachers are now hosting activities like Anime Club meetups via Google Hangouts.

Their efforts extend far beyond traditional lesson plans. Teachers were among the first to recognize and fill the void of food insecurity for many students in their school districts; for weeks now, they have stepped up to pack and serve tens of thousands of meals weekly for students who might otherwise go without. They know many students still need a wellness check, so educators have donned masks and knocked on doors to make sure students are safe and secure. And at the end of the day, teachers still find the energy to organize parades through their school districts just to put a smile on their students' faces.

Their contributions to our community don't end with their students. We even have teach-

ers who are working around the clock to produce face shields for health care workers on their school's 3D printers.

Teachers deserve special recognition this week and every week for their willingness to go above and beyond for the benefit of our students and families. In many ways, educators are the heart of Iowa's communities. They are thoughtful caretakers and mentors of our generations to come, and it is a role they approach with purpose and compassion. While educators face various professional challenges, many see teaching as their life's calling. I am grateful for every person who has chosen to spend their careers sparking curiosity and creativity in our children. So please allow me to express my deep appreciation and thanks to every teacher in Iowa's Third Congressional District, and to honor them as Iowans of the Week.

RECOGNIZING JO ELLIS AND
MAKE.DO.

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, today I recognize Jo Ellis and her team at the nonprofit organization Make.Do., an organization that has been restoring hope through creativity, connection, and compassion in Searcy, Arkansas.

The team at Make.Do. has shifted their focus during the current public health crisis due to COVID-19 and have dedicated their abilities to making masks for the community and healthcare workers, so far producing more than 780 masks.

The team has also adapted their community outreach by starting the Quarantine Craft Camp. Here, they provide craft supplies to Searcy residents and encourage them to participate in the educational Facebook Live events that they host.

This initiative has shined a light on how creativity encourages positive attitudes and can unite a community even amidst a public health crisis.

I congratulate Jo Ellis and the team at Make.Do. for their creative way to bring the community of Searcy together.

HONORING ESTHER MARTIN
RIGSBY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mrs. Esther Martin Riggsby. Mrs. Esther Martin Riggsby entered into eternal rest March 17, 2020. She was born August 31, 1932 to Reverend and Mrs. Alex L. Martin in Port Gibson, Mississippi. She was a graduate of Claiborne County Training School, where she was the class salutatorian and choir accompanist. She matriculated at Alcorn State University where she received a Bachelor of Science Degree in English Education. While at Alcorn, she was a member of the col-

lege choir, the Dramatic Guild, and was initiated into the Gamma Phi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

On December 25, 1954, she united in holy matrimony to her college sweetheart: Dr. John D. Riggsby. He predeceased her.

Her other educational attainments included the Master of Science Degree in English Education from Indiana University. She also attained advanced certifications in Curriculum and Instruction and did additional studies at Mississippi State University, University of Southern Mississippi and New York University.

Her teaching career was in several Mississippi School Districts: Quitman County, Leflore County, Rankin County and Jackson Public Schools. During her career, she taught English, Journalism, Speech, Drama and Reading. She served as newspaper and yearbook advisor, District-wide English Department Chair, and participated in the writing and implementation of English instructional manuals. She was also employed at Tougaloo College as an Assistant Professor of English and Coordinator of Humanities Special Events. During her career, she served as an Adjunct Instructor of English at Alcorn State University, Jackson State University and Hinds Community College.

Further, she was an Essay Reader for the Graduate Record Examination administered by the Educational Testing Service.

As a child, she joined First Baptist Church in Port Gibson, Mississippi where she was the pianist for the church and state pianist for the General Missionary Baptist State Convention of Mississippi. Mrs. Riggsby was a member of New Hope Baptist Church in Jackson, Mississippi for over sixty years. She served in many capacities: pianist for the Senior Choir; Co-Director of the Junior Choir; Alto vocalist in the Sanctuary Choir; Vice President of the Women's Missionary Union; Publicity Coordinator; and Deaconess Chair.

Her community service included membership in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Jackson Urban League, and the International Community Ambassadors Network.

Mrs. Riggsby served Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority on many levels: President of the Beta Delta Omega Chapter, 17th South Eastern Regional Director, member of the International Board of Directors, and served on five international committees: Standards, Membership, Programs, Nominating and Constitution. She was co-author of the local chapter history book: "Capturing A Vision Fair" and a member of the Editorial Advisory Board for the Sorority's centennial history publication: "Pearls of Wisdom." She was a charter member of The LeFleur's Bluff Chapter of The Links, Incorporated where she served as Financial Secretary and Chair of the Arts Facet.

She was inducted into the Alcorn State University's Hall of Honor and received the NAACP's Mother of the Year Award. She also received many recognitions and honors for her leadership in various organizations. She served as a mentor to numerous students and teachers.

Mrs. Riggsby is survived by her four sons: Reginald D. Riggsby, M.D., of Madison, Mississippi; Delbert K. Riggsby, Esq. of Mitchellville, Maryland; Mark D. Riggsby of Beech Island, South Carolina; and Kenneth W. Riggsby of Nashville, Tennessee. Her daughters-in-law are Terri, Linda, and Virginia