

years of dedicated service to Northwest Oregon and congratulate her on her retirement.

HONORING JEREMY THOMAS LANIER AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR PRIDE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2020

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, 4th generation Floridian, Jeremy Thomas Lanier has been a lifelong resident of Osceola County. For decades he has worked with his parents, Tom and Sharon Lanier, in their family antiques store located in the heart of Historic Downtown Kissimmee. Raised with a sense of civic duty, Jeremy is president of the Downtown Business Association of Kissimmee, an organization that both of his parents led at one time, and he also serves as a board member of various community organizations including Kissimmee Main Street, the Osceola County Historical Society, the Opportunity Center, and the Osceola County LGBTA.

In 2017 Jeremy began his career in public health at the Florida Department of Health in Osceola County working primarily with HIV patients in the ASPECTS clinic. After graduating with a degree in psychology from Rollins College in Winter Park, Jeremy used his education to successfully counsel both newly diagnosed and long-term HIV survivors and assist them throughout the treatment process. In addition to his counseling position at the health department, he also began working in the AIDS Drug Assistance Program where he manages the medication regimens of over 200 Osceola County clients.

Jeremy also manages the ADAP Copay and Premium Assistance program; assisting over 50 clients with the acquisition and management of their insurance acquired through the Healthcare Marketplace. Jeremy also assists in the oversight of the PrEP program through which over 100 clients have been afforded access to pre-exposure prophylaxis. Recently he accepted the position of Public Information Officer at the FDOH-Osceola where he manages media relations, internal and public messaging and public outreach for the health department. Jeremy and his partner Christopher May live in the business district of Historic Downtown Kissimmee where they are active in community organizations and proudly support LGBT causes throughout Osceola County.

HONORING CAPTAIN RAY SPRADLIN

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Captain Ray Spradlin for his exceptional public service to the people of the city of Santa Rosa and the State of California, and to honor his retirement after 38 years as a fireman.

Captain Ray Spradlin was born in St. Louis, Missouri. He attended Petaluma High School

from 1977 to 1981 and graduated from Santa Rosa Junior College in 1984. Since then, he has dedicated his career to serving the community around him, often while it was at its lowest point. He rose through the ranks of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the Santa Rosa Fire Department, earning the respect of those around him. As captain, he used the knowledge and expertise gained from his years of experience to both lead his colleagues in protecting members of the public and ensuring a safer working environment for the people around him. He will continue to dedicate his life to protecting fellow first responders even after his retirement through his work with Worldwide Safety Solutions.

Throughout his career, Captain Spradlin has been recognized for his hard work and commitment to fighting for the people around him. He was honored at the 2010 Sonoma County Paramedic Associate Survivors Union for providing life-saving treatment to Yessenia Cruz, who would have died if it were not for the quick actions of Captain Spradlin. This recognition is just one example of countless heroic actions taken by Captain Spradlin to protect his community. More recently, Captain Spradlin served on the front lines during the Tubbs Fire in 2017, working tirelessly for days to fight that devastating disaster.

Madam Speaker, Captain Ray Spradlin represents the type of fine citizen that we should all strive to be. His career has been dedicated to protecting both his community and his fellow first responders. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FARM-TO-MARKET ROAD REPAIR ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2020

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Farm-to-Market Road Repair Act, legislation that will expand eligibility for the Surface Transportation Block Grant program to include rural roads that serve to transport agriculture products from farms or ranches to the marketplace.

American agricultural communities play a pivotal role in the economy within my district and across America. These farms and ranches provide the communities they serve with fresh products daily, ensuring consumers have an adequate and healthy food supply. Unfortunately, many of the roads are deteriorating.

Over 70 percent of our nation's total road mileage is in rural areas, yet, between 2009 and 2015, these roads have only seen about 37 percent of federal highway fund. As Congress debates how to move forward with a bold plan to address infrastructure, we need to ensure road-repair projects like these do not fall by the wayside as we seek to address other larger infrastructure projects. Just because a road is in a rural area does not mean the road is small or otherwise unimportant. To the contrary, I am aware of several rural road projects in my district and the surrounding region that are major connectors that would benefit from this type of funding opportunity.

My bill expands the current surface block grant program to include these roads—roads

that serve as a lifeline to the people that depend on them. We must invest in our rural infrastructure now, before it is in complete disrepair. I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

HONORING IOWA'S TEACHERS AS IOWANS OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 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 teachers 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