

fierce fighter for all children and a selfless public servant. We mourn the loss of a young woman, a rising leader in our community. Her legacy is an inspiration to us all.

Please join me to celebrate the life of Ms. Marny Xiong and her work to create a brighter future for all students.

HONORING IOWA LAW ENFORCEMENT AS IOWANS OF THE WEEK

**HON. CYNTHIA AXNE**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 18, 2020*

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, National Police Week is a time for Iowans and people across the U.S. to celebrate local law enforcement officers who serve and protect our communities, and to honor the fallen heroes who lost their lives in the line of duty. These brave men and women in uniform have dedicated their lives to essential public service, and some have given the ultimate sacrifice. The COVID-19 pandemic may delay public ceremonies to recognize these individuals, but we can still take time this week to remember those we have lost, share our support for their loved ones, and thank those who continue to serve.

Law enforcement officers do far more than safeguard our lives and property. Today, community policing involves officers working in partnership with organizations and neighborhoods to create safer spaces. Not only are police responding to calls for help and providing support on the street, they're also in our schools teaching kids how to make good choices so they can continue on a path toward success. There is no shortage of stories of officers from my district going above and beyond on the job.

In late March as the community closed up shop to slow the spread of COVID-19, the Creston Police Department covered its front doors and windows in a display of colorful paper hearts as a symbol of hope for Iowans during this trying time.

Earlier this month Des Moines Police Sgt. Paul Parizek spent National Teacher Appreciation Week visiting multiple educators and school support staff at home and at work to thank them for their service to our kids. During the same stretch of time, Sgt. Andrew Phipps from Des Moines PD visited 90-year-old Earl, a fellow veteran, on his birthday to share in the socially distanced celebration.

Waukeke Police Department's Sgt. Hector Arias and Officer Gilchrist have been lending a helping hand passing out free Waukeke Community School District Grab & Go Meals and devices to help students participate in virtual learning from home.

Just before schools moved to distance learning this spring, Council Bluffs Police Chief Tim Carmody visited Mrs. Nickerson's class of first graders at Rue Elementary School to participate in the Read Across America Program. Having recently welcomed Officer Deana Roth and Officer Meghan Thomson to the force, Chief Carmody is now leading his team in important efforts like educating the public on how to identify and avoid door-to-door sales scams during the Coronavirus outbreak.

Our police officers' contributions to our community don't end at handing out meals and spending time in the classroom. Faced with the additional health risks presented by this pandemic, our police officers continue to exhibit honor and bravery by serving their neighbors. They go to work knowing they could come face-to-face with Coronavirus, and that it is only one of the challenges they encounter while on duty. Because of their dedication and sacrifice, it is my pleasure to honor members of central and southwest Iowa's law enforcement community by nominating them as our Iowans of the Week.

HONORING JUAN RODRIGUEZ 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, Juan has invested 19 years working in the HIV arena. In

2001, he promised his partner, who was dying from AIDS, that he would devote his life to helping individuals infected with HIV and to eradicating the disease.

In 2016, under the guidance and direction of Dr. Roberto Ortiz, Juan started Bliss CARES, a nonprofit organization in Orlando. The mission of Bliss CARES is to save lives by treating and preventing the spread of HIV, Hepatitis and STD's. They strive to serve every person who walks through their doors, regardless of ability to pay. Bliss CARES has provided FREE HIV, STD and Hepatitis testing and services to more than 1987 clients and has spent over \$1.8 million on their much-needed medical care.

While leading a caring, and results driven team, Juan has created 5 lifesaving programs for Central Florida. These include:

TRANSformation, a 7-part conversational educational program to assist the Transgender community and sponsors name changes for transgender persons interested in the process;

Sweet Dreams Emergency Housing, an innovative program created to help Transgender individuals have a safe place to sleep that includes services for mental health counseling and substance abuse;

the Bliss Health Insurance Subsidy Program, which grants lifesaving medical care to STD positive individuals without insurance and

the Bridge Program, which provides access to medical care, treatment, mental health, laboratory tests, vaccines, transportation, and grants copay assistance for medications and doctor's visits. The program was designed to provide comprehensive medical care to the uninsured and underinsured populations who have a STD or need preventive care.

Last, but not least, Juan's nonprofit grants free access to the PrEP and PEP-Program, one designed to provide immediate care for all individuals who believe they may have been exposed to the HIV virus. This program prevents HIV from entering the blood stream, thus reducing HIV cases in Central Florida.