

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Nicholas Turturro, SSA Jack Garcia (Ret.), Lt. Tyree Bacon, Christine Levinson, the Honorable BILL PASCRELL, the Honorable Lenin Voltaire Moreno Garcés Jr., Jose Zhanay and C.O. Norma Delgado (Ret.) on their recognition by the National Police Defense Foundation and thanking them for their immeasurable contributions to the community.

A TRIBUTE TO TRAVIS HAMILTON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Travis Hamilton for being named a 2013 Hero of the Heartland by the American Red Cross serving Greater Iowa.

Each year, the American Red Cross serving Greater Iowa recognizes Heroes of the Heartland by selecting everyday Iowans who have done extraordinary things to help their neighbors and communities. The Iowans honored with this prestigious award displayed selflessness in a variety of courageous, charitable and thoughtful acts. The Heroes of the Heartland program not only showcases the heroes among us, but also helps raise crucial funds to ensure that the American Red Cross is prepared and equipped to assist those that need food, shelter, and comfort during emergencies and difficult times.

To be named a Hero of the Heartland, Travis Hamilton of Johnston dedicated himself to helping sick children through charity and a touching tale of personal sacrifice. Travis is the Director of the Guns-N-Hoses Hockey event, an annual hockey game pitting Des Moines-area police against fire department and EMS employees to raise money for local charities. In the two years Mr. Hamilton has

coordinated the event, it has raised \$50,000 for Children's Cancer Connection and Make a Wish Iowa. Travis also coordinated the event Transplant for Trae to raise money for his son, who needed a kidney transplant at only 17 months old. Travis was able to raise over \$20,000, and he ultimately donated his own kidney to Trae. Through his examples of true selflessness, Mr. Hamilton continues to change lives and be a leader that our State can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Hamilton's actions that earned him the title a "Hero of the Heartland" are a testament to the humble, hardworking and helpful people who make up the great State of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Travis on a job well done, thanking the American Red Cross serving Greater Iowa for their life changing efforts, and wishing all of those involved in the Heroes of the Heartland program continued success for years to come.