

# Corona, Holman, on Huynh Award list

BY ANNE TERNUS-BELLAMY

*Enterprise staff writer*

The Davis City Council on Tuesday will be asked to confirm this year's nominees for the Thong Hy Huynh award — a group of five nominees that includes slain Davis Police Officer Natalie Corona as the city's public servant of the year.

The awards are presented every year in memory of Huynh, a Davis High School student who was stabbed to death in 1983.

They are intended to raise awareness about and to honor community



**CORONA**  
Up for Public  
Servant of the  
Year

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members whose actions exemplify the goals of diversity, community, social justice and equal rights. Awards are presented annually in five categories: lifetime achievement; civil rights advocacy; excellence

in community involvement; public servant of the year; and young humanitarian.

However, awards will be presented in only four categories this year, as no nominations were received in the young humanitarian category. There are two nominations for excellence in community involvement.

Nominations were submitted to the city's Human Relations Commission earlier this year and the commission forwarded its recommendations to the City Council with the following information about each nominee:

## ■ Lifetime Achievement: Sandy Holman

Holman is the founder of the Culture C.O.-O.P., which assists people and organizations working with equity and diversity in education, businesses and the community. Holman has served as a consultant to countless organizations, locally and nationally, to help meet the needs of diverse

populations. She also has committed herself to advocacy for children and education.

"Her experiences as an educator, program coordinator, counselor, outreach consultant, prevention coordinator, equity specialist and author have given her a practitioner's insight into the challenges communities and organizations are facing that goes well beyond theoretical research," according to her nomination.



**HUYNH**  
Killed in 1983  
hate crime

Holman has served on the board of directors of local and national agencies serving youth and adults, including the Youth Services Task Force, the National Dropout prevention network, Center for Regional Development, Progress Ranch group homes for emotionally disturbed children, and Yolo Unite, an organization serving youth and the community.

## ■ Civil Rights Advocacy: Kelly Wilkerson

Wilkerson, journalism and English teacher at Davis High School, has been involved in numerous activities that highlight her dedication to promoting positive human relations, according to her nomination.

She founded and leads the local Sister District chapter which seeks to help elect candidates who believe in diversity and equal rights across the country.

"Concerned about the well-being and safety of diverse communities, she felt strongly that it was necessary to 'do the work' to protect our community's and country's ideals," the nomination states.

Wilkerson's work leading this grassroots organization has brought together various groups and people across Davis and Yolo County from all age brackets and sociodemographic backgrounds, toward the shared goal of making the community and country a better place for all people. Over the past two years, Kelly has engaged community members who had never been active in politics or public service, teaching and training them to become leaders in this work.

Since 2016, she has organized and led countless demonstrations, vigils, workshops, rallies and protests in support of immigrant families, detained children, LGBTQ rights, and more; she has traveled to Virginia on her own dime time to donate her time recording and producing videos for new female candidates from diverse backgrounds; and she has engaged, empowered, and activated people from across Yolo County, encouraging them to get

involved and become leaders in their communities in ways they never considered previously.

Wilkerson herself is a true leader, her nomination states, never taking personal credit for activities, efforts and accomplishments that are a result of her actions, and instead highlighting the contributions of others.

"Her efforts truly make Davis a better place to live for all of us," her nomination states.

## ■ Excellence in Community Involvement: Founding Members of Community Harvest of Davis — Joe and Linda Schwartz and Greg and Pam Gibbs

Over the last decade, the collective compassion and selfless spirit of sustaining volunteers of Community Harvest of Davis — Joe and Linda Schwartz and Greg and Pam Gibbs — has resulted in the harvest and donation of almost 300,000 pounds of fresh, local fruit to those in need across Davis and throughout Yolo County.

Community Harvest of Davis (formerly Village Harvest Davis) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, run entirely by volunteers, that harvests fruit from residential trees and donates it directly to local agencies that feed people in need. It was formed in the spring of 2009 after the nominees visited an organization in the Bay Area and decided to create something similar in Davis.

A decade later, they have over 200 donors in their database and over 400 volunteers across town, including members of 11 UC Davis service groups and the local chapter of the National Charity League.

The efforts of these nominees have resulted in deliveries of fresh, local fruit to numerous deserving groups and institutions in Davis. Among the regular recipients are STEAC, Davis Community Meals, the Davis Women's Shelter, the Korean Church, the



**WILKERSON**  
Teacher and  
leader

Senior Center and several low-income senior housing developments. Additionally, when large harvests yield more than can be utilized in Davis alone, sizeable deliveries are made to the Yolo Food Bank.

"Collectively, this food has played a direct role in improving the health and quality of life of many of our friends, neighbors and fellow Davis residents," the nomination states.

## ■ Excellence in Community Involvement: UC Davis Activities and Recreation Center

In March of this year, the UC Davis Activities and Recreation Center completed a massive expansion and reopened a brand new wing of the center with thousands of square feet of brand new space and facilities, all while simultaneously holding costs constant. This renovation was performed in an effort to better reach those UC Davis students who are not registered for participation in recreational activities, and to better serve those who already are engaged in such activities.

"The ARC represents the best of Davis — a place

where persons of all backgrounds, all beliefs, all abilities, and all interests are welcomed and met with activities suitable to their individual and collective preferences, in a place without judgment," the nomination states.

"It may seem unusual to think of a recreation center as an extension of building human relations and championing for social justice, but the ARC is an anomaly worth recognizing. In addition, the ARC employs an exceptionally diverse group of UC Davis students who learn leadership skills for building their own careers and fitness lifestyle."

As with so many other organizations, this approach starts from the top, and much credit is owed to the "Core Four" — Deb Johnson, Andy Ramirez, Tyler Scudero, and Reed Phinisey — who lead the center and have led the recent efforts in service of inclusion, accessibility, and affordability.

"The Center deserves recognition and appreciation for its significant contribution to the Davis community."

## ■ Public Servant of the Year: Natalie Corona

The Public Servant of the Year category was originally Peace Officer of the Year, a category created to acknowledge exceptional law enforcement officers who demonstrated enthusiasm in their service to the Davis community, outstanding human relations skills and who are role models for everybody.

"Office Corona possessed all of these attributes," the nomination states.

Corona was a rookie Davis police officer who was gunned down in January while responding to a traffic collision on Fifth Street. Her death reverberated across not just Davis but California and beyond. A memorial service at UC Davis drew thousands and the City Council committed earlier this year to creating permanent memorials in Corona's memory.

On Tuesday, May 21, the council will formally recognize Corona and the other Huynh award recipients during a ceremony in the community chambers.

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## The Davis City Council will meet on Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at 6:30 pm, Community Chambers, 23 Russell Blvd.

### The meeting will include:

#### REGULAR CALENDAR

#### (City Council discussion/action):

- Presentation: Food and Economic Development
- 7-Eleven Gas Station & Convenience Store, 400 Mace Blvd
- Second Street Crossing Target Pad Buildings, 4551- 4651 Second St
- Design Review Requirement for New 2-Story Homes & Additions that Considerably Expand 1 and 2-Family Dwellings
- Pacifico Affordable Housing Complex Update

#### CONSENT CALENDAR

#### (intended to be acted on without City Council discussion):

- Pavement Rehab Oyster Bay Neighborhood
- Sports Complex Update & Next Step
- Homeless Emergency Aid Program Grant — Pathways to Employment Program
- Amend Boy Scout Cabin Property Ground Lease
- Debt Management Policy
- FTA Grant Application — Unitrans Operations
- Authorization to Act as Agent to Obtain & Administer LCTOP Funding
- Mace Blvd & San Marino Dr Multi-Way Stop Installation
- 2019 Thong Hy Huynh Memorial Awards Ratification
- 2018-20 Council Focus Items Update