

City announces Huynh awards

■ **Editor's Note:** This is the first in a two-part series. The recipients of the Golden Heart Awards will be featured in Sunday's Enterprise.

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Two horrific acts of violence that took the lives of two Davis Joint Unified School District students nine years apart are remembered every year in part through annual awards bestowed by the city of Davis on adults and youth who have given much to the community.

This year is no exception.

The city announced this week the 2022 recipients of the Thong Hy Huynh

awards, given in memory of Huynh, who was stabbed to death on the Davis High School campus in 1983, and the Golden Heart Awards, given in memory of Andrew Mockus, a 14-year-old Holmes Junior High School student who was killed in 1992 by a group of Davis teens who beat him, robbed him and pushed him into the path of a moving train.

Those being honored with these city awards include adults, community organizations and teens who have contributed to the city in the areas of civil rights and community service as well as for one teen, overcoming personal challenges to make a

difference in her community.

All of the award recipients will be honored during a recognition ceremony at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday before the City Council meeting.

Thong Hy Huynh Awards

It's been nearly four decades since Huynh, a 17-year-old Vietnamese immigrant, was stabbed to death in a racially motivated attack on the Davis High School campus.

Huynh died in the arms of a Davis police officer in a

SEE AWARDS, PAGE A3

AWARDS: Winners helped make a better community

From Page A1

courtyard on campus on May 4, 1983. Jay Pierman, a 16-year-old Davis High student at the time, was later convicted of voluntary manslaughter.

During the reckoning and soul searching that followed Huynh's death, the school district installed a memorial plaque in the courtyard where he died, and the city established annual awards in Huynh's memory recognizing city residents for their contributions to diversity, community, social justice and equal rights.

The first awards were presented in 1986 and have been presented annually since. This year's recipients:

Lifetime Achievement — Anne Kjemtrup

Kjemtrup was nominated for the lifetime achievement award for her efforts on social justice, community building and interfaith work.

She is one of the organizers of the annual Celebration of Abraham event in Davis which brings together members of different faiths — Jewish, Christian and Muslim — to increase understanding and respect between the groups.

Young Humanitarian — Max Mauratonio

Mauratonio was nominated for the Young Humanitarian award for his many efforts to improve the Davis community.

A Davis High School junior — and the same age as Huynh was when he was murdered — Mauratonio has been involved in scouting for 11 years and has volunteered at the Yolo Food Bank through the Scouting for Food program.

Civil Rights Advocacy — Natalia Baltazar

Baltazar will receive the award for civil rights advocacy for her work on behalf of sexual assault and domestic violence survivors through her position with Empower Yolo, the county's largest provider of services to women and children.

As director of development and community relations for Empower Yolo, Baltazar has secured millions of dollars for the agency and impacted the lives of thousands of Yolo County residents.

Excellence in Community Involvement — COVID-19 Yolo Community Response Facebook Group; Davis Food Co-op; Steve Streeter

■ Created in the early

days of the pandemic, the COVID-19 Yolo Community Response Facebook Group has served as both a source of information and an online gathering place to help county residents navigate the course of the pandemic.

Moderated by three Davis women — Rachel Warren Terpstra, Kate Mellon-Anibaba and Anoosh Jorjorian — the page is a volunteer effort with more than 5,000 members where people can ask questions, get answers and learn about the virus, testing, vaccines and more.

■ Community involvement epitomizes the Davis Food Co-op, which for 50 years has existed as a community store in Davis, both in terms of being community owned as well as service to the community.

The Co-op supports the local economy by prioritizing local farms, businesses and artisans; raises funds for local non-profits; donates food to a variety of organizations, including the Yolo Food Bank, Davis Community Meals and more; and hosts the annual Holiday Meal on Christmas Eve, attended by hundreds of residents, many who have nowhere

else to celebrate.

■ Streeter is being honored for his tireless work serving the homeless.

That work has included serving as a primary driver for Yolo Food bank pick-up and deliveries to the daytime respite center; providing daily support to the city's emergency winter shelter by volunteering to drive clients to and from locations, including taking individuals housed in motel rooms during the pandemic to the respite center and appointments as needed, often multiple times a day.

Public Servant of the Year — Catherine Bernstein

Bernstein is receiving the public servant of the year award for her work in developing the Trauma and Grief Support program in Davis in 2018.

The program provides support to fire and police responders by assisting at the scene and with secondary victims and witnesses experiencing grief and trauma and ensures both first responders and community members have access to a team that can assist during times of stress and tragedy as well as connecting them to resources in the aftermath.