



ASSEMBLYMEMBER
Alex Lee 李天明
 DISTRICT 25

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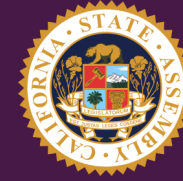
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ASSEMBLYMEMBER
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Saturday, November 20, 2021 | 11:00 AM

Milpitas High School

1285 Escuela Pkwy. Milpitas, CA 95035

BILLS PASSED THROUGH THE LEGISLATURE

AB 1061 - Protecting Mobile Home Residents - Water service fees in mobile home parks are ambiguous and often increase without explanation. These fees can add up and be burdensome, and AB 1061 protects mobile home residents from these unfair water service charges.

AB 1337 - Keeping BART Safe - With the new Milpitas and Berryessa/North San Jose stations, it's unclear whether BART has the authority to enforce certain security measures. AB 1337 makes changes to allow BART to implement transit security protocols to keep BART stations safe.

AB 898 - Enhancing the Accuracy of Court Records - This bill seeks to ensure conviction expungements and reductions are correctly represented so that people eligible for relief are not held back from reentering society due to inaccurate court records.

AB 1157 - State Transit Assistance Program Reports - This bill provides the State Controller's Office (SCO) with additional time to identify errors and resolve issues which will help ensure accurate allocations are made to transit operators.

AB 1228 - Probation Detention Reform - The cornerstone of America's justice system is the presumption of innocence. This legislation reforms the probation department so that an individual accused of violating probation is only detained if a court finds it necessary for the public's safety.

AB 339 - Keeping Digital/Call-in Options for Government Meetings - During the pandemic, local governments transformed the way meetings were held, allowing the public to make comments and have their opinions heard through remote options from the comfort of their homes. AB 339 would have preserved that ability for cities and counties with populations of 250,000+.

Note: While AB 339 was vetoed, accessibility, transparency, and integrity are core democratic values of mine and it continues to be important to modernize government for constituents.

AB 1444 - Protecting Small Businesses & Consumers - Small businesses have barely stayed afloat with their narrow margins becoming increasingly smaller due to high fees from third-party ordering apps. AB 1444 would have prohibited food delivery platforms from charging fees for forwarded calls unless the call directly resulted in a paid order. It would have also required a disclosure if an order resulted in extra fees to restaurants and for business contracts to be more transparent with their fees.

Note: While AB 1444 was vetoed, the practice of rerouting calls for the purpose of charging commissions has ceased.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

It's been a busy first year in the State Legislature! From fighting the pandemic and planning for recovery, to making smart, timely investments for the future – it's been a privilege and an honor to serve you.

Education

I was proud to sit on six committees including: the Budget Committee, the Education Committee, and the Subcommittee on Education Finance. We made historic investments in education which will fund a new transitional kindergarten grade, more opportunities for summer and after-school teaching, and increased funding for K-12 education and for California residents at universities:

- \$123.9 billion - Highest level of school and per-pupil funding in California's history
- \$3 billion to convert school sites into full-service community schools, with wraparound mental health, social services, and family resources
- \$1 billion for summer and after-school programs at all schools
- \$150 million increased funding for the Career Technical Education Incentive Grant (CTEIG) for a total of \$300 million ongoing
- \$86.4 million for career technical education (CTE) regional occupational centers (ROCPs)
- Universal Pre-K by 2025
- Restored funding for UCs, CSUs, and the Community College system as well as financial aid expansion
- Eliminates age and time out of high school requirements for Cal Grants for community college students, expanding aid to an estimated 133,000 students
- And much more!

Stop AAPI Hate

\$156.5 million was approved to provide resources to address rising hate incidents against AAPI and other communities. This is one of the only AAPI majority districts in the State; therefore, this was a priority effort with the need especially apparent in the district. Below are some highlights:

- \$110 million to community organizations who are providing vital victim services and prevention
- \$10 million to track, respond, and prevent incidents of racial bias
- \$10 million will go to ethnic media outlets to reach AAPI and other underserved communities in California
- \$10 million to increase accurate data collection and data equity on AAPI needs, challenges, and barriers
- \$10 million to anti-bias block grant to provide funding to schools to create restorative justice programs to address hate early
- And much more!

2021 UNSUNG HEROES ASSEMBLYMEMBER ALEX LEE



As your State Assemblymember, I have had the opportunity to work with our friends and family members who stepped up to help one another during the pandemic. Volunteers across the district have done extraordinary work - work that deserves recognition.

Today, I am honored to recognize a wonderful group of individuals and organizations who are truly our Unsung Heroes!



UNsung HEROES

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2021

SEEMA BADAR

NOMINATED BY SYED BADAR



Seema Badar works in civil rights advocacy as a volunteer with the Council on American Islamic Relations. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she raised community funds and delivered hundreds of meals to frontline healthcare workers at Washington Hospital in Fremont. In the past few months, she has also raised thousands of dollars to help Afghan refugees settle in the Bay Area.

MICHAEL BAUTISTA

NOMINATED BY ALLAN KAMARA



Michael Bautista is a registered nurse in Santa Clara County. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, he has helped provide exemplary care for patients and has done an outstanding job protecting our community from COVID-19. He also advocated for his fellow nurses as a member of the Registered Nurses Professional Association.



UNsung HEROES

ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 25

LINH VONG

NOMINATED BY MICHELE LEW

Linh Vong has worked diligently as an Intensive Case Manager for The Health Trust's Coordinated Care Project. She has built trusting relationships with clients and has helped them find the resources they need to find appropriate housing, complete applications, put down deposits, apply for benefits, and settle into new homes. Linh also serves our community as a member of the City of San Jose's Housing and Community Development Commission.



JOHN WHITESIDE

NOMINATED BY NORENE MALDONADO

John Whiteside is a volunteer who supports local firefighters and law enforcement officials with rehab by providing drinks, snacks, and meals during critical and emergent events as well as second alarms. Earlier this year, his dedication, professionalism, and compassion aided the work of Emergency Medical Services, the San Jose Fire Department, and law enforcement officials during a mass casualty incident in our community.





UNsung HEROES

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2021

KAVITA SREEDHAR

NOMINATED BY SRI NARAYANAN



Kavita Sreedhar is the co-founder of Pragnya, which creates real-world experiences for neurodiverse members of our community to help them feel accepted, supported, empowered, and part of the community. Kavita also helps organize and lead parent support groups and trainings for caregivers to help them have the knowledge and resources they need to better support their loved ones.

KISHAN SREEDHAR

NOMINATED BY KAVITA SREEDHAR



Kishan Sreedhar is the co-founder of Pragnya, which creates real-world experiences for neurodiverse members of our community to help them feel accepted, supported, empowered, and part of the community. Kishan also helps organize and lead parent support groups and trainings for caregivers to help them have the knowledge and resources they need to better support their loved ones.



UNsung HEROES

ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 25

ARIANNA BELISO

NOMINATED BY ROB MOORE

Arianna Beliso is a corps member with the San Jose Conservation Corps and Charter School. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she worked to address food insecurity in our community by boxing food with the Conservation Corps for members of our community with the greatest needs. Arianna also serves as an active volunteer at the Second Harvest Food Bank in San Jose.



AJAY BHUTORIA

NOMINATED BY RAJ NATHAWAT

Ajay Bhutoria has worked diligently to serve members of our community most in need. He works with the Global Organization for Community Services to provide warm clothing, food, and other material aid to unhoused members of our community. Ajay also helps to promote economic, cultural, and social partnerships between the people of the United States and India.





UNsung HEROES

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2021

DON JUAN DE GUZMAN

NOMINATED BY JINKY PERALTA



Don Juan De Guzman is a long-time volunteer with Sleeping Bags for the Homeless—Silicon Valley. He collects and distributes sleeping bags, blankets, tents, tarps, water, and other supplies to unhoused members of our community. He also serves as an active volunteer for Second Harvest Food Bank, Rebuilding Together Silicon Valley, and Innvision Villa.

MELISSA DEVOS

NOMINATED BY ROB MOORE



Melissa Devos is a corps member with the San Jose Conservation Corps and Charter School. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she worked to address food insecurity in our community by boxing food with the Conservation Corps for the members of our community. Melissa also serves as an active volunteer at the Second Harvest Food Bank in San Jose.



UNsung HEROES

ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 25

JOHN SEMANIK

NOMINATED BY MIKE KRAUS

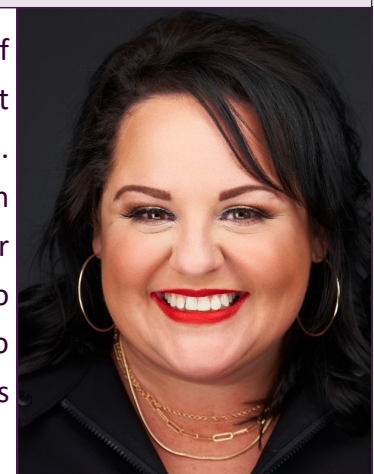
John Semanik founded the Penitencia Neighborhood Association in San Jose. The Penitencia Neighborhood Association now has more than 600 members that work together to create a solid, caring community. John's dedicated work over the past 25 years has improved safety and community relations throughout the Penitencia neighborhood.



BRI SEOANE

NOMINATED BY ANDREW KNAACK

Bri Seoane is the Vice President of Development and Strategic Partnerships at Ronald McDonald House Charities Bay Area. She works to partner with children's health care providers to expand local services for sick children and their families. She has also helped expand meal service programs to help meet the growing food insecurities faced by families in our community.





UNsung HEROES

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2021

SANTA CLARA SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

NOMINATED BY STEVE NEESE



The Santa Clara Schools Foundation helps enrich the education of the students in the Santa Clara Unified School District by funding programs, projects, scholarships, and citizenship awards. During the COVID-19 pandemic, they were able to support students by raising money, sponsoring a Virtual STEAM Expo, co-sponsoring the 2020 Steps 4 Success event, and helping graduating seniors celebrate their accomplishments.

SABITHA SARAVANAN

NOMINATED BY CHRISTY CASEY



Sabitha Saravanan helps run a volunteer parent group at Mission San Jose High School in Fremont. At the beginning of the pandemic, Sabitha and the community group of parents helped raise funds, identified vendors for Personal Protective Equipment supplies for donation, and identified members of the community who needed assistance with grocery shopping and other errands.



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ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 25

DIANA DING

NOMINATED BY DOMARINA EBRAHIMI AZARNAY BIN

Diana Ding is the founder of Ding Ding TV. She has organized Civic Leadership Forum Silicon Valley and the Silicon Valley Entrepreneurs Festival to aid local leaders. Diana has served as a board member for the Silicon Valley Central Chamber of Commerce, as a board member for Heart of Hope, as president of the US-China Chamber of Commerce, and as the founder of Silicon Valley Community Media.



THE ETERNITY BAND

NOMINATED BY JOHNNY QIU

The Eternity Band is a student volunteer band that brings positive energy to our community. They have performed volunteer concerts for senior centers, libraries, kindergartens, and homeless shelters in Newark, Fremont, and Union City. They have also worked to provide academic help to hundreds of students, coordinated donations to those in need, and aided in clean-ups of local trails.





UNsung HEROES

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2021

YOLIE GARCIA

NOMINATED BY MARSHA GRILLI



Yolie Garcia is a board member and co-founder of Hope for the Unhoused which works to provide unhoused members of our community with food, tents, sleeping bags, clothing, hygiene packs, and other essential items. Yolie is also dedicated to advocating for effective solutions to homelessness and educating our community about the challenges of unhoused residents.

BRANDI GONZALEZ

NOMINATED BY NORENE MALDONADO



Brandi Gonzalez is a volunteer who supports local firefighters and law enforcement officials with rehab by providing drinks, snacks, and meals during critical and emergent events as well as second alarms. Earlier this year, her dedication, professionalism, and compassion aided the work of Emergency Medical Services, the San Jose Fire Department, and law enforcement officials during a mass casualty incident in our community.



UNsung HEROES

ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 25

RECLAIMING OUR DOWNTOWN

NOMINATED BY DONNA WEST

Reclaiming Our Downtown brings together community members and organizations from throughout Santa Clara to help revitalize the downtown area. They are dedicated to creating an amazing and economically vibrant downtown in Santa Clara that preserves its history and creates a place for present and future Santa Clara residents of all ages to enjoy.



REWIRE COMMUNITY

NOMINATED BY MUNEERAH LALANI

Rewire Community has worked with local domestic violence and sexual assault agencies to support and serve survivors of gender-based violence for the past decade. During the COVID-19 pandemic, they started a Utilities & Essentials Fund and a COVID-19 Survivor Relief Fund that each raised thousands of dollars, and helped put together hundreds of Survivor Care-Kits.





UNsung HEROES

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2021

SHENAE PRICE

NOMINATED BY JIM ARABY



Shenae Price has worked at Safeway in San Jose for over 20 years and in that time, Shenae has been exemplary in helping take care of customers and our community. During the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, Shenae helped calm people's nerves, assisted members of UFCW 5 at Safeway, advocated for their safety, and ensured customers were able to get what they needed.

CYNDI RAGONA

NOMINATED BY MARIBEL MONTANEZ



Cyndi Ragona worked to set up the first walk-up testing site in California in San Jose. The site was located at the Mexican Heritage Plaza in East San Jose, helping to serve one of the communities in Santa Clara County that was the hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. Her efforts have led to over 100,000 individuals being tested for COVID-19 and receiving their COVID-19 vaccinations.



UNsung HEROES

ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 25

MICHELLE GUTIERREZ-VO

NOMINATED BY MATT BOYER

Michelle Gutierrez-Vo has been a nurse for more than twenty years and worked as a frontline nurse in Fremont, CA throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. She also serves as a board member for the California Nurses Association, where she works to champion the rights and safety of nurses to ensure that they are protected with safe working conditions and necessary Personal Protective Equipment.



KATHY HAMILTON

NOMINATED BY NATALIA LEBEDEVA

Kathy Hamilton is the volunteer manager of the Ohlone Humane Society's Pet Meals-On-Wheels program. Her work helps community members in need feed and take care of their pets. She also works as a volunteer rehabilitator for the Ohlone Humane Society's Wildlife Rehabilitation Program, helping to save hundreds of injured and orphaned wildlife each year.





UNsung HEROES

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2021

HUNGER AT HOME

NOMINATED BY MUNEEARAH LALANI



Hunger at Home provides essential nutrition and dignity to those in most need by collecting donated food and distributing it to people experiencing hunger and homelessness. In March 2020, Hunger at Home launched a meal preparation and distribution operation. These efforts have resulted in the distribution of more than 7.4 million meals to those in most need.

ISMALI CIVIC VOLUNTEERS

NOMINATED BY SHAHEENA DAREDIA



Ismali CIVIC Volunteers have supported our community by donating food to the Milpitas Food Pantry and Second Harvest Food Bank, providing needed resources for Milpitas students. During the COVID-19 pandemic, they donated blankets and personal protective equipment, put together care packages for firefighters, and organized virtual college prep sessions.



UNsung HEROES

ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 25

RAK PATEL

NOMINATED BY JINKY PERALTA

Rak Patel has been a volunteer with Sleeping Bags for the Homeless—Silicon Valley for several years. He collects and distributes sleeping bags, blankets, tents, tarps, water, and other supplies to unhoused members of our community. Rak's volunteer work has allowed unhoused members of our community to have access to the resources that they need.



JINKY PERALTA

NOMINATED BY RAK PATEL

Jinky Peralta is dedicated to serving those in most need in our community. She is a leader for Sleeping Bags for the Homeless—Silicon Valley, where she helps collect and distribute sleeping bags, blankets, tents, tarps, water, and other supplies to unhoused members of our community. Jinky's leadership and organization sets an example that benefits everyone in our community.





UNsung HEROES

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2021

MALALAI OLOMI

NOMINATED BY JINKY PERALTA



Malalai Olomi advocates for marginalized communities in San Jose by raising awareness through storytelling and community fundraising. She serves as a board member for Sleeping Bags for the Homeless – Silicon Valley and is dedicated to assisting unhoused members of our community. Malalai also serves as an active volunteer with North American Islamic Shelter for the Abused.

DIANA ORLANDO

NOMINATED BY CHRIS NORWOOD



Diana Orlando has been an elementary school teacher and mentor in the Milpitas Unified School District for more than 30 years and has been the Milpitas Teachers Association leader for the past ten years. She and her team have ensured Milpitas teachers have a strong voice throughout the pandemic and works to ensure learning continuity, safety, and security for teachers, students, and all school staff.



UNsung HEROES

ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 25

CHERYL JORDAN

NOMINATED BY CHRIS NORWOOD

Cheryl Jordan is the superintendent of the Milpitas Unified School District (MUSD). During the COVID-19 pandemic, she worked diligently to ensure that Milpitas students had access to academic opportunities. During her tenure, Jordan and her team launched a Middle College High School program, a World Languages Academy, as well as partnerships to help students access personalized learning and career paths.



MACHELLE KESSINGER

NOMINATED BY CHRIS NORWOOD

Machelle Kessinger serves students at Elmwood Correctional Facility, Milpitas Adult Education, and multiple school sites. She has been the Milpitas Classified Employee Association President for the past 12 years. Machelle and her team ensured more than 300 employees were available to keep Milpitas school campuses clean as well as supported testing and vaccination sites for Milpitas employees, students, and families.





UNsung HEROES

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2021

PRASAD KILARU

NOMINATED BY ANGUS COCHRAN



Dr. Prasad Kilaru was Chief of the Medical Staff at Washington Hospital Healthcare System throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. He organized and supported the response of physicians and worked tirelessly to ensure that Washington Hospital was able to follow protocols and practices based on the best possible information. He also serves as a volunteer member on the board of directors of Janyaa.

HONG LY

NOMINATED BY ALIX O'BRIEN



Hong Ly is a nurse in the Washington Hospital Healthcare System in Fremont. She has cared for members of our community at Washington Hospital since 2005. In March 2020, she was assigned to the COVID-19 Unit, and the majority of her work since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic has been dedicated to working with COVID-19 positive patients.



UNsung HEROES

ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 25

THOMAS METZ

NOMINATED BY NORENE MALDONADO

Thomas Metz is a volunteer who supports local firefighters and law enforcement officials with rehab by providing drinks, snacks, and meals during critical and emergent events as well as second alarms. Earlier this year, his dedication, professionalism, compassion aided the work of Emergency Medical Services, the San Jose Fire Department, and law enforcement officials during a mass casualty incident in our community.



LISA MORENO

NOMINATED BY MARSHA GRILLI

Lisa Moreno is the co-founder of Hope for the Unhoused, which works to provide outreach to unhoused members of our community with essential items, information, and resources. Her work has helped to educate our community on effective solutions for homelessness and she has served unhoused members of our community by providing food, access to resources, and education programs.

