the student athletes on the tennis team.

Winning a national championship is something to be proud of, not only for the university but for its students, faculty, and the surrounding community. The national championship brings out the best athletic performance our collegiate sports have to offer. Everyone involved in this should be congratulated for their performances.

In closing, I would urge Members to support this resolution, and again I commend the University of Illinois men’s tennis team, extend to them my commendations and extend to the President, President Stukel and all of the faculty, this is a rare occurrence for the University of Illinois. I know everybody in Illinois is indeed delighted that the university has reached this milestone.

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a truly remarkable group of young athletes. The University of Illinois fighting Illini Men’s Tennis Team had a memorable and historic 2002–2003 season. Beside winning their seventh consecutive Big Ten Conference regular-season championship, as well as their sixth Big Ten Tournament crown in the last 7 years, the undefeated Fighting Illini won the first NCAA team championship in the history of the University of Illinois tennis program.

Using three different players in the singles and doubles tournaments, the Illini captured the rare triple crown of college tennis by winning the national championships in the team tournament, the singles tournament, and the doubles tournament and were the first team in the nation to do so with three different players since the current NCAA tennis team championship format began in 1977.

Coach Craig Tiley, Assistant Coach Bruce Berque and the entire University of Illinois men’s tennis team are a great source of pride for the community, the Champaign-Urbana community and the 15th District of Illinois. I thank Chairman BOEHRER and Alison Ream of the Education and Workforce Committee for their help with bringing H. Res. 391 to the floor and I ask my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JOHNSTON) for bringing forth this resolution honoring the Fighting Illini athletes, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 391.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the resolution was amended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CAPTIVE WILDLIFE SAFETY ACT

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1006) to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to further the conservation of certain wildlife species, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. Res. 391

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act may be cited as the “Captive Wildlife Safety Act.”

SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF PROHIBITED WILDLIFE SPECIES. Section 2 of the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 (16 U.S.C. 3372) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2),—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “or”, or,” at the end and inserting “or” after the comma;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “or” after the comma at the end;

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

(2) any live animal of a prohibited wildlife species (subject to subsection (e));

(B) in paragraph (3), by inserting “or” after the semicolon and

(C) in paragraph (4), by striking paragraphs (1) through (4) and inserting paragraphs (1) through (3); and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

(e) NONAPPLICABILITY OF PROHIBITED WILDLIFE SPECIES OFFENSE.—

(1) in general.—Subsection (a)(2)(C) does not apply to importation, exportation, transportation, sale, receipt, acquisition, or purchase of an animal of a prohibited wildlife species, by a person that, under regulations prescribed under section 3(e)(3) of that Act (as added by subsection (a)(2)),

(2) persons described.—A person is described in this paragraph if the person—

(A) is licensed or authorized by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service with respect to that species;

(B) is a State college, university, or agency, State-licensed wildlife rehabilitator, or State-licensed veterinarian;

(C) is an accredited wildlife sanctuary that cares for prohibited wildlife species and—

(ii) is a corporation that is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code 1986 and described in sections 501(c)(3) and 170(b)(1)(A)(ii) of such Code;

(iii) does not commercially trade in animals listed in section 2(g), including offspring, parts, and byproducts of such animals;

(iv) does not propagate animals; and

(v) does not allow direct contact between the public and animals;

(3) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary, in cooperation with the Director of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, shall prescribe regulations describing the persons described in paragraph (2).
Tippi Hedren who is not only a famous actress, but also someone who has dedicated her life to saving hundreds of wildlife species by operating the Shambala Sanctuary in southern California. In her remarks, Ms. Hedren noted that her husband, the late Melvyn Douglas, helped her in this project.

Mr. Speaker, this is a timely solution to a growing problem, and I compliment the gentleman from California (Mr. GILCHREST) and his constituent, Tippi Hedren, for their tireless leadership on this legislation. I urge an aye vote on H.R. 1006.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, as the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST) said, H.R. 1006 is a non-controversial bill that was passed and reported by voice vote by the Committee on Resources on September 11. The only language incorporated in this bill is the non-controversial changes that were made by the other body to further refine the bill passed by the House.

Recent news reports have repeatedly demonstrated that the holding and unsupervised breeding of large cats, such as lions and tigers, is not only dangerous to the handlers and the general public, but this growing trend is also extremely harmful to the welfare of these magnificent predatory animals.

The limited provisions in this legislation will finally provide a straightforward strategy to address this problem by prohibiting the interstate trade in these animals or hybrids derived from these animals. Moreover, this legislation will ensure that in the future, only those facilities that are Federally or State licensed or have the requisite capabilities to care for these animals are allowed to do so. We can only hope that this transition will be short.

I commend the bill's sponsors, the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) for their tireless leadership in bringing forward this sensible animal welfare legislation, and I urge Members to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON).

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I have strong support for H.R. 1006, the Captive Wildlife Safety Act. I thank the gentleman from Maryland for his support and for his leadership in bringing this bill to the floor.

This bill will take a large stride in preventing future acts by lions, tigers, and other exotic cats to people in our towns and cities across the country. In early October, a tiger found in a New York City apartment generated widespread concern. While theivating ownership of wild animals such as lions and tigers. While this seems like an isolated incident, it represents one of the many attacks that have occurred over the last several years. Before we saw footage of the 400-pound tiger on television, we knew about incidents that have claimed the lives of people of all ages, including children, and have faced death or injury by such animals. This problem has persisted over time as trade of lions, tigers and other big cats has continued to flourish.

Some estimates state that there are more than 15,000 exotic cats living in captivity in the United States. While some are held in zoological institutions and preserves, most of these animals are maintained in backyards, basements or closets. These animals can be purchased at auctions or on Web sites that advertise and sell these animals.

Lions and tigers are inherently hard-wired to hunt, attack and defend themselves with brutal force when feeling threatened. It is for this reason that the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the American Veterinary Medical Association and the American Zoo and Aquarium Association have taken public stands against keeping these dangerous carnivores as pets.

The dangers these big cats pose to people are self-evident and well documented. In Loxahatchee, Florida, last February, a 58-year-old woman was bitten in the head by a 750-pound Siberian-Bengal tiger mix. In Lexington, Texas, in October 2001, a 3-year-old boy was killed by his stepfather's pet tiger. This past April, two people fell victim to tiger attacks, a 35-year-old woman in Adair, Oklahoma, and a 32-year-old man in Geneva, Illinois. Both these tigers were being held at unaccredited animal parks, and the results are all too clear. These animals require trained personnel equipped with the proper tools and facilities to ensure they are kept in an environment where the probability of an attack is lowered to the safest possible level. How can we expect a person, perhaps inexperienced in caring for a tiger or lion to have the knowledge and education to take necessary safeguards to prevent an attack? People in neighborhoods and communities across the country should no longer have to take this risk.

This legislation would add lions, tigers, cheetahs, leopards, jaguars, and cougars to the Lacey Act to prohibit these animals from being sold or purchased in interstate or foreign commerce. The bill would also ban the possibility of one of these animals escaping from captivity, bringing further harm and injury to innocent people around the Nation.

I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) for helping me on this bipartisan effort. I also extend special thanks to the Committee on Resources chairman, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST), whose leadership was essential in this endeavor.

I also want to send my gratitude to a dear friend and constituent of mine, Tippi Hedren, whose expertise and knowledge helped in the drafting and construction of this bill, and who, for more than 30 years, has worked tirelessly in the defense, protection and care for animals.

In conclusion, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1006 which will help stop the spread of big cats and provide an essential safety mechanism to further decrease the number of attacks on people by these ferocious animals.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER), a sponsor of the bill.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time and his efforts for helping to bring this bill to the floor. And I also thank the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON) for his steadfast efforts to get this bill in the committee. I also want to take a moment to thank Loren Bausell and Jean Flemma, both former staff members who helped initially craft this legislation when it was first introduced by me on this year's proposal.

I also want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO), chairman of the Committee on Resources; and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST), the subcommittee chairman, for their efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I yield a rising balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, this is a timely solution to a growing problem, and I compliment the gentleman from California (Mr. GILCHREST), the subcommittee chairman, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST), the subcommittee chairman, and the gentleman from California (Mr. GILCHREST) in also thanking Tippi Hedren, who has been involved in this issue for so many years and whom I have had an opportunity to meet.
thick describing instances in almost every State where some exotic pet escaped and was roaming around a suburban neighborhood. There are also more disturbing articles about well-intentioned pet owners who have run out of money feeding these hyperactive animals, and a two-thousand pound tiger is very expensive. Then there are the cases where the animals, which are far from domesticated, harm their owners or others.

Owning an exotic cat is not like owning a house cat. These animals are big, they cost a lot to feed, and they are one degree away from their wild instincts at any moment. The Captive Wildlife Safety Act bars the interstate sale or transportation of lions, tigers, jaguars, leopards, cheetahs, and cougars, or their hybrids, in an attempt to exercise some control over the burgeoning interstate commerce of these animals. The legislation would not ban all private ownership of these prohibited species; rather, it would outlaw the commerce of these animals for use as pets.

The bill is specifically aimed at the unregulated and untrained individuals who are using these wild animals as exotic pets. Zoos, circuses, and sanctuaries are better equipped with both the physical and financial resources to care for these animals and are not affected by this legislation.

At a time when almost anything can be bought on the Internet, it is not surprising that the animals can all be purchased through the more than 1,000 Web sites that promote private ownership of these wild animals. The Captive Wildlife Safety Act represents an emerging consensus on the need for comprehensive Federal legislation to regulate what type of animals can be kept as pets.

We simply have not wanted to have it that we have got to do this both for the safety of our neighborhoods which now has occurred both in suburban areas and rural areas and even now in urban areas with the captive keeping of these animals. We have got to do it for the safety of the neighborhoods, and we have got to do it for the welfare of these animals. We cannot let the care of these animals, the welfare of these animals be kept in a haphazard fashion based upon the whims of an individual at any given time simply to grab the ownership of one of these animals only later to find out that they are not trained or capable in other ways to take care of these cats or financially cannot take care of them and they either turn them over to the public or they set them loose or these cats escape and cause danger in the neighborhoods. It is not fair to the animals, and it is certainly not in the best interest of our country. I would hope that we would be able to pass this legislation right away.

Mr. PAULLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I just want to make a closing comment. I would like to thank the gentle-