

our work in Congress be guided by his legacy of pursuing freedom and justice for all people. That work can begin by sending the Emmet Till Anti-lynching Act to the President's desk, an act that would require action by our colleagues in the Senate. That would be a clear demonstration that Congress has begun to value the Black lives, including Fred Hampton's, Emmett Till's, Ahmaud Arbery's, and the countless others whose lives have been systematically devalued for far too long.

HONORING STATE SENATOR TOM CASPERSON

**HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 4, 2020*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, yesterday, my colleagues, Representatives JACK BERGMAN and TOM TIFFANY, paid tribute on the House floor to former state senator and servant leader for Michigan's Upper Peninsula, Mr. Tom Casperson. Today, I rise to do the same. On November 29, Tom lost his battle with cancer, but throughout his life, he embodied many of the traits that our great state—and particularly our Upper Peninsula—is known for: hard work, fierce independence, and an undying devotion to the people of his community.

Born in Escanaba, Tom worked for his family's log trucking business for more than three decades, rising through the ranks from trucker to owner. He could have continued at the helm of his family's successful company. However, after a fatal accident involving a log-truck-industry colleague took the life of a young woman and her baby, Tom resolved to help implement safety measures for the industry so the tragedy would never repeat itself. When he realized that his best chance at making a difference was through the political process, he decided to run for office.

In 2002, Tom was elected to the Michigan House of Representatives. Just eight months after being sworn in, Tom made good on his first legislative priority when he passed legislation to require new safety measures in the log-trucking industry. This first public act he authored was followed by an incredible 117 additional bills passed into law during the 14 years that Tom served the Upper Peninsula—six years as the State Representative and eight years as State Senator.

Tom was a tenacious advocate for the Upper Peninsula and, in the days since his passing, tributes to his life have poured in from public officials on both sides of the aisle and across Michigan. On Wednesday, Governor Whitmer lowered our state's flags on the day of his funeral in his honor. In so many statements remembering his life, what shines through is his passion for doing the people's work and setting an example for future generations of public servants.

Tom's passing is felt particularly by my team because his son-in-law, Chan, is a Wounded Warrior Fellow in my office. Chan and his wife, Ashley, have shared with us what a wonderful and loving grandfather Tom was to their three children, especially how meaningful it was when Tom traveled the world to visit his grandchildren while Chan was stationed abroad with the U.S. Navy. I know that they will deeply miss their lengthy and substantive

political conversations that were always civil and informative.

At a time when consensus seems elusive, Tom was an example of what we can accomplish when we work together and find common ground. Today, I'm thinking of Tom's wife, Diane, of Chan and Ashley, Ashley's three siblings, and Tom's grandchildren. I hope it serves as a comfort for them to know that he left a profound mark on those who knew him, loved him, and served with him.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF WALTER K. ROBINSON, SR.

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 4, 2020*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in remembering the life and legacy of Walter K. Robinson, Sr., a District of Columbia resident for over 50 years and a Documented Original Tuskegee Airman. Mr. Robinson died on November 23, 2020, his 100th birthday. Mr. Robinson will be remembered by his family, friends and the East Coast Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen, of which he was an active member.

In 1941, while attending Howard University, Mr. Robinson volunteered for the Army Air Corps. He was sent to Camp Lee in Virginia, Keesler Field in Biloxi, Mississippi and finally to Tuskegee Army Air Base in Tuskegee, Alabama. He began training at Tuskegee Institute for Basic Ground School and, after three months, continued in Pre-Flight, Primary, Basic and Advanced Flight. During Primary Training, he had an accident, severing his Achilles tendon, and was hospitalized for almost a year, enduring six operations and extensive physical therapy. Yet, Mr. Robinson completed Primary, Lower, and Upper Basic Training, and while he was in Lower Advanced, World War II ended. After his honorable discharge from the military, Mr. Robinson and his wife, Edmonia, moved to D.C. in 1959. He soon joined the Postal Service and rose through the ranks to become the second Black Manager of Delivery and Collection for the District.

I had the immense honor of hosting Mr. Robinson at my office in 2017, where I presented him with a bronze replica of the Tuskegee Airmen Congressional Gold Medal. Mr. Robinson is emblematic of the many D.C. residents who have heroically sacrificed so much for their country, even without their full citizenship rights. I am proud to have been able to honor his service.

Tuskegee Airmen like Mr. Robinson did more than protect America from foreign enemies during World War II; they saved America from itself, defying the gross misconception that African Americans were not capable of flying and fighting as equal servicemembers. The accomplishments of these brave servicemembers helped pave the way for President Harry Truman's decision to integrate the military in 1948. Their service to this country and as history-shapers was recognized in 2007 when 300 members of the Tuskegee Airmen, including Mr. Robinson, received the Congressional Gold Medal.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in remembering the life and legacy of Walter K. Miller, Sr.

IN HONOR OF CAPTAIN (RETIRED) WILLIAM EISENHART

**HON. JOHN JOYCE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 4, 2020*

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain (Retired) William Eisenhart of Altoona, Pennsylvania, who courageously served our nation in the U.S. Army.

During his fifteen-year military career, Captain Eisenhart served with distinction. While he was stationed in Vietnam from November 1967 to October 1968, Captain Eisenhart served as a Senior Advisor to forces in Tan Thanh Dong Province. In this role, he moved his advisory team into a dilapidated fortress located on strategic territory. Captain Eisenhart and his team are credited with making several critical improvements to the fortress that helped the United States forces, including the installation of a helipad that allowed the Army to facilitate medical evacuations in Thanh Dong Province. Holding this outpost was a challenge. On June 6, 1968, Captain Eisenhart was instrumental in repelling a superior enemy force when he fired a machine gun into the center of the enemy's line of attack, which allowed U.S. forces to effectively build up a defensive operation.

The fortress that Captain Eisenhart defended was a critical outpost in the Phu Hoa District for deterring enemy movement. For this extraordinary accomplishment, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with a "V" device and one Oak Leaf Cluster. In recognition of his service, Captain Eisenhart also was awarded the Army Good Conduct Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with One Silver Service Star, and a Meritorious Unit Commendation with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster.

With his incredible legacy of selfless service, Captain (Retired) William Eisenhart exemplifies our American values. He is an outstanding American and Pennsylvanian, and it is my privilege to recognize his many achievements. On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I thank Captain (Retired) Eisenhart for his dedication to our nation, our Commonwealth, and our community.

BIG CAT PUBLIC SAFETY ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. RON ESTES**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2020*

Mr. ESTES. Madam Speaker, the House is set to vote on the Big Cat Public Safety Act. Sadly, my Democratic colleagues are pushing legislation inspired by a reality show feud instead of focusing on the harsh realities that real life families are facing because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Madam Speaker, this bill does more harm than good for the very animals it seeks to protect. My district is home to Tanganyika Wildlife Park in Goddard, Kansas. It's owner, Jim Fouts, founded this park in 2008 to conserve endangered tiger species and educate visitors through interactive experiences.

Through its current operation, Tanganyika Wildlife Park has become one of the top big

cat breeding facilities, among 37 across the United States, for conservation. This legislation discriminates against smaller facilities that have safely worked to increase populations for rare and Endangered species.

Additionally, like many other small conservation facilities, Tanganyika Wildlife Park was built privately with no government grants or funding. The Big Cat Public Safety Act is not about public safety; instead, it eliminates smaller operations that are saving animals' lives while also providing unique educational experiences in communities across the country.

Instead of fixing a problem, Democrats have once again introduced a one-size-fits-all bill that hurts smaller facilities instead of addressing problems with some bad actors. And they've abdicated their responsibility to lead the People's House in a bipartisan manner when so many families and small businesses are hurting.

It is ridiculous that we are voting on this bill rather than passing meaningful, common-sense measures to provide relief to Americans during our public health crisis.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 4, 2020*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I was not present to vote on passage of H.R. 1380 on Thursday December 3, 2020. I wish to reflect my intentions had I been present to vote.

Had I been present for roll call No. 232 on passage of H.R. 1380, the Big Cat Public Safety Act, I would have voted YEA.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 4, 2020*

Mr. DeFAZIO. Madam Speaker, on December 3, I was unable to vote due to illness. Had I been present, I would have voted: on Roll Call Vote Number 229, On the Motion to Adjourn, I would have voted Nay; on Roll Call Vote Number 230, On Ordering the Previous Question to H. Res. 1244, I would have voted Aye; on Roll Call Vote Number 231, On Agreeing to the Resolution H. Res. 1244, I would have voted Aye; and on Roll Call Vote Number 232, On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 1380, the Big Cat Public Safety Act, I would have voted Aye.

RECOGNIZING COMMANDER MICHAEL YUNKER AND HIS DEDICATED SERVICE TO OUR GREAT NATION

##### HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 4, 2020*

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I'm honored to recognize Commander Michael Yunker for

his impeccable and tireless service to our great Country, upon his retirement on December 1, 2020, after 20 years of service in the United States Navy.

Commander Yunker is the Operations Officer for the Navy Customer Facing Division, Customer Operations Directorate, Defense Logistics Agency Aviation. Previously, he served as the Division's Director of Industrial Support and Naval Aviation Enterprise Action Officer. He has been a member of the DLA workforce since January 2018.

Commander Yunker is a native of Aston, Pennsylvania. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Radford University, a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies—to include an Operational Planner Certificate from the U.S. Naval War College—and a Master of Public Administration from the Pennsylvania State University. He is also a member of the Navy Acquisition Professional Community and is a Joint Specialty Officer. Commander Yunker's operational tours include: Principal Assistant for Services and Stock Control Officer; USS Enterprise (CVN 65); Assistant Supply Officer, USS Ashland (LSD 48); and Base Command Group, Multi-National Forces-West Base Fuels and Environmental Compliance Officer, al-Asad, Iraq.

As an Operations Officer, Commander Yunker's daily focus is centered around operations for the near-and long-term readiness and sustainment of 21 various naval aviation airframe models and 11 nuclear aircraft carriers. He serves as the initial point of contact for all inquiries supporting naval air stations and nuclear aircraft carriers globally. He assists the senior naval officer with service-related administrative tasks, to include: awards; fitness reports and evaluations; detailing; and any other duties as assigned/required.

Commander Yunker's prior shore assignments include: Director, Strategic Planning/Internal Review, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition, Washington, D.C.; Joint Petroleum Officer and Logistics Planner, U.S. Strategic Command, Omaha, Nebraska; Midshipmen Disbursing Officer/Financial Advisor, Midshipmen Services Officer and Adjunct Instructor, U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis; and Director, New Construction Outfitting and In-Service Platform Manager Surface Ships, Naval Supply Systems Command Weapon Systems Support, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. Commander Yunker's military awards and recognitions include, but are not limited to: the Defense Meritorious Service Medal; Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (five awards); Joint Service Achievement Medal; Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (two awards); and various campaign and unit awards.

Upon retirement, Commander Yunker plans to start a second career in addition to spending more time with his family.

Madam Speaker, I'm humbled to recognize Commander Michael Yunker and, on behalf of the Citizens of the 10th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, thank him for his decades of dedicated and selfless service to our great Nation both in times of peace and war.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 4, 2020*

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, on roll call vote 229, I was not present because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on the motion to adjourn.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF KAREN BIRD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE ALLIANCE OF DEDICATED CANCER CENTERS

##### HON. KATHERINE M. CLARK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 4, 2020*

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Karen Bird, Executive Director of the Alliance of Dedicated Cancer Centers (ADCC). As Executive Director, Karen represented the country's leading cancer centers whose one and only mission is to defeat cancer. She worked tirelessly to communicate to Congress and the Administration the importance of the ADCC member institutions and what they do to improve patient treatment and to drive innovative cancer research. Thanks in large part to Karen's efforts, patients now have greater access to lifesaving treatments such as CAR-T cell therapies.

Prior to her work at the ADCC, Karen was Chief Financial Officer at the renowned Dana-Farber Cancer Institute where she succeeded in working with both physician leadership and senior executives to grow new ventures and programs. She developed a finance department that was considered best in class and was able to help Dana-Farber respond quickly to the 2008 financial crisis with an integrated financial forecasting model that encompassed endowment, research, and patient care.

Perhaps most importantly, Karen has generously served as a role model and mentor throughout her career, ensuring that the pipeline of talent in finance and especially for women—was amply filled and abundantly qualified.

It is a great honor to represent Karen Bird and her lifetime commitment to advancing our nation's understanding of the causes, prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and survival of cancer.

RECOGNIZING SUPERVISOR KARL RODEFER

##### HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 4, 2020*

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Karl Rodefer for his devoted service as a Tuolumne County Supervisor.

First, however, I want to acknowledge and thank Colonel Rodefer for his years of expert advice in nominating the very best young men