

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

and women in the 4th Congressional District to our service academies. Himself a graduate of the United States Air Force Academy, his personal understanding of the critical requirements of military leadership has resulted in over 100 nominees succeeding at the academies and then as officers in our armed forces.

Supervisor Rodefer's life is marked by public service. From his 23 years of service with the United States Air Force to his eight years as County Supervisor, Karl has served the public with dedication and selflessness.

In addition to his service on a multitude of committees and commissions, Supervisor Rodefer has worked tirelessly to protect Tuolumne County's water resources, played an integral part in planning and future development of the Columbia Airport, was instrumental in acquiring grant funds to build the J.H. Dambacher Detention Center, spearheaded the County's Fire Safety and Community Resilience Initiative in 2019, and advocated for services for Veterans.

Karl Rodefer has been a sterling example of all that ought to be meant by the designation "public servant." I am proud today to congratulate Karl on his numerous accomplishments and to thank him for nearly a quarter century of commitment, dedication and service to the citizens of the United States and the residents of Tuolumne County.

RECOGNIZING DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS CHAPTER 17

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 4, 2020

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize hard work and dedication of the local Disabled American Veterans Chapter in my district. The national organization was founded by veterans on September 25, 1920 and was officially chartered in 1932.

Our local chapter was established in 1971, primarily from veterans of World War II and Korea. Once facing dissolution, the DAV Chapter 17 bounced back and is now stronger than ever. This would not have been possible without the leadership of George Lindsey Jr., Don Parzanese, Bob Staranowicz, Jack Thomas, Tom Herron, Bill Severns, Lou Rizzo, and Kimberly Carter-Guerian. The Chapter works to support our veterans and the larger community through yearly events including job fairs, veteran ceremonies, and fundraisers. While Disabled American Veterans celebrates 100 years of serving veterans of the Armed Forces, their families, and survivors, we are extremely thankful for their commitment to helping veterans in need.

The DAV is dedicated to a single purpose: empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity, their families, and survivors. Let us never forget the selfless sacrifice and dedication of all our disabled veterans across the country. In order to ensure that their memory is not forgotten, I include in the RECORD the names of all the current members of the DAV Chapter 17:

James F. Gartland, Robert A. Godwin, Leslie H. Goldstein, Edward T. Grabert, John P. Greer, Morris S. Guggenheim, James M. Haitsch, Charles G. Hall, Brain J. Hamilton,

Angela M. Hardy, Ronald J. Harkins, Thomas D. Herron, Daniel C. Haskett, Albert M. Hill, Timothy M. Holland, George K. Honer, Robert P. Hoopes, George W. Horne, George A. Ingram, Robert P. Joyce.

Gilbert Kasirsky, David C. Kline, Michael Krajnikovich, Daniel J. Kwiatkowski, Robert G. Larrisey, Joel Laskey, William Lee, Albert Paiste, Phillip Paoletta, Dennis Parker, Donald D. Parzanese, Noel G. Pelletier, Randy G. Phillips, Normand A. Picard, Francis X. Poole, Charles E. Quaste, William B. Redington, Edward D. Renner, Devon A. Richio, Lou Rizzo.

Brain M. Roberts, Larry F. Rodrigo, Edward A. Rosen, Ronald R. Rottloff, Amanda L. Rudolph, Joseph S. Runewicz, Alexander Rupeiks, John Schaefer, Bruce A. Sheeler, Richard W. Scholl, Lawrence M. Schorr, Robert J. Schulberger, Richard G. Scott, William J. Severns, Michael J. Shamp, Sharon Lynn Shaw, Otis L. Weathersby, William J. Wheeler, George K. Wiley.

Ian A. Woods, Todd E. Yanik, Douglas G. Yedinak, Ronald C. Zinzer, Fred Ewald, Gerry Albertson, Ronald Henry Alfors, Anthony Antonio, John W. Bader, Michael W. Barnes, Russell H. Bendel, James Howard Bergeson, Chuck Daniel Biresch, John A. Boccadori, Lawrence P. Booth, Martin M. Bradley, Mark Otis Bristow, David Bryk, Francis X. Buschman, Steve Calderbank, Paul J. Carsello, Kimberly Ann Carter, Sean W. Carty.

Demetrius R. Casillas, Fergus G. Castree, Thomas H. Chapin, Peter Chong, Theresa Colbert, Vincent A. Concordia, Mihael Wayne Corona, Stephen Cosminski, Francesco Cozza, John C. Craig, Richard E. Dalton, Herbert A. Dashiell, Thomas C. Day, Hugh F. Deithorn, James J. DelVecchio, Matthew P. Devlin, Anthony Dibilasio, Gary Lyn Dimaio, John L. D'Onofrio, Lawrence Duchnowski.

Darryl J. Dukowski, Alan G. Eck, Marcos Perez Elizondo, Orlando G. Epifano, Robert Errickson, Vincent Evangelista, Nelson Lewis Fairman, Joseph A. Farrugio, Joseph L. Felter, John P. Fernandez, Roy G. Ferrari, Robert J. Foley, Charles H. Fratz, Raymond A. Freiling, Henry Fretz, Lawrence A. Fulmer, Arthur T. Short, Hampton G. Silcox, Alfred E. Smith, Thomas J. Smith.

Robert I. Snovel, Edward L. Snyder, Stanley W. Stanwick, Robert Staranowicz, Martin Stern, Michael Ray Stever, Roy Stoker, Godfrey R. Strecker, Francis Tacey, Rudolph V. Taurino, Cindy Riley Ternay, John W. Thomas, David A. Thompson, Irvin P. Thompson, Joseph Troxell, Joseph M. Tyson.

Peter Paul Ulmen, Goline D. Vanderhoof, Atty T. VanHamel, Ronald F. Vellner, Donald T. Walton, Donald E. Libby, George Henry Lindsey, Hugh C. Liverman, Thomas A. Locke, William B. Luckenbill, Joseph T. Mallamaci, Anthony Lee Maniscola, F. Marciano-Rodriguez, John M. Marino, Anthony Thomas Mark, Gregory L. Marston.

Bruce B. Martin, Richard Matyskiela, Jean W. McGinnis, James Douglas McEwan, Richard P. McEwen, Richard Joseph McMullin, John Patrick Mowry, Daniel Moyer, Michael John Mullen, Ralph G. Myers, Norman B. Newbon, John J. O'Donnell, Jeffery T. Olavarria, Bruce Gary Onraet, Albert Ortiz, Donald S. Page, Robert T. Painter.

BIG CAT PUBLIC SAFETY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2020

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as an original sponsor and a senior Member of the

House of Representatives, I rise in strong support of this bipartisan bill, H.R. 1380, the "Big Cat Public Safety Act", which ends the ownership of dangerous big cats as pets as well as prohibits exhibitors from allowing public contact with cubs.

First and foremost, I would like to thank Congressman MIKE QUIGLEY for his leadership on this legislation.

Across the country, thousands of big cats like tigers, lions, leopards, and pumas are kept in miserable, insecure, and unsafe conditions by irresponsible owners.

These animals often come from a vicious cycle of breeding perpetuated by unscrupulous facilities looking to make a profit off of "cub petting" or photo opportunities.

It is an issue that causes immeasurable animal suffering and introduces inexcusable threats to human safety.

Big cats are wild animals and undoubtedly suffer when kept as pets.

They are often purchased as babies, and private owners are typically unable to manage them once they are fully grown.

As a result, the animals are frequently left to languish in grossly inadequate conditions, often being deprived of sufficient space, adequate veterinary care, a nutritious diet, and enrichment.

Furthermore, it is common procedure for some roadside zoos to inhumanely separate babies from their mothers, so that they can charge the public to pet and play with the cubs.

This is a cruel and unhealthy practice that can cause not only lifelong psychological problems but also premature death for the cubs.

These young cats quickly outgrow their usefulness in the cub handling industry and most often end up being sent to substandard "zoos," sold into the exotic pet trade, or possibly even killed and sold for parts.

This vicious cycle of exploitation and constant breeding must be stopped.

Currently, state laws regarding private ownership of big cats are inconsistent, and some states have few or no laws regarding the keeping of big cats.

Madam Speaker, a uniform federal law is necessary to end this dangerous industry once and for all.

The "Big Cat Public Safety Act" is a simple and straightforward solution to the devastating and growing crisis of negligent big cat breeding and ownership.

According to Big Cat Rescue, there have been more than 700 dangerous incidents in the U.S. involving big cats since 1990.

These incidents include hundreds of human injuries, maulings, and deaths.

In many of these cases, the animals were shot and killed, often by first responders who are not equipped to deal with these situations, thereby also putting them in harm's way.

Madam Speaker, throughout my tenure in Congress, I have been a staunch advocate for protecting endangered species, and this bill does that and much more.

For the safety of our first responders, of our community, and for these majestic animals, we need this vital piece of legislation.

I am honored to be a leader on this issue and on this bill, and so I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in voting for H.R. 1380, the "Big Cat Safety Act."