

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."

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE
AND LEGACY OF SCOTT DAVIDSON

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 4, 2020

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, with feelings of sorrow, reverence, and immense gratitude, I rise today to honor the memory of Scott Davidson, who passed away last week after his battle with the coronavirus. As a proud member of the Kansas City Fire Department, Scott spent over a third of his life serving and protecting the people of Kansas City, Missouri.

Scott started his career with the Kansas City Fire Department in 2002 as a communication specialist with the Municipal Ambulance Services Trust, which provided emergency medical services to the Kansas City area. As a communication specialist, Scott served as the calming voice on the other side of the phone tasked with reassuring distressed families that help was on the way. Scott's calm demeanor and steady hand provided much needed hope in moments of darkness. Indeed, Scott helped ease worried minds, but more importantly, he played a vital role in saving countless lives throughout the city we call home. In 2010, Scott became a paramedic for the Department, joining a team that served as the first response to desperate cries for help. Each individual who, in a moment of crisis, called on Scott for help will forever remember and appreciate his heroic, lifesaving efforts as he sprang into action at a moment's notice. For Scott, as with countless paramedics across the country, saving lives and offering hope was the inspiration that prompted him to raise his hand and volunteer to risk his life for his community. In the days leading up to his untimely death, he was still on the frontlines, dispatching first responders to help those stricken by the same deadly virus that would eventually claim his own life.

More than anything, Scott was a man of faith who was a joy to all those who met him. Described by those who worked with him as having a personality and heart that was larger than life, Scott and his wife, Robin, treated the firefighters at Station 33 as if they were members of their own family. Together they celebrated the birth of every child in their fire station family, provided baked goods and treats to those working at the station during the holidays, and mourned with the families of other first responders who gave their lives in the line of duty.

Jackson County, Missouri has seen 175 neighbors, friends, and family members die from this virus. Scott, Captain Robert Rocha, and EMT Billy Birmingham are the first three of Kansas City's finest first responders who have succumbed to Coronavirus while helping save others. Scott dedicated over a third of his life to serving Kansas City and its people. My fervent hope is that Scott's death will serve as a reminder that we must stand together in the face of the adversity that plagues us. Wearing a protective mask, social distancing, and getting tested not only protects you from getting sick; it also ensures that first responders like Scott can go home to their families at the end of the day without worrying whether they or their loved ones will get sick. In times of unforeseen tragedy, I am comforted by the

teachings of Isaiah the prophet: When the righteous man perishes, he is taken away from calamity and enters into peace. A loving father, a dutiful public servant, and a beloved community member, Scott has rightfully earned the eternal peace that is awarded to the righteous man.

The thoughts of the Kansas City community and the Fifth Congressional District are with Robin and their three children, Scott's extended family, and the innumerable Kansas City Fire Department employees who were fortunate enough to work with him. Our community is mourning the untimely death of a young father, but we are also celebrating a life dedicated to serving and saving others. Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Scott's legacy and offering our deepest condolences to his family. I also ask that you, other members of the House of Representatives, and the American people remember Scott and his family's sacrifice as we continue to combat the Coronavirus pandemic.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GUY RESCENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 4, 2020

Mr. RESCENTHALER. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the House on December 3, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted nay on Roll Call No. 230, nay on Roll Call No. 231, and yea on Roll Call No. 232.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 4, 2020

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, due to a test indicating a positive result for a COVID-19 infection during the most recent district work period, I was unable to travel to the Capitol to vote on December 3, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 230; NAY on Roll Call No. 231; and NAY on Roll Call No. 232.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 4, 2020

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I unfortunately failed to register my vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, H.R. 1380, the Big Cat Public Safety Act.

While casting a proxy vote for my colleague, I unintentionally overlooked casting my own vote purely by oversight. As a cosponsor of the bill and having just cast a proxy vote for the bill clearly I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 232.

CONGRATULATING AARON W.
SUTHERLAND

HON. JOE CUNNINGHAM

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 4, 2020

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the election of Aaron W. Sutherland to the Newport Board of Education in Newport, Kentucky.

Aaron is a proud son of Carrollton, Kentucky where he set out at an early age to serve his community. Aaron was active in student government at every level of his academic career and he has always been devoted to helping others. In fact, I met Aaron while we were both serving on the Student Bar Association of the Salmon P. Chase College of Law. Aaron believed that service to his colleagues required action to advance their causes. His inquisitive and civic-minded attitude is infectious, and those who know him know that he has their best interest at heart.

Aaron is a proud attorney, and devotes himself to helping his clients. In addition to practicing law, he is also a civil servant. His time dedicated to both the United States Department of Labor and the United States Social Security Administration demonstrates his passion for serving others.

Aaron also believes in public education. This year, Aaron set out to serve the children and teachers of Newport, Kentucky. He was elected on a platform of putting the students first, and that is exactly what he will do as a member of that body. Aaron believes that everyone deserves a high-quality education and he will work to make sure that all students have the opportunity to succeed.

The people of Newport are lucky to have Aaron serving on their Board of Education, and I am lucky to call him my friend.

RECOGNIZING SUPERVISOR JOHN
GRAY

HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 4, 2020

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

Supervisor Gray was first elected to serve the 4th District of Tuolumne County in 2008 and has represented the people of this county and his district with passion, commitment and integrity ever since.

Supervisor Gray is well known for his many accomplishments and contributions to the community, including his leadership during an economic recession in 2008, acquiring grant funds to construct two Community Resilience Centers as well as two new Detention Facilities, and his consistent participation in fuels reduction and fire protection work. John has also been an instrumental leader for a special tax in support of Tuolumne County Ambulance in Groveland and implementing requirements of the Health Care and Public Safety realignments.

In his 12 years of service, John Gray will be remembered by the partnerships he built, his commitment to be a good steward of taxpayer