

Kearney region, reminding many of the happy memories of their youth.

Kirk Zeller grew up in the community of Ravenna, Nebraska. After high school, he attended university and later worked in the medical field in Japan. Kirk returned to the United States, first living in California before returning to his hometown of Ravenna to raise his family. Since returning to Ravenna he has turned the former Carnegie library into an entrepreneurship center, purchased a downtown building and renovated the upper story apartment. He recently directed a movie in Ravenna and Los Angeles which premiered at the Kearney World Theatre's drive-in, all while working on bringing new medical products to the market. He is a great story of returning to small hometown Nebraska and reinvesting in his community.

Dick Cochran of Kearney founded the non-profit Hot Meals USA in October 2017. By February 2018, he signed a memorandum of understanding with the American Red Cross to call on him for assistance in wildfires, floods, tornadoes and other disasters. Every time Dick and Hot Meals USA are called upon, no less than 150 volunteers have supported the program. Since their inception, the policy has been to feed anyone, no questions asked. In just over three years, they have provided more than 155,000 meals across the country.

John McCoy is the CEO of Orthman Manufacturing of Lexington. He embraced the opportunity to help feed families that come from a poverty background in the Lexington area. When he first brought in Hot Meals USA to the community, his business, Orthman Manufacturing, partnered with the Lexington Community Foundation and others to provide over 1,000 hot meals on a weekly basis to families. He then made feeding the community a priority as he and his employees took the lead to distribute USDA food boxes. When schools reopened in August, John was there for the community again. He donated 3,700 masks to Lexington Public Schools to make sure no student was unprepared for their school experience. John's actions represent his commitment to all members of the Lexington community.

Anthony May of Hastings is an entrepreneur. When the pandemic forced the taproom of Steeple Brewery Anthony co-owns to close, he quickly responded. Collaborating with Wave Pizza Company, the brewery's restaurant partner, he developed a community delivery program, which eventually offered their products to 21 communities in south-central Nebraska. This innovative program ensured many Nebraskans, whose communities either do not have a grocery or now lacked a local place to eat due to the pandemic, had ready access to an easy to use food delivery program.

Matt Dennis and Michael Stepp are more than small town business owners; they are master story tellers with a dream. What began as two friends making copper mugs in an old shop has turned into an opportunity to reshape the meaning of community. When they purchased the building they now call Handlebend, their goal was to create a community of small businesses under one roof and welcome the community with open arms to come and enjoy a mule, coffee, or gather and with friends and family. Though the Coronavirus pandemic has caused the Handlebend community to adapt their ap-

proach, the dreams of these men to create an innovative experience for the O'Neill community continue.

I am proud to honor these individuals today, and I thank them for their many contributions to Nebraska.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GUY RESCIENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mr. RESCIENTHALER. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the House on December 4, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 233; YEA on Roll Call No. 234; and Nay on Roll Call No. 235.

HONORING ELLEN DUNLAP

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, it is a great honor to rise today in recognition of Ellen Dunlap of West Boylston, Massachusetts, who is stepping down as President of the American Antiquarian Society after 28 extraordinary years in that position.

America's history, Madam Speaker, is our greatest natural resource. It speaks to us across the years and serves as a source of great inspiration and hope for people across this country. It is an acknowledgement of America's triumphs and our imperfections; a reminder of who we are and who we're called to be.

Ellen is the President of the American Antiquarian Society—a remarkable institution in Worcester, Massachusetts founded by Revolutionary War patriot and printer Isaiah Thomas in 1812 and dedicated to preserving our treasured history. The Society serves as an incomparable resource for scholars and historians and a preeminent and comprehensive depository of American history and culture that is unparalleled in size and scope.

As President—the first woman to hold that post, by the way—Ellen has spent her career not only preserving our past but bringing it to life in a way that truly excites others. Ellen's work and leadership are extraordinary, she has the incredible talent and vision to clarify and animate history so that all of us can better understand and learn from our collective past. She has worked tirelessly to open up the Society's extraordinary archives to a wider audience, including teachers, scholars, artists, and writers. Under her leadership, the Society undertook a massive effort to digitizing their collections. Ellen also spearheaded the construction of a major expansion and renovation of the Society's home at Antiquarian Hall and has sought to engage the Worcester community in new and exciting ways like free public programs and partnerships with cultural groups.

Ellen has chaired the board of the Worcester Cultural Coalition and the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities, and she has advised many prestigious institutions such as the Library of Congress and George Washing-

ton's Mount Vernon. Ellen's vision and leadership earned the American Antiquarian Society a National Humanities Medal from President Barack Obama in 2013.

Madam Speaker, there is so much more I could say about how grateful I am that Ellen has devoted her life to preserving our American story and how lucky we are that the American Antiquarian Society calls Worcester home. But let me end on a personal note to say that Ellen is a treasured friend and a wonderful person, I'm grateful that I've had the privilege of getting to know and work with her, and I know she will continue to give back to our community in the years ahead.

On behalf of the United States Congress, the people of Massachusetts' Second Congressional District, and all the people who will benefit from her incredible work for generations to come, it is my great honor and privilege to recognize Ellen Dunlap and to thank her for her remarkable service to our community, our commonwealth, and our country.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF SADIE J. HOLLAND

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Sadie J. Holland, who passed away Tuesday, November 24 at North Mississippi Medical Center in Tupelo.

Sadie was born on January 31, 1933 to Joe Thomas and Christine Roebuck Monts. She grew up in the Palmetto community and attended Palmetto and Verona High School. On December 10, 1949, Sadie J. Monts married J.C. Holland and later moved to the Bass/Gandy farm south of Plantersville. Sadie J., J.C., and their six sons dwelled on the renowned "Sadie J. Farm" that stretched over 9,000 acres across three north Mississippi counties. In 1966, Sadie and J.C. were named Outstanding Farmers of America, the first Mississippians to earn the title. Her devotion to agriculture was exemplified by founding the first integrated 4H club in the state.

Mrs. Holland dedicated fifty years to public service and continued her family's legacy of egalitarianism. She became the first female school bus driver in the state, and in 1984 she was the first woman elected as Mayor of Nettleton. She relished the opportunity to serve her community, and for nearly two decades she was the Municipal Court administrator for the Tupelo Municipal Court. In 1998 she was elected Lee County Justice Court Judge before retiring just last year. She was a dedicated member of the United Methodist Church and took every opportunity to minister to her community through Holland Funeral Directors. In 2019, she was honored by the Mississippi Legislature for her lifetime of service to Mississippi.

Mrs. Holland is preceded in death by her husband J.C. who passed away in 2016.

She is survived by her sons Billy Joe, Don, Steve, Perry, John, and Jimmy, 21 grandchildren and 37 great-grandchildren.

Sadie J. Holland, the matriarch of a remarkable family, will be deeply missed by all those who had the opportunity to know her.

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.

Throughout my tenure in Congress, I have been a staunch advocate for protecting endangered species.

Most recently, I introduced H.R. 4804, "the ProTECT Act", which amends the Endangered Species Act of 1973 in order to prohibit the taking for a trophy of any endangered or threatened species of fish or wildlife in the United States and the importation of endangered and threatened species trophies into the United States.

H.R. 4804 is an updated version of my bill from the 114th Congress, H.R. 3448, the "Cecil the Lion Endangered and Threatened Species Act of 2015".

I was in Africa when the iconic Cecil the Lion, was murdered for sport.

It was a disgraceful act that showcased a complete lack of respect for these wondrous animals, and it compelled me to fiercely advocate for the preservation of our wildlife across the world.

Madam Speaker, today we have an important opportunity to once again come together and protect endangered species by passing H.R. 1380, the "Big Cat Public Safety Act".

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 so I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in voting for H.R. 1380.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR.
ROBERT SHANKERMAN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mr. COSTA. Madam, Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Mr. COX, to honor the life of a great doctor and San Joaquin Valley resident, Dr. Robert Shankerman, who passed away September 19, 2020. He was a father, brother, doctor and a caring leader in our community.

Robert was a renowned doctor who spent many years championing disadvantaged and rural communities. He graduated from Tulare University and completed his post-graduate education at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota; one of the nation's best hospitals.

Since 2014, Robert served at the United Health Centers (UHC). He was the Chief Medical Officer for UHC of San Joaquin Valley and was responsible for clinical operations at 21 health centers in the Central Valley. UHC provides services to more than 125,000 patients in Fresno, Tulare, and Kings counties.

During his time at UHC, Dr. Shankerman established the UHC/UCSF Family Practice Residency program at the Parlier Health Center, where he also provided services to patients. He recruited, trained and placed medical practitioners as the organization grew, which helped lead to its current success. While in this position, he mentored more than 155 medical professionals, including UHC medical staff, recent graduates from various residency programs, along with national and international transfers.

Robert was affiliated with the UC San Diego Medical School and served as an Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine. Previously he was Chief Medical Officer for Clinica Sierra Vista. He was a diplomat for the American Board of Internal Medicine and certified HIV specialist. In 2001, he was awarded the pres-

tigious physician recognition award from the American Medical Association.

Robert was highly respected by many people across the San Joaquin Valley. He dedicated most of his time treating and helping migrant workers and underprivileged communities. He worked long shifts ranging from 14 to 15-hour days and was committed to helping others.

He is survived by his partner of more than 20 years, Dr. Regis Debarros, a physician with United Health Centers; his father Floyd Shankerman, sister Cindy Loewenberg; and brothers Steven and Jason Shankerman.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join us in celebrating and honoring the life of a great champion and doctor, Dr. Robert Shankerman. His teachings and legacy will be remembered for many years to come. We join his family, friends and community in honoring his great life and legacy.

IN HONOR OF CATHERINE
MAHANPOUR

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Catherine Mahanpour for her service as she departs the city council of Foster City and the board of directors of the Estero Municipal Improvement District. As she leaves office, a dignified voice for neighborhoods and a high quality of life is departing.

Catherine graduated from the University of Maine in 1990 with high distinction and a B.A. in Political Science. Five years later she matriculated to Golden Gate University School of Law and attained her degree in 1998. She was licensed to practice in 1999. She served as an adjunct professor at her alma mater on multiple occasions since, and as a member of the Advisory Board of the California State Bar of the East Bay. Since 2013, she has been a court appointed special advocate for foster children in San Mateo County.

When she ran for election in 2015, Catherine stressed the need to prevent the "overgrowth" of Foster City and the deleterious impacts of traffic on the quality of life of residents. She called for a pause in housing construction and a dialogue with regional agencies to find choices about population growth that met the sensibilities of the neighborhoods she hoped to represent. She also called for a different tone in council meetings, urging respect for differing opinions during council meetings. She supported a local school bond and promised to watch over the funds should voters approve the measure.

During her service on the council, she was chair of the C/CAG legislative committee, the city's representative to the mosquito abatement district, and served on the county's long-range planning committee and the Silicon Valley Recovery Roundtable for COVID-19 Response. She was the driving force for the council's new Code of Conduct, adopted on November 2, 2020. She helped change the agenda-setting process and brought transparency to the process of setting agenda topics.

Foster City is laced with beautiful lagoons that are the responsibility of the city. Dangerous accidents can also happen on these