

Robinson High School. Together, these 3 volunteers dedicated over 850 hours to the needs of students within the district.

Additionally, Joe T. Robinson Elementary, Joe T. Robinson Middle School, and Maumelle High School were recognized for having the highest average volunteer hours donated per student.

These volunteers are vital to the educational success of our students and promotes better citizenship by encouraging our kids to volunteer and make an impact in their communities.

I commend the Pulaski County Special School District for their exemplary volunteer programs.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. STEPHAN EARLY

##### HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 29, 2022*

Mr. GOMEZ. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and legacy of a community leader and advocate, Mr. Stephan Early.

Mr. Early was an educator and active community member. Mr. Early taught English at Eagle Rock High School for 30 years and was part of the National Education Association where he represented California as a delegate in education policy for nearly 10 years. He was most proud of teaching Shakespeare to students, noting the literature's timeless and engaging language.

Mr. Early was a standout educator, and dedicated ally and advocate. He supported his students at bake sales, car washes, and encouraged neighbors to do the same. Mr. Early would say, "in order to communicate an idea, you need to be able to write it down." His passion for teaching, creating community, and service is what made Mr. Early a model citizen.

Mr. Early cared so deeply about his community that he served as the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council President for 2 years and always worked on protecting the Eagle Rock community. Mr. Early was a proud family man and veteran. His wife, Mrs. Early, remembers him as a loving husband and proud father of 2. Mr. Early served our Nation in uniform during the Vietnam War and was awarded the Purple Heart.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Mr. Stephan Early.

#### HONORING SAM MILLS

##### HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 29, 2022*

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in commemoration of the life of Sam Mills as he is posthumously enshrined into the Pro Football Hall of Fame on August 6, 2022.

Despite often being overlooked due to his small stature as a linebacker, Sam Mills persisted and shattered misperceptions and records throughout his career. He never gave up on or off the field, fighting until the end of his two-year battle with cancer, which tragically took him too soon at the age of 45. Re-

fusing to let his diagnosis stop him, Mr. Mills' motto to "Keep Pounding" became a rallying cry for his team and future generations of players.

Born in Neptune and raised in Long Branch, Mr. Mills was a New Jersey native who always stayed true to his roots. A standout player for Long Branch High School, Mr. Mills was a first-team All-Shore selection in his senior year. His Long Branch jersey is proudly displayed in the high school gymnasium alongside his Carolina Panthers jersey. Each year, two players in the Shore Sports Network All-Shore Gridiron Classic are chosen to receive the Sam Mills Award in his honor.

A walk-on at Montclair State, Mr. Mills left his mark on the university as he did in Long Branch. He set records, was recognized for his performance, and led the team as captain for two seasons. The university retired his jersey number and memorialized his legacy with a residence hall and the dining area, Sam's Place, named after him. In addition to his achievements on the field, Sam Mills graduated Montclair State with a Bachelor of Science degree and was later awarded an honorary doctoral degree from the university. He has been inducted into the Montclair State University Hall of Fame as well as the College Football Hall of Fame.

Overcoming rejections by other leagues, Sam Mills played three seasons in the United States Football League (USFL), where his talent did not go unnoticed. When his USFL Philadelphia/Baltimore Stars coach Jim Mora was named head coach of the New Orleans Saints, he took Mr. Mills with him. Mr. Mills' athletic prowess and leadership helped the Saints to four playoff appearances in his 9 seasons with the team. He was then a key player with the 1995 expansion team Carolina Panthers, where he played until his retirement in 1997. At the end of his NFL playing career, Sam Mills recorded 12 seasons and 181 games, 5 Pro Bowl appearances, 3 All-Pro and All-NFC selections, and remarkable career statistics.

After retiring as a player, Mr. Mills found his way back to the field in 1999, working as an assistant coach for the Carolina Panthers. Having nearly entered the teaching profession before joining the USFL, Mr. Mills was a natural as a coach. He continued to coach throughout his cancer treatments, inspiring the franchise to this day. "Keep Pounding" is inscribed in the collar of each team jersey, the Keep Pounding Drum is played before each home game, and a statue depicting Mr. Mills was erected outside their stadium. Likewise, both his Panthers and Saints jerseys are retired.

Mr. Mills is remembered by his loving family, who will be in Canton, Ohio for the Pro Football Hall of Fame celebration, as well as former teammates, players, and coaches. His induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame ensures that future players and individuals alike will be inspired by his story. His character and tenacity are as much a part of his legacy as his statistics and accomplishments, and his impact on those he has mentored directly, and indirectly, is indelible.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in honoring the life and accomplishments of Sam Mills. His election to the Pro Football Hall of Fame Class of 2022 is well-earned and truly deserving of this body's recognition. Keep Pounding.

BURLENE SHEPARD AND JOHN FISHER

##### HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 29, 2022*

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Burlene Shepard and John Fisher who were married June 9.

At The Crossing at Riverside Health and Rehab in Searcy, Burlene was 65 and never married and John Fisher, at 66, moved into a nearby room. It didn't take long for the two to find themselves talking for hours and soon after, falling in love.

While unexpected, their relationship lit up the center and brought together residents and staff members as they created a beautiful ceremony.

Surrounded by friends and family, the couple celebrated their love as they had their wedding in the very lobby where they got to know one another.

Best wishes to them both.

#### RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF PETER J. DALEY II

##### HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 29, 2022*

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the life of Pennsylvania State Representative Peter J. Daley II, who sadly passed away last month.

Representative Daley dedicated his life to the people of the Keystone State. He began his career as a schoolteacher before becoming mayor of California Borough at the age of twenty-two, the youngest mayor in the history of the Commonwealth. Representative Daley taught and led the borough for seven years before being elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1982.

During his 34 years in the Pennsylvania House, Representative Daley served as Chairman of both the Agriculture and Rural Committee and the Commerce Committee. Representative Daley's legislative achievements included enabling farms to co-exist with residential areas and reforming mortgages during the 2008 financial crash. His leadership also led to the creation of thousands of jobs in Pennsylvania.

Beyond his civil service, Representative Daley worked as an attorney after earning a degree from the Widener School of Law. He was widely known as a friendly and knowledgeable lawyer, affectionately earning the nickname "Uncle Pete" from many he mentored.

Representative Daley was an active member of his community. Every Easter and Thanksgiving, he helped organize and sponsor food distribution events. He will be greatly missed for this generous spirit. Peter is survived by Sally, his wife of 47 years, 3 children, and 5 great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing the life of Representative Peter J. Daley II. May we be inspired by his dedicated service to the Commonwealth.

HONORING DREW GRIFFIN'S SERVICE TO OHIO'S FIFTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

**HON. ROBERT E. LATTA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 29, 2022*

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a dedicated member of my staff, Drew Griffin, who will be leaving our office at the beginning of September.

Hailing originally from the Pacific Northwest, Drew has dedicated his career to public service, including time spent working on behalf of the people of Washington and Minnesota. We have been blessed to have Drew working on behalf of the Buckeye state for the past six years, three of which as my Chief of Staff, and we know it will be hard to replace him.

A dedicated sports fan, Drew could always be counted on to discuss the latest news impacting his Seattle Sounders or Washington Nationals. He instilled in everyone he interacted with a sense of comradery and purpose, showcasing the positive impact that individuals can have on their community if they worked together.

Drew is also a loving father to daughter, Eve, and son, Jack, and a dedicated husband to Ann. As he enters this next chapter in his life, I know that he will have the love and support of his family and friends to help him along the way.

I am eternally grateful for Drew for all he has done for me, and I wish him and his family the best.

STATEWIDE WRITING CONTEST WINNERS

**HON. J. FRENCH HILL**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 29, 2022*

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the winners of the 2022 Arkansas PBS KIDS Writers Contest.

This competition was created to assist in advancing the literacy skills of young children by way of hands-on, active learning.

The criteria for which these young authors were judged included originality, creative expression, storytelling, and integration of text and illustrations.

Ninety-three students between kindergarten and 3rd grade submitted entries for this year's competition.

Submissions were divided by grade, with 3 winners for each group.

First place winners from Arkansas Second Congressional District include Abigail Wharton of Conway and Elijah Smith of Benton.

Beginning July 6th, all students who entered the competition were given the opportunity to read their stories during a summer learning broadcast series, produced by Arkansas PBS.

Congratulations to the winners of the 2022 Arkansas PBS KIDS Writers Contest, and I commend all who submitted stories.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF MSG MICHAEL CLARK

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 29, 2022*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mourn the premature, tragic loss of an American patriot, devoted husband and parent, Master Sergeant Michael Clark of Bolton, Connecticut, age 41. MSG Clark tragically lost his life on July 20, 2022, from a lightning strike while on army reserve training exercises with his unit at Fort Gordon, Georgia.

Born in Springfield, Massachusetts, Michael was brought up in a family with a deep sense of duty to our nation. Like his father David Clark, Michael 22 years ago volunteered to wear the uniform of his country in the U.S. Army. During that time, he deployed on four occasions to Iraq and Afghanistan. As a striking example of the Clark family's devotion to military service, he and his father were simultaneously deployed overseas on two occasions. MSG Clark was an operating room specialist with the U.S. Army Reserves, assisting with lifesaving, emergency surgeries in dangerous environments. Madam Speaker, sometimes the essential role of our military's Reserve Force is not that well understood or appreciated. MSG Clark's life and public service is a powerful reminder of how critical all of our reserve forces are in providing key support for active-duty soldiers, sailors, marines and coast guard as part of the mission to defend our nation and our way of life.

At home, David applied his skills to another center of excellence, the Bone and Joint Institute at Hartford Hospital, facilitating high quality orthopedic and healing care to the Connecticut community at large. His work in that cutting-edge hospital system, enhanced the skills he applied to the work he performed in the Army Reserve. His double faceted work in the civilian and military sector highlights that he was the quintessential "citizen soldier" which forms the backbone of our guard and reserve system.

A family man at heart, Michael's passing is heartbreaking for his wife, Rachel, and two children, Logan and Hailey. He was very involved in his children's sports and active in the town of Bolton, which has been mourning his loss since the news of his passing was made public. The Bolton Fire Department immediately displayed a prominent memorial to MSG Clark at its fire station which as another volunteer force is fitting. Though he never left for deployment without leaving a love letter at Rachel's bedside, he still kept involved with his family, and made sure to prioritize his children's upbringing. The void left behind him has already exerted a strong influence upon the relatively young Clark family and children especially, and we can only find solace in coming to cherish—with time—the lessons and positive force that he spread during his short time on this earth. Carrying those memories onward is paramount as we simultaneously appreciate the unmatched level of dedication he purposed towards nurturing his family.

Madam Speaker, MSG Clark's legacy of commitment toward those around him remains infinite. He was a doer and as part of the "car-

ing profession", a highly talented healer. We bear the standard of his memory not just to honor his service to his family and our Nation, but also to put him forth as an example of how every one of us to carry our own lives, trying help and heal others. To that end, Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in this moment to honor the name and character of MSG Michael Clark, so that we may preserve for austerity his life's story.

BIG CAT PUBLIC SAFETY ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 28, 2022*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 263, the "Big Cat Public Safety Act" which would prohibit the private possession, breeding, and public exploitation of lions, tigers, leopards, and other large cats.

H.R. 263 amends the animal rights protections outlined in the "Lacey Act" and the "Captive Wildlife Safety Act" by prohibiting the import and shipment of big cats in the U.S., preventing public contact with big cats outside of academic and research institutions, and halting the illegal breeding of cubs by private owners.

I have long been an advocate for protecting big cats.

In the 114th Congress, I proudly sponsored the "Cecil the Lion Endangered and Threatened Species Act of 2015" which prohibited the importation of any endangered animal killed via trophy hunting, including African lions, amur leopards, and other big cat species.

Today I will continue to fight for the wellbeing of these animals by urging Congress to pass this equally important piece of legislation—H.R. 263.

It is estimated that there are anywhere between 10,000 and 20,000 big cats living in private captivity within the U.S.

In fact, the Humane Society has been quoted saying that there are more tigers in captivity in Texas alone, than there are in the wild in the entire world;

These noble animals often live in terrible conditions and are at risk of abuse and neglect at the hands of inexperienced and untrained handlers.

Many big cats are used as side show attractions for private roadside zoos that masquerade as rescue sanctuaries.

Under the guise of wildlife conservation, private animal collectors manipulate the public into paying money and offering donations for the upkeep of their big cats. While private owners profit off the animals, the living conditions of the lions, tigers, leopards, and other animals rarely improve.

Under H.R. 263, private owners would be allowed to retain their current animals—with restriction.

This legislation would mandate that all privately owned big cats be registered to ensure that first responders and animal control officers are aware of the presence of big cats within their communities.

This allows police to be prepared in the event of an animal attack or escape.

In 2021 a 175-pound tiger was famously caught on film stalking an off-duty police officer in Houston. Videos show the officer aiming