

a pistol at the tiger as the animal continued to prowel closer.

It took law enforcement officials more than a week to track down and arrest the wild animal's owner. Had this animal been registered to the city, the owner would have been identified and the situation would have been more rapidly resolved.

Fortunately, in that instance neither city residents nor the tiger were harmed. However, that is not always the case with captive big cats.

Since 1990, more than 400 dangerous incidents involving big cats have occurred across the country.

Four children and 16 adults have lost their lives. Hundreds more have been mauled or mutilated.

Big cats cannot be domesticated.

They are not pets whose ancestors have lived alongside humans for thousands of years.

They are not for human amusement.

Regardless of how much human contact these animals experience, big cats will always maintain their natural instinct to hunt and attack.

They are, and always will be, wild animals.

While large menageries of adult tigers and leopards attract tourists to private zoos, baby cats are the most lucrative resource for private animal collectors.

Unregulated zoos receive the majority of their income through the despicable practice of "cub-petting."

Cub petting requires that baby lions, tigers, and other cats be ripped from their mothers just hours after birth so that they can be handled and photographed by paying tourists.

Because visitors want to see the smallest and youngest cubs, zoos only put cubs on display until they are about 8 to 12 weeks old.

At that point, the cubs become financial and safety liabilities.

Once they are too big to be used for cub petting some are killed, distributed on the black market for animal parts, or sold for pets.

The "Big Cat Public Safety Act" would put a stop to this barbaric and inhumane practice by prohibiting the accidental and intentional breeding of new cubs.

H.R. 263 would allow big cat breeding only by wildlife sanctuaries, veterinarians, universities, and zoos that have qualified and trained staff acting within the best interest of animals and ecological conservation.

The bill would also require that any public observation of big cats be at a distance of 15 feet, thus preventing the continued practice of cub-petting and big cat photo ops.

By implementing these reforms, Congress can continue to support the protection of endangered species while preventing the exploitation and abuse of big cats in America.

I have consistently called for the development of pragmatic, environmentally friendly, and economically efficient strategies for addressing and resolving environmental and animal rights crises.

This bill is a viable solution to the plight of big cats in American captivity.

The "Big Cat Public Safety Act" is an invaluable step towards preventing animal abuse and threats to public safety in the United States.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I encourage my constituents to steer clear of any and all private big cat zoos or col-

lections. There are ways to honor and observe these magnificent animals while ensuring they receive the respect and care they deserve.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TO VAN LAI

HON. MICHELLE STEEL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2022

Mrs. STEEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of one of my constituents. To Van Lai of Westminster lived a truly vibrant life and touched the lives of Vietnamese communities in Orange County and around the world.

After working as a university professor, To Van Lai established Thuy Nga Productions in Saigon, bringing the joy of music to the people of Vietnam.

When the communist government there banned his work, he took his company to France. There, he produced his most well-known and beloved work: *Paris by Night*, a renowned variety show that has brought Vietnamese entertainment to homes around the world.

Throughout his career, he valued the history, language, and tradition of the Vietnamese people.

He believed deeply that "If you still have the Vietnamese language, then you still haven't lost the people." To Van Lai's life reminds us to treasure and honor the rich heritage and culture of our Vietnamese communities.

My prayers are with his family during this difficult time. May his memory of preserving the heritage of our Vietnamese neighbors live on, and may he rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING OFFICER TONY BREEDEN ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. RALPH NORMAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2022

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the dedicated service of Police Officer Tony Breeden who will officially retire this year.

Tony was born in Winchester, Virginia, where he and his family lived for 2 years. His family later moved to Charlotte, N.C. where he attended Myers Park High School graduating in 1988. Upon graduating from High School, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps where he served from 1988 to 1992.

After spending four years in the Marine Corps, he then joined the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Department where he worked for 2 years, until joining the Rock Hill Police Department in 1995 through 2022.

He rose through the ranks beginning with the traffic unit, sergeant of the street crimes unit, patrol Lieutenant of Charlie Shift, and member of the highly decorated SWAT team unit for 26 years serving from 1996 to 2022.

Officer Breeden found time to serve the greater Rock Hill community by coaching various sports for over 27 years at his church and in the city leagues, dating back to 1995.

Tony and his wife, Brooke, have 3 children Austin, Kolby, and Devin. Officer Breeden is

the epitome of the American success story, where he has risen above many personal challenges, including having his father leave his family when Tony was 5 years of age. He and his brother and sister were left to be raised by a single mother.

The greatest tragedy the Breeden family has faced was the sudden loss of their son Kolby on March 14th, 2021. In the words of one of Kolby's closest friends, Julianne Young, "Kolby was the epitome of good. He not only lit up every room he walked in but made everyone in that room a better person just by spending time with them."

The Rock Hill Police Department and the greater Rock Hill community will lose a true public servant who epitomized the police officer motto of "To Protect And To Serve".

Lieutenant Tony Breeden has set the Gold Standard for 27 years of dedicated service and commitment which will long be remembered and for that we all join in saying Thank You.

RECOGNIZING THE UPPER PENINSULA LUGE CLUB OF NEGAUNEE, MICHIGAN

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2022

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the Upper Peninsula Luge Club (UPLC) of Negaunee, Michigan for all their accomplishments this past year. A non-profit organization, UPLC has been serving their Yooper community for over forty years with the goal of promoting the sport throughout the region. Through their commitment to excellence and inclusivity, UPLC creates a fun, safe, and accessible activity during the long winter season of the Upper Peninsula.

Built circa 1990 by Swedish Civil Engineer, Per Vinberg, the Lucy Hill Naturbahn Luge Track is the only full-length natural luge track in the United States. In addition to maintaining and operating the track, members of the UPLC help introduce Yoopers to the sport and provide instruction for new sledders, as well as participate in community events like Negaunee's annual Heikki Lunta Winter Festival. On top of promoting local lugging, the UP Luge Club supports a national competition team that competes all over the world—including the FIL Junior World Cup in Latzfons, Italy. They also host U.S. athletes that come to the course to train before going to World Cup and World Championship Competitions in Europe. Through more than four decades of dedication to the sport and their local community, the UPLC has become an indispensable part of the Upper Peninsula.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the Upper Peninsula Luge Club for their contributions and service to Michigan. On behalf of Michigan's First District, I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

REMEMBERING THE 2ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE AUGUST 4, 2020 BEIRUT PORT EXPLOSION

HON. DARIN LaHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2022

Mr. LaHOOD. Madam Speaker, on August 4, 2020, a large amount of ammonium nitrate stored at the Port of Beirut in the capital city of Lebanon exploded, causing more than 220 deaths, 7,000 injuries, at least \$15 billion in property damage, and leaving an estimated 300,000 people homeless. Two years have passed and yet there is no closure for the families of the victims, and many are left behind to bear the burden of rebuilding their lives and their communities.

The United States Congress, the Administration, the Lebanese-American community, and many others worldwide responded with significant food, and humanitarian assistance, medical equipment, and reconstruction supplies. Today the need has only magnified given the continued obstruction by corruption and political instability—preventing an open judicial investigation.

The Lebanese diaspora community, the families of the victims, and the international donors urge the Lebanese government to enforce the calls from the United Nations, the International Support Group, and the American government, to move swiftly and effectively to complete the investigation and bring those guilty to justice. Lebanon needs a free, independent, and legitimate judicial system and government. Committing to conclude the investigation will serve as a major step in freeing the courts from the political entanglements and pressures that have for too long impeded justice and fairness in Lebanese society.

As the co-chair of the U.S.-Lebanon Friendship Caucus, which allows members of Congress to learn and engage on important issues related to the U.S.-Lebanon relationship, I ask all Members to join me in remembering those who died in the tragic blast as well as those survivors who depend on the comfort and support of others to maintain hope for the future of Lebanon. We urge the caretaker Lebanese government to remove the political impediments brought by others so that a complete and thorough investigation can be concluded, and that justice will prevail.

HONORING MIKE JORDAN

HON. ROBIN L. KELLY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2022

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Madam Speaker, today we honor the hard work and dedication of Illinoisan Mike Jordan.

Whereas, Mike Jordan is retiring from his position on July 31, 2022 after serving as a State Farm Insurance agent for 43 years in Chicago's South Suburbs;

Whereas, Mike Jordan has been uplifted throughout his career by his wife, Patricia, and daughter Allison;

Whereas, Mike Jordan always greets people with a smile on his face, a bounce in his step, and an eagerness to offer whatever help he can;

Whereas, Mike Jordan is active in his local community of Park Forest, striving to improve the village by serving on the community's Economic Development Advisory Group as the Vice Chairperson and as a member of the St. Irenaeus Catholic Parish Finance Committee;

Whereas, Mike Jordan's relationship with former President Barack Obama led him to encourage the former President to pursue the Presidency; and was active in former President Barack Obama's campaigns for U.S. Senator and his two runs for the Presidency;

Whereas, he has always sought to exceed his clients' highest expectations, including by visiting a business owner's business to inquire about storm and rain damage before the business owner had time to initiate a request for service;

Whereas, Mike Jordan kindly offered a ride home to a client after the client was involved in a late-night automobile accident; and the client said "It's not the policy. I just have the best insurance agent in the world!";

Whereas, Mike Jordan is humble about his widespread influence on his community and his church, and serves as a mentor and advisor to many fortunate people across the United States;

Whereas, he has positively impacted so many people's lives and helped countless families;

Whereas, Mike Jordan ends every conversation in which he is engaged with an expression of gratitude; and now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the House of Representatives of the United States of America that the hard work and service of Mike Jordan be remembered and honored.

OBSERVING THE PASSING OF DR. LOUISE BERRY

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2022

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a mother to her community, Dr. Louise Berry of Danielson, Connecticut. Throughout her long life, Louise trail blazed a new standard of what it means to be a model citizen. Her impact on Eastern Connecticut is outsized and her legacy has been woven into the very fabric of our region.

Born in November 1927, to Frances and Jacob Spaulding, Louise was raised within a family with a centuries-long history and just as deep roots tied to Northeastern Connecticut. Also raised among six brothers, she of course from a young age was instilled with the strength of self-advocacy. In 1945, Louise graduated from Killingly High School and attended school at Adelphi University, earning her Nursing degree in 1948. Louise continued her education at the University of Connecticut, earning a bachelor's degree in Zoology in 1952 and a Master's in Guidance and Counseling in 1961. Ever a hard worker with a penchant for learning, Louise returned to school in the late 1970's, and by 1980 she had earned her Juris Doctor from the UConn School of Law.

Returning to 1952, however, Louise then picked up work within her community, serving as a school nurse at Killingly Memorial School until 1955. After bringing the first two of five

children into the world, she returned to school nursing at Brooklyn School in 1958, sparking a career which would forever reshape the trajectory of Brooklyn, Eastern Connecticut and our Nation as a whole. With her characteristic can-do attitude and determination, Louise set out on a path to become the most diversified and experienced staff in the Brooklyn school system, serving as a Guidance Counselor, Director of Instruction, and finally as Superintendent. Louise would serve as Superintendent for 36 years, the longest serving Superintendent in Connecticut history.

Though it is of course difficult to encapsulate the entirety of her tenure as superintendent, Louise used her position to pioneer programs and mold the field of education to her vision, for the better. Specific examples include her creating the first rural Head-Start program in the country and initiating one of the first preschool-for-all programs before it became the national norm. Such is why the Louise S. Berry Early Childhood Center at the Brooklyn School was dedicated in her name. Even the road leading into the schools of Brooklyn is named after her legacy, a reminder of just how important a community-based education was to Louise.

As if the impact of her leadership within Brooklyn schools was not impressive enough in its own right, Louise was of course also very active in her town's community up to the very end. Her long record of civic involvement existed as a dual track next to her career in public education, beginning with her election to the Town of Killingly Board of Education in 1966. Just a few short years later, her capacity for leadership earned her the position of chairwoman of the local board of education in the 1970s. She served on countless additional boards impacting the community in Northeastern Connecticut, including Day Kimball Hospital, Eastern Connecticut Development Council, Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents, and the UConn Board of Trustees, to name a few.

Louise also played a crucial role in the establishment of Quinebaug Valley Community College, lobbying with her husband Richard to bring the college into existence in 1971—just more than 50 years ago today. Over the past half-century, Quinebaug has grown to exist as an epicenter of education in the Northeastern part of the state, having accredited thousands of students in higher education, regardless of age. With this well-developed record of advocacy on behalf of her community, Louise unknowingly put herself on a path to serving the region in a higher official capacity, particularly after volunteering on the discovery committee to recruit a 29th State Senate District candidate for the 1972 election. Little did Louise know at that moment that the exact same committee would end up choosing her as their recruit, ultimately causing her to run, win, and serve as one of three women in the Connecticut General Assembly's 36-seat State Senate. Madam Speaker, having chaired and sat as a member on several Connecticut General Assembly Committees including the Public Health and Safety Committee and the Education Committee, State Senator Berry at that moment was once again operating as a trail-blazer—a successful woman in leadership—breaking some of the glass in the ceiling so that others could follow in her footsteps to leave their community better than they found it.