

In addition, noted wildlife biologist, Doug Chadwick advised the subcommittee that

To pass an Asian Elephant Conservation Act would be one of the most farsighted and yet practical things we could do the benefit of Americans, people throughout Asia, and the world we share.

Fortunately, this important legislation was overwhelmingly approved by both bodies, and it was signed into law on November 19, 1997.

Under the terms of P.L. 105-95, the Congress could appropriate up to \$25 million to the Asian elephant conservation funds until September 30, 2002. In fact, some \$1.9 million in Federal funds has been allocated and those moneys have been matched by an additional \$1.1 million in private donations. Those funds have been used to underwrite 27 conservation grants in 9 different range countries. The type of prospects funded have included: develop an elephant strategy in Sri Lanka; identification of a suitable managed elephant range in Malaysia; molecular tools for the local population assessment of Asian elephants; school education to support Asian elephant conversation in India and trace the mobility patterns, population dynamics, and feeding patterns of Sri Lankan elephants. These projects were carefully analyzed and competitively selected from a list of nearly 100 proposals that were submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

While the early indications is that the worldwide population of Asian elephants has stopped its precipitous decline, it is unrealistic to believe that \$3 million can save this species from extinction. Nevertheless, this law sent a powerful message to the international community that we must not allow this flagship species to disappear from the wild. The United States must continue to play a leadership role in this effort.

I, therefore, urge my colleagues to join with in support of the Asian Elephant Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2001 which will extend this vital conservation law for an additional 5 years.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 614, THE COPYRIGHT TECHNICAL CORREC- TIONS ACT OF 2001

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing H.R. 614, the "Copyright Technical Corrections Act of 2001." H.R. 614 consists of purely technical amendments to Title I of the Intellectual Property and Communications Omnibus Reform Act of 1999 and title 17, H.R. 614 corrects errors in references, spelling, and punctuation; conforms the table of contents with section headings; restores the definitions in chapter 1 to alphabetical order; deletes an expired paragraph; and creates continuity in the grammatical style used throughout title 17.

This legislation makes necessary improvements to the Copyright Act. It is non-controversial and was passed under suspension of the rules in the 106th Congress. I urge Members to support H.R. 614.

TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL CAPITAL PRIDE FESTIVAL JUNE 4-10, 2001

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the 26th Annual Capital Pride Festival, a celebration of the National Capital Area's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered communities, their families and their friends and their many contributions to the District of Columbia.

Since its beginning in 1975, the Capital Pride Festival has grown from a small block party into a seven-day series of events. On Sunday, June 10, 2001, the Festival will culminate in a large downtown parade and a magnificent Pennsylvania Avenue street fair attended by people of all backgrounds from the District and the region. In 2000, over 125 contingents marched in the parade; more than 150,000 people attended the street fair in the shadow of the Capitol; and hundreds of vendors and organizations had stalls, booths, and pavilions. The street fair featured over five hours of local entertainers and national headline performers.

The citizens of the District of Columbia and I feel a special affinity for any Americans who do not share all the rights and privileges enjoyed by most citizens of the United States. I note that it has been seven years since the District of Columbia had any vote on the floor of the House of Representatives, and I remind this body that "Taxation Demands Representation" is deeply resented by the entire city.

My Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, and Transgendered constituents feel this lack more acutely. Every April 15th they know they bear the burdens of our democracy, yet they neither have complete access to its power to redress the injustices that befall Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, and Transgendered Americans, nor do they have full power to redress those special injustices which we suffer in the District of Columbia.

Congress has not yet protected sexual orientation from discrimination. Despite increasing reports of violence and physical abuse against Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, and Transgendered Americans, Congress has not enacted protections against hate crimes. Congress must pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). Congress must pass the Hate Crime Prevention Act. Congress must pass Permanent Partners Immigration Act. Congress must return full voting rights to the District of Columbia.

In June, we will celebrate the accomplishments of the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, and Transgendered Community and remember others who live on only in our hearts and prayers. As we celebrate and reflect, we must be "Proud and Strong Together" in the fight for full democracy for the District of Columbia and full civil rights for the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, and Transgendered persons of this Great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in saluting the 26th Annual Capital Pride Festival; its organizers, The Whitman-Walker Clinic and One-in-Ten; its sponsors; and the volunteers whose dedicated and creative energy make the Pride Festival possible.

HONORING JOLIET TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOLS

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Joliet Township High Schools (JTHS) as they celebrate their 100 year anniversary.

The Joliet Township High Schools began when the first school building's foundation was laid in the year 1900. JTHS was dedicated on April 4, 1901 and the original building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in August of 1982. Today, Joliet Township High School has two campuses: Joliet West on Larkin Avenue and Joliet Central on East Jefferson Street.

When the building was originally dedicated, it was not only a high school but also the first home of Joliet Junior College. In 1902 the school enrollment was 125 students, but by 1917 the school had doubled in size.

When it comes to student support, Joliet Township High School has a great tradition of serving our country. During World War I, 34 students and 5 faculty members served the United States, and that number tripled during World War II. And, whenever a troop train came through Joliet, you could count on the high school band performing for them.

This high school has a rich tradition of student excellence. The high school has been recognized throughout the State of Illinois and the Nation not only in academic achievement, but in extra-curricular activities as well. From winning the National Band Title eight times, to winning the State Drama Competition six times, and most recently the 2000 Girls Softball State Title; Joliet Township High School has a tradition that spans 100 years.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to identify and recognize other institutions in their own districts whose actions have so greatly benefitted and strengthened America's communities.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RHINOC- EROS AND TIGER REAUTHORIZA- TION ACT

HON. WAYNE T. GILCHREST

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I am today pleased to introduce legislation to extend the authorization of appropriations for the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994, which is a landmark conservation law.

When the Congress first enacted this proposal seven years ago, the population of these two magnificent animals had fallen to record lows. It was clear that unless immediate action was taken, these species would virtually disappear from their historic range. Fortunately, Congress responded to this crisis.

In the case of the five species of rhinoceros their population status was bleak. In fact, the number of African black rhinos alone had fallen from 65,000 animals in 1970 to fewer than 2,000 in 1994. In total, there were less than 11,000 rhinos living in the wild.

While human population growth was a major factor in the destruction of the rhinoceros habitat, the other major cause of the species decline was the huge demand for products made

from rhinoceros horn. Rhinoceros horn has been used for generations to treat illnesses in children and for ceremonial purposes in certain Middle Eastern countries.

Despite this grim future, the fate of the five remaining subspecies of tigers was even worse. In 1990, there were more than 100,000 tigers living in the wild. In 1994, the total was fewer than 5,000 animals which represented a decline of 95 percent. As in the case of rhinos, the illegal hunting of tigers was the overwhelming factor in their demise. Tigers were killed for their fur, and other body parts. Tiger bone powders, wines, and tablets were used to combat pain, kidney, liver problems, rheumatism, convulsions, and heart conditions.

Despite the fact that both rhinos and tigers are internationally protected, these prohibitions have not been effective. In 1998, the Secretary of the Interior, Bruce Babbitt testified in support of reauthorizing the act when he said, "This is a small grant program, but it is amazing how much even a small amount of money can mean to our partners in other countries. Something more intangible—but often even more important—is the boost to their morale when they realize that we, the United States care enough to help them." At that same hearing, the president of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association stated that, "Passage—combined with increased appropriations for law enforcement will certainly be a bold step by the United States in ending the slaughter of the rhinoceros and tigers in the wild."

Since its passage in 1994, Congress has appropriated \$2.9 million to the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund. This money has been matched by \$4.1 million in private funding. Together this money has been used to finance 111 conservation projects in 16 range countries. These projects have included: A database on tiger poaching, trade and other wildlife crimes in India; desert Rhino conservation and research; development of national tiger action plan in Cambodia; establishment of a viable population of "greater one-horned rhinoceros"; public education on Siberian tiger conservation; survey and habitat assessment for South China tigers; training in anti-poaching techniques for rhinoceros in southern national parks; training of staff in Nepal's Department of National Parks, and a video on tiger poaching in Russia. In addition, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has done a superb job of managing the Save the Tiger Fund that has helped to educate millions of people about the harmful effects of tiger poaching.

Since the establishment of this grant program, these conservation projects have helped to change international opinion on the need to protect their animals. While the job is far from complete, the population of both animals has slightly increased and there is new found hope of saving their species from extinction. However, it is essential that the availability of money to this fund be extended for an additional five years. In addition, I will work to increase the amount of appropriated money for rhinoceros and tiger projects. The good news is that the Department of the Interior financed 111 projects. The bad news is that it lacked the resources to fund some 358 other projects, many of which were highly meritorious.

I urge support for the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2001.

SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE LOCK-BOX ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2001

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support House Resolution 2 Social Security and Medicare Lockbox Act, the Social Security is the Nation's largest retirement and disability program providing cash benefits to 44 million retired and disabled workers and to their dependents and survivors. Medicare provides 39 million of them with health insurance. Today, 1 out of 6 Americans receive Social Security; 1 out of 7 receives Medicare. About 155 million workers paid taxes to support the two programs. A major issue for President George W. Bush will be to provide a fiscal responsible plan for maintaining the solvency of the Social Security System while guaranteeing income for America's retired and disabled workers.

Historically, Social Security has been a "pay-as-you-go" system. Ninety percent of the payroll taxes paid by workers are immediately spent as benefits to current Social Security recipients. The other 10 percent goes into the Social Security Trust Fund for payment of future benefits. Here lies the problem. In 1950 it took 16 workers to support 1 beneficiary on Social Security compared to 3.4 workers to support 1 recipient today. Mr. Speaker the American people demand that the Social Security and Medicare surpluses will not be used for anything other than their current purposes. Even if, the current \$2.7 trillion projected surpluses that are available for tax and spending initiatives will be used up by President Bush's tax cut for the wealthiest 1 percent and other items that are associated with debt service costs. Spending our surpluses projected for the next 10 years leaves us nothing to protect Social Security and Medicare.

INTRODUCING H.R. 615, THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2000

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce, H.R. 615, "The Intellectual Property Technical Amendments of 2001." As my colleagues know, the success of our economy and quality of modern life can be directly attributed to the innovation and genius of our patent and trademark system whether, it be in the fields of computers, media, aerospace, or bio-technology.

In 1999, Congress successfully passed landmark legislation to modernize our patent system and transform the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) into a more autonomous and efficient agency. This legislation—the "American Inventors Protection Act"—was the most significant reform of its type in a generation, and it represented five years of hard work by a large, diverse group of Members, Administration officials, inventors, union representatives, and businesses.

At the same time, the Act contained a small number of clerical and other technical drafting

errors. Today, I offer the opportunity for my colleagues to work with me to remedy these errors within this bill. In addition, this bill makes a small number of other non-controversial changes requested by the PTO. For example, it changes the title of the chief officer of the PTO from "Director" to "Commissioner." It also clarifies some of the agency's administrative duties and the protections for the independent inventor community.

This bill represents the progress made last session when the House was able to pass it (H.R. 4870) by a unanimous voice vote under suspension of the rules. The bill is being reintroduced in virtually the identical form as passed last year in order to expedite these house-keeping processes. Additional changes requested by others have been placed on the back burner for the present, since these revisions still require further review. Rest assured, there will be opportunities during the rest of the session for continued legislative oversight and innovation in these areas.

I urge all Members to support this innovation-friendly legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, last evening I was unavoidably detained—specifically, two consecutive flights from Fort Wayne were grounded because of mechanical problems—and missed the votes congratulating President Sharon of Israel and guaranteeing a lock box on Social Security and Medicare funds. Had I been here, I would have supported both bills.

The problems in the Middle East are longstanding. I had the opportunity to meet President Sharon on several occasions. He is a tough but fair man. Israel, constantly pressed by those who challenge its right to exist, needs a strong leader at this time. We stand behind one as he faces the difficult times ahead.

I would also like to insert the following articles about the late Reverend Joseph White into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Reverend Jesse White was my friend. He was a friend to thousands and thousands of people.

He was a friend even to many he did not know because through his pioneering efforts he advanced the basic civil rights of many who may have been deprived of such rights without his efforts.

Not too many of us can look back and truly say we were a prophet. Dr. White was a prophet. He, and other pioneers in civil rights, had dreams that are now becoming reality.

Complete justice has not been achieved. But without Dr. White there would be less justice.

Not only does he leave behind a history, through his family, his legacy lives on. His sons carry on his ministry in different ways. His daughter has been active in government and in promoting education training and opportunities.

We will miss Dr. White's leadership in Fort Wayne and his national influence as well.

REV. WHITE DEMANDED EQUALITY

If the civil rights movement over the last half-century was embodied in any single