

After all, laws purporting to restrict the use of personal information did not stop the well-publicized violations of privacy by IRS officials or the FBI abuses of the Clinton and Nixon administrations.

In one of the most infamous cases of identity theft, thousands of active-duty soldiers and veterans had their personal information stolen, putting them at risk of identity theft. Imagine the dangers if thieves are able to obtain the universal identifier, and other personal information, of millions of Americans simply by breaking, or hacking, into one government facility or one government database?

Second, the Federal Government has been creating proprietary interests in private information for certain State-favored special interests. Perhaps the most outrageous example of phony privacy protection is the "medical privacy" regulation, that allows medical researchers, certain business interests, and law enforcement officials access to health care information, in complete disregard of the Fifth Amendment and the wishes of individual patients! Obviously, "privacy protection" laws have proven greatly inadequate to protect personal information when the government is the one seeking the information.

Any action short of repealing laws authorizing privacy violations is insufficient primarily because the Federal Government lacks constitutional authority to force citizens to adopt a universal identifier for health care, employment, or any other reason. Any Federal action that oversteps constitutional limitations violates liberty because it ratifies the principle that the Federal Government, not the Constitution, is the ultimate judge of its own jurisdiction over the people. The only effective protection of the rights of citizens is for Congress to follow Thomas Jefferson's advice and "bind (the Federal Government) down with the chains of the Constitution."

Madam Speaker, those members who are not persuaded by the moral and constitutional reasons for embracing the Identity Theft Prevention Act should consider the American people's opposition to national identifiers. The numerous complaints over the evergrowing uses of the Social Security number show that Americans want Congress to stop invading their privacy. Furthermore, according to a survey by the Gallup company, 91 percent of the American people oppose forcing Americans to obtain a universal health ID.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, I once again call on my colleagues to join me in putting an end to the Federal Government's unconstitutional use of national identifiers to monitor the actions of private citizens. National identifiers threaten all Americans by exposing them to the threat of identity theft by private criminals and abuse of their liberties by public criminals, while diverting valuable law enforcement resources away from addressing real threats to public safety. In addition, national identifiers are incompatible with a limited, constitutional government. I, therefore, hope my colleagues will join my efforts to protect the freedom of their constituents by supporting the Identity Theft Prevention Act.

RECOGNIZING J. CHRIS KOLLMAN, III, MAYOR, CITY OF COLONIAL HEIGHTS, VIRGINIA FOR HIS SERVICE AND DEDICATION

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 2007

Mr. FORBES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Mayor J. Chris Kollman. After serving 28 distinguished years in public service, Mayor Kollman has decided not to pursue another term in order to devote more time to his family.

Mayor Kollman began his tenure with the City of Colonial Heights nearly three decades ago when he was elected to City Council. During his time on the Council he has served two terms as Mayor and two terms as Vice-Mayor. He has been a part of many accomplishments of the city, including the building of the vocational school, the development of Southpark Mall, the building of the Colonial Heights Public Library, the building of the Government Center, the revitalization of the old City Hall Building into a Public Safety Building, the development of the Memorandum of Understanding between the City and the Schools, and his many efforts to help beautify the city.

In addition to his public service, Mr. Kollman served in the United States Army where he received an Honorable Discharge. He is also retired, after 30 years of service, from Bell Atlantic and currently owns and operates C & C Lawn Service, Inc. He is a lifelong resident of Colonial Heights and is a graduate of the Colonial Heights school system.

Mr. Kollman is a former volunteer fireman, a member of the Colonial Heights Optimist Club, served as co-chairman of the Colonial Heights After Prom Committee, and is a member of Highland United Methodist Church where he serves in various leadership positions.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Mr. J. Chris Kollman.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND REAUTHORIZATION ACT

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 2007

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today the Multinational Species Conservation Fund Reauthorization Act. This legislation will extend the authorization of appropriations for the African Elephant Conservation Act of 1988 and the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994. These acts have been two of the most effective conservation laws ever approved by the United States Congress.

First enacted nearly two decades ago, the African Elephant Conservation Act was designed to assist range countries who were fighting a losing battle against heavily armed poachers who were systematically annihilating the flagship species of the African continent. By the mid-1980's, the population of African Elephants had fallen from 1.3 million to less than 500,000 animals. In fact, only in Bot-

swana, South African and Zimbabwe were elephant populations stable.

In response to this growing wildlife crisis and the real likelihood that this species could face extinction throughout most of its historic range, Congress passed the African Elephant Conservation Act. This landmark law was used to ban the importation of carved ivory into the United States and its established the African Elephant Conservation Fund. Under the terms of P. L. 100-478, the Secretary of the Interior was directed to review conservation projects submitted by government entities and non governmental organizations and to approve those that significantly advanced the conservation needs of this important species.

Since its inception, the Secretary has approved 280 conservation grants in 23 African range countries. These grants have received nearly \$17 million in U.S. tax dollars and nearly \$72 million in private matching funds. This favorable ratio of more than 4 to 1 in private donations has been truly remarkable.

The types of conservation projects approved include the training of wildlife personnel; determining the population status, characteristics and habitat needs of elephants in various range countries; providing uniforms, tents and security equipment to wildlife rangers; monitoring the impact of elephants on agriculture; research the seasonal migration patterns of elephants; train local residents in the collection of baseline elephant data and provide local communities with viable economic alternatives to poaching elephants and other species.

One of the more interesting conservation projects has been the partnership between local communities in Zambia and The Mchenny Company of Avery Island, Louisiana. What has transpired is that local farmers are growing chilli peppers which are sold to be used in various tabasco products. These peppers have produced badly needed income for local African communities and they assisted in the conservation of elephants who find the scent of growing and burning peppers unacceptable to their sensory glands. The net effect is that not only are pepper plants not trampled but adjoining agricultural crops are protected by their cultivation. This innovative idea has been a real conservation achievement.

While one of these projects would not by itself save the African elephant, together, they have stopped the precipitous slide towards extinction. Sadly, there is no question that elephants are still being poached and that illegally obtained ivory remains a serious international problem. This is why this law must be extended. This small investment of taxpayer dollars is making a significant positive difference in saving this species.

Section III of this legislation will extend the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act. This act was designed to assist these two highly imperiled species. In fact, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has noted that: "rhinos and tigers remain among the most charismatic and some of the most endangered species on earth".

At the time of its initial enactment in 1994, the number of rhinoceros living in the wild had fallen from 65,000 in 1970 to fewer than 16,000 animals. The five subspecies of tigers were facing an ever more perilous future. At the turn of the 20th century, there were more than 100,000 tigers living in the wild. By 1994, there were fewer than 6,000 tigers which represented a decline of roughly 95 percent. By

comparison, there are more than 25,000 tigers currently living in captivity.

While there are many factors causing the decline of these species, there is no question that poaching and loss of habitat are the two primary reasons rhinos and tigers are facing extinction. A 1994 Newsweek cover shouted that the tiger was "doomed" unless the international community took some concrete steps to save them. The Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act was one of those positive steps. It was a lifeline to two species on the brink of disappearing and this fund remains the only dedicated annual source of money for rhinos and tigers in the world.

In the last 12 years, the Fish and Wildlife Service has received 744 conservation grant proposals to assist rhinos and tigers. The service has approved 321 projects in range countries throughout Africa and Asia. These proposals have received \$7.8 million in federal funds with nearly \$20 million in private match-fundings.

This money has been used to finance a host of projects including the training of wildlife managers; facilitating the reintroduction of white rhinos; a database on tiger poaching; a tiger community education program in Indonesia; monitoring tigers, prey and their habitat in India's tiger reserves; providing emergency veterinary services to treat injured black rhinos in Zimbabwe and investigating the poaching and trade of wild tiger parts in India. The sponsors of these projects include the International Rhino Foundation, The Wildlife Conservation Society and the World Wildlife Fund.

According to the World Wildlife Fund: "there is no question that these programs have been instrumental in the conservation progress that we have seen in the last decade". In fact, The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has indicated that: "it has been expressed by field experts that both the Javan and Sumatran rhinos might now be extinct were it not for the multinational species conservation funds".

The purpose of my legislation is to extend the authorization of appropriations for the African Elephant Conservation Act and The Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act for an additional five years until September 30, 2012. While I extend the existing annual authorization levels of \$5 million for elephants and \$10 million for rhinos and tigers, the stark reality is that it is highly unlikely that these species will receive \$15 million in funding each year. In fact, sadly, the more likely outcome is about \$2 million per year.

Nevertheless, \$2 million is a huge amount of money in many local African communities who do not have the funds to equip their wildlife rangers with such basic equipment as tents, uniforms or weapons to battle heavily financed and armed poachers.

This small investment of U.S. tax dollars has made a tremendous difference in the fight to save these species from extinction. However, the battle has not been won and it is essential that we reauthorize these two highly effective conservation funds. In the words of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: "continued funding is critical in order to help support efforts for these critically endangered species". It will be a monumental tragedy if we allow these flagship species to disappear forever.

I urge my colleagues to support the Multinational Species Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2007.

INTRODUCING THE SOCIAL SECURITY FOR AMERICAN CITIZENS ONLY ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the Social Security for American Citizens Only Act. This act forbids the federal government from providing Social Security benefits to non-citizens. It also ends the practice of totalization. Totalization is where the Social Security Administration takes into account the number of year's an individual worked abroad, and thus was not paying payroll taxes, in determining that individual's eligibility for Social Security benefits!

Hard as it may be to believe, the United States Government already provides Social Security benefits to citizens of 17 other countries. Under current law, citizens of those countries covered by these agreements may have an easier time getting Social Security benefits than public school teachers or policemen!

Obviously, this program provides a threat to the already fragile Social Security system, and the threat is looming larger. The administration's totalization proposal, a version of which passed the other body in the 109th Congress, actually allows thousands of foreigners who would qualify for U.S. Social Security benefits actually came to the United States and worked here illegally. Adding insult to injury, the federal government may even give Social Security benefits to non-citizens who worked here for as little as 18 months.

That's right: the federal government may actually allow someone who came to the United States illegally, worked for less than the required number of years to qualify for Social Security, and then returned to Mexico for the rest of his working years, to collect full U.S. Social Security benefits while living in Mexico. That is an insult to the millions of Americans who pay their entire working lives into the system and now face the possibility that there may be nothing left when it is their turn to retire.

The proposed agreement is nothing more than a financial reward to those who have willingly and knowingly violated our own immigration laws. Talk about an incentive for illegal immigration! How many more would break the law to come to this country if promised U.S. government paychecks for life? Is creating a global welfare state on the back of the American taxpayer a good idea? The program also establishes a very disturbing precedent of U.S. foreign aid to individual citizens rather than to states.

Estimates of what this latest totalization proposal would cost top one billion dollars per year. As the system braces for a steep increase in those who will be drawing from the Social Security trust fund while policy makers seriously consider cutting Social Security benefits to American seniors and raising payroll taxes on American workers, it makes no sense to expand Social Security into a global welfare system. Social Security was designed to provide support for retired American citizens who worked in the United States. We should be shoring up the system for those Americans who have paid in for decades, not expanding it to cover foreigners who have not.

It is long past time for Congress to stand up to the internationalist bureaucrats and start looking out for the American worker. I therefore call upon my colleagues to stop the use of the Social Security Trust Fund as yet another vehicle for foreign aid by cosponsoring the Social Security for American Citizens Only Act.

TRIBUTE TO BEN STONE

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I, along with my colleague Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, rise today to honor Ben Stone, who recently completed 20 years of service as head of the Sonoma County Economic Development Board. Under Ben's quiet but dynamic leadership, the Economic Development Board (EDB) has successfully implemented programs that have more than met the mandate of the County Board of Supervisors to enhance economic development by concentrating on new and innovative programs that enable businesses to remain competitive in a changing economy.

Ben came to Sonoma County from the Seattle area where he had been a county administrator in Port Angeles, Washington, a consultant with Arthur Andersen & Co. and a Special Projects Director with Scafo Corporation. He graduated from Whitman College in Walla Walla and received his masters of Public Administration from the University of Washington in Seattle.

Ben tells the story that, after coming to Sonoma County, he was informed that a decision had been made to close the EDB. However, he commenced creating programs atypical of economic development, which bolstered the local economy, and, 20 years later, the EDB is thriving under his leadership.

With the help of a small staff and interns, Ben has developed a number of award-winning programs in concert with local private and public sectors. Many of these programs have been successfully transitioned to community-based organizations.

Among them are the Sonoma County Tourism Program, which served to increase tourism 31 percent; two technology groups (SofTech, a trade group, and the North Bay Technology Roundtable, a policy group); Youth Business Week; the Business Environmental Alliance; the North Bay World Trade Association; the Small Business Center now operated by Santa Rosa Junior College; a home-based business project; and a business crime prevention program. Ben's office still operates the Sonoma County Film Commission.

Ben also initiated a broad-based strategic planning process resulting in the formation of bachelors and master's degree programs in Engineering Science at Sonoma State University, a new cooperative agricultural marketing program, and an economic research program. An EDB forum, the Business Regulatory Roundtable, involving elected officials, regulatory agencies, and business executives to improve local regulatory processes, resulted in Northern California's first multi-agency Permit Assistance Center.

By creating the Economic Development Board Foundation, the EDB is able to support