

in Asia for concoctions manufactured from their horn which can fetch thousands of dollars per ounce.

Large-scale poaching of these and other wildlife species has become endemic in sub-Saharan Africa. It is estimated that up to 17,000 African elephants have been killed for their tusks since 2011, and just last month poachers used cyanide to poison 300 elephants in Zimbabwe. It was only a couple of years ago that we saw the extinction of the western black rhinoceros, another victim of rampant poaching. This devastating slaughter should serve as a deafening wake-up call to the world. It has implications that extend far beyond wildlife conservation.

The international ban on ivory sales enacted in 1989 had a positive, albeit temporary impact on the protection of elephant and rhinoceros populations, but it has since spawned a black market industry in wildlife and wildlife parts. As I mentioned, some of the market is in carved ivory products and potions prized in Asia for their supposed medicinal or other properties. But this illicit revenue is increasingly being used to fund violent extremist groups in the subcontinent. The profits from this trade fuels trafficking in weapons, drugs, and humans, as well as terrorism in the Horn of Africa, the Sahel, and beyond.

Vermonters take pride in being well informed about international affairs, as well as on the impact that we as individuals have on the world we live in. The people of my State know that many of the products we buy, services we support, and actions we take have global implications, positive and negative. That is why it was no surprise when more than 300 people gathered last month in the University of Vermont's Ira Allen Chapel to view the National Geographic documentary "Battle for the Elephants" and discuss the grave threat that poaching poses to the world's elephant population. The consensus was that while the outlook is ominous, the fact that people are increasingly focused on this crisis is reason for hope that these animals can be saved. Vermont's own Laurel Neme, a renowned environment and wildlife policy expert, noted that technological advancements, especially in regards to tracing the origins of illegal ivory, have made encouraging strides.

The United States has moral as well as strategic interests in combatting trafficking in wildlife and wildlife products. As I have mentioned, it is not only decimating elephant and rhinoceros populations it is also funding traffickers and terrorist groups. For these reasons, the Appropriations Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations, of which I am chairman, included \$45 million for fiscal year 2014 to combat wildlife poaching and trafficking, including by training and supporting African park rangers and other law enforcement officials. The Obama administration has also recognized the need to address this crisis more force-

fully and is allocating additional resources.

Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the African countries to protect and conserve their wildlife populations. But they cannot do it alone. It is imperative that we work with them and other donor governments and organizations to marshal the resources to combat the black market trade in wildlife.

SUPREME COURT POLICE AUTHORITY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, since the early 1980s, Congress has provided legislative authority for Supreme Court Police to protect Supreme Court Justices, their employees, and guests when they leave the Supreme Court grounds. That authority is set to expire at the end of next month and merits extension. The House voted by an overwhelming majority of 399 to 3 to pass a bipartisan bill which would extend this authority through 2019. All Democrats have cleared this bill for passage. I urge the minority to do the same so the Senate may swiftly pass this extension to ensure the continued safety of our Supreme Court Justices and their employees.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN WOOD

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to an American hero who is also a proud and honored Kentuckian. Mr. John Wood of Glasgow, KY, will be honored this month for his service in uniform to our country. Mr. Wood served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1941 to 1947, was present for the December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, and was there at the Battle of Midway Island just months after America entered World War II.

After his military service, Mr. Wood settled in Glasgow, where he worked as a radio broadcast engineer from 1949 to 1990. He is a true legend from the Greatest Generation who still has much to teach us younger folks.

This November 18, Mr. Wood will be honored at Glasgow City Hall. Also, local officials in Glasgow, Cave City, and Barren County will join with local veterans' organizations in Kentucky to proclaim November 20 as "John Wood Day" in Barren County. Coincidentally, on November 20, Mr. Wood will also turn 93 years old. I cannot think of a better tribute to this fine man's service than to recognize him on his birthday.

My fellow Kentuckians can turn out to see Mr. Wood when he serves as the Grand Marshal for the Cave City Christmas Parade later this year, and also as a featured guest in the Glasgow Christmas Parade. These will be wonderful community events to bring Kentuckians together to honor John Wood's service and to say thank you to all veterans in the Christmas spirit.

I know I speak for my colleagues in the U.S. Senate when I express gratitude to Mr. John Wood for his service

to our great Nation. Kentucky is proud to have him in our midst. I want to wish him a very happy birthday, a happy John Wood Day, and a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Recently an article appeared in a Kentucky publication, the Sanford Herald, highlighting Mr. Wood's life of service. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Sanford Herald, November 9, 2013]

MARINE VET RECOUNTS PEARL HARBOR,
MIDWAY

JOHN E. WOOD REMEMBERS HIS SERVICE IN THE
PACIFIC

(By Anna Johnson)

SANFORD.—When the first Imperial Japanese plane burst into a ball of fire, John E. Wood thought he saw something else fall toward the small Hawaiian island where he was stationed in 1942.

"I saw something drop from the plane," Wood said. "I thought at first he had bailed out. A little closer you could tell it wasn't the pilot. It was a silver bomb."

It was just a few seconds later when the bombs fell in unison toward the Marine Corps 6th Defense Battalion, destroying plane hangars, power stations, and a cluster of above-ground fuel tanks near Wood.

"I got half nauseated from the smoke and all of those guns being fired," Wood said. "There were fuel tanks burning. The island was just, almost, engulfed with smoke. And then the planes dropped all their bombs."

Wood, a former Lee County resident, manned a .50-caliber machine gun—"They were airplane guns, but they had mounts so they could rotate"—when the Imperial Japanese planes began to fly toward and over Midway Atoll on June 4, 1942.

"We could see them off in the distance," Wood said. "Two or three planes would go down, a plume of smoke behind them. Off the shore away, you'd see a splash when one would go down. We were ordered to fire when they got in range."

One plane, tilting from damage to its left tail, came into close range near Wood, giving them a close encounter with the pilot.

"He was dressed up," Wood said. "He had a white shirt and black coat and black tie. The gloves, he had white gloves on his hands. Every gun there on through the center of the island opened up on him. He was shot down."

The Battle of Midway, a decisive victory for the United States and a turning point in the Pacific theater during World War II, came just six months after the attacks on Pearl Harbor—a battle Wood witnessed, rifle in hand.

IT WAS SOMETHING TO DO FOR A LIVELIHOOD

Wood, 92, was born in Montgomery County, near Troy. He grew up in Lee County with his parents, John Lee Wood and Nancy Phillips Wood, and two brothers, Malphus and Thomas.

"My first school was the old McIver Street School, and Edna St. Clair was my teacher," he said. "When I was finished over at McIver Street, I started over at the high school and that was in 1934."

Wood spent two years in the Civilian Conservation Corps—a public-relief program meant to relieve families who faced difficulties during the Great Depression—before enlisting in the Marine Corps in 1941.

"I really didn't have anything else to do at the time," he said. "At the time I enlisted, it was something to do for a livelihood. And

I had a brother already in the Marine Corps.”

Wood joined the 4th Defense Battalion as a radio and radar operator, traveling to Cuba, Panama, and along the west coast of the United States. The day after his 21st birthday, aboard the U.S.S. *Henderson*, Wood left San Diego and arrived at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 1, 1941.

“We were there a week when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor and Hickam Field,” he said.

PEARL HARBOR

Wood was stationed two miles from the entrance of Pearl Harbor at an unfinished Marine base. The battalion's rifles were still crated up when Imperial planes began to fire.

“We were still close enough to Pearl Harbor to see when the Japanese planes began to attack,” he said. “In Hickam Field we could see all the anti-aircraft fire being fired at the planes down in the harbor area. All the smoke and anti-aircraft fire burst around the planes.”

There were murmurs among the men about military maneuvers or exercises that quickly evaporated when the first plane burst into a fireball, streaking down, he said.

“We got the call from the harbor that we were under attack,” Wood said. “They tore the crates open, without any regard if you got your own rifle. They gave us a bandolier and told us to fire on anything that came into range. We got our rifles but we weren't sure where we were going.”

Only one Japanese plane, possibly taking pictures, Wood said, came near his group.

“There was one Japanese plane that circled our camp area, and he wasn't in range to be firing on,” he said. “But some of the boys were firing rifles at it, and we did get a machine gun, .50-caliber, and began firing at it, but the plane was still too far away. It circled and went back in the direction of Honolulu.”

There were no casualties or injuries in the 4th battalion, but more than 2,000 Americans lost their lives and another 1,000 were injured. Shots were fired over their heads, Wood said, and they were forced into a nearby mess hall—a military cafeteria—to avoid the gunfire.

“It wasn't the Japanese,” he said. “It was our own shells from some of our guns. We didn't know where it was coming from . . . but I was lying there as close to the ground as I could get and there was another boy lying eight or 10 inches from my head. We both had our hands over our heads, and finally they did quit firing and we just laid there for a few seconds. We finally got the nerve to look up, and we raised our heads at the same time. I looked at him, and he looked at me. Neither of us spoke, but I noticed his face was white as a sheet. I just wondered to myself if my face was as white as his. That was my most uneasy moment of it all.”

The next day, Wood listened to the declaration of war from President Franklin Roosevelt and preparations began for his 15-month tour at Midway as part of the 6th Defense.

In 1943, he arrived home in Lee County sometime between 1 or 2 p.m., and said simply his parents were glad to see him.

“I was kinda glad to get back home, too,” Wood said.

He left the military in April 1947, moved to Kentucky and worked at a radio station for more than 40 years. He married the late Glindoln and had three children.

Wood comes back to Central Carolina almost every summer for a family reunion, he said.

This Veterans Day, Wood said he'll be attending a ceremony and meeting with the

Kentucky Bluegrass Chapter of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association.

“I do think being at both of those two places, well, they are important events in the military history of our country,” Wood said. “I do feel a little bit of pride for being at both of those events.”

NOMINATIONS

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I rise to offer my strong support for Ms. Nina Pillard to be a U.S. district court judge for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Nina Pillard is an exemplary nominee who is more than qualified to serve on the Federal bench.

She has been a tenured professor of constitutional law at Georgetown University Law Center for 15 years and is a highly accomplished litigator who has practiced law at every level of the court system, including the Supreme Court.

Nina Pillard's impressive professional background makes her superbly qualified to serve on the DC Circuit. Her sheer talent, legal prowess, and vast and varied professional career is a testament to her brilliance.

She has argued nine cases before the U.S. Supreme Court and briefed dozens of others on significant constitutional questions such as gender equality, the Family Medical Leave Act, the right to a jury trial, and free speech.

Over the course of her 25-year legal career, Ms. Pillard has argued and/or briefed landmark Supreme Court cases, including *United States v. Virginia*, where she successfully opened the doors of the Virginia Military Institute to female cadets.

Nina attended Harvard Law School, where she was editor of the *Harvard Law Review*. She began her career as a clerk for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania for the Honorable Louis H. Pollak and served as assistant counsel for the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund. She then joined the office of the Solicitor General of the United States, where she briefed and argued cases on behalf of the Federal Government before the Supreme Court. In 1998, she was named Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the Department of Justice's Office of Legal Counsel.

Nina is a board member for the American Arbitration Association and is an active reader for the American Bar Association Reading Committee, which evaluated the writings of Supreme Court nominee Samuel Alito for the Standing Committee on Federal Judiciary. She also is a member of the Georgetown Law Supreme Court Institute and serves on the Board of Academic Advisors for the Georgetown Journal of Gender and the Law. Previously, she served as a member of the American Constitution Society and the Center for Transnational Legal Studies.

However, some of my colleagues are once again blocking another highly qualified and immensely talented

woman. The filibuster of Caitlin Halligan, Patricia Millett, and the threatened filibuster of Nina Pillard is history repeating itself.

Some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have argued that the three remaining vacancies on the DC Circuit should be eliminated because the court's caseload is too low.

What they have failed to mention is that the DC Circuit Court currently has 8 active judges and 6 senior judges with an astonishing caseload total of 1,479. This outrageous argument was made just over 7 months ago, when another highly qualified female nominee to the DC Circuit, and New Yorker, Caitlin Halligan, was filibustered.

It should also be noted that in the last 19 years, the Senate has confirmed only one woman to this important court. Furthermore, the DC Circuit has only had five female judges during its entire 120-year history. In a country where women make up over half of the population, that is a disgraceful statistic and one this body can take steps to eliminate immediately.

It is absolutely necessary that the Senate confirm supremely qualified individuals such as Nina Pillard to serve on the Federal judiciary. Her experience is unmatched and her passion for the law is unquestioned. With a caseload as high as that of the DC Circuit, it is our responsibility in the Senate to act swiftly in confirming the President's nominees. We cannot continue nor can we afford to toss out highly experienced individuals, particularly such accomplished women to serve in our Federal Judiciary because of political gamesmanship. The time to act is now.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES “BOB” CURRIEO

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the service and contributions to the State of Arizona and the Nation of James “Bob” Currieo. Bob spent his life serving our country as a soldier; a leader in the veterans community; and, for the last 17 years in my office, a valued advocate for constituents and veterans. Bob, 79 years young, retires this month.

Serving the residents of Arizona is one of the great pleasures of my office. When my constituents request assistance in matters dealing with the government, I try, as all my colleagues do, to move quickly to provide a fair and effective path for them to seek redress. And, in this regard, I have been lucky to have had a constituent-advocate of Bob's experience and caliber.

The experience that Bob brought to his working with me was informed by 22 years of service in the U.S. Army, retiring with the rank of sergeant major. Following decorated service in the Korean war, a fortunate assignment to the U.S. Army Combat Surveillance School at Fort Huachuca brought Bob to Sierra Vista and introduced him to a State that he would