

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

BRINGING ATTENTION TO ILLEGAL POACHING AND TRAFFICKING OF AFRICAN RHINO HORNS AND ELEPHANT IVORY

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the issue of poaching and illegal trafficking of African rhino horn and elephant ivory. The barbaric slaughter of tens of thousands of these animals appears to be growing worse, currently occurring at its highest level in 25 years. More than \$19 billion move through illicit wildlife crime syndicates, and ivory's value on the street is sometimes greater than gold or cocaine.

Around the world, rhino horns can cost as much as \$60,000 per pound. To meet this demand, roughly three rhinos are killed on a daily basis. At the same time, more than 20,000 elephants were killed in 2013. If this killing trend continues, the extinction of the African Elephant will occur in our lifetimes. In addition to its profitability, many criminals choose to engage in poaching because it is viewed as a low-risk endeavor compared to other illegal activities, despite the attempts of African nations to crack down on animal trafficking.

Park rangers face tremendous challenges in their efforts to protect these animals, including injury, torture and death as they confront poachers and illegal traders. It is reported that at least two rangers die worldwide each week while fighting to protect wildlife from poachers. Although park rangers have a heavy burden of responsibility, they are too often given little to no support or pay. In contrast, poachers are armed with weaponry such as heat-seeking telescopes, automatic weapons, GPS satellite receivers, and even helicopters. The lack of adequate funding and equipment for park rangers is evident in the brutal massacres of both humans and animals left in the wake of night-time raids, silent ambushes, and communities in poaching areas that are often paid-off or threatened with destruction by poachers.

The illegal trade of animal parts is fueling conflict throughout Africa, providing cash and support for international criminal organizations and terrorist groups. Following the drug and weapons trade, animal poaching is the 3rd most prominent and lucrative source of funding for conflict around the world. With the presence and spread of terrorist groups like Boko Haram in many African nations, the urgency to prevent any contributions to these violent organizations is clear. Ending poaching and illegal trafficking of African rhino horns and elephant ivory is in the interest of our national security, peace in poaching regions and preservation of these majestic animals.

IN HONOR OF LEGAL SERVICES FOR SENIORS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Legal Services for Seniors on the occasion of its 30th anniversary. Founded in 1985, Legal Services for Seniors provides comprehensive legal services to all Monterey County senior citizens at no cost, regardless of their ability to pay.

It opened its first office that year on the Monterey Peninsula with a staff of just three. Since then Legal Services for Seniors has continuously expanded its ability to provide legal services, especially to the underserved low-income seniors of Salinas and its neighboring rural areas. It now employs a full time staff of eight and serves seniors in their Salinas and Monterey Peninsula offices as well as ten weekly outreach sites throughout Monterey County.

Legal Services for Seniors has served an astounding 80,000 clients in the past thirty years and continues to make the lives of those they serve the most important part of their practice. It is particularly noted for its financial elder abuse prevention program which serves as a model for other such efforts throughout California. Indeed, Legal Services for Seniors has been called upon to help train other non-profit legal aid organizations throughout the State of California on financial elder abuse prevention so that not only Monterey County seniors, but seniors throughout the State are benefitting from their expertise.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that Legal Services for Seniors will continue to meet the needs of Monterey County seniors with quality care, integrity, professionalism, mutual respect, innovation and accountability for many years to come. I am proud to know an organization with such integrity and compassion exists for Monterey County seniors. I know that I speak for the whole House in congratulating Legal Services for Seniors for 30 years of exemplary service and in wishing it many more years of success.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PRYTANIA THEATER

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the The Prytania Theater, the crown jewel of the New Orleans' art scene and the only single-screen motion picture theater in the state of Louisiana.

The Prytania Theater first opened its doors on December 20, 1914 and has witnessed the

evolution of cinema from silent pictures, to talkies, to the current digital landscape. The owners of the land and building, John and Gayle Gish, placed the Prytania in a protected trust so that future generations could benefit from its historical value. It is currently operated by the Brunet family, who has continuously operated theaters in the New Orleans area for over 100 years.

For the Brunet family, the Prytania is arguably the most important venture they have pursued to date. Rene Brunet Sr. operated several neighborhood theaters beginning in 1907. And after his death in 1946, his son, Rene Brunet Jr., took over the family business and operated as many as six neighborhood theaters at one time. Although the movie industry has changed enormously over the last century, Rene Jr. and his son Robert continue to carry the torch. Currently, Robert oversees the daily operations of the theater alongside his daughter Paige, while Rene Jr. remains an important part of the Prytania operation. On several days of the week, one may find all three generations of the Brunet family at work inside the Prytania, and the Brunets intend to run the theater for as long as possible.

Like all movie theaters, the Prytania brings communities together for the unparalleled and magical experience of collectively viewing a movie on the silver screen. The Prytania is also an anchor for the surrounding community. After the devastation of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the Prytania was the first theater to reopen after the Hurricane in October 2005; and upon re-opening, Rene Brunet Jr. extended his hand in generosity and offered free admission to the first responders.

The Prytania is a centerpiece of New Orleans' vibrant arts scene. It has hosted movie stars like Sandra Bullock, Brad Pitt, Nicholas Cage and Quentin Tarantino; New Orleans Saints players; the New Orleans Film Festival; the French Film Festival; the Irish Film Festival and numerous premieres and film community events.

The Prytania's history of hosting world-famous movie industry figures and smaller, independent filmmakers shows that the Prytania is a unique institution that continues the tradition of old Hollywood glitz and glamour while also serving as a bastion of the independent film community. I would like to congratulate the Brunet family on this historic milestone, and I wish them many more years of providing New Orleans residents and visitors a positive movie experience.

RECOGNIZING THE PASSING OF DEPUTY U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATOR GLENN GAINES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to inform my colleagues of the passing of Deputy U.S. Fire

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