

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 re-open 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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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Administrator Glenn Gaines, a consummate fire professional and friend whose legacy can be seen today in firehouses across our nation.

I first came to know Glenn Gaines during his tenure as fire chief in Fairfax County, Va., where I served on the local Board of Supervisors. He was a strong leader, who led with character and a gentle touch. He instilled a sense of pride and camaraderie in his firefighters and paramedics that reflected his own love and admiration for the fire service and those who bravely answer the call day in and day out.

Chief Gaines began his illustrious career as a volunteer firefighter with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. His passion for the fire service was evident in his work, and he quickly rose through the ranks of leadership, serving as Fire Marshal, Chief Training Officer, and Chief of Operations. He played a key role in the formation of Fairfax County's elite Urban Search and Rescue Team, which, in partnership with FEMA and USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, has provided lifesaving support to communities here at home and across the globe following natural disasters. He capped his 35-years in Fairfax by serving seven years as Fire Chief, mentoring a generation of Fairfax firefighters and paramedics, who helped mold the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department into one of the best in the nation.

He went on to work for FEMA, where he helped initiate the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program for the Department of Homeland Security. He was instrumental in the creation of the Agency's primary firefighter grant programs, particularly the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (or SAFER) Grant Program, which is utilized by career and volunteer fire departments across the country to increase staffing to meet community needs.

It was more than a commitment to the job for Chief Gaines. He was committed to the people who served alongside him and those that would follow in their footsteps. He held a degree in Fire Administration and authored a fire service text book and contributed to several other publications that are still considered mandatory reading for recruits. He was an educator who shared his knowledge and expertise widely. He served on the faculty of the National Fire Academy and oversaw training programs at the National Emergency Training Center.

As one publication put it, he was a firefighter's firefighter. Whether it was in Fairfax or on the national stage, Chief Gaines garnered respect and promoted positive change. He was recognized by his peers with the International Association of Fire Chiefs Metropolitan Fire Chiefs President's Award of Distinction, and he later was honored with the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Lifetime Achievement Award. He also received the International Association of Fire Chiefs President's Award for Meritorious Service to the Fire Service.

His colleagues will also recall his outgoing, gregarious nature, particularly his competitive streak when it came to participating in the World Police and Fire Games. He was a gold medal winner in the games, competing in power lifting, running, and other sports. In fact, he was actively preparing to be the Sports Coordinator for Softball at this summer's Games, which will be held in Fairfax County.

Chief Gaines was not the retiring type, and, at the age of 72, his commitment to the fire

service community was unparalleled. He died unexpectedly at his home in Leesburg, Va., last Sunday, April 12. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Linda, their daughter Christy Stuart, her husband, Sean, and their twin children, Heather and Evan.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Chief Gaines. His life's work will always be remembered in his native Fairfax and across the nation's fire service, and his legacy of character and service will endure through the generations of firefighters he helped prepare to answer the call.

SMALL BUSINESS TAX EQUITY
ACT OF 2015

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, since California first passed a medical marijuana initiative in 1996, 23 states, the District of Columbia, and Guam have approved medical marijuana programs. An additional 13 states have passed laws allowing for the use of low-THC forms of marijuana to treat certain medical conditions. In addition, voters in Colorado, Washington, Oregon, and Alaska have voted to allow the retail sale and adult use of marijuana.

Any business associated with these expanding industries, however, face a legal gray area between federal and state law. While states have expanded legal economic opportunities, federal drug, tax, and banking laws continue to limit these emerging small businesses.

It has long been recognized that marijuana has therapeutic values. People use it to deal with chronic and paralyzing pain, the nausea associated with chemotherapy, and the symptoms of Multiple Sclerosis. More of our veterans now use it to help with PTSD. At least one million people now receive legal medical marijuana treatment.

What remains illegal, however, is for the thousands of legitimate businesses providing a legal product to treat their business expenses like every other business and deduct them from their operating income.

The federal tax code prohibits anyone who sells Schedule I or Schedule II substances from deducting their business expenses from their taxes. Congress added this prohibition in 1982 after a drug dealer claimed his yacht and weapon purchases as legitimate business expenses. As marijuana is listed as a Schedule I substance, even businesses operating in compliance with state law are not allowed to deduct the common expenses of running a small business, like rent, utilities and payroll.

This is why I am introducing the Small Business Tax Equity Act, bipartisan legislation to allow marijuana businesses operating in compliance with state law to deduct their legitimate expenses. It will only have effect in states which have legalized aspects of marijuana use.

Legal businesses in America are taxed on their income, not on their gross revenues, except for the otherwise legal operation of marijuana businesses. Our failure to update federal tax law forces these businesses to discontinue important services or to drive them

underground, which encourages evasion. This bill adapts federal tax law to state law and ensures the fair treatment of a legal industry.

It is time for the federal government to catch up with the states. We must level the playing field for small businesses that create jobs and boost local economies. The Small Business Tax Equity Act would do just that.

RICHARD SPONZILLI

HON. BILL PASCHELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. PASCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Richard Sponzilli who, after 30 years of support and service to his local community will be honored as the recipient of the prestigious Dean McNulty Award this Sunday, April 19, 2015 at the 15th Annual Dean McNulty Dinner in Paterson, NJ.

Born and raised in the Stony Road neighborhood of Paterson, Mr. Sponzilli attended St. Bonaventure High School. At the young age of eighteen, he was drafted to Vietnam. During his military service he demonstrated remarkable courage and dedication to serving his country.

Upon his return, he enrolled at Pace University for two years, and then transferred to William Paterson to complete his degree in elementary education. While attending college, Mr. Sponzilli worked part-time cutting grass and during his senior year decided to start a landscaping business of his own. Not expecting his small business to grow, Mr. Sponzilli decided to enroll in a Master's Degree program at William Paterson University to pursue a career as a school guidance counselor.

After completing his Master's Degree, Mr. Sponzilli was unsure about leaving his business to pursue a career as a guidance counselor. After compliments from clients and advice from a friend, he decided to focus on his landscaping business. At the age of 28, Mr. Sponzilli had finally saved enough money to purchase his first office building in Totowa, NJ and since then he has expanded his business to what is now one of the industry's premier landscape design firms.

In addition to being a successful businessman, Mr. Sponzilli has coached and been involved with many sports programs, beginning with the Hillcrest Boys Club, serving as Head Coach of the Manchester Regional High School boys' basketball team, and football programs at the Totowa Police Athletic League.

Mr. Sponzilli continues to dedicate his efforts towards bettering his community and exhibits the qualities of an individual we all strive to be. He currently works with many organizations including Landscape Initiative, Morris Catholic High School, Sisters of the Poor Charity, and also finds time to operate basketball camps for children.

Mr. Sponzilli has been recognized for his philanthropic efforts both within his community and outside. Because of these efforts, he was named the Italian American Man of the Year, National Kid Construction Club Man of the Year, was inducted into the Totowa Police Athletic League Wall of Fame, and was most recently awarded the William Paterson University Legacy Award. The Dean McNulty Award