

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 McHenry 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