

"I love the coldest, snowiest days here because everyone grows closer. People come out of their houses, smiling and greeting one another on the street. It feels as safe as Mayberry and as beautiful and sentimental as a holiday greeting card," wrote Sara Saldi.

"It's not how much snow we get. It's how we handle it. Our city never closes. We clean up and get going where others can't," says Philip Wiggle.

Of course, problem-solving is second nature here in the birthplace of "brainstorming," a creative thinking process developed by a local advertising executive, Alex Osborn, that soon spread worldwide. Buffalo nurtures the idea with an annual creativity conference, that has drawn hundreds of think-outside-the-box folks for 43 years.

One problem minimized: The tell-your-grandchildren-about-it-someday blizzard that dumped 25 inches of snow in a day last Nov. 20 and gave even indefatigable Buffalo pause.

Most people would be calling the moving vans if they spent seven hours of a snowstorm trapped in a subway station like Monica Huxley. But Huxley, who hadn't lived in Buffalo yet a year, wrote to USA TODAY that the helpful camaraderie among strangers led her to love her new hometown.

MacGregor was among 200 who huddled in the Christmas wonderland of the tree-decorated Hyatt hotel lobby. She recalls:

"About 11:30 p.m., ladies from the hotel's housekeeping brought around lots of blankets and told us that we should each find a Christmas tree to sleep near. They then kept the tree lights on and turned the hall lights off. We slept like little kids in a big 'sleepover' underneath the trees."

Warzel was trapped on downtown streets for nearly 20 hours, including a stretch where a "lady went car to car passing out Ho-Hos." Nancy Lynch was assured that her son, trapped at school, was housed for the night by the welcoming parents of the school neighborhood; Ellen Kern, caught for "just 4½ hours on Maple Road in my car," marveled as strangers offered coffee and brushed snow from the windshields.

"For a big city, it's very small," says Kern.

Adds Nancy Lynch: "When people do small nice things for one another, they tend to want to reciprocate. When the cycle is repeated over and over again over the years, you end up with a City with Heart."

INTRODUCTION OF THE AFRICAN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION RE-AUTHORIZATION ACT

HON. WAYNE T. GILCREST

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. GILCREST. Mr. Speaker, as the new chairman of the House Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans, I am pleased to introduce legislation to reauthorize the African Elephant Conservation Act of 1988.

Prior to the passage of this landmark conservation law, the population of African elephants plummeted from 1.3 million animals to less than 600,000. The primary causes of this catastrophic decline were the illegal poaching of elephants and the insatiable international

demand for elephant ivory. Without immediate action, it was clear that this flagship species of the African continent would continue its march toward extinction.

In response to this crisis, the Congress passed the African Elephant Conservation Act. In addition, President George H. Bush used the authority of this law to prohibit the importation of all carved ivory into the United States and to persuade the convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora [CITES] to place the African elephant on its Appendix I list. Through this listing, a worldwide commercial ban on all products derived from the species was established in January of 1990. Due to these actions, the price of ivory, the trade in ivory, and the poaching of elephants all decreased almost immediately.

A key component of this law was the establishment of the African Elephant Conservation Fund. Under the terms of the fund, the Secretary of the Interior is charged with the responsibility of reviewing and approving meritorious conservation projects. To date, 113 conservation projects that affect elephant population in 22 separate countries have been funded. In total, \$11.9 million in federal money has been obligated for these projects, matched by \$51.7 million in non-federal funds.

In recent years, money has been spent to aerial monitor elephants in Kenya; assess the impact of elephants on plant and habitat biodiversity in South Africa; control elephant crop damages in Ghana; financially assist the African elephant specialist group; study forest elephants in the Central African Republic; supplement anti-poaching activities in Zimbabwe; and track the origin of African elephant ivory.

While the population of African elephants is no longer declining, and, in fact, is growing in Southern Africa, the job of conserving this magnificent species is far from over. The number of worthwhile unfunded projects far exceeds those receiving aid and the African Elephant Conservation Fund remains the only dedicated source of funding for this species in the world. The authorization of appropriations for the act expires on September 30, 2002 and the goal of my legislation is to extend the highly effective conservation law for an additional 5 years.

It is essential that we not allow this irreplaceable species to disappear from this planet. During the last reauthorization process, the administration testified that "The principles embodied in this act are sound. They provide a catalyst for cooperative efforts among the governments of the world, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector to work together for a common goal—the conservation and continued healthy existence of populations of African elephants. This is not a hand out, but a helping hand".

I urge my colleagues to join with me in support of the African Elephant Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2001.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ASIAN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION RE-AUTHORIZATION ACT

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, 4 years ago, I introduced the Asian Elephant Conservation Act. I took that action because I was startled to learn that there were less than 40,000 Asian elephants lived in the wild. Furthermore, nearly 50 percent of those elephants lived in various national parks in India, while the remaining animals were scattered in fragmented populations throughout 12 other countries in South and Southeast Asia.

The primary reason for this serious decline in population was the loss of essential habitat. It is no secret that elephants and man are in direct competition for the same resources. In most cases, it was the elephants who lost in those confrontations.

In addition, Asian elephants are poached for their bones, hide, meat, and teeth; they are still captured for domestication; and conflicts between elephants and people are escalating at an alarming rate. Furthermore, it was clear that millions of people were not aware of the plight of Asian elephants and that range countries lack the financial resources to help conserve this flagship species. Without an international effort, the future of the Asian elephant was in serious jeopardy.

In response to this problem, I, along with a number of other Members, proposed the establishment of an Asian elephant conservation fund. This concept was modeled after the highly successful African elephant conservation fund, and the fundamental goal of my legislation was to obtain a small amount of Federal assistance for on-the-ground conservation projects.

In testimony before my subcommittee, eight witnesses indicated strong support for my bill and their belief that it would be an effective way to assist Asian elephants. One of those witnesses, Dr. Terry Maple, the president of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association, stated that,

This bill will provide competitive financing where it is needed most—in the wild to support protection, conservation, and management of threatened Asian elephants.

In addition, noted wildlife biologist, Doug Chadwick advised the subcommittee that

To pass an Asian Elephant Conservation Act would be one of the most farsighted and yet practical things we could do the benefit of Americans, people throughout Asia, and the world we share.

Fortunately, this important legislation was overwhelmingly approved by both bodies, and it was signed into law on November 19, 1997.

Under the terms of P.L. 105-95, the Congress could appropriate up to \$25 million to the Asian elephant conservation funds until September 30, 2002. In fact, some \$1.9 million in Federal funds has been allocated and those moneys have been matched by an additional \$1.1 million in private donations. Those funds have been used to underwrite 27 conservation grants in 9 different range countries.

The type of prospects funded have included: develop an elephant strategy in Sri Lanka; identification of a suitable managed elephant range in Malaysia; molecular tools for the local population assessment of Asian elephants; school education to support Asian elephant conversation in India and trace the mobility patterns, population dynamics, and feeding patterns of Sri Lankan elephants. These projects were carefully analyzed and competitively selected from a list of nearly 100 proposals that were submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

While the early indications is that the worldwide population of Asian elephants has stopped its precipitous decline, it is unrealistic to believe that \$3 million can save this species from extinction. Nevertheless, this law sent a powerful message to the international community that we must not allow this flagship species to disappear from the wild. The United States must continue to play a leadership role in this effort.

I, therefore, urge my colleagues to join with in support of the Asian Elephant Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2001 which will extend this vital conservation law for an additional 5 years.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 614, THE
COPYRIGHT TECHNICAL CORREC-
TIONS ACT OF 2001

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing H.R. 614, the "Copyright Technical Corrections Act of 2001." H.R. 614 consists of purely technical amendments to Title I of the Intellectual Property and Communications Omnibus Reform Act of 1999 and title 17, H.R. 614 corrects errors in references, spelling, and punctuation; conforms the table of contents with section headings; restores the definitions in chapter 1 to alphabetical order; deletes an expired paragraph; and creates continuity in the grammatical style used throughout title 17.

This legislation makes necessary improvements to the Copyright Act. It is non-controversial and was passed under suspension of the rules in the 106th Congress. I urge Members to support H.R. 614.

TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL CAPITAL
PRIDE FESTIVAL JUNE 4-10, 2001

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the 26th Annual Capital Pride Festival, a celebration of the National Capital Area's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered communities, their families and their friends and their many contributions to the District of Columbia.

Since its beginning in 1975, the Capital Pride Festival has grown from a small block

party into a seven-day series of events. On Sunday, June 10, 2001, the Festival will culminate in a large downtown parade and a magnificent Pennsylvania Avenue street fair attended by people of all backgrounds from the District and the region. In 2000, over 125 contingents marched in the parade; more than 150,000 people attended the street fair in the shadow of the Capitol; and hundreds of vendors and organizations had stalls, booths, and pavilions. The street fair featured over five hours of local entertainers and national headline performers.

The citizens of the District of Columbia and I feel a special affinity for any Americans who do not share all the rights and privileges enjoyed by most citizens of the United States. I note that it has been seven years since the District of Columbia had any vote on the floor of the House of Representatives, and I remind this body that "Taxation Demands Representation" is deeply resented by the entire city.

My Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, and Transgendered constituents feel this lack more acutely. Every April 15th they know they bear the burdens of our democracy, yet they neither have complete access to its power to redress the injustices that befall Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, and Transgendered Americans, nor do they have full power to redress those special injustices which we suffer in the District of Columbia.

Congress has not yet protected sexual orientation from discrimination. Despite increasing reports of violence and physical abuse against Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, and Transgendered Americans, Congress has not enacted protections against hate crimes. Congress must pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). Congress must pass the Hate Crime Prevention Act. Congress must pass Permanent Partners Immigration Act. Congress must return full voting rights to the District of Columbia.

In June, we will celebrate the accomplishments of the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, and Transgendered Community and remember others who live on only in our hearts and prayers. As we celebrate and reflect, we must be "Proud and Strong Together" in the fight for full democracy for the District of Columbia and full civil rights for the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, and Transgendered persons of this Great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in saluting the 26th Annual Capital Pride Festival; its organizers, The Whitman-Walker Clinic and One-in-Ten; its sponsors; and the volunteers whose dedicated and creative energy make the Pride Festival possible.

HONORING JOLIET TOWNSHIP
HIGH SCHOOLS

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Joliet Township High Schools (JTHS) as they celebrate their 100 year anniversary.

The Joliet Township High Schools began when the first school building's foundation was

laid in the year 1900. JTHS was dedicated on April 4, 1901 and the original building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in August of 1982. Today, Joliet Township High School has two campuses: Joliet West on Larkin Avenue and Joliet Central on East Jefferson Street.

When the building was originally dedicated, it was not only a high school but also the first home of Joliet Junior College. In 1902 the school enrollment was 125 students, but by 1917 the school had doubled in size.

When it comes to student support, Joliet Township High School has a great tradition of serving our country. During World War I, 34 students and 5 faculty members served the United States, and that number tripled during World War II. And, whenever a troop train came through Joliet, you could count on the high school band performing for them.

This high school has a rich tradition of student excellence. The high school has been recognized throughout the State of Illinois and the Nation not only in academic achievement, but in extra-curricular activities as well. From winning the National Band Title eight times, to winning the State Drama Competition six times, and most recently the 2000 Girls Softball State Title; Joliet Township High School has a tradition that spans 100 years.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to identify and recognize other institutions in their own districts whose actions have so greatly benefitted and strengthened America's communities.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RHINOC-
EROS AND TIGER REAUTHORIZA-
TION ACT

HON. WAYNE T. GILCHREST

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I am today pleased to introduce legislation to extend the authorization of appropriations for the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994, which is a landmark conservation law.

When the Congress first enacted this proposal seven years ago, the population of these two magnificent animals had fallen to record lows. It was clear that unless immediate action was taken, these species would virtually disappear from their historic range. Fortunately, Congress responded to this crisis.

In the case of the five species of rhinoceros their population status was bleak. In fact, the number of African black rhinos alone had fallen from 65,000 animals in 1970 to fewer than 2,000 in 1994. In total, there were less than 11,000 rhinos living in the wild.

While human population growth was a major factor in the destruction of the rhinoceros habitat, the other major cause of the species decline was the huge demand for products made from rhinoceros horn. Rhinoceros horn has been used for generations to treat illnesses in children and for ceremonial purposes in certain Middle Eastern countries.

Despite this grim future, the fate of the five remaining subspecies of tigers was even worse. In 1990, there were more than 100,000 tigers living in the wild. In 1994, the total was