

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