

opportunity to express my support for this resolution, which has been sponsored by my good friend and colleague, RALPH HALL of Texas, to bring attention to a disease that has afflicted one of his long time staff members, Grace Warren.

That disease is ovarian cancer.

Mr. Speaker, ovarian cancer is the fourth leading cause of cancer mortality among women in the United States. Research has proven that early detection of the disease can improve the long term survival rates among those with the disease dramatically yet, unfortunately, there are few, if any, effective methods of early detection. As a result, often when the disease has been diagnosed, it is often far advanced.

While the mortality rates have decreased in the United States for other cancers, they have remained high for women with ovarian cancer. This is the result, in part, because the symptoms of the disease are not well understood and in part, because there are no reliable and reasonably priced screening tests to detect the disease in its early stages. Statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicate that more than 22,000 American women will be diagnosed with the disease this year, yet last year, the National Cancer Institute dedicated approximately one-fifth of the research dollars to ovarian cancer as it does to breast cancer.

Earlier this year, when Ralph advised me that he was sponsoring legislation to increase the awareness of ovarian cancer and to dedicate resources to research on its causes and cures, I agreed to cosponsor the legislation. Not only as a testament to Grace, and to the strength and courage which she has demonstrated while battling this devastating disease, but to all of the women in this country who are the victims of ovarian cancer and other gynecological cancers.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased and proud that the House has passed this resolution overwhelmingly. It is my hope that the Senate will soon follow suit and pass similar legislation. Grace Warren, and the other victims of this disease, deserve no less.

SECURE ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND COURT PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1751) to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect judges, prosecutors, witnesses, victims, and their family members, and for other purposes:

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to make known my position on H.R. 1751. Although I was on the floor yesterday during the debate on this important legislation and intended to cast an affirmative vote, my vote was not recorded. The record will reflect that I was present for the preceding votes.

I strongly support the Secure Access to Justice and Court Protection Act of 2005. This legislation was written in response to recent

violence against judges and employees of the courts. It increases penalties against those who threaten, assault, or murder judges, as well as court and law enforcement personnel. Members of the judiciary and their staff are critical to ensuring that all Americans have access to our courts and to guaranteeing that justice and fairness remain essential values of our society.

Many Democratic amendments were accepted during debate in the Judiciary Committee that make this a stronger bill. The changes focused on providing increased grants to state and local governments to prevent violence. This bill includes grant programs for states to assess court safety, to improve witness protection programs, to create databases to track domestic crime and terrorism and to develop programs to help juvenile witnesses.

Court officials in Minnesota have stated that these dollars will be extremely useful in protecting witnesses who are often reluctant to testify for fear of their safety. The courts can use this funding for temporary or permanent relocation to help keep witnesses, who are vital to successfully prosecuting criminal cases, remain safe. In addition, special training for court staff, judges, and attorneys will help make juvenile witnesses more comfortable and able to deal with their important role in trial.

Mr. Chairman, this is an important step in preventing and prosecuting violence against the judiciary and I am pleased that H.R. 1751 passed the House overwhelmingly.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2862, SCIENCE, STATE, JUSTICE, COMMERCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Fiscal Year 2006 Science, State, Justice, Commerce Appropriations act because it includes several meritorious provisions, including a directive to the Federal Trade Commission to investigate price gouging by oil companies as well as continued funding for Economic Development Assistance grants.

Unfortunately, once again the House Republican leadership has slashed State and local law enforcement assistance grants despite the growing responsibilities of our First Responders in the ongoing efforts on homeland security.

I am also concerned that this bill cuts the Small Business Administration's 7(a) loan program. Small businesses are the backbone of our nation's economy, and now, when they are struggling with a weak economy and the high cost of fuel and transportation, is not the time to reduce our support.

And finally, I am sorely disappointed that the Republican leadership has stripped out the Freedom to Read provision that passed this House with strong bipartisan support on June 15th of this year, as it has in previous years. Despite the support of an overwhelming majority of Members, the Administration threatens

to veto the bill because it protects people's right to privacy. This is the wrong message to be sending to the citizens of the United States.

Despite the bill's serious shortcomings, it contains important investments in federal research and development as well as law enforcement and crime prevention initiatives. On balance, this bill merits passage, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting Yes.

SAYING FAREWELL TO HOUSE PARLIAMENTARIAN MUF'TIAH MCCARTIN

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to an outstanding member of the House Parliamentarian's office who is retiring today after nearly 30 years of service. Muftiah McCartin will be retiring from her position as Associate Parliamentarian. She will truly be missed.

Muftiah has been a part of this institution longer than most Members. She began her career with the Parliamentarian's office in 1976, 3 years before I came to the House. She started as a Clerk and worked her way up to one of the senior positions in the office. As a Clerk, she continued her education and eventually earned her law degree. She became the first woman to be appointed a Parliamentarian in 1991. Her story is truly one of personal and professional excellence, initiative, and dedication to her responsibilities.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Appropriations is particularly sad to see Muftiah leave. Her knowledge of parliamentary rules and precedents as they pertain to appropriations bills is unsurpassed, as is her knowledge of the budget process. The Committee has always had tremendous confidence in her skills and ability to proffer accurate advice. With numerous regular and supplemental appropriations bills coming to the House floor each year, the Committee relied on her expertise extensively. The words "check with Muftiah" were heard over and over again in the Committee's offices.

The Committee's high admiration of Muftiah's professional skills is matched by the Committee's appreciation of the calm and composed manner in which she performed her duties. She is always approachable and willing to take time to work on any matter, even when the other demands on her time are huge. She always approaches her work with a smile and keeps her sense of humor. In addition to the professional relationships she developed with the staff of the Committee, many highly valued personal friendships arose during her time with us.

Muftiah will now be able to spend more time with her family—her husband Terry, and her children Marissa, Elaine, Sandra, and Luke. She and her family have made a lot of sacrifices over the years. I hope that now she will have more time to attend her children's basketball, soccer, and baseball games as well as other family activities that are so important.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Members and staff of the Committee on Appropriations, I

want to wish Muftiah well as she embarks on this next phase of her life's journey. I also genuinely thank her for all that she has done for the House and for the Committee, and I want her to know that she will be missed.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3057,
FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT
FINANCING, AND RELATED PRO-
GRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT,
2006

SPEECH OF

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today, the House of Representatives approved the conference report for H.R. 3057, legislation to fund American projects abroad in Fiscal Year 2006. I would like to mention how much I appreciate the hard work of my friend from California, Chairman LEWIS, in bringing this bill to the floor. This is no easy task. Unfortunately, I cannot support this legislation because I believe it represents a disservice to taxpaying American families. Several times already this year, I have opposed legislation that violates either the Budget Act or increases spending by significant levels. Congress must learn to live by these funding levels or we will leave our children and grandchildren a huge and unfair financial burden as their inheritance.

At this crucial time in our Nation's history Congress needs to make the necessary and tough choices about spending. Unfortunately, H.R. 3057 does not achieve that goal and vastly exceeds funding in previous years. Although H.R. 3057 was within the limits of the budget allocations, the bill costs \$1.24 billion more than last year's bill, for a total price tag of almost \$21 billion, a 6 percent increase. It also includes a gratuitous 40 percent increase in funding for the Export Import Bank, as well as several questionable earmarks, including \$2.3 million for the International Fertilizer Development Center. We must show more fiscal responsibility and more accountability.

While I cannot support H.R. 3057 because of its budgetary implications, I am pleased that the bill contains \$2.5 billion in important assistance to aid our friend and ally, Israel. The package includes \$2.2 billion in military aid and \$240 million in economic assistance, as well as important oversight provisions to ensure that aid to the Palestinians is spent properly. Further, the bill spends \$50 million for Israel to help facilitate the movement of people and goods in Palestinian areas. Israel continues to be a bastion of freedom and democracy in a part of the world where too many despots and dictators rule. I believe the United States must support and stand by Israel or its very existence could be jeopardized.

Earlier this year, Israel took the unprecedented and expensive step of dismantling certain settlements located in disputed areas. Because of this, and other good-faith gestures on the part of Israel, I will continue to do everything in my power to ensure that U.S. foreign policy is geared towards achieving a just and lasting peace in the region. As a Member of Congress who has been to Israel and has seen Tel Aviv teeming with life and commerce, it is my hope that one day the people of the

Middle East will experience democracy, freedom, peace, economic prosperity and tolerance. I believe this funding is critical to achieving that goal and must remain a top priority for Congress.

I know many other parts of the world have come to depend on American foreign aid, and clearly there is no more generous nation than the United States. I believe this bill does not go far enough in addressing the looming fiscal crisis our Nation currently faces. We must protect the integrity of the budget laws and rules Congress has established and work harder to protect the family budget from the federal budget. Thus, I cannot support H.R. 3057 as written.

SECURE ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND
COURT PROTECTION ACT

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House considered the so-called Secure Access to Justice and Court Protection Act, H.R. 1751.

We have all heard of the tragic and deeply troubling violence directed at judges or other court employees. In just March of this year, U.S. District Judge Joan H. Lefkow came home from a day at work to discover her husband and mother shot dead in the basement. We clearly need to act to help protect the lives and security of all federal court employees, including judges.

H.R. 1751 would authorize the appropriation of additional funds over the next five years to increase court security, and to provide grants to States do the same and to help protect witnesses. The bill would also toughen the penalties on the books for threatening or committing acts of violence against federal judges or court employees.

While I support and believe we need to protect federal court employees, there are too many troubling and fundamental problems with this bill for me to support it.

This bill creates 22 new mandatory minimum penalties. Mandatory minimum penalties do not work. They discount mitigating factors in crimes, prevent judges from meting out punishments that are tailored to the criminal, and mandatory minimum have proven discriminatory to people of color. They may make legislators feel good but they have been shown not to reduce crime rates. Even the Judicial Conference, the group that represents Federal judges, has said that mandatory minimums violate common sense.

Also troubling is the fact that this legislation creates seven additional death penalties. Yet, research has shown that capital punishment is not a deterrent to crime. Let me repeat, the death penalty simply does not reduce crime. The death penalty is also flawed because it is applied unevenly and unjustly along racial lines, and far too often is applied to someone who is only later exonerated, often too late.

Given these two deeply troubling problems with this bill, I cannot support it.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK COLLAZO AND
THE EMPLOYEES OF COLSA COR-
PORATION

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Frank Collazo and all of the employees of the COLSA Corporation on the company's 25th anniversary.

Mr. Collazo founded the COLSA Corporation in his home in Huntsville, Alabama. Today COLSA has locations in Huntsville; Colorado Springs, Colorado; Orlando and Shalimar, Florida; San Diego, California; and Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, COLSA has been recognized as a leader in the defense industry. It works with a number of governmental agencies including NASA, AMCOM, SMDC, MDA, MSIC, the NSA, the U.S. Navy, and the U.S. Air Force.

COLSA's employees provide a wide variety of services to its clients including IT Services, Complex Systems Integration, Software Engineering and Analysis, Business Management Solutions, and Modeling and Simulation. They also provide Test and Evaluation Support, Security Solutions, Intelligence Support, Advance Algorithms Services, and Engineering Services.

Despite its short history, COLSA has received the Department of Defense's Small Business Prime Contractor of the Year, the James S. Cogswell Award for Security Excellence, and the American Business Ethics Award, among others.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Frank and the entire COLSA team for their hard work and dedication towards strengthening our military and intelligence capabilities and I congratulate them on 25 years of service to our country.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives and everyone in North Alabama, I would like to thank the COLSA Corporation for its commitment to the war fighter and the security of our nation.

CONGRATULATING SGT. JEREMY
KAMPHUIS FOR BEING NAMED
2005 U.S. ARMY NONCOMMISS-
SIONED OFFICER OF THE YEAR

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Sgt. Jeremy Kamphuis for being named the 2005 U.S. Army Non-commissioned Officer of the Year. Sgt. Kamphuis is a member of the 127th Military Police Company, stationed in Hanau, Germany. His hometown is Grand Rapids, Michigan, in the Third Congressional District of Michigan, which I represent, and where his parents, Don and Mary Kamphuis, also reside.

Sgt. Kamphuis, 23, enlisted with the U.S. Army Reserves in August 2000 shortly after graduating from Covenant Christian High School and signed up for active duty in October 2003. In April 2004, Sgt. Kamphuis was deployed with his fellow members of the 127th Military Police Company from their base in