

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE APPRO-
PRIATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT,
FISCAL YEARS 2006 THROUGH
2009

SPEECH OF

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3402) to authorize appropriations for the Department of Justice for fiscal years 2006 through 2009, and for other purposes:

Ms. HART. Mr. Chairman, in 1994, Congress took a significant step forward in the fight against domestic violence by enacting the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). Today, as part of the DOJ reauthorization, we are considering the reauthorization of VAWA (VAWA 2005), making it a stronger and more effective tool in the struggle to end domestic violence.

I have met with many of the domestic violence shelters and advocates in my district who tell me that VAWA is working. Victim Outreach Intervention Center provides services to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and other violent crimes. On an average year, VOICE provides services to over 3,000 people in Butler County.

The VAWA funding they receive has made a tremendous improvement in both the types of services they provide and also to the scale on which they are able to serve. Their counseling and advocacy services are substantially funded by VAWA. Without this money, VOICE would be unable to serve survivors at current levels; a waiting list for direct services, which could contain 20–25 survivors at a time, would have to be established.

In order to provide that basic level of service, VOICE would have to substantially decrease or eliminate programs, such as their Prevention/Education programming. Without the re-authorization of VAWA, the past 28 years of progress they have made in service to survivors would be set back tenfold.

Nearly one in four women experiences at least one physical assault by a partner during adulthood. As resources become stronger, more victims gain the courage to seek help. Now is not the time to retreat. The work at the state and local level has become more, not less, complex.

The programs and provisions of VAWA will continue the progress made over the past 10 years in three ways.

First, VAWA 2005 reinforces existing core programs like the STOP grants which have brought communities together to solve the problem of domestic violence. VAWA programs have provided training for hundreds of law enforcement officers on the dynamics of domestic violence and VAWA 2005 will attempt to solve the problem attrition among domestic violence professionals.

Second, with VAWA 2005 we ensure that the needs of uniquely vulnerable communities are met. One of the lessons we have learned over the past 10 years is that many victims face unique obstacles.

VAWA has helped fund specialized services to improve victim safety in rural areas, such as paying for "attorneys on wheels" to help rural

women get to court or effective outreach programs in remote communities.

VAWA 2005 also addresses the unique challenges faced by persons with disabilities and elder victims of abuse, by offering services tailored to their circumstances and by educating their communities on how to best provide services.

Third, VAWA 2005 provides greater opportunities for victims to rebuild their lives. While domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking are fundamentally criminal justice problems, the solutions are not to be found in the criminal justice system alone.

VAWA 2005 will help victims rebuild their lives and create long term security for themselves and their children. It works to educate domestic violence prevention professionals, child welfare workers, and home visitors on how to identify and serve victims of domestic violence. Further, it provides guidance on preventing violence, rather than reacting to it.

We've come a long way since 1994, but people from my district tell me that our shelters are full and our hotlines are ringing off the hook. We need to continue with our mission to end violence against women and children. VAWA 2005 is an important step in that mission.

PASS THE CORPORATE PATRIOT
ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2005

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2005

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today marks the third time in as many Congresses that I have introduced the Corporate Patriot Enforcement Act. This legislation is designed to slam the door shut on a truly disgraceful corporate tax shelter.

Over the years, dozens of American companies have filed papers to trade in their U.S. corporate citizenship for citizenship in tax haven countries like Bermuda. By washing their hands of their U.S. citizenship, they are able to stop paying taxes on their foreign profits, draining more than \$4 billion out of U.S. coffers.

The companies themselves don't move physically—their operations, their factories, and their workforce remain wherever they were before. They continue to earn their profits in this country. They've simply discovered a technicality that they can exploit to rid themselves of their fair share of taxes, leaving the rest of us to pay for the services that they consume.

Right now, we're struggling to fight two wars and rebuild a hurricane-ravaged gulf coast, on the heels of five enormous tax cuts. The rainy day has come, but we've spent the rainy day fund. Our Nation has never been deeper in debt. We need to take a sober look at our Nation's finances, and this is an excellent place to start.

Eventually all of us will have to sacrifice a little to pull our Nation through this time; we've done it before and we'll have to do it again. When the rest of the country is contemplating additional sacrifices, it's only fair to require that these wealthy corporations start to meet the responsibilities that they have so far succeeded at shirking.

I am proud to sponsor the Corporate Patriot Enforcement Act, and I would urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

IN MEMORY OF RAY R.
POLIAKOFF

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Ray R. Poliakoff, a wonderful man and a friend to the community of Denton, Texas. Mr. Poliakoff passed away on Saturday, September 2, 2005 at Baylor Regional Medical in Plano. Ray was 86.

Ray R. Poliakoff was born March 12, 1919 and spent his life serving our country, committing his life to continuing education and working vigorously. He was a member of the United States Army in a Reconnaissance Intelligence Unit in Europe during World War II and was twice wounded in battle. After the war, he graduated from Indiana University with bachelor of law and doctor of jurisprudence degrees. He also received a Master of Arts degree in humanities from the University of Evansville, Indiana.

Throughout the years, Ray was very active in oil, gas and coal exploration and development. He held various executive positions in Northern Illinois Coal Corporation, Sentry Royalty Company, Sinclair Coal Company, Peabody Coal Company, AMAX Coal Company, Data Tech Corporation, and even independently produced oil for 12 years. During the period of 1949 to 1989, he also worked with various national and international concerns and individuals in coal, oil and gas, and other natural resource ventures and concessions in the U.S., Alaska, Canada, Europe, Australia, the Middle East and the Far East. Even though Ray retired in 1984 and in 1988 went on inactive status as an Indiana attorney in good standing, he remained a long-standing member of the American Bar Association and was, until recently, a member of the ABA Section on Natural Resources, Energy, and Environmental Law; Science and Technology; and Individual Rights and Responsibilities.

Today, I would like to recognize and celebrate Mr. Poliakoff's life. He was intelligent, thoughtful and a true American. Ray leaves behind his lovely wife, Dr. Ann Stuart, Chancellor of Texas Woman's University in Denton, his children and grandchildren. They are all in my thoughts and prayers. Ray will be deeply missed by his family and the community of North Texas.

ROCKVILLE MARYLAND'S
COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rockville, Maryland's Communications Team for its recent award in recognition of excellence in government programming.

The Rockville Channel, TRC 11, was recognized in 5 different categories at the awards banquet of the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors. The Rockville Channel consistently produces outstanding programming for the Rockville area and has often been recognized for excellence over the last 11 years.

I am also pleased that the City's Divisions of Graphics and Printing and Public Information recently combined to win two national awards at the City-County Communications and Marketing Association Conference in Atlanta. The Rockville Communications Teams provide a valuable public service and play a key role in my congressional district in keeping the public informed.

I applaud all members of the Rockville Communications Team for their outstanding efforts.

**HOUSTON POLICE OFFICER
MUZAFFAR SIDDIQI**

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2005

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, on October 1, 2005, the National Association of Police Organizations will honor law enforcement agencies and officers at the 12th Annual Top Cops Awards Ceremony here in Washington, DC. Officer Muzaffar Siddiqi of the Houston Police Department, a great man whom I have the privilege of knowing personally, is receiving an award at this prestigious event, and I join the city of Houston and all Texans in honoring this outstanding achievement.

As a former prosecutor and criminal court judge in Houston, TX, I have had a long-standing relationship with the Houston Police Department. I have witnessed many great works by police officers in Houston and the surrounding communities, and I can say without hesitation that Officer Siddiqi's record of service is exemplary. Having previously been named Houston Police Department Officer of the Year, Officer Siddiqi has received high honors throughout his career. His service has been recognized at all levels: city, State and Federal.

Before working for the Houston Police Department, Officer Siddiqi served as a police officer in Karachi, Pakistan. Since joining HPD, he has been a great asset in building positive relationships between law enforcement and Houston's South Asian and Middle Eastern communities. His work has been invaluable, and the people of Houston are fortunate to have a public servant of his caliber in uniform. As he honors the city of Houston with his service, Mr. Speaker, we must honor the selfless work of Officer Muzaffar Siddiqi.

JEAN D. MATHIS RETIREMENT:
SEPTEMBER 30, 2005

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the retirement of Jean D. Mathis whose contributions to the United States Drug

Enforcement Administration have been unparalleled.

Ms. Mathis was born on March 3, 1950 in Washington, DC. She attended DC public schools (Anthony Bowen Elementary, Randall Junior High and Dunbar High) and graduated from Howard University in 1972.

Ms. Mathis worked throughout her junior high, high school and college years and was introduced at an early age to work in government service.

Immediately following her graduation from college, she began her first full-time employment in the Federal Service with the District of Columbia Department of Corrections, where she worked until 1975. In October 1975, she began her employment with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Ms. Mathis distinguished herself from the beginning and quickly advanced through the ranks of the Operational Support Division. In 1990, Ms. Mathis was appointed as the Deputy Assistant Administrator of the Office of Personnel, becoming one of the first two women to enter DEA's Senior Executive Service (SES) and the first African-American woman promoted to the rank of SES. In 1994, Ms. Mathis was promoted to Assistant Administrator for Human Resources becoming DEA's first female Assistant Administrator.

Ms. Mathis' stellar career is marked by numerous exemplary achievements. Under her direction, the DEA instituted validated testing for senior law enforcement personnel, drug testing for employees and applicants, and psychological testing for Special Agents. In 1999, she played a vital leadership role in the opening of DEA's state of the art training facility in Quantico, Virginia. Ms. Mathis is a long-standing member of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE), and served as a member of the Training and Education Committee. She also chaired this committee for 2 years.

Ms. Mathis' outstanding work ethic and diligence have been recognized with a plethora of awards and commendations over the years. Moreover, her DEA accomplishments have been recognized government-wide as she distinguished herself and the DEA as a two-time recipient of the Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Performance in 1995 and 2001.

Over the years, Ms. Mathis has participated in extensive training programs including Management Training at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, University of Southern California and is a 2003 Brookings Fellow. It was as a Brookings Fellow that Jean came to work in my office and I received the benefit of her experience and wisdom. I have been actively engaged in the problems associated with illegal narcotics throughout my congressional career and have been aware of the role of the Drug Enforcement Administration in the implementation of our national anti-narcotics policies. Yet Jean Mathis taught me a great deal and enhanced my understanding and appreciation of the complexities of addressing the challenges of narcotics addiction and control. She performed superbly as my Congressional staff assistant and I regretted her return to the DEA.

In summary, the essence of Ms. Mathis' career was captured in a number of performance award justifications over the years including several DEA Administrators for whom she worked directly. Among them was former DEA Administrator Thomas A. Constantine who

stated, "Ms. Mathis leads by example, demanding high ethical standards and conscientious work. Her outstanding work ethic and diligence inspire and challenge her staff." Ms. Mathis has inspired all of those who were fortunate enough to work for or with her. Ms. Mathis' tenacious spirit and pursuit of excellence will be missed at DEA but will continue to inspire those who engage her throughout her retirement and personal endeavors.

**CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
J. GEORGE MITNICK**

HON. ARTUR DAVIS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer a tribute to Mr. J. George Mitnick.

Jasper, Alabama was not George Mitnick's first home—he was a Connecticut Yankee who migrated south—but Jasper was where George made his fortune and found his wife. Jasper is also a city that he shaped for over 5 decades: his footprints include the presidency of the local Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club; the Mitnick Wilderness Boot Camp for troubled teenagers; and of course, his role in founding Top Dollar, a retail chain of over 250 stores in 11 states.

George Mitnick helped make modern Jasper, but what made George Mitnick, above all, was the days he spent as an army captain helping to liberate Nazis death camps. George was a committed Jew before he entered those camps, but the degradation that he saw there alerted him to an existential threat to his people, and to the capacity of humans to violate each other.

Those camps never left George Mitnick's soul. They made him a vigilant defender of Israel's future and of American politicians who understood how essential Israel's future was to any vision of a just world. The death camps made him an activist—and I am honored that his activism led him to embrace my candidacy against a foe of Israel's aspirations. George was honored and humbled that his activism also made him AIPAC's "Man of the Year" in 2003.

I think that those awful, wretched camps also made George understand his adopted home better. George lived in Alabama during the years when the racial cauldron was boiling, and Alabama's ill temper on race was one of the aspects of his new state that he most disdained. He was a quiet, but real, force for integration in Jasper. George also raised a daughter who raised a daughter who married a black man. His grandson-in-law James, an African American, was one of George's pallbearers, and it is a measure of the Jasper that George help make that virtually no one stared at James' role. George's friends knew that tolerance was a Mitnick family value.

On August 6, 2005, J. George Mitnick died at the age of 87. I thank George for his faith and his life and for the promises he kept. I hope that my tenure in Congress will honor the world and the state he wanted to build. May the God of Abraham bless George Mitnick and his surviving wife Willene.