

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 MUFTIAH 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