

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 PROGRAMS 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 CORPORATION

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 NONCOMMIS- 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

Hanau, Germany, to Baghdad, where they were involved in the very important work of training Iraqi police.

Earlier this year, three weeks after returning from his Iraq deployment, Sgt. Kamphuis's commanding officer suggested that he participate in the Noncommissioned Officer competition. After winning four lower levels, beginning at battalion level and through his brigade and the Fifth Army Corps, Sgt. Kamphuis found himself at Fort Lee, Virginia, this September

with nine other finalists, competing for 5 days and enduring stringent physical and mental challenges. The final challenge was a six-mile run in which Sgt. Kamphuis and his competitors each had to wear a full uniform, 40 pounds of body armor, a 40-pound pack and combat boots. Sgt. Kamphuis completed the course in one hour, 10 minutes.

As the Army's Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, Sgt. Kamphuis will represent the Army on key occasions, as well as continuing

to do his job as a member of and trainer for the 127th Military Police Company.

On the occasion of Veterans Day, I want to commend Sgt. Jeremy Kamphuis and all his comrades for the jobs they do in protecting our country and our world each and every day. Thank you and congratulations to Sgt. Kamphuis on being named the U.S. Army's Noncommissioned Officer of the Year.