

In particular, the Parliamentarians do an extraordinary job in making sure that things are done correctly, by the book, and Muftiah has certainly been a part of a great team and will be greatly missed.

Muftiah, thank you for the wonderful, wonderful, good, solid advice and the professional manner with which you have distinguished yourself in this House of Representatives. I know it is very difficult to walk away.

Mr. Speaker, we owe her a great deal for what she has done for those of us who have had the privilege of presiding and for her great advice.

Good luck and Godspeed. We are very grateful to you.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I would say to my friend that so many of us have seen the gentleman from Illinois, in an extraordinarily able manner, preside over this institution. The word is now out that it is not RAY LAHOOD who is presiding so ably over this great institution, it is Muftiah McCartin who is, in fact, making that happen.

When it comes to appreciation, the gentleman is absolutely right, Mr. Speaker, we do not express enough appreciation to our staff.

Muftiah, I will say to you, you saw what RAY LAHOOD did to ensure that he was adequately appreciated. He went from serving as a staff member to becoming a Member of Congress. I don't want to necessarily recommend that to you as you head into retirement, but if you do want to follow the LaHood model, it is certainly something you might consider.

Let me say again, congratulations to Muftiah for her phenomenal service. I know on behalf of Speaker HASTERT, the House leadership, and all the Members of this institution on both sides of the aisle, we are very, very honored to have had you serve here so ably.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the many years of service of House parliamentarian, Muftiah McCartin, who completes her excellent work in this body later this week.

Ms. McCartin joined the Parliamentarian's office in 1976, and has served during the tenure of six Speakers of the House, and six Presidents.

In 1991, she became the first woman to be appointed a Parliamentarian. As someone who understands the importance of breaking glass ceilings, I am particularly honored to acknowledge her outstanding work.

Muftiah has always had a wonderful smile and a warm demeanor on the House floor. As we know, it can get pretty heated in debate and very partisan.

But Muftiah has always been a calm and rational presence to Members of both sides of the aisle and their staff who seek parliamentary advice. She has brought a keen mind, and a clear understanding of House rules that has served this institution very well.

In addition to the long, grueling hours that she has spent on the House floor, Muftiah McCartin has managed to raise four wonderful children: Marissa, Elaine, Sandra, and Luke. I'm sure she will welcome spending the extra time with her family and her husband, Terry.

Muftiah, today we thank you for your service to this great institution and wish you the very best. You have been a tremendous asset to the work that we do every day. And we will miss you.

Thank you again for your many years of commitment toward making this House of Representatives a better place.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the 1-minute speech I just offered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

SAYING FAREWELL TO MUFTIAH MCCARTIN

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the many years of service of House Parliamentarian Muftiah McCartin, who completes her excellent work in this body later this week. Ms. McCartin joined the Parliamentarian's Office in 1976, and has served during the tenure of six Speakers and six Presidents. In 1991, she became the first woman to be appointed a Parliamentarian.

The minority leader, Ms. PELOSI, is someone who understands the importance of breaking glass ceilings. She had hoped to be here personally to congratulate Muftiah on her outstanding work and her dedication over the many years.

She goes on to say Muftiah always had such a wonderful smile and warm demeanor on the House floor, which I might comment often lacks smiles and warm demeanors. Well, it is warm; sometimes heated. As we know, it can get heated in debate and very partisan, but she has always been a calm and rational presence to Members on both sides of the aisle and their staff who seek parliamentary advice. She brought a keen mind and a clear understanding of House rules that have served this institution very well.

In addition to the long, grueling hours she has spent on the House floor, she has managed to raise four wonderful children: Marissa, Elaine, Sandra, and Luke, one of whom has the great, good sense to have moved to my congressional district. That is my district, not Ms. PELOSI's. I am sure she will welcome spending the extra time with her family and her husband, Terry.

Muftiah, today we thank you for your service to this great institution and wish you the very best. You have been a tremendous asset to the work we do every day, and we will miss you. Thank you again for your many years of commitment toward making the House of Representatives a better place.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DEFAZIO. I yield to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I find it a great irony and some goodness that I can get some time from my friend.

I was sitting in my office and I did not know, frankly, that Muftiah was old enough to retire, take on another job, or leave the nest here, or whatever she is doing, but as somebody who has personally benefited from her expertise and wisdom, as I have had the honor to sit in the Chair, I can say we could not have laymen go up there and hold the gavel without somebody like Muftiah at our right arm telling us sometimes what to say and what not to say. I am sure she never would sit down when I had the gavel because she was nervous something would go awry.

The other thing that is important, when school kids and visitors come to the House Chamber, I often point to the picture of George Washington and the fact that you can still see the sword painted out of his hand. I explain to school kids the reason the sword was painted out of his hand in his portrait in the House Chamber is that we philosophically believe that our debate here, our spirited debate, sometimes our acrimonious debate, sometimes our bitter debate, is still better than the alternative, and that alternative is civil war or civil disruption, as we see around the world.

□ 1845

I believe that all of our Parliamentarians aid that in that sometimes we get out of line, Democrats or Republicans, in the spirit of the moment, in the emotion of the moment, and we say something that we regret saying; and it is at that time when all eyes turn to a nonpartisan, objective third party who can say everybody sit down, a little calmness here, let us get through this maze of parliamentary mystery and then get back on the course of civil discussion.

I want to say, Muftiah, thank you for being part of that team and thank you for everything that you are doing. Your job is a profound one, and it is one that should be studied in every civics class in every school at every level of education in America.

And I want to say to my friend from the west coast who does not always vote green when I vote red and vice versa, we always agree that this is the place where we can come and have good, open debate thanks to people like Muftiah and the Parliamentarians.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, that is correct. I only regret that she trained him too well.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FORTENBERRY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the