

On his way home, he was involved in a car accident directly resulting from complications of his illness, and he passed away on September 16, 2011.

Trooper Clifford Fontaine served in the Nevada Highway Patrol for 15 years after previously working as an airline mechanic and as an advanced emergency medical technician. He is remembered for his kindness, his compassion, and for being a peacemaker in all facets of his life.

Trooper Fontaine passed away on November 27, 2021, from complications as a result of contracting COVID-19 in the line of duty.

Officer Anthony Francone retired from law enforcement, but he still answered the call to serve with multiple agencies in Nevada, including the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal Police Department.

Nothing was more important to him and his family, including his two sons, and his daughter, who he dedicated every waking moment to as she battled a rare form of muscular dystrophy.

During an attempt to stop a fleeing subject, Officer Francone put himself in harm's way to deploy spike strips and was tragically struck by the vehicle. He passed away on August 25, 2023.

Sergeant Michael Abbate served in the Nevada Highway Patrol for nearly 11 years. A former race car driver himself, he utilized his passion for fast cars by teaching cadets about road safety and by running the emergency vehicle operations course for southern Nevada.

Trooper Alberto Felix served in the Nevada Highway Patrol for 4 years. A United States Air Force veteran, his friends and family remember him for his selfless leadership, his sense of humor, and his love of helping people. He especially took pride in removing impaired drivers, which undoubtedly saved countless lives in Nevada throughout his career.

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Both Sergeant Abbate and Trooper Felix passed away on November 30, 2023, after they were struck by a suspected drunk driver while they were going out of their way to check on the welfare of a driver asleep in his car. In recognition of their service and heroism, Sergeant Abbate and Trooper Felix were posthumously awarded the Nevada State Police Medal of Valor.

We cannot bring back those we have lost, but the least we can do is honor the sacrifices they made to keep ourselves, our loved ones, and our communities safe.

I join my colleagues in expressing my condolences to the families, friends, and other colleagues of these public servants, and all of those who mourn the loss of the brave men and women whose duty and sacrifice will be commemorated at this year's memorial.

Let me reiterate that we can't bring these heroes back, but we can acknowledge the work they did, the sacrifice they made, and the life they gave to help all of us live in safer communities and with safer families.

Madam Speaker, I urge support of this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for closing.

All of us have had our hearts broken as we have watched the nightly news somewhere in our own town, our own State, or across the country as brave men and women wearing the uniform have run to the bullets, have run to the sound of the guns, have run to the violence—too many.

As law enforcement struggles to maintain recruitment, as, unfortunately, too many places in America don't respect the work that they do, it is an unfortunate situation we find ourselves in.

I can imagine every single day when an officer leaves their home, their family, and kisses their husband or wife or children good-bye, every day you never know, whether it is a traffic stop or a warrant service, where there is some bad turn of events and the officer never comes home.

That has to end in America, Madam Speaker. That circumstance has to end. While it is present and while we seek a better future for our country and the men and women who serve so bravely in uniform, the one small thing that we can do is open up their United States Capitol to bring attention and draw attention to what has happened with the unimaginable sacrifice that they have made, that their families continue to endure, so that all of America and all the world can see who we honor.

Madam Speaker, I urge support of H. Con. Res. 83 to allow these Capitol Grounds to be used for a memorial service to honor our Nation's fallen law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty in 2023, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 83.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ESTABLISHING AN EXPIRATION DATE OF CERTAIN COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS WITH RESPECT TO LEASES OR PROJECTS

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6316) to amend title 40, United States Code, to establish an expiration date of certain committee resolutions with respect to leases or projects, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6316

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. LIMITATION ON AUTHORIZATIONS.

Section 3307 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(1) EXPIRATION OF COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Unless a lease is awarded or a construction, alteration, repair, design, or acquisition project is initiated not later than 5 years after the resolution approvals adopted by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives or the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate pursuant to subsection (a), such resolutions shall be deemed expired.

“(2) APPLICATION.—This subsection shall only apply to resolutions approved after the date of enactment of this subsection.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD on H.R. 6316.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 6316 sets an expiration date for committee resolutions for the General Services Administration's capital leasing and improvements program.

If the GSA fails to proceed with a project that has been approved by both the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works within 5 years, the bill would require that the authorization expires and the GSA would then return to the committees for a new approval.

I thank my good friend, Ranking Member TITUS of the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, for her leadership and work on H.R. 6316 and for working with me and the whole committee on this piece of legislation, which I am proud to cosponsor.

Madam Speaker, I urge support of this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As you heard, H.R. 6316 sets a 5-year expiration on resolutions approving GSA construction, alteration, repair, design, or acquisition projects. This means that if within 5 years of the passage of the resolution GSA has not executed the project, then the authorization is deemed expired.

This has been a concern to Members on both sides of the aisle for years. Similar provisions were included in former T&I Chairman Shuster's Public Buildings Reform and Savings Act of 2016 and former Chairman Barletta's

REAL Reform Act of 2018. Unfortunately, neither of these bills was signed into law.

I hear from the many Federal agencies that I work with that it can be difficult to obtain information from GSA on the status of projects authorized by Congress, especially the construction of new courthouses. Once we authorize an activity, whether it is a leasing activity or construction of a new building, we currently have little access to how, when, and if the project has been executed.

This lack of information became apparent after GSA submitted a prospectus to build a new courthouse in Los Angeles, California, in 2000 as part of its FY 2001 capital investment program. Even though there were already two courthouses in Los Angeles, the Judicial Conference insisted that the L.A. courthouse complex was so short of space for judges that it was the number one space emergency in the country.

GSA submitted a prospectus to build a new courthouse totaling 712,102 gross square feet at a cost of \$266 million, and the committee approved it. The design of the building, however, exceeded the congressionally authorized size by 13 courtrooms, 260,000 square feet, and \$100 million, and the scope of the project changed so often that GSA eventually just canceled the project in 2006, despite saying it had been an emergency.

Then, in 2011, the courts and GSA announced that they would move forward with a downsized project that would not exceed the size and cost originally authorized by Congress more than 10 years earlier, without providing any notification to Congress.

Some members of the T&I Committee were so concerned about GSA's actions and lack of transparency on the Los Angeles courthouse project that they requested a GAO study of the courthouse construction program and held a series of hearings about GSA's construction of Federal courthouses.

Although Chairmen Shuster and Barletta are no longer with us here in Congress, their concerns, as well as the longtime concerns of my colleague, Congresswoman NORTON, are still relevant, and this legislation is more necessary than ever.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation so we can ensure GSA is being a good steward of taxpayer dollars. I thank Chairman PERRY for his help in getting this to the floor, and I urge Members to vote in favor of it.

Madam Speaker, I think this is a bill that is worth bragging about. It is not very sexy and probably won't get a lot of press, but it is one of those things that can really make a difference. It will encourage GSA to move forward with needed projects. It will shorten the amount of time it takes to get these projects on the ground. No doubt, it will also save taxpayer dollars.

Madam Speaker, I urge support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I agree with the gentlewoman from Nevada that maybe it is not going to get a lot of press, but I think we both agree that it is simply good governing. Project proposals can grow stale, and if GSA fails to proceed on the authorization within 5 years, the agency should be required to resubmit the proposal. A lot of things can change in 5 years, and we have seen that.

H.R. 6316 would increase GSA's accountability to Congress and, more importantly, to the American people, ultimately aiding in our ability to conduct appropriate oversight of these leases and these projects.

Madam Speaker, I urge support of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6316.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2023

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6254) to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a review on the Public Buildings Service, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6254

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Public Buildings Accountability Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. REPORT ON PUBLIC BUILDINGS SERVICE.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review of the Public Buildings Service and submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a report containing the results of such review, including—

(1) a review of the administration and management of all Public Buildings Service real estate programs and activities, including—

(A) a review and accounting of the number of employees and contract workers, including functions and the sources of funding (for example building operations, reimbursable work, project-specific funding) categorized by region and organizational, management, and oversight structure within the Public Building Service, including identification of components, programs, and reporting structures;

(B) an accounting of in-person attendance by employee category and function;

(C) an analysis, trends, and comparisons of staffing numbers and associated costs and other administrative costs over the 10 years preceding the review; and

(D) an analysis of the effectiveness of organizational structure, management, and oversight in carrying out the mission of the Public Buildings Service; and

(2) a review of the building operations account of the Federal Buildings Fund established by section 592 of title 40, United States Code, including activities and costs associated with conferences, training, and travel and transportation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD on H.R. 6254.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 6254 directs the Government Accountability Office to review the General Services Administration's Public Building Service personnel structure, including staffing trends, work locations, and organizational structure.

GSA's Public Building Service administrative budget, including staffing, is paid for out of the Federal Buildings Fund. Because it is buried in a larger fund, it is difficult to track and evaluate the Public Buildings Service workforce and its management to conduct appropriate oversight.

This bill would seek to address that issue, increasing transparency and, ultimately, greater oversight.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from Wisconsin (Mr. VAN ORDEN) for introducing H.R. 6254, the Public Buildings Accountability Act of 2023, and for his leadership on this important issue.

Madam Speaker, I urge support of this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this Public Buildings Accountability Act of 2023, H.R. 6254, which directs the GAO to review the administration and management of GSA's real estate programs, activities, funding, and staffing.

Information and data are essential for Congress to conduct proper oversight of the agencies under its jurisdiction. Having GAO do an independent analysis of the efficacy of the GSA's operations will help the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee better evaluate GSA authorization requests.

However, GAO must work with the Department of Homeland Security's Interagency Security Committee to ensure that security concerns for the employees and buildings are addressed.