

freedom just 90 miles from our shore. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of a Leoncio Rodríguez Ponce and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN SILHAVY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and pleasure that I stand before you today to recognize the many accomplishments of Mr. John Silhavy. I have known John for many years, and he is one of the most involved citizens I have ever known, especially when it comes to his service to the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM & AW). John has been a member of the IAM & AW for an astounding 45 years, and his contributions to the organization are immeasurable. Though John has been a constant fixture within the organization, he will be retiring from the IAM & AW at year's end. For his efforts and many contributions to the union, John will be honored at a retirement celebration on Saturday, December 9, 2006, at the IAM & AW Local Lodge 1227 in Valparaiso, Indiana.

John Silhavy was born in Valparaiso, Indiana in 1943 and grew up on a farm with his two brothers and two sisters. After graduating from the Valparaiso School System in 1961, he joined the IAM while working for McGill Manufacturing. John's service as an elected member of the union began in 1965, when he was elected Union Steward in the external grinding department. From there, John's dedication to the union and its members continued as he was elected Vice President of Local Lodge 1227 in 1969. With John's commitment to serve, it is only fitting that in 1971, John was elected President of Local Lodge 1227, a position he would hold for an astonishing 23 years. Equally impressive, John also served as a member of the Bargaining Committee from 1970 to 1994.

Aside from his service to the local lodge, John also held many posts with District Lodge 72, a further demonstration of his commitment to the union and its membership. From 1976 to 1994, John served as a Delegate of the Lodge. The respect and trust the union's members have for John has never been questioned, and evidence of this can clearly be seen in the fact that John also was elected to serve as Trustee, Vice-President, and of course, President of District Lodge 72. John held this distinguished position until 1994, when he was elected to the position of Business Representative for District Lodge 90. Since then, John's service has continued, and in 1999, he was elected to his current position, Directing Business Representative for District Lodge 90, a post he will vacate through his retirement on December 31, 2006. Also important to note, in 1996, John served on the IAM Blue Ribbon Commission, which was established with the goal of finding ways to improve the IAM on a national level. John's knowledge of the union and his field, along with his willingness to serve, has made him one of the most well-respected individuals the union has ever seen. His daily presence will surely be missed.

When not engaged within the union, John spends his spare time with those closest to him, his family. A loving husband, father, and grandfather, John's commitment to the union and its members is surpassed only by his dedication to his family. John and his wife, Carolyn, have shared many wonderful years together. They have been blessed with two daughters, Tina and Tammy, and John's stepsons, Robert and James. John and Carolyn are also the proud grandparents of James, Jason, Joel, and Jordan.

Mr. Speaker, John Silhavy has given his time and efforts selflessly to the members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers for the past 45 years. At this time, I ask that you and all of my distinguished colleagues join me in commending him for his lifetime of service and dedication.

FACTOLA RESERVOIR REALLOCATION AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 819, the Pactola Reservoir Reallocation Authorization Act, and its House companion H.R. 3967. As has been noted during numerous legislative hearings, markups, and previous Floor proceedings, this legislation is critical to meet the changing water needs of one of South Dakota's largest and fastest growing communities—Rapid City.

Part of this legislative process has included additional consultation with the Bureau of Reclamation, which administers the Pactola Dam and Reservoir, and the Ellsworth Air Force Base, one of the most important entities to rely on the reservoir's water. Accordingly, I would like to submit the following comments to clarify the intent of this legislation.

The Pactola Dam and Reservoir is currently authorized for both irrigation and municipal and industrial use with its costs allocated to reflect those uses. Over time, municipal and industrial uses have increased while irrigation uses have decreased, creating a need to reallocate costs better reflecting current usage. When the Secretary of the Interior needs to reallocate costs from an existing allocation where there are multiple uses to a new allocation with multiple uses in different amounts, Congressional approval is required under the McGovern Amendment.

The current language in the Bill under section 3 could be read to imply that the Pactola Dam and Reservoir is a single purpose, irrigation only project. This interpretation is incorrect as the Pactola Dam and Reservoir remain multipurpose projects. Both S. 819 and H.R. 3967 simply reallocate costs from an older multi-purpose allocation to a new multi-purpose allocation. This is consistent with the McGovern Amendment.

Some additional clarification is also warranted with respect to the needs of the Ellsworth Air Force Base. As already stated, this legislation allocates additional costs to the municipal and industrial component of the Pactola Reservoir effectively making available additional water for municipal and industrial use. It

is anticipated that Rapid City, South Dakota will contract for much of this allocation. Nothing in the legislation should be construed to change in any way the Bureau of Reclamation's and Rapid City's existing obligations to the Ellsworth Air Force Base.

The definite plan report for this project prepared by the Bureau of Reclamation dated June 1952 makes it clear that the Air Force would contribute its share of the capital cost of the project in advance. The Air Force Appropriation for the year 1954 included funds to cover the Air Force share of the project. Accordingly, the Air Force has fully paid its capital contribution and remains entitled to its share of the water without paying additional capital cost. Ellsworth Air Force Base currently has an allocation of 1810 acre-feet per year of water from the project. The Air Force is required to pay only the reasonable cost of transporting, and if appropriate, treating the water it uses. Nothing in this legislation is intended to affect the Bureau of Reclamation's obligation to make that water available to Ellsworth, and nothing is intended to suggest in any way that the Air Force Base should pay more than the reasonable cost of treating and transporting the water.

In entering revised contracts with Rapid City, the Bureau of Reclamation is expected to ensure that Rapid City provides the delivery of water to the Air Force Base at no more than the reasonable cost of treating and transporting the water.

This legislation is not intended to limit in any way the Air Force's ability to make an arrangement with a party other than Rapid City for the delivery of its allocation of water from Pactola Reservoir. There may be private parties or others who are able to build a pipeline for water delivery at lower cost than using Rapid City's distribution system. Making such arrangements is not inconsistent with this legislation or the definite plan report.

Although Rapid City's increased demand for water is a key consideration supporting this legislation, Ellsworth Air Force Base may also be obtaining an additional allocation of water in the event that the Air Force directs new mission to Ellsworth or reconfigures Ellsworth's existing mission in such a way that it needs additional water beyond the amount it has already been allotted. It is Congress' intent that water from Pactola Reservoir is provided at no more than the reasonable cost of treating and transporting the water without regard to the number of missions at Ellsworth Air Force Base.

With these clarifications in mind, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation. I have appreciated the opportunity to advance this legislation on the House Resources Committee and would like to thank the Chairman and Ranking Member for their support.

TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW VERNON PURBAUGH

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a young friend of mine, Matthew

Vernon Purbaugh. While Matthew does not reside in my district, he and I share a great love of the English language and a great respect of words in general.

Matthew Purbaugh is an amateur published poet; his poem "Noon" appeared in the International Society of Poets' 2006 edition. He was awarded "Outstanding Achievement in Poetry" and Best Amateur Poet. Matthew was recently invited to submit a new work for "Who's Who in American Poetry."

I share his poem "Words" with you today.

WORDS

What is it in a word

That

Can Stir the heart of men
To bring them to do great and
Courageous deeds?

What is it about words.

That,

Let them have the power
To topple empires of stone and steel?

What is it about words,

That,

Let them have the power
To topple empires of stone and steel?

What is it about words,

That

Let them go deeper than the strongest bul-
let?

What is it about words,

That

Let them hold sway over men
More than their fate
More than the point of a gun?

What is in words?

That

Lets something we have created
Hold sway over us, more than,
Our deepest fears?

And our greatest, Driving Desires?

HONORING DR. MUHAMMAD YUNUS
NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER 2006

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Muhammad Yunus of Bangladesh, winner of the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize.

Dr. Yunus is a visionary in the effort to improve the economies of the developing world. He first began his revolutionary work in 1974 during a widespread famine in his native Bangladesh. Then an economics professor at Chittagong University, Dr. Yunus began experimenting with different ways to help the poor. He struck upon the concept of microcredit, the provision of very small loans to poor individuals to start or improve basic businesses.

Although desperately poor, those to whom Dr. Yunus lent money proved to be dependable clients and could be relied upon to repay their debts. When local banks declined to make small loans of this sort, Dr. Yunus founded the Grameen Bank in order to do it himself. To date, the Grameen Bank has disbursed more than \$5.3 billion to nearly seven million borrowers, most of whom have no collateral.

Dr. Yunus' objective is to rid the world of poverty, and his microcredit concept has indeed showed promising results. Roughly half of Dr. Yunus' clients have achieved basic eco-

nomic objectives: a home with a metal roof; clean drinking water; a sanitary latrine; warm clothes for winter and mosquito netting for summer; about seventy-five dollars in a savings account; and schooling for the children. Upon this foundation, one can envision a world in which the scourge of poverty is banished.

Dr. Yunus' achievements have long been praised; it is fitting that he has finally received the high honor of the Nobel Prize. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Dr. Yunus on this occasion.

DIVESTMENT FROM SUDAN

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I want to share with our colleagues my statement from a press conference I hosted with Congressman DONALD PAYNE, and the Genocide Intervention Network today calling on all state Governors to divest from companies doing business in Sudan. Local students from Langley High School and Westfield High School also participated, and I would like to commend them for being so active on this issue.

Thank you all for coming. Today I join my good friend and congressional colleague Donald Payne in calling on all states to divest from companies doing business in Sudan. I want to especially thank the Sudan Divestment Taskforce and the Genocide Intervention Network for working so hard on this issue. This movement started at UCLA and Swarthmore College and has gained recognition over the last 2 years. I also would like to thank all of the students in attendance. So many young people are embracing this issue. I commend them and urge them to remain vigilant.

For over 20 years the government of Sudan engaged in a brutal civil war with the people of southern Sudan. This conflict took the lives of over 2 million people. During this time slavery flourished and terrorism took root in Sudan. In 2003 a conflict in Sudan's Darfur region broke out. The government reacted by unleashing a war on innocent people and began the genocide. That was 3 years ago. Over 400,000 people have died since and over 2 million continue to be at risk.

I led the first congressional delegation to Darfur. I witnessed the horror these people live with day to day and the impact of decades of war. Just last week the United Nations reported fresh ongoing attacks. There is no question that the government of Sudan orchestrated and continues to direct the genocide in Darfur. In one village, 27 of the people that were killed were children under the age of 12. The United Nations is working to try to get desperately needed U.N. troops on the ground but the government of Sudan continues to reject this deployment.

Targeted divestment from companies doing business in Sudan is an action that can make a difference. The genocide in Sudan can be stopped. Every American can do his or her part. The United States Congress and the president have called it genocide. It is now up to the states to apply economic pressure on the government of Sudan and divest from companies doing business in Sudan. We have seen in the past that the government in Khartoum responds to economic pressure.

Last month I called on my home state of Virginia to divest and a state senator will be

putting forth legislation when the General Assembly returns in January. I hope every state will follow the lead of California, Connecticut, Illinois, Maine, New Jersey and Oregon which have already moved to divest from companies doing business with Sudan. Today we call on the remaining 44 states to do the same.

We encourage all governors to review their state's pension funds and identify companies which are doing the type of business in Sudan that is aiding the government and fulfilling this genocide, not helping the people. We ask that they work with their state legislators to enact legislation to divest from those companies.

California just passed a law last month and its model of targeted divestment limits the scope of companies and investments, providing a good plan for action. We need to send a signal to the government in Khartoum that America and the West will not stand silent in the face of genocide—that the women and children in those camps matter as much to us as our own families.

History will judge our willingness to act.

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL SPINA
BIFIDA AWARENESS MONTH

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the more than 70,000 people in the United States currently living with Spina Bifida, the most common permanently disabling birth defect. Each October we recognize these Americans during National Spina Bifida Awareness Month and recognize the importance to work year round to advance research, programs, and policies to meet the needs of this important community.

National Spina Bifida Awareness Month is sponsored by the Spina Bifida Association (SBA), which for more than 30 years has helped those living with and affected by this debilitating birth defect. As co-chair of the Congressional Spina Bifida Caucus, I've had the honor to work with my co-chair, Representative CHRIS SMITH, and SBA to advance Spina Bifida awareness, research, and public health efforts in Congress. Founded in 1973, SBA is the Nation's only organization solely dedicated to advocating on behalf of the Spina Bifida community. Through its nearly 60 chapters in more than 125 communities, the SBA brings expectant parents together with those who have a child with Spina Bifida. This interaction helps to answer questions and concerns, but most importantly it lends much needed support and provides hope and inspiration.

Mr. Speaker, Spina Bifida is a birth defect that can happen to anyone. It is a neural tube defect that occurs in the first month of pregnancy when the spinal column does not close completely. Everyday, an average of eight babies are affected by Spina Bifida and approximately 3,000 pregnancies are affected by this birth defect each year. We do not know the exact cause of it, but research found that if a woman takes 400 mcg of folic acid every day before she becomes pregnant, she reduces her risk of having a baby with Spina Bifida or another neural tube defect by as much as 70 percent.

No two cases of Spina Bifida are ever the same. While Spina Bifida typically causes a