

Mr. Purnell is indeed a pillar of his community. He was a plaintiff in the historic voting rights lawsuit in Halifax County that resulted in the creation of a district method of election for the Board of County Commissioners.

Mr. Purnell's friends and family say that dispensing advice is his second profession. He has often been the chief advisor on matters of local importance. His daughter Sonya is insistent that "when my daddy spoke, people listened." Mr. Speaker, that is why this past week, Mr. Purnell was finally recognized for his tremendous work as a local leader. The longtime community activist was honored at a ceremony for the new apartment complex recently completed in the Roanoke Rapids area of my district. At the dedication ceremony the Olde Town Village Apartment Complex Activity Center was named in Mr. Purnell's honor.

Mr. Speaker, I could not imagine a more fitting facility to bear the name of Mr. Purnell than a community activity center in an area where he has been so adamantly committed to raising the quality of life.

I rise both to honor the life and service of Mr. Jettie Purnell and to thank him for his many years of service. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a man that has given to his community without ever asking to be recognized. This brief mention is the very least that we can do.

HONORING WILLIAM HARTWIG ON  
THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated public servant, William "Bill" Hartwig, on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Department of Interior. For the past few years Bill has been serving as Chief of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

I first met Bill in 2000 when he was working as the Regional Director for the Midwest Region. Together we embarked on a project unprecedented in America's history: an international sanctuary for birds, plants, and animals of all kinds. Today, Detroit is blessed with the serene beauty of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. This 2,100-acre refuge provides Southeast Michigan citizens with a previously unimaginable opportunity to experience the magnificence of a lush habitat for hundreds of protected species close to home. To Bill's eternal credit, this remarkable project would never have been possible without his vision and powerful determination.

Long before becoming one of the Nation's great conservationists, Bill was born in Riverside, CA. Recognizing his life's path early, he graduated from West Virginia University with a bachelor's degree in outdoor recreation. Between WVU and receiving his master's degree in administration from George Washington University in 1976, Bill served in Vietnam where he received Army Commendation Medals and the Bronze Star.

Bill began his work in the Department of the Interior in 1977. Through the course of his illustrious career there, his care for the environment and all its inhabitants touched an incredible variety of issues ranging from land man-

agement to migratory bird conservation. In 1988 he received the Department's Meritorious Service Award and in 1990 was named an "Unusually Outstanding Employee."

Bill Hartwig is a great conservationist and his impact on this country is impressive and profound. I personally thank Bill for his invaluable help in creating the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, and I invite you Mr. Speaker, and all my colleagues, to join me in recognizing Bill for his dedication to the out-of-doors, to conservation, and for his long and distinguished career with the Department of the Interior.

PALESTINIAN ANTI-TERRORISM  
ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, tonight we should be working to ensure security and peace for Israel and more hope, opportunity and peace for the Palestinian people. Among our colleagues in the U.S. House, there is unanimous intolerance and condemnation for the current Hamas-led government of the Palestinian Authority. The refusal of the political leadership of Hamas to recognize the State of Israel, renounce violence and terrorism, and agree to previous agreements and obligations of the Palestinian Authority is unacceptable and therefore they must continue to be isolated by the international community.

Congress should be here tonight unanimously passing a bill that supports Secretary of State Rice as she leads the international community to keep firm pressure on Hamas until they agree to an internationally recognized civilized standard of conduct. At the same time, Congress should be working to support the Bush administration and the international community to avoid a serious humanitarian crisis among the Palestinian people.

On May 9, 2006, Secretary Rice said as she announced \$10 million of medical assistance to the Palestinian people, "We will continue to look for ways to assist the Palestinian people and will encourage other countries to join us in this effort. We will not, however, provide support to a Hamas-led government that refuses to accept the calls of the Quartet and the broader international community to renounce terror and become a partner for peace."

I strongly support her efforts and it is unfortunate that a bill could not be drafted to come to the floor this evening that was supported by the State Department. The State Department's comment regarding H.R. 4681 is "this bill is unnecessary."

Unfortunately, instead of advancing the U.S. interests, H.R. 4681 does not recognize the three criteria set forth by President Bush—demanded by President Bush and the international community—for Hamas to commence any form of engagement with the U.S. and the international community.

H.R. 4681 sets an elevated threshold which will make U.S. leadership for peace in the Middle East nearly impossible even if Hamas does agree to recognize Israel, does renounce

terrorism and does agree to abide by all previous agreements. The outcome of this bill, if it were to become law, would be to isolate Palestinian leaders who have been committed to advancing the peace process, isolate leaders who have denounced terrorism, and isolate leaders who are working with Israel for peace and a permanent two-state solution.

How does this bill advance U.S. goals in the region? It doesn't.

This bill's real result will be to isolate the U.S. among members of the international community that are working for a peaceful and just solution between Israel and the Palestinians.

One of our partners in isolating Hamas and delivering humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people is the United Nations. A section of this bill calls for withholding a portion of U.S. contribution to the United Nation as if this valuable partner were the enemy. For this bill to target the United Nations—a member of the Quartet—in such a fashion is a clear sign that this bill is intended to undermine the Bush administration's multilateral leadership.

This bill places extreme constraints on the delivery of humanitarian assistance by non-governmental organizations to the Palestinian people. This bill's unnecessary obstacles have the potential for very negative human consequences and would exacerbate a humanitarian crisis. Palestinian families and children must not be targeted for deprivation of their basic human needs by this Congress. Instead let this House ensure that Palestinian families and children will be treated in a fashion that reflects our values and the belief that their lives are valued.

NGOs with significant experience delivering humanitarian assistance have expressed serious concerns that the lack of flexibility in H.R. 4681.

An April 6, 2006 letter from United States Conference on Catholic Bishops to Chairman Hyde expressing concerns regarding the substitute amendment to H.R. 4681 states, "the legislation should provide for the urgent needs of the Palestinian people. A further deterioration of the humanitarian and economic situation of the Palestinian people compromises human dignity and serves the long term interests neither of Palestinians nor of Israelis who long for a just peace."

In its present form, this bill will not allow NGOs to properly carry out the very assistance determined to be necessary by Secretary Rice—ensuring suffering and misery among the Palestinian people.

Finally, my opposition to H.R. 4681 is based on policy grounds that reflect my support for a Middle East peace process which will ultimately yield security and freedom from terrorism for the State of Israel and the Israeli people, as well as a democratic, secure and peaceful state for the Palestinian people.

H.R. 4681, will result in no greater security or opportunities for peace than exist today with current law and the administration's present policy course. But this bill may in fact have the result of fueling a humanitarian crisis. Passing this bill undermines U.S. interests and has potential long-term negative consequences for the Israeli people and the Palestinians.

Later this week, in this chamber, we will be honored by the presence of Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert. In an interview last week, Primer Minister Olmert said the Palestinians