

and his beloved wife, Peg, the marketing director for the South Bend Museum of Art, have four children they are so proud of.

Steve has been South Bend's 31st and longest-serving mayor in the city's history. He took office in 1977, succeeding Joe Kernan, who became the lieutenant governor. Now in his fourth term, Mayor Lueke has championed the development of a city in which all residents can be proud to live and work.

Previously Steve served 9 years as a member of the South Bend Common Council, including two terms as president, representing the First District on South Bend's northwest side.

South Bend under his leadership has become a hub of technological diversity. Mayor Lueke spearheaded the demolition of nearly 4 million square feet of obsolete buildings in the former Studebaker Corridor and strengthened partnerships with leading community institutions, including the University of Notre Dame.

These efforts have come together as South Bend created Indiana's first dual-site, State-certified technology park, consisting of Innovation Park at Notre Dame and Ignition Park on the grounds of the former Studebaker Corporation. In addition, South Bend became the first U.S. city to create a broadband network, the Metronet, using its own traffic conduit.

As the owner of a small construction company, Steve took interest in neighborhood restoration, infrastructure improvements, and the revitalization of our city. Among other projects, he fostered the public-private restoration of the Morris Performing Arts Center, the Palais Royale ballroom, the Northeast Neighborhood revitalization, and the renovation of the former Engman Natatorium into the Indiana University South Bend Civil Rights Heritage Center. Under his leadership, South Bend received a White House designation in 2008 as a Preserve America Community. He also directed the completion of the riverwalk along the St. Joseph River and added 50 miles of bicycle lanes and routes throughout our city.

He has served on the advisory board for Indiana University South Bend during a period of expansion and growth that positioned it as an active participant in the economic development of our region. Enrollment growth at Ivy Tech Community College has exploded and has led to a partnership between the city's Redevelopment Commission and the college as the commission acquires and relocates businesses to help expand the campus of Ivy Tech even more.

With concern for the future, Mayor Lueke's vision has helped provide the spark for several environmental efforts that led to South Bend's designation as Indiana's Green Community of the Year in 2009.

Our city has developed into an innovative, dynamic and progressive place, and in 2011 it was named an All-America City. Mayor Steve's progressive vi-

sion, collaborative leadership, and passionate advocacy for good government earned him the 2011 Association of Cities and Towns Russell G. Lloyd Distinguished Service Award. He is also the 2011-2012 IACT president.

So today, on behalf of all the citizens of South Bend, Indiana, I want to thank Mayor Steve for his unselfish years of dedication to the city and to its people. You will never be forgotten.

Thank you for everything. Thank you, Mayor, and God bless you, Peg and your family.

YUCCA MOUNTAIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, this is my third time on the floor to talk about high-level nuclear waste in Yucca Mountain. I started talking about Hanford, which is in Washington State, comparing it to the Yucca facility. In Hanford, 53 million gallons of nuclear waste; zero at Yucca. Nuclear waste is stored 10 feet underground in Hanford; waste will be stored 1,000 feet underground in Yucca. Waste 1,000 feet from the water table at Yucca; 250 feet from the water table in Hanford.

At Yucca the nuclear waste will be 100 miles from the nearest river. At Hanford, it's 1 mile from the nearest river. So what are the Senators' positions on Yucca Mountain in Washington State and Oregon, knowing that we have 53 million gallons of high-level nuclear waste 1 mile from the Columbia River?

Senator CANTWELL is not supportive of Yucca Mountain. Senator MURRAY is supportive, at least in her public statements. Senator WYDEN is not supportive. And Senator MERKLEY is silent. They should not be silent.

A couple of weeks ago I then moved to my home State of Illinois and the decommissioned Zion nuclear power plant that still has high-level nuclear waste on site. Again, the same statistics for Yucca are there in a desert away from a river.

Zion is on Lake Michigan. Zion has 65 casks containing 1,135 metric tons of nuclear waste, waste stored above ground 5 feet above the water table, 1,300 feet from Lake Michigan. And Wisconsin has two nuclear power plants also on Lake Michigan. So what do the senators from the two States say?

Well, Senator DURBIN is supportive of Yucca Mountain. Senator KIRK is supportive of Yucca Mountain. Senator KOHL is supportive of Yucca Mountain. Senator JOHNSON is still silent on Yucca Mountain. I imagine we'll know soon.

Now we move to Georgia and South Carolina. Look at the difference here. Savannah River has 6,300 canisters of nuclear waste on-site. The waste is stored right below the ground. It is 0 to 160 feet above the water table, and it's right next to the Savannah River.

Again, compare that to Yucca Mountain—no nuclear waste. Waste would be stored 1,000 feet underground, 1,000 feet above the water table, and 100 miles from the Colorado River.

So where are these senators from Georgia and South Carolina? Well, Senator ISAKSON says "We need to retain Yucca Mountain as our Nation's high-level waste repository." So he supports.

Senator CHAMBLISS says, "We have long advocated that the Department of Energy immediately halt all actions to dismantle operations at Yucca Mountain." He supports.

Senator GRAHAM: "No one should be required to pay for an empty hole in the Nevada desert."

"The decision by the Obama administration to close Yucca Mountain is ill-advised and leaves our Nation without a disposal plan for spent nuclear fuel or Cold War waste." That's what Hanford is, Cold War nuclear waste from our weapons sector.

What does Senator DEMINT say? "Without Yucca Mountain, America will not have a safe and secure place to permanently store nuclear waste and instead waste will pile up at existing reactors."

We will continue, and I will continue to come down on the floor and go through the Nation highlighting high-level nuclear waste all over this country when the Federal law under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 says we should have one site, and the law says that site is Yucca Mountain.

And so as we continue to go through the States, hopefully some Senators will get off the dime and state their positions, culminating with 60 Senators in support as we move this forward, this Nation forward, to a more secure location for high-level nuclear waste away from lakes, away from rivers, away from the groundwater tables.

There's no safer place on the planet than underneath the mountain in a desert, and that place is Yucca Mountain.

□ 1020

INCOME DISPARITY IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, it appeared sometime yesterday that the Congressional Budget Office looked at statistically where the wealth of this country is being held and came to the conclusion that 1 percent of America's high earners have 42 percent of the Nation's wealth. It also pointed out that one out of every five kids, American kids, is born into poverty.

Well, certainly one might look at the income tax system to see whether or not this disparity is being dealt with. But if you do, you will find out that we have aggressively protected income for people who are wealthy enough to invest it at lower rates than lower income people who work hard every day

and yet have a higher rate of their income that they have paid taxes on.

What does this unfairness mean? Well, one thing I can tell you is that you're not going to have too much noise from the spiritual community because somehow they're silent as we deal with the question of budget deficits and budget cuts. They haven't responded to the fact that many of these cuts have to deal with income after retirement, with Social Security. Others deal with the ability to pay for health care. Others just deal with the plight of not being able to put food on the table, to get health care. In other words, it's all biblical as to what is wrong about the disparities in income. But there are other things that we don't talk about. You can rest assured that this includes some of the benefits that the 1 percent have.

Why is it that we know or that we can suspect that in this war where we lost so many lives, where so many people have been wounded, that our brave men and women coming home will subject themselves to a lack of funds to deal with their physical and mental problems, and yet we somehow know that that 1 percent was not involved in defending our great Nation? Oh, we take it for granted that those people who can't get jobs would volunteer, but we can almost know without any investigation that the wealthiest of Americans never found themselves protecting our flag.

What else can we tell? Well, we can tell there's a limited amount of money that billionaires can spend. And we don't expect them to be at the local supermarket or buying a pair of socks or going to the drugstore looking for prescriptions. No, they hold on to their money. They invest their money. They don't even lend their money.

But having said that, one thing is clear, that if we have the other 99 percent of the people that are not wealthy, and if it was possible for them to get a fairer shake and have more expendable income, you wouldn't have to put out ads for them to buy, that they have the needs and they would be purchasing. And small businesses depend on these people—not the barons, not the tycoons, but they depend on the people in the neighborhood. That's why the stores are located there. So it's not a question of having consumer confidence. It's a question of consumers not having the money to buy what they need.

But I really think the worst thing of all when we just overlook and don't pay attention to that is the American Dream that is being shattered, because we do know that poverty means you're not going to have good health; you're not going to get the kind of education to get out of poverty. Poverty means that you lose the hope and the dreams of this great Nation. And more than poverty and wealth, what really is the engine that makes our Nation so great is people from all over the world believe you can make it in the United States of America.

But when you are now going through decades of poverty, kids not able to go to college, those that graduate not able to find jobs, our young people and older alike running to the streets and protesting, explosion of this type occurring all over the great United States, then the hopes and dreams that are the engine that makes our country so great are limited in their ability to bring the scientists and the doctors and the people we need for this country.

One percent of our wage earners, 42 percent of the Nation's wealth, there is something wrong with that formula.

MOVING THE AMERICAN DREAM FORWARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, you probably get the same questions I get when I go back home. Those questions are from folks who came, they sat here in the gallery and they looked down on the House floor, and they thought: Golly, where is everybody? Where's everybody? I thought it was going to be full of 435 Members of Congress. But, of course, as you know, Mr. Speaker, in today's modern technology world, everybody's back in their office watching things on television. But I confess that sometimes during this morning-hour, I turn the volume down a little bit. I turn it down a little bit because sometimes we get into those divisive issues down here on the House floor. It gets my blood pressure up so much I think my head is going to explode first thing in the morning. I sometimes turn the volume down.

But today I wanted to come down here and find those things that bring us together as opposed to divide us, because I really do believe that as we face the kind of economic challenges that we're facing in America today, there is more that unites this body than divides it. There's more that we can do together than we must fight about in order to move the American Dream forward.

I have in my pocket a card. It's titled, "The House Republican Jobs Plan," but I'd tell you it's an American jobs plan. I look down the items that we have brought forward in this Republican House, America's House, the things that they've been able to pass in the United States Senate, those things that have gone to the President's desk, and we are making progress, Mr. Speaker, on those things that unite us.

Of course, we started the year off repealing the 1099 provision from the President's health care bill, that onerous provision that required new paperwork mandates on all of our small businesses, completely unworkable. We came together, the House and Senate, and the President repealed that.

Last week, we came and we passed three new free trade agreements—three new free trade agreements—for this

Nation. Mr. Speaker, as you know, with every nation that America has a free trade agreement, we have a manufacturing surplus. Hear that, Mr. Speaker. With every nation with which we have a free trade agreement, we have a manufacturing trade surplus. We ship more American-made goods to those countries than we import. We have a trade deficit as a Nation, but a manufactured goods surplus with the nations with which we signed free trade agreements. Free trade agreements, good for America, good for jobs, good for trade, and we were able to move those across the President's desk with his signature last week—2 weeks ago now.

And this week, we're going to bring two more bills to the floor, things that bring us together. You heard my colleague from Illinois talk about, earlier this morning, the 3 percent withholding, a bill that we passed to say we think there are lots of tax cheats going on out there among folks who contract with the government, so we're going to just withhold those taxes up front and make you get them back later on. Well, it turns out 3 percent withholding, our small businesses owners didn't even have a 3 percent margin.

□ 1030

If we had held all that money, they couldn't even pay the bills. They'd actually have to operate at a loss for the year and ask the government in April for their refund.

The President's onboard with that repeal. I believe the House is going to be onboard with that repeal. The Senate is going to be onboard with that repeal. We're going to move that across the floor this week as well.

Things that are bringing us together, Mr. Speaker, are common ground that we can cover to make it easier to create jobs in this country. Because I agree with my colleague, Mr. RANGEL, the American Dream is that you can come here and do better tomorrow than you did today, that you can provide your kids with more opportunity than what you had. That is the American Dream.

I don't worry that folks want to come to America. I worry about the one day that that dream has disappeared and folks don't want to come to America anymore. They'd rather take their big brain and their hard work ethic to China or to India or Brazil or Argentina. We must preserve America as the magnet of success, the magnet that attracts those that want to improve their lives and believe those opportunities exist here.

Mr. Speaker, there's a commonality in all of those bills that we've passed and sent to the President's desk this year, and it's that these were things the government did to try to encourage compliance, to try to regulate, to try to require that small businesses operate differently, and what we found out is they didn't work. The 1099 provision, free trade, those tariffs and duties that