

CONGRATULATING CLIFFORD AND RUTH MELBERGER AS THEY RECEIVE THE DISTINGUISHED COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD FROM THE ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Clifford and Ruth Melberger, of West Pittston, PA. This year, the Anti Defamation League of Eastern Pennsylvania has selected them to be the recipients of the Distinguished Community Service Award.

Both Ruth and Clifford have been long time champions of the greater Wyoming Valley, the community in which they were both born and raised. They have consistently committed themselves to their family, educational programs and the growth of the region for current and future generations.

Since her days as an art teacher in West Pittston and East Pennsboro High Schools, Ruth has worked with many community associations. She is presently on the board of directors of the Scranton Cultural Center, the West Pittston Cemetery Association, the West Pittston Historical Society and she has been a volunteer for the Meals on Wheels program for 14 years. She is also an elder in her church.

Ruth also served on the President's Council of Wilkes University, the boards of directors of the Pittston YMCA and the Scranton Council for Literacy Advance. She also headed the West Pittston Shade Tree Commission for 15 years.

Ruth and Clifford founded Diversified Information Technologies, an information management company of which Clifford serves as president and chief executive officer.

Clifford is currently on the board of trustees of Wilkes University, the steering committee of the Great Valley Technology Alliance, board of directors of the State of PA Business Roundtable and he is an elder in his church.

Clifford was a member of the board of trustees of Bucknell University as president of their National Alumni Association. He was also a member of the board of Team Pennsylvania, the Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce, Scranton Tomorrow, the Downtown Wilkes-Barre Touchdown Club and the Bison Athletic Club of Bucknell University.

Clifford received the Arthritis Foundation's 1998 Community Leader of the Year Award for Northeastern Pennsylvania, the Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce National/International Business of the Year Award, the Ben Franklin Partnership Award for Excellence of Innovation, Bucknell University's Bison Club Award for outstanding contributions to the University's athletic program and a member of the Wyoming Area High School and Bucknell University Athletic Halls of Fame.

Clifford is also the namesake for the "Melberger Award," an annual award presented to the most valuable Division III college football player in the nation.

Ruth and Clifford are committed to educational causes as both attended college on scholarships. They have established the Ruth Boorum Melberger scholarship at Wilkes University, a Player of the Game scholarship at

Wilkes University and Bucknell University for each home football game and named scholarships in honor and memory of family members at Bucknell University.

Ruth earned a bachelor's degree in art education with minors in English and social studies from Wilkes University and Clifford earned a bachelors degree in business administration and a masters degree in education from Bucknell University.

They have two children and six grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Melbergers. Their commitment to community service is exemplary and it is fitting that the Anti Defamation League should honor them in this way. Clearly, the Melbergers have improved the quality of life in the greater Wyoming Valley.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM GIBBONS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to explain how I would have voted on March 28, 2006 during rollcall votes No. 68 and No. 69 during the second session of the 109th Congress. The first vote was for H.R. 4882—the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitor Center Deadline Enforcement Act—and the second was S. 2120—the Milk Regulatory Equity Act of 2005.

If present, I would have voted "yes" on these rollcall votes.

RECOGNIZING DR. I. KING JORDAN FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY AND THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING COMMUNITY

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the impressive career of Dr. I. King Jordan, as he retires from his presidency of Gallaudet University. For many years, Dr. Jordan has tirelessly served his community as an advocate and a champion for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. for the past 18 years, he has served as the president of the only institution of higher learning serving primarily deaf and hearing impaired students. I am proud to call Dr. Jordan a friend and honored to have had the opportunity to work with him in his capacity of university president over the years.

Under Dr. Jordan's tenure as president, Gallaudet University has seen tremendous growth, with an increased endowment and strong progress in many academic areas. Dr. Jordan has raised awareness of the important educational contributions Gallaudet makes to the Nation and the world.

As the first deaf president of Gallaudet University, Dr. Jordan served as a role model, as well as an advocate. One of his legacies at Gallaudet will be the President's Fellows pro-

gram, which he established to increase the number of deaf and hearing impaired faculty. His unwavering support and belief that all individuals, regardless of disabilities, should be encouraged to fulfill their potential has inspired countless students, faculty and others in the deaf and hearing impaired community to work towards that end.

Dr. Jordan has accomplished a great deal in his professional career. I am pleased to have this opportunity to acknowledge his service to Gallaudet and his efforts to improve the quality of life for individuals who are deaf and hearing impaired, and individuals with disabilities. I thank him for his dedication and I urge all of my colleagues to support H. Res. 680.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, on the afternoon of March 16, 2006, I was at the White House for a meeting with the President and was unavoidably detained, thereby causing me to miss five rollcall votes. I would like to submit this statement for the record to reflect how I would have voted had I been present.

On rollcall No. 55, had I been present, I would have voted "nay"; on rollcall No. 56, had I been present, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall No. 57, had I been present, I would have voted "nay"; on rollcall No. 58, had I been present, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall No. 59, had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, on rollcall vote No. 57 on H.R. 4939, my vote was mistakenly recorded as "nay" when I should have said "aye." I ask unanimous consent that my statement appear in the RECORD immediately following rollcall vote No. 57.

VETERANS' MEMORIAL MARKER ACT OF 2006

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, I am proud to introduce H.R. 5038, the Veterans' Memorial Marker Act of 2006. The Subcommittee's Ranking Member, SHELLEY BERKLEY, joins me as an original cosponsor of this bill.

H.R. 5038 would extend for 1 year the Department of Veterans Affairs' authority to provide a government marker for the marked grave of a veteran buried in a private cemetery. Under current law, this authority will expire on December 31, 2006. In addition, the

bill would extend eligibility of this benefit to include deaths occurring on or after November 1, 1990. Currently, this benefit is only available for deaths occurring on or after September 11, 2001.

This bill would also authorize the VA to provide a government marker or memorial headstone for eligible deceased dependent children whose remains are unavailable for burial. Today, the VA is only authorized to provide a marker or memorial headstone to commemorate a veteran or spouse whose remains are unavailable for burial.

Mr. Speaker, the Nation owes a debt of gratitude to the men and women who served in the armed forces of the United States. This is but one way we can commemorate and memorialize their service and sacrifice.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

KEEP AMERICA COMPETITIVE GLOBAL WARMING POLICY ACT OF 2006

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Keep America Competitive global Warming Policy Act of 2006. I am pleased to be joined in introducing this bill by my colleague from Wisconsin, the Honorable Tom Petri.

We introduce this legislation in the face of a rapidly strengthening scientific consensus that the Earth is warming faster over the last few decades than at any time ever in the geologic record. Ten of the last 15 years have been the hottest years since we began recording global temperatures. There are prolonged droughts across the United States, such as in my home state of New Mexico. Other parts of the country have seen record precipitation and floods. In Representative Petri's home state of Wisconsin, average winter temperatures are increasing, leading to thinner ice and earlier melts on as much as 80% of the state's lakes. Dramatic melting has been seen in icecaps, glaciers, and sea ice on both poles and high mountain regions around the world. And, as we all know, the North Atlantic saw a record number of deadly hurricanes in 2005. The increase in the frequency of severe storms has been directly linked to an increase in sea surface temperatures. It is also very worrisome that sea surface temperatures are already above normal this year.

Scientists are in almost unanimous agreement that most of the global warming and the resultant extreme weather events are directly related to the build-up in the atmosphere of carbon dioxide released from the burning of fossil fuels. To date, the United States has done nothing to address the most serious environmental issue any of us will ever encounter. We must begin, and we must begin now. However, any emissions reduction policy we enact must minimize economic harm and dislocation.

That is why we are introducing this legislation today. Our bill will help America curb our emissions but is designed to avoid an economically devastating price run-up that will cause harm and dislocation to American businesses and workers. The Keep America Com-

petitive Global Warming Policy Act will spur innovation and keep America in the technological lead. In addition, by engaging the developing world in efforts to combat global warming, our bill makes certain that the United States will not be placed at a competitive disadvantage to other countries. Our bill also acknowledges that technology is the long-term solution to global warming. Thus, an integral part of our legislation will devote substantial resources exclusively to the research and development of low and no-carbon technologies.

The bill is an economy-wide, upstream, cap-and-trade policy that covers all greenhouse gas emissions. However, to ensure that the cost is both modest and certain, the bill provides for an unlimited number of additional "safety valve" allowances. These allowances will be sold by the Treasury Department at a fixed and reasonable price, which will escalate over time. Also, to bring about the participation of developing countries on addressing global warming, we tie the safety valve escalator to the emissions-control activities of the five largest developing country greenhouse gas emitters. This ensures that America will not be put at a competitive disadvantage if the developing countries do not join the effort.

We know that there may be less emissions reduction with a safety valve than without one. However, the cost certainty and the modest starting cost of the safety valve allowances provide assurance that there will not be economic harm from the adoption of this global warming policy. We believe it is better to have a policy that works slowly yet surely rather than one that might prove unworkable. Many companies have expressed the need for a safety valve in any mandatory greenhouse emissions control legislation, including the largest utility in my home state of New Mexico. Every day here in Congress, we debate the trade-offs between cost and effectiveness. We expect that the debate on how to best address carbon emissions and global warming will continue for some time. But the most important thing is that the House of Representatives actually begin that debate.

Taking into account the potential for some economic harm as the economy adjusts to this policy, our legislation allocates allowances to those people, entities, and localities that may incur dislocations because of this legislation. Additional allowances will be used to ensure that the legislation is revenue-neutral.

Our legislation also builds upon the 2005 recommendation of the National Academy of Sciences in its "Rising Above the Gathering Storm" report recommending the creation of an organization within the Department of Energy modeled on the Defense Department's Advanced Research Projects Agency, also known as DARPA. The goal of this E-ARPA is to explore the truly out-of-the-box, high-risk, high-payoff research that will be necessary if we are to get to a low or no-carbon dioxide and greenhouse gas world.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is modest, certain, and efficient. It begins the process of committing America to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions and addressing the global warming issue by having emitters internalize the costs of the problems associated with global warming. This monumental step of putting a price on carbon and other greenhouse gases will stabilize greenhouse gas emissions and eventually reduce them, finally putting the United States on the road toward curbing the effects of global warming.

I urge my colleagues in the House to co-sponsor this comprehensive and economically rational legislation and help break the stalemate that exists on the global warming issue.

TRIBUTE TO HERB SWARZMAN

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Herb Swartzman, a leader in Florida's gulf coast community. This past weekend, Herb was honored by the Tampa Committee of AIPAC for his years of service to the organization and to Israel.

Since his first trip to Israel in 1978, Herb has been a tireless advocate for the Israeli people and the Israeli-American partnership. Herb has served as a liaison between leaders in the two governments, including working with Florida leaders like Representatives MICHAEL BILIRAKIS and Senator Connie Mack.

I have gotten to personally know Herb and his lovely wife Joyce over the years, and I can tell you that Herb is a great credit to our community.

In addition to his work strengthening ties between America and Israel, Herb has taken a leadership role serving his fellow Florida citizens. Whether it is helping to raise funds for the Retired Enlisted Association, Dartmouth's alumni association or getting involved in local veterans' advocacy organizations, Herb's energy and commitment to the region is unmatched.

Herb has also established himself as a leader in Israeli-American relations over the past 30 years. He currently serves as chairman of the AIPAC Tampa Bay Committee, a member of the AIPAC Executive Committee, chairman of the Florida Institute, and a board member and executive committee member of the Tampa Jewish Federation.

Mr. Speaker, it is because of Herb's dedication to the Israeli-American partnership that he was honored by the Tampa Committee for AIPAC. Herb is not just a dedicated family man, but also a proud and productive American and a walking tribute to the Israeli spirit and to AIPAC's goal of education.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID W. HIGUERA

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to David W. Higuera, the police chief of Parachute, CO. He is retiring in April after 22 years of service to our community.

Chief Higuera and his wife, Willa, have raised three children in Parachute—Jeff, Jenny, and Jake. He has been actively involved in Parachute and has contributed greatly in a variety of ways. As a member of the Parachute Police Department, he has played a key role in ensuring that the safety and well being of the citizens of the community are paramount, and that they are protected in their homes, businesses, and schools. While his years of service have resulted in a number of achievements, the accomplishment for which he is probably the