

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

#### EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

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.

---

#### 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."

---

#### 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.

*March 29, 2006*

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 Competitive 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 cosponsor 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 Swarzman, 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 proudest has been the creation of a resource officer position at the Grand Valley High School.

While his work in law enforcement has been critical to the community, he has also made significant contributions in other ways. He remains active with the St. John Middle School football program and for many years was the assistant coach for the Grand Valley High School baseball team. He has also served as

a director for the Garfield 16 school board and the local park and recreation district.

I commend Chief Higuera for his years of service and dedication to the town of Parachute. It is people like him that make our communities safe and pleasant places to live and work. We owe him a debt of gratitude and wish him well in his retirement.

SUPPORT FOR THE VANADIUM TECHNOLOGY PARTNERSHIP

**HON. PHIL ENGLISH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 29, 2006*

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Vanadium Technology Partnership, a program of great importance to both my constituents in Northwest Pennsylvania and the men and women serving in the United States military at home and overseas. The Vanadium Technology Partnership, or VTP, is a cooperative relationship between the vanadium microalloyed steel industry and the U.S. Army. The partnership is working to apply high-performance steels in military applications.

The military uses some quantity of vanadium in virtually every application where steel products are employed. As the chairman of the Congressional Steel Caucus, I recognize the crucial benefits that VTP offers to domestic steel industry as well as the U.S. armed services. I have worked extensively on behalf of VTP, including Bear Metallurgical Company, a key vanadium producer in my district and member of the partnership. Since VTP's inception in 2003, the steel industry and the military have employed vanadium in their daily operations to a much larger degree. Vanadium is currently being used to increase armor strength and reduce the weight of current combat vehicles, tactical vehicles, tactical bridges, material handling equipment, aircraft, watercraft and rail. Further, case studies looking at ways to expand vanadium's uses have been completed and are now in the process of deployment, including a vanadium steel rebar program, long span structures, trailer weight reduction, and vanadium spiral-welded pipe.

I would also like to offer my sincere gratitude to Dr. John Beatty with the Army Research Lab for his support and oversight of VTP since its inception. I was particularly pleased to learn that the Army has agreed to support the use of VTP funding to undertake critical health and safety research. This research will help ensure the safe and continued use of vanadium for industry and the military.

In closing, I am grateful to both my colleagues and the military for recognizing the crucial benefits of the Vanadium Technology Partnership. I have made the advancement of this technology a top priority and encourage its continuation. With the Army's commitment to the VTP, the many uses of vanadium will continue to benefit our servicemen and women serving at home and overseas.