

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