

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 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