



MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The next meeting of the
Senior Statesmen of Virginia will be held on
Wednesday, August 11, 2010, 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm
at the Senior Center, Inc., on Pepsi Place

FIFTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT CANDIDATES SHOWCASE

The Senior Statesmen of Virginia Forum, Fifth Congressional District Candidates Showcase, will be held Wednesday, August 11, 2010, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Senior Center, 1180 Pepsi Place, Charlottesville, VA.

The SSV Congressional Candidates Showcase Forum is a biennial event. The candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives, Democratic incumbent **Tom Perriello**, Republican challenger **Robert Hurt**, and Independent challenger **Jeffrey Clark**, have been invited to discuss their views at this forum. At the time this newsletter went to press, Mr. Perriello and Mr. Clark have confirmed their participation.

The SSV Forum is not a debate. It is a presentation of the candidates' views followed by a question/answer session by the audience. After the candidates have concluded their opening statements, members of the audience will be able to submit questions to the candidates on 3 x 5 cards. The program is free and open to the public and will be moderated by best-selling author, historian, and political analyst and host of WINA "Charlottesville – Right Now!" **Coy Barefoot**.

The following photos and bios for Tom Perriello and Jeffrey Clark were supplied by their campaigns. The photo and bio for Robert Hurt were downloaded from Internet sites.

Congressman **Tom Perriello**



was sworn into office on January 6, 2009, and is proud to represent the 5th District of Virginia. He serves on the House

Transportation & Infrastructure Committee and the

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Robert Hurt was first elected as



a member of the Chatham Town Council with 82% of the vote. As a member of the Virginia

General Assembly, State Senator Robert Hurt currently represents

See page 2, **Hurt, continued**

Jeffrey A. Clark was born and



raised in the tide-water area of Virginia. After high school he joined the U.S. Army and served 4 years. He was

stationed for two years in Germany and the remaining two

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House Veterans' Affairs Committee. During his short time in Congress, he has already successfully passed into law a \$2,500 tuition tax credit for college and community college education; worked to extend job training benefits for veterans; and supported economic recovery efforts in Congress.

Born and raised in the 5th district, Congressman Perriello previously served as a national security consultant, working in conflict zones such as Afghanistan, Darfur, Kosovo, and Liberia. His work with child soldiers, amputees, and local pro-democracy groups in Sierra Leone played a significant role in the peace and reconciliation process that ended the blood diamonds war in that country. He also served as Special Advisor and court spokesperson in the prosecution of Liberian dictator Charles Taylor, peaceably forcing him from power.

He has also founded a number of nonprofit organizations aimed at bringing together faith communities to fight for children's health care, economic fairness, environmental stewardship, and responsible solutions in Iraq. Mr. Perriello was educated in Albemarle County public schools, St. Anne's-Belfield, and has his undergraduate and law degrees from Yale University.

On his website, Mr. Perriello has outlined the major issues to be addressed in the 5th district:

- Economic R.E.V.I.V.A.L.
 - Relief for small businesses
 - Energy solutions
 - Vocational training and strong schools
 - Infrastructure
 - Virginia Workers First
 - Agriculture
 - Leadership
- Education and job training
- Lobbying and corruption
- Supporting our troops and honoring our veterans
- Health care
- Oil independence
- Farming
- Second Amendment rights

For more information, visit Mr. Perriello's website at: <http://www.perrielloforcongress.com>

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over 170,000 constituents within the 5th Congressional District and has represented nearly 1/3 of the 5th during his time in the legislature. He served three terms in the Virginia House of Delegates, elected and re-elected with at least 62% of the vote. In his first term in the State Senate, Robert was elected with 75% of the vote.

As a member of the Virginia Legislature, Robert has cast thousands of votes including voting against at least two dozen tax increases. He has voted time and again against attempts from Democrats to raise taxes. Robert has also voted consistently against increased state spending and bloated budgets. He was one of only a handful of General Assembly members to vote against the last two Virginia Budgets, which were relying on too much spending.

Many people remember the Southside Virginia of thirty years ago: the bustling commerce of the cities and the courthouse towns, the busy tobacco warehouses, and the landmark textile and furniture factories that manufactured the finest products in the world and provided to our people good jobs for generations. However, during the last thirty years, the good people of Southside Virginia have witnessed this prosperity decline and have felt the losses of thousands of jobs and thriving businesses. It has been our greatest challenge to adapt to these economic realities and to rebuild our economy here at home and across the Commonwealth.

Because of the commitment of so many business, community, and elected leaders to this task, Southside Virginia has made great progress in rebuilding this economy and in attracting thousands of new jobs. As a citizen-legislator, Senator Robert Hurt has been a leader in remaking the Southside economy and in making the Commonwealth the best place in the country to do business. Because he grew up in the courthouse town of Chatham and returned home after school to raise his family and practice law, Senator Hurt has felt firsthand the impact of the decline of our economy and since being elected has lent a strong voice and a steady hand in rebuilding our economy. Robert is a former Chief Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney for Pittsylvania County and his career in public service is unmatched.

Robert and his wife Kathy live in Chatham, VA, with their three sons, Charles, Clement and John.

Mr. Hurt has identified the following major issues facing the 5th district:

- Reducing the size and cost of government
- Life and marriage
- Individual liberty, private property and the 2nd Amendment
- Promoting free markets and job creation
- National security

For more information, visit Mr. Hurt's website at: <http://www.roberthurtforcongress.com>

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in Texas. While in Germany Jeff traveled to other European countries and he took advantage of college classes offered to soldiers. Jeff met his wife Gerri of 25 years while stationed in Texas. They have four adult children and three grandchildren.

After serving in the U.S. Army Jeff settled into a career in hospitality management, managing hotels and restaurants. Corporate relocation resulted in Jeff and his family moving up and down the east coast as well as stints in the Midwest. It was during this period of frequent relocation that Jeff's wife Gerri began home schooling their four children. Their oldest child was home schooled from 3rd through the 12th grade. Each of their three other children were home schooled until reaching the 9th grade. Three of their children graduated from Tunstall High School in Pittsylvania County.

In 2004 Jeff and his wife chose to make Danville Virginia their new home and soon started a property inspection business drawing on his experience working summers with his grandfather who owned a commercial contracting company. In 2005 Jeff and Gerri purchased a water testing laboratory in Danville. Both Jeff and his wife are Virginia State certified laboratory directors. Gerri runs the day to day operations of the laboratory and Jeff conducts residential and commercial property inspections in Virginia and North Carolina.

Jeff has a renewable energy concept currently under patent consideration. He has presented project details and research to several universities as well as collaborated with the Department of Defense and the Department of energy. In the process Jeff has become very familiar with our country's energy needs and shortcomings and has a fundamental understanding of the benefits, weakness and limitations of current renewable sources of energy such as wind, solar, hydroelectric and current energy storage systems.

Jeff and Gerri's current household consists of their youngest daughter Erica and their youngest son Jeffrey Jr. and Jeff's 93 year old grandmother Ruth Clark and his 91 year old great aunt Louise Wilson. Erica is part of the management team at a local theater and Jeffrey Jr. works at the lab and assists his father with inspections. Their oldest daughter Ashley is married and has three children and lives in Norfolk and their oldest Son Donald is in the U.S. Marine Corps stationed in California and recently returned from his first combat tour of duty in Afghanistan. They have three dogs a Great Dane named Hoss and two mixed breeds named Lilly and Little Jo.

Jeff has never run for nor held elected office. Like most citizens he has observed the abuses and corruption and mismanagement of Government and thinks things can be, and should be done different in Washington. He believes in the concept of citizen legislators serving in Washington as our Founding fathers had intended. He believes that its time to elect everyday Americans to federal office and to interject some common sense into the daily management of our Government.

LAST MONTH'S MEETING... At the June 9 SSV meeting, Robert McGrath addressed the very nuanced issue of "Public Perception and the Science of Climate Change." He indicated that he would lay out some of the politics surrounding the topic of climate, that he was disgusted by the silliness and hyperbole of both sides of the debate which include alarmists and skeptics, and that he was an "equal opportunity critic of both camps."

The United States produces more greenhouse gases by far than any other country, and the US and China together produce about 40 percent of greenhouse gases. The majority of Americans think that the Earth is warming, but only a third think human activity is contributing to that.

Why do we have weather, why do we have climate? The Earth's temperature is determined by a balance of incoming solar radiation and outgoing heat radiation. Greenhouse gases have been understood since the 19th century and these gases are a good thing because without them the temperature would be 34 degrees colder than it is and we would not have life as we know it. Movements of energy and masses of air make our climate. The equator gets more sun than the poles. Land, ice and water reflect energy differently, and the specific heat of water is much larger than land. Therefore, oceans take longer to heat making the atmosphere itself subject to nonuniform heating, and so there is energy and mass flow to try to achieve equilibrium. Climate summary: we're in a warming period but nothing very dramatic.

Policy questions and choices: Do nothing or transition to other energy sources, but what are the comparative costs to society to transition versus doing nothing. Further study could meld the already complicated uncertain results of climate science with models of economy leading to more uncertainty.

The climate science community needs to do a better job of helping the public to understand—no hyperbole and no hype. Skeptics have a burden to show why these giant global circulation models can be safely dismissed.

The entire presentation to the SSV can be heard on the Charlottesville Podcasting Network at <http://www.cvillepodcast.com/category/senior-statesmen/>.

Mark your calendars...

Wednesday, September 8, at the Senior Center, Inc., **An Overview of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act** presented by healthcare financial consultant **Saunders Midyette**, followed by a discuss by the CEOs of both Martha Jefferson Hospital (**Jim Haden**) and UVA Medical Center (**Jon Craig**) on how this legislation will impact Virginia Citizens.

Wednesday, October 13, at the Senior Center, Inc., a presentation by the **Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission** addressing **transportation issues and future plans for the Charlottesville/Albemarle area**.

The purpose of the Senior Statesmen of Virginia, a nonprofit, nonpartisan, educational and advocacy organization is to enable seniors to identify and articulate their viewpoints on the issues affecting all the citizens of Virginia; to encourage knowledge and active participation in the public processes of government; to disseminate information about the social, governmental, and educational institutions; and to prepare resolutions stating positions on member-selected issues for distribution to appropriate public officials.

*Membership in the SSV is open to all past and present citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia. **Join now!** Annual dues are just \$15.00. Mail your check in the amount of \$15.00, (payable to "SSV") to Senior Statesmen of Virginia, c/o Jim Peterson, 1969 Ridgetop Drive, Charlottesville, VA 22903-8808. Telephone: 434-806-4474. E-mail: jimp@videoprovirginia.com*

Please visit our website at: <http://www.seniorstatesmen.org/>

» **Senior Statesmen of Virginia**

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