



News Release

Senator Phil Leventis Accepts State and International Award from I.A.W.P for UI Legislation

For Release on April 26, 2008

(Spartanburg) – State Senator Phil P. Leventis (Dist. 35, Sumter and Lee Cos.) was honored Friday night with the Public Policy Award by the South Carolina Chapter of the International Association of Workforce Professionals (SCIAWP) at the chapter's annual training conference held at the Marriott Hotel in Spartanburg, S.C. It was also announced at the conference that Leventis would also be receiving the award on the international level at the International Association of Workforce Professionals Conference to be held in Richmond, Virginia June 8-12, 2008.

Senator Leventis was the lead sponsor of legislation, introduced in January of 2007 and passed the following June by the South Carolina State Legislature, that provides unemployment insurance benefits to working spouses of military personnel who lose their jobs due to a spouse's transfer. Leventis joined fellow senators Robert Hayes of York County, Jake Knotts of Lexington County, John Drummond of Greenwood County, Ralph Anderson of Greenville County, and Robert Ford of Charleston County in co-sponsoring this legislation.

Leventis, a U.S. Air Force Reserve veteran and former decorated fighter pilot, sought through this legislation to help ease the financial burden of military families by providing unemployment insurance benefits to those who may be forced to give up a job to accommodate a spouse's transfer. The legislation also relieves employers of any liability for the claim. Unemployment Insurance benefits are administered in the state by the South Carolina Employment Security Commission.

The South Carolina Chapter of the International Association of Workforce Professionals has some 320 members across the state, the majority of which are employed by the South Carolina Employment Security Commission. Worldwide, I.A.W.P has over 13,000 members.

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