

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### HONORING KSEE 24 PORTRAITS OF SUCCESS HONOREES

#### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 6, 2002*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize KSEE 24 and 2002 Companies that Care, Warner Company Jewelers and Gottschalks, for celebrating Asian-American month by honoring five distinguished local leaders. Currently in its eighth year, the Portraits of Success project combines specially produced public service announcements, a five-part news series, plus an awards luncheon to publicly recognize the contributions of Jay Louie, Kathleen Omachi, Bobby Porte, Lue Yang, and Khloeng You.

Jay Louie, businessman and President of Louie Foods, was nominated for all-round ongoing service to the Chinese community. Kathleen Omachi has been involved in community organizing and social services development for over thirty years but is being honored primarily for her work on the Chinatown Revitalization Board of Directors. Eighty-nine year old Bobby Porte served as President of the Filipino Community Club for 20 years and is a respected "elder statesman" of the South Valley Filipino community. As executive director of the Fresno Center For New Americans, Lue Vang has led the FCNA from a small, one-project organization to a multi-faceted organization that provides general health education, advocacy, acculturation, and employment opportunities for new Americans. Khloeng You is a farmer, businessman, and Chairman of the Cambodian Buddhist Temple.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor these five community leaders for being selected for Asian-American history month's Portraits of Success. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking KSEE 24 and Companies that Care for sponsoring this project and wishing the honorees many more years of continued success.

### WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

#### HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 6, 2002*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, April 28th Workers Memorial Day, a day to remember the thousands of men and women who have been killed or injured on the job. A very important article which recently appeared in the San Francisco Examiner of April 25, 2002 reminds us of the enormous financial and personal costs of workplace deaths and injuries, while also detailing the failure of the Bush Administration to place a priority on improving workplace safety. It is important for every Member of this House to read this article and remember these tragic stories the next

time the Administration tries to weaken policies to protect America's working men and women.

[From the San Francisco Examiner, Apr. 25, 2002]

#### LAX WORKPLACE-INJURY POLICIES ARE KILLING US

(By Dick Meister)

Certainly we continue to mourn the Sept. 11 victims, most of whom were workers. But neither should we ever forget the millions of other workers who've been killed or seriously harmed while doing their jobs.

They'll be honored in candlelight vigils, rallies and other public events across the country on Sunday—Workers Memorial Day, observed yearly by organized labor to mourn the men and women who've suffered and died because of workplace hazards and to demand action to lessen the hazards.

The number of those victims is appalling. More than 6,000 are killed on the job every year. More than 5 million are injured, at least half seriously. Another 60,000 die from cancer, lung and heart ailments and other occupational diseases caused by exposure to toxic substances.

The financial toll also is high—as much as \$230 billion a year in healthcare costs and \$88 billion in other costs to employers, as well as workers, such as lost wages and production.

Trying to reduce workplace dangers, always a very difficult task, has become even more difficult since the Bush administration took office.

Although President Bush claims to put a "high priority" on helping working families, he has waged what the United Auto Workers cites as "a harsh, vindictive attack on health and safety standards."

The surest evidence of that has come in Bush's approach to attempts to combat the repetitive stress injuries that hurt and cripple at least 5,000 workers in a wide variety of occupations each and every day. For many, it can mean long-term or permanent affliction—chronic pain in the neck, back, shoulders, arms or wrists and other suffering resulting from the endlessly repetitive movements required in many jobs today, such as bending, reaching and typing, and the heavy lifting required in others.

It is by far the nation's No. 1 health and safety problem. Yet the president successfully urged Congress to repeal the regulations, developed by the Clinton administration with the guidance of safety experts, that had required employers to protect workers from repetitive stress injury. The rules were based on the science of ergonomics, which calls for fitting the job to the worker—redesigning it if necessary—to avoid as much harmful strain as possible.

Now, fully 13 months after the rules were repealed, Bush has come up with an intentionally toothless substitute for the mandatory regulations.

He's merely asking employers to voluntarily follow Labor Department guidelines, still to be drafted, that might protect workers. Employers with particularly high injury levels who fail to do anything about it might face fines, but even that is not certain.

Bush and Congressional Republicans obviously are paying off the corporate management interests who oppose the very idea of job safety laws because of the compliance

costs. They poured millions into the election campaigns of GOP candidates who were certain to do their bidding.

Less than a month after the ergonomics regulations were repealed, the president revoked 19 previously approved grants that were to go to unions, universities and labor-management groups to finance safety and health training programs for immigrant workers, small business employers and employers and workers in such high-risk industries as construction.

He's also cut millions of dollars from the Labor Department's overall budget and from that of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, already so underfunded it is unable to effectively enforce the job safety laws. Also getting much less funding have been the Mine Safety and Health Administration and the National Institute of Safety and Health, the only federal research agency dealing with safety.

The Bush administration is moving in a direction exactly the opposite to that which must be taken if we are to truly protect America's working families and truly honor the millions of workers who have needlessly suffered injury and death.

### FARM SECURITY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

#### HON. W.J. (BILLY) TAUZIN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 2, 2002*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2646) to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2011:

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Chairman, section 7504 of H.R. 2646, the Farm Security Act amends the Plant Protection Act with respect to certain treatments or applications of methyl bromide. This section requires the Secretary of Agriculture to undertake specified activities upon the request of State, local or tribal authorities and to publish a registry. The section also requires a program to identify methyl bromide alternatives.

I was pleased to work with the conferees on this section to ensure that the section does not modify or alter the authority of the Environmental Protection Agency or provide any authority to the Secretary of Agriculture under the Clean Air Act or regulations promulgated under the Clean Air Act. In this regard, I believe the final legislative language is consistent with an exchange of correspondence between the Energy and Commerce Committee and the House Agriculture Committee concerning the original House provision which served as the basis for the final language contained in section 7504. I am inserting this exchange of correspondence below to further explain the intent and effect of section 7504.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.