

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 22, 2002

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, please be advised that I will not be voting on Monday, due to a commitment in my District. Had I been present, the record would reflect that I would have voted on:

- (1) H.R. 1209—Child Status Protection Act, "yea";
- (2) H.R. 4558—To Extend The Irish Peace Process Cultural And Training Program, "yea";
- (3) S.J. Res. 13—Conferring Honorary Citizenship On the Marquis de Lafayette, "yea";
- (4) H.R. 3892—Judicial Improvements Act, "yea";
- (5) H.R. 4870—Mount Naomi Wilderness Boundary Adjustment Act, "yea";
- (6) H.R. 1401—California Five Mile Regional Learning Center Transfer Act, "yea";
- (7) H.R. 3048—Russian River Land Act, "yea";
- (8) H.R. 3258—Reasonable Right-of-Way Fees Act, "yea";
- (9) H.R. 3917—Flight 93 National Memorial Act, "yea";
- (10) H.R. 2990—Lower Rio Grande Valley Water Resources Improvement Act, "yea";
- (11) H.R. 4940—Arlington National Cemetery Burial Eligibility Act, "yea";
- (12) H.R. 5055—Authorizing The World War II Battle Of The Bulge Memorial, "yea";
- (13) H.R. 3645—Veterans Health-Care Items Procurement Improvement Act, "yea";
- (14) H.R. 5138—True American Heroes Act, "yea";
- (15) H.R. 4901—Keep Monticello On The Nickel Act, "yea";
- (16) H. Con. Res. 439—Honoring Corinne "Lindy" Claiborne Boggs On The Occasion Of The 25th Anniversary Of The Founding Of The Congressional Women's Caucus, "yea";
- (17) H. Res. 471—Recognizing The Contributions Of Paul Ecke, Jr. To The Poinsettia Industry, "yea";
- (18) H. Res. 492—Expressing Gratitude For The World Trade Center Cleanup And Recovery Efforts At The Fresh Kills Landfill On Staten Island, NY, Following The Terrorist Attacks Of September 11, 2001, "yea";
- (19) H.R. 5145—William C. Cramer Post Office Building, "yea";
- (20) H. Con. Res. 352—Sense Of Congress That Federal Land Management Agencies Should Implement The Western Governor's Association "Collaborative 10-year Strategy For Reducing Wildland Fire Risks To Communities And The Environment", "yea";
- (21) H. Res. ____—Sense Of The House That Major League Baseball And The Players Association Should Implement A Mandatory Steroid Testing Program, "yea";
- (22) H. Con. Res. 385—Sense Of Congress The Secretary Of Health And Human Services Should Conduct Research On Certain Tests To Screen Ovarian Cancer, "yea";
- (23) H. Con. Res. 188—Sense Of Congress That The Government Of The People's Republic Of China Should Cease Its Persecution Of Falun Gong Practitioners, "yea";
- (24) H.R. 3487—Nurse Reinvestment Act, "yea";
- (25) H.R. 3969—Freedom Promotion Act, "yea."

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE COMMUNITY OF WEST LEIPSIC, OHIO ON THE OCCASION OF ITS SESQUICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 22, 2002

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct privilege to stand before my colleagues in the House to pay special tribute to a special community in Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. On August 17 and 18, 2002, the community of West Leipsic, Ohio is celebrating a truly monumental event—its Sesquicentennial Anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, West Leipsic, Ohio is one of a number of wonderful communities in Northwest Ohio. West Leipsic is located in the heart of the Fifth Congressional District in Putnam County. Throughout its long and traditional-filled history, West Leipsic has established itself as a model community.

We, in Ohio's Fifth Congressional District, are blessed to have such warm communities, like West Leipsic. The folks who live in West Leipsic are truly some of the most terrific people. They are good friends and neighbors, colleagues and coworkers, and, together, they form a close-knit family all sharing a common bond centered around their dedication to their community.

Over the years I have served in elected office, I have had the good fortune to travel to West Leipsic many times. Each time I visit, I am greeted by friendly people who truly know how to make you feel at home. In West Leipsic, and towns all across the Fifth District, being there is just like being at home.

Mr. Speaker, the individuality of the American culture, the freedom of the American spirit, is embodied in West Leipsic, Ohio. The community of West Leipsic, for one-hundred fifty years, has certainly been a model after which other communities can pattern themselves. As we begin this Sesquicentennial Anniversary Celebration of West Leipsic, Ohio, I would urge my colleagues to join me in this special tribute. It is my hope that the next century and a half will be just as joyous as the first.

TRIBUTE TO MR. KONRAD K.
DANNENBERG

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 22, 2002

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great member of the North Alabama community, Mr. Konrad K. Dannenberg. On August 6th, Mr. Dannenberg will celebrate his 90th birthday. Throughout his ninety years, Mr. Dannenberg has been a leader in our nation's space program, retiring from Marshall Space Flight Center in 1973 as Deputy Director of Program Development's Mission and Payload Planning Office. Today, Mount Hope Elementary School in Mt. Hope, Alabama is honoring Mr. Dannenberg for his service to their school, the North Alabama community, and the nation.

Konrad Dannenberg, born in Weissenfels, Germany, worked with Wernher von Braun in Peenemunde, Germany and came to the United States after World War II under "Project Paperclip". He later helped develop and produce the Redstone and Jupiter missile systems for the Army Ballistic Missile Agency at Redstone Arsenal. In 1960, he joined NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center as Deputy Manager of the Saturn program, where he received the NASA Exceptional Service Medal.

Mr. Dannenberg is a Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and was past president of the Alabama/Mississippi Chapter. He was the recipient of the 1960 DURAND Lectureship and the 1995 Hermann Oberth Award. Additionally, the NASA Alumni League, the Hermann Oberth Society of Germany, and the L-5 Society (now the National Space Society) have the benefit of Mr. Dannenberg's membership. In 1992, the Alabama Space and Rocket Center created a scholarship in his name to allow one student to attend a Space Academy session.

Mr. Speaker, as you can tell, during Mr. Dannenberg's career, he was a valuable player in the advancement of our space program and was appreciated by co-workers and important organizations throughout the industry. Following his retirement, he has remained a major influence in the North Alabama community and still serves as a consultant for the Alabama Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville. I want to congratulate Mr. Konrad Dannenberg on his 90th birthday and thank him for the important contributions he has made to our community in North Alabama and the entire United States.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK MASCARA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 22, 2002

Mr. MASCARA. Mr. Speaker, on July 17, 2002, I was unavoidably absent for personal reasons and missed rollcall votes numbered 309 through 318. For the record, had I been present I would have voted yea on rollcall votes 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 315, and 318, and would have voted nay on rollcall votes 314, 316, and 317.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 22, 2002

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, during an absence last week, I regrettably missed Rollcall votes 319–323. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: Rollcall No. 319: "nay"; Rollcall No. 320: "yea"; Rollcall No. 321: "yea"; Rollcall No. 322: "yea"; Rollcall No. 323: "nay".

PROTECT CHINA'S WORKERS

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 22, 2002

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to the suffering of the working class in China. I recently read an article, "Worked Till They Drop" by Philip P. Pan, in the Washington Post on May 13th, 2002, and it shocked me. According to the Washington Post, 19-year-old Li Chunmei died due to work exhaustion. She had been on her feet for nearly 16 hours that day, running back and forth carrying toy parts from machine to machine. Later that evening, she had complained that she was very tired and hungry. During the night, her roommates had awakened to the sounds of violent coughing and tracked the source of the sound to find Ms. Chunmei curled-up on the bathroom floor, coughing up blood. They immediately called an ambulance, but she died before it had arrived.

Cases of *guolaosi*, meaning "over-work death", are never documented but many local journalists estimate that dozens occur in the Pearl River Delta area alone, the manufacturing region north of Hong Kong where Ms. Chunmei's factory, Kaiming Industrial, is located. What is sad is that nothing is being done about these horrible deaths. The majority of these workers are young men and women who travel many miles from their poor villages to earn a living in China's factory towns. Many of them never finish school, being taken out by their parents to help work on the farm or in the family business. By the age of 15, most of these youths are urged by their parents to seek employment in a factory to support the family.

These young migrant workers are considered second class citizens in China's industrial cities, receiving less access to the weak courts and trade unions. Many do not even know the Chinese word for labor union! The factories, many of them backed by foreign investment, that they work in are drab, concrete dormitories. Life inside can be compared to the feudal system. An average day begins around 8:00 a.m. and can last until 2 a.m. Breaks are rare. The conditions that these poor souls have to work in are tragic as well. In most of these factories there is no air conditioning, with the temperature climbing above 90 degrees at times, and the air is full of fibers. The average salary for a runner, which was Ms. Chunmei's position, is about 12 cents an hour and, even during the busy season, one might earn as little as \$65 a month, with no money received for overtime work. Moreover, benefits are non-existent and managers tend to make deductions from the workers' salaries for items never received. Managers also tend to impose arbitrary fines on the workers, which include penalties for spending more than five minutes in the bathroom and wasting food during meals.

When these young workers try to complain about these conditions to their supervisors or government officials, they are told to return to their jobs or they will be fired or even arrested. Local officials often overlook labor rights and safety violations, eager to take bribes and generate tax revenue. The concept of subcontracting further complicates the situation, as many foreign investors rely on these contrac-

tors to carry out their operations. It is due to this complicated web that overseas corporations avoid responsibility for the rights of China's working class.

In the case of Li Chunmei, it took her father 28 days to get someone to take responsibility for what had happened to his daughter. He was lead on a wild goose chase when finally the police concluded that Li Chunmei died because of an illness and that her death was non-work related. Her poor father could do nothing about the ruling and now the family again is struggling to make ends meet, this time with empty hearts that money will never be able fill.

Mr. Speaker, I have attached excerpts from this piece but I strongly urge my colleagues to read this article in its entirety. This is an issue that we can no longer ignore. As China and the U.S. improve trade relations, we must continue to press China to improve its labor, environment, and human rights record in general. Let us do all we can to help these young individuals, before we read of another Li Chunmei.

EXCERPTS FROM: "WORKED TILL THEY DROP" BY PHILIP P. PAN, WASHINGTON POST, MAY 13TH 2002

"On the night she died, Li Chunmei must have been exhausted. Co-workers said she had been on her feet for nearly 16 hours, running back and forth inside the Bainan Toy Factory, carrying toy parts from machine to machine. When the quitting bell finally rang shortly after midnight, her young face was covered with sweat."

"... Her roommates had already fallen asleep when Li started coughing up blood. They found her in the bathroom a few hours later, curled up on the floor, moaning softly in the dark, bleeding from her nose and mouth. Someone called an ambulance, but she died before it arrived."

"The exact cause of Li's death remains unknown. But what happened to her last November in this industrial town in southeastern Guangdong province is described by her family, friends and co-workers as an example of what China's more daring newspapers call *guolaosi*. The phrase means "over-work death," and usually applies to young workers who suddenly collapse and die after working exceedingly long hours, day after day."

"These new workers are younger, poorer, and less familiar with the promises of labor rights and job security that once served as the ideological bedrock of the ruling Communist Party. They are more likely to work for private companies, often backed by foreign investment, with no socialist tradition of cradle-to-grave benefits. The young migrants are also second-class citizens, with less access to weak courts and trade unions that sometime temper market forces as China's economy changes from socialist to capitalist. Most of all, they are outsiders, struggling to make a living far away from home."

"Li was a runner ... always on her feet ... 'She had the worst job, and the bosses were always telling her to go faster,' said one worker on Li's assembly line ... 'There were no breaks, and there was no air conditioning.' He added that the air was full of fibers, and with the heat from the machines, sometimes temperatures climbed above 90 degrees."

"Runners required no special skills, and were paid the least, about 12 cents per hour, workers said. During the busy season, including extra pay for overtime, Li could earn about \$65 a month. But there were deductions. Workers said the company withheld about \$12 a month for room and board and charged them for benefits they never re-

ceived. For example, workers said they paid for the temporary residence permits they needed to live and work in Songgang legally, but never received them. Managers also had the power to impose arbitrary fines, including penalties for spending more than five minutes in the bathroom, wasting food during meals and failing to meet production quotas, workers said."

Another colleague, Zhang Fayong, recalled that Li once purchased a new dress, then refused to wear it. She said Li was amazed she had spent money on it, and afraid she somehow might ruin it. After her death, her father found the dress among her belongings, folded and wrapped in plastic, he said. He also found a stack of laminated snapshots, taken at local photo parlors for 50 cents apiece ... They show Li with her friends ... She looks surprisingly young, just a teenager with long black hair, holding flowers, or saluting, or sitting with an ID tag pinned to her blouse ... She was smiling in only one picture."

"Immediately after learning of his daughter's death, Li Zhimin traveled to Songgang. For 28 days, he said, he tried to get someone to take responsibility of what happened ... Finally, police gave him a letter that said a district medical examiner had concluded Li Chunmei 'suddenly died because of an illness while she was alive.' There were no other details, and the local labor bureau declared her death 'non-work-related' ... Li said he was unhappy with the finding, but was helpless to do anything about it."

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO FARMWORKER APPRECIATION DAY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 22, 2002

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I rise to pay a very special tribute to an outstanding event taking place in my district in Northwest Ohio. On Saturday, August 3, 2002, people from across the district will gather in Liberty Center to celebrate Farmworker Appreciation Day.

Mr. Speaker, there is no question that farming is the backbone of our nation. From the earliest days of our nation's history, hardworking men and women have taken to the fields to plant and harvest crops and raise livestock in order to feed their families, their neighbors, and their fellow countrymen.

Farming is an honorable profession that takes a great deal of skill, patience, and hard work. Those hardworking men and women who work on our nation's farms deserve much credit for helping to make our lands productive.

Through the arduous process of working and cultivating the soil, these farmworkers help prepare the ground, plant the crops, and harvest the food we need to live. The life of a farmworker is a tough lifestyle. Like the farmer, the farmworker must endure the ever-changing seasons from the harshest winters to the sun-drying, waterless droughts to rain-soaked days that lead to disastrous floods. Farmworkers watch the fields as thunderous storms race across them damaging the crops from which they make their living. However, through it all, farmworkers continue to the fields to do their work.

Mr. Speaker, agriculture is vitally important to the Fifth District of Ohio as we are home to