

## 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 Khloeung 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. Khloeung 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.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,

Washington, DC, September 28, 2001.

Hon. LARRY COMBEST,

Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, House of Representatives, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN COMBEST: As reported from the Committee on Agriculture, H.R. 2646 contains legislative language regarding methyl bromide.

As you know, methyl bromide has been specifically regulated as an ozone depleting substance (ODS) under the Montreal Protocol, ratified by the United States in 1987, and under Title VI of the Clean Air Act (CAA), established by the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments (1990 CAAA). Under current provisions of both the Montreal Protocol and the CAA, methyl bromide is scheduled for complete phaseout in the United States by 2005. Title VI of the CAA, which serves as a supplement to the terms and conditions of the Montreal Protocol, has been within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Committee on Energy and Commerce since its enactment and signature into law on November 15, 1990.

Both the Montreal Protocol and the Clean Air Act currently provide for specific exemptions from the 2005 phaseout date for methyl bromide. Within the Montreal Protocol, quarantine and preshipment exemptions for methyl bromide are defined within the terms of the treaty as well as subsequent Decisions of the Parties which, among other requirements, limit preshipment applications of methyl bromide to 21 days and provide that Parties utilize alternatives to methyl bromide whenever possible. The Montreal Protocol also provides for a "critical use" and "emergency use" exemptions for methyl bromide, although formal procedures and process to implement this exemption have not yet been established. Within the Clean Air Act, sections 604(d)(5) and 604(d)(6) provide that, to the extent consistent with the Montreal Protocol's quarantine and preshipment provisions, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) shall exempt certain uses of methyl bromide for purposes of complying with federal, state and local sanitation requirements and critical uses. Section 604(d)(5) has been implemented, in part, through interim final regulations promulgated by EPA on July 19, 2001 (66 Fed. Reg. 37,752).

Section 762 of H.R. 2646 requires that the Secretary of Agriculture, upon request of a State, local or tribal authority, determine whether treatments or application of methyl bromide shall constitute an "official control" or "official requirement" under the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7701 et. seq.). I am concerned that although section 762 does not amend the CAA nor affect any provision of the Montreal Protocol, the use of the terms "official controls" or "official requirements" may cause some confusion because these terms are the same terms used in Decisions of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol respecting quarantine and preshipment applications provided for in Article 2H of the treaty.

This letter is therefore intended to clarify the understanding of the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on Agriculture that section 762 does not affect any current provision of the Clean Air Act or the Montreal Protocol and therefore has no substantive legal effect upon the operation of sections 604(d)(5), 604(d)(6) and 604(h) and related provisions within the CAA affecting the phaseout of methyl bromide and the determination of what uses may qualify or not qualify for exemptions or exceptions to the current phaseout schedule for this substance. It is my understanding that section 762 does

not in any way transfer authority between the EPA and the Department of Agriculture regarding which governmental body has authority to make determinations regarding exemptions that are available under section 604(d)(5) for sanitation and food inspection and under section 604(d)(6) for critical uses. Further, it is my understanding that should section 762 or any other provision affecting the status, phaseout or exemptions available for the use of methyl bromide arise during any House and Senate conference on H.R. 2646 or the related Senate legislation, the Committee on Energy and Commerce will be assured of representation at the conference and effective control in the House of Representatives over any and all legislative provisions affecting methyl bromide that fall within its jurisdiction.

Thank you for your assistance and agreement in this matter.

Sincerely,

W.J. "BILLY" TAUZIN,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING,

Washington, DC, September 28, 2001.

Hon. W.J. ("BILLY") TAUZIN,

Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce, House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN TAUZIN: Thank you for your letter of September 28, 2001 regarding section 762 of H.R. 2646, provisions regarding certain determinations concerning official uses of methyl bromide under the Plant Protection Act.

As you are aware, section 762 does not amend, or in any way affect authorities contained in the Clean Air Act and the Montreal Protocol regarding the phase-out of methyl bromide and available exemptions to the otherwise applicable 2005 phase-out date. In addition, Section 762 does not transfer any authority over methyl bromide between that which currently exists within the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Agriculture. Finally, you have my assurance that I will support the appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your Committee should this or any other matter falling within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Energy and Commerce arise in a House/Senate conference on H.R. 2646 or similar legislation.

I look forward to your continued support for H.R. 2646.

Sincerely,

LARRY COMBEST,  
Chairman.

LEHIGH VALLEY HEROES—BETSY SEISLOVE, TRACY LESTER AND CLARANNE MATHIESEN

HON. PATRICK J. TOOMEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 6, 2002

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to share my Report from Pennsylvania for my colleagues and the American people.

All across Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District there are some amazing people who do good things to make our communities a better place. These are individuals of all ages who truly make a difference and help others.

I like to call these individuals Lehigh Valley Heroes for their good deeds and efforts.

Today, I would like to recognize three nurses from Lehigh Valley Hospital, Elizabeth "Betsy" Seislove and Gayriel "Tracy" Lester and Claranne Mathiesen as Lehigh Valley Heroes. These women have truly made a difference in their community.

Betsy and Tracy both recently received the prestigious Nightingale Award of Pennsylvania, a symbol of outstanding nursing. Betsy, a resident of Macungie, is an advocate for patients and families and is a patient care specialist at LVH Salisbury. She volunteers to work with victims of stroke and leukemia and speaks to elementary school students about the importance of trauma prevention.

Tracy, a resident of Lehigh, is a licensed practical nurse pursuing a degree in nursing and is a 20-year LVH veteran with experience in oncology, cardiology and trauma.

Claranne was a finalist in the statewide competition for the Nightingale Award. A Stroudsburg resident, she is an advanced practice nurse specializing in neuroscience nursing. She is also president-elect of the Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Neuroscience Nurses Association.

These women make a difference everyday, working to save and improve lives at LVH, and therefore they are Lehigh Valley Heroes in my book.

Mr. Speaker, this concludes my Report from Pennsylvania.

IN HONOR OF JENNIE NIMTZ, GRADUATION FROM EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

HON. DAVID D. PHELPS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 6, 2002

Mr. PHELPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jennie Nitz of Benton, Illinois, in my district, on the occasion of her graduation from Eastern Illinois University on Saturday, May 4, 2002.

It has been Jennie Nitz's lifelong dream to graduate from college. Jennie herself stated that, "I have dreamed about graduation day like most women dream about their wedding day." Like many students, she graduated from high school, applied and was accepted into Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, Illinois. While this description sounds like the actions of a typical young person, it is Jennie's physical condition and attitude that set her apart from her peers.

Jennie was born three months premature and was given six hours to live. Since that time she has been proving others wrong about her disabilities despite her afflictions. Jennie suffers from cerebral palsy, is confined to a wheelchair, and has been declared legally blind. She has been hospitalized sixty-eight times in the past ten years and has been close to death four or five times. Recently, she was told that she has a seizure disorder caused by brain damage that was brought on by a massive septic infection. In addition, she also suffers from massive digestive problems, pancreatic disease that sometimes requires feeding through a surgically implanted IV in her stomach, constant vertigo, and respiratory problems that require an oxygen tank.

Yet, in spite of these infirmities, Jennie became an active part of the Eastern Illinois University campus. She lobbied the administration