

million just in the last year, totaling 46.6 million. Meanwhile, the Administration is pushing for a tax cut for the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans. It is no wonder that most people believe that things are going from bad to worse, and want a new direction for America.

These important concerns were raised by my constituent and good friend Shelley Kessler in the San Mateo Daily Journal on September 4, 2006. Shelley Kessler is the executive secretary-treasurer of the San Mateo County Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO. She is a powerful voice for labor rights and her clear vision makes her a trusted ally who always fights for the best interests of America's workers. I wholeheartedly associate myself with her comments and ask unanimous consent that the text of her article be included in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues, on both sides of the aisle, to read this important statement on helping America's workers by Shelley Kessler.

[From the Daily Journal, Sept. 4, 2006]  
ARE WE WORKING TO LIVE OR LIVING TO WORK?

(By Shelley Kessler)

Mark Twain once said: "Sometimes I wonder whether the world is being run by smart people who are putting us on or by imbeciles who really mean it."

When you look around this Labor Day, you have to wonder about that quote. America is not working the way it should for working people, let alone those who are struggling to find jobs on which they can support themselves and their families. The disparity between the rich and working poor is growing every day. People are working harder and making less. We're in a health care crisis that's deeper than any of us ever imagined. We all worry about how we'll retire with dignity. A good, middle-class life is increasingly out of reach. Who ever thought that in America, our kids might not be better off than their parents? Today's economic outlook for children and the next generation is pretty grim.

Bill Moyers recently cited these facts: "In 1960, the gap between the top 20 percent and the bottom 20 percent was 30 fold. Now it is 75 fold. Thirty years ago, the average annual compensation of the top 100 chief executives in the country was 30 times the pay of the average worker. Today it is 1,000 times the pay of the average worker. The top 10 percent of earners have captured almost half the total income gains in the past four decades and the top 1 percent have gained the most of all—more in fact, than the entire bottom 50 percent."

And the Bush administration wants to tie an increase of the minimum wage, which has not been raised in 10 years, to a tax break for the top 1 percent, to the wealthiest 8,200 families in the country. As if he or any of his cronies could live on less than \$7 per hour.

Mark Twain, is this what you meant?

In the words of one of our former Supreme Court justices Louis Brandeis: "You can have wealth concentrated in the hands of a few, or democracy; but you cannot have both."

That's why it is time to take back our humanity! And that means that the bad actor Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and others of his supporting cast must be removed from the script. Pretending to care about people while lining the pockets of the rich cannot continue.

Today there is vast public support of broad social goals such as affordable medical coverage for all, decent wages for working people, safe working conditions, a secure retire-

ment and clean air and water. We must bring back a government "of, by, and for the people" to deliver on those aspirations and make sure that America is working for all of us.

George Jean Nathan once said: "Bad officials are elected by good citizens who do not vote." So this November, we are organizing, not just to provide for workers on the job, but to mobilize our communities to action. We will build a grassroots effort to elect people to fight hard for these goals; people who share a vision of common good, who respect the public trust that has been placed in their hands and will earn the right to represent the majority of people who work diligently every day and are the real backbone of this county, this state, and this country.

Here in San Mateo County, the labor community invites other like-minded people to join with us. Let's work together to protect the gains we've made while providing access to a better quality of life for those struggling every day; our food service workers, janitors, home care workers and many others who deserve a decent wage and health care. Let us try to create a place where people have retirement security for which they have worked hard, instead of giving golden pensions to corporate CEOs who have been stripped from the obligations promised to their employees like at United Airlines. Our county is making great strides in the area of health care, sustainable communities and transportation.

The challenges are great, but our efforts are paying off and will continue with dedication and commitment.

We can stop the race to the bottom. We can invest in our future. We can and we will make a difference if we unite together to improve the quality of life and respect for the work we all do. Let's "work to live," we've earned it.

RECOGNIZING 31 YEARS OF SERVICE BY COL PAUL C. CHRISTIAN, USMC

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the 31 years of dedicated service of Marine Corps COL. Paul C. Christian.

Colonel Christian is a native of Neenah, WI. While attending the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, Colonel Christian joined the Marine Corps Platoon Leaders' Class and underwent officer candidate training during the summers of 1973 and 1975. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in December 1975 upon graduation with a B.S. in Criminal Justice.

In March 1976, Second Lieutenant Christian reported to the Basic School, MCDEC, Quantico, VA. Upon graduation in September 1976, he was sent to NAS Pensacola, FL, for flight training. After receiving his designation as a Naval Aviator and promoted to First Lieutenant in November 1977, he was ordered to HML-267, Camp Pendleton, CA, for transition into the UH-1N. His duties consisted of CMCC/CMS Officer, Adjutant, Flight Officer, and Assistant Operations Officer. He was promoted to Captain in September 1980, and deployed twice to Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Okinawa, Japan, with HML-267, Detachment Alpha.

In April 1982, Captain Christian became a "Plank Holder" upon the commissioning of

HMT-303, where he served as the Administrative Officer and a Huey flight instructor. Ordered to SOMS, MCAS El Toro, CA, in October 1982, he was assigned as a Search and Rescue Pilot, Officer-in-Charge of Air Freight/VAL, and Assistant Airfield Operations Officer. In October 1985, Captain Christian reported to 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, as the Air Officer. During this period, he deployed to WESTPAC with BLT 1/1, 11th MEU.

Again ordered to HMT-303 in October 1986, he was assigned as the Operations Officer and was promoted to Major in July 1987. In April 1988, Major Christian reported to HMLA-267 for duty as Executive Officer of Det. Alpha and deployed to MCAS Futenma. Upon returning from WESTPAC, he assumed duties in January 1989 as the Executive Officer of MWSS-372, MCAS Camp Pendleton. In January 1990, Major Christian was assigned as a student at the Armed Forces Staff College in Norfolk, VA.

Upon graduation in June 1990, Major Christian was ordered to the Conventional War Plans and Interoperability Directorate (J-7), Joint Staff, Pentagon, Washington, DC. During this tour, Major Christian served as an action officer for deliberate and crisis action planning. Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in July 1993, he then reported to MAG-39, MCAS Camp Pendleton, as the Operations Officer for MAG-39. From June 1995 to June 1997, Lieutenant Colonel Christian was the Commanding Officer, Aviation Ground Support Element, 3rd MAW, MCAGCC, 29 Palms, CA.

In June 1998, he graduated, with distinction, with a Master's Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College, Newport, RI. Assigned to the 3rd Marine Division, Okinawa, Japan, in August 1998, he served as the Deputy and then as the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3. Additionally, he was the Commander, Marine Forces Forward, during Exercise Cobra Gold '99 conducted in Thailand.

In August 1999, Colonel Christian reported to I Marine Expeditionary Force and served as the Force Fires Coordinator, Future Operations Officer and as the Chief of Staff of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade and the Special Purpose MAGTF, Exercise Bright Star conducted in Egypt. He was the Commanding Officer of MCAS Camp Pendleton from July 2000 to July 2003. On 11 July 2003 he was assigned as the Chief of Staff, Marine Corps Air Bases Western Area (MCABWA) and MCAS Miramar. He assumed the additional duties of Acting Commander, MCABWA and MCAS Miramar from September 2003 until April 2004 due to the deployment of the Commanding General to Iraq, when he then resumed his Chief of Staff duties. He assumed the duties as the Commanding Officer of MCAS Miramar on 6 January 2006.

Colonel Christian's personal awards include the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and the Joint Staff Badge.

He is married to the former Deborah J. Behnke of Kewaskum, WI. They have two daughters, Rachel and Betsy.

On behalf of the people of the United States whom Colonel Christian spent a career serving, I thank him for his service and commitment to the defense of our Nation.