



CONN-OSHA QUARTERLY

∞ In Memoriam ∞

CONN-OSHA mourns the loss of two staff members



Richard T. Palo

CONN-OSHA is mourning the loss of Richard Palo, our beloved director and friend. Since 1984, he has been a member of the CONN-OSHA family, serving as director for the past six years. His sincere dedication to promoting occupational safety and health led our department to national distinction. More important, to those who worked under his leadership, was his sincere concern for the morale of the unit and each employee.

Richard Thomas Palo, age 57 of Newtown, retired director Connecticut's Department of Labor Division of Occupational Safety and Health (CONN-OSHA) died unexpectedly Tuesday, May 12, 2009 after a brief battle with cancer. Born in Bridgeport, he was the son of the late John and Irene Sterback Palo, and was a Newtown resident for 30 years.

Holding education in high esteem, Rich earned a Bachelors degree from the University of Bridgeport and a Masters degree from Quinnipiac University, both in the field of science. After graduation Rich worked for General Electric for 10 years. Then in 1984, his career began at CONN-OSHA. In 2003, he was promoted to director of CONN-OSHA. In addition to this accomplishment, Rich was a board certified member of the American Industrial Hygienist Association, former president of the Connecticut Safety Society, an active member of the National Association of Occupational Safety and Health Consultation Programs (OSHCON), a member of the Board of Occupational Safety and Health State Plan Association (OSHPA), and sat on the advisory board of the Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency. While under his direction, CONN-OSHA was awarded an On-site Consultation Achievement Recognition Award (OSCAR).

Mr. Palo is survived by his beloved wife, Beverly Marie Gierzadowicz Palo; his children, Todd A. of New York City, Kyle A. of Newtown, and Meridith A. of the USCGA; his canine companion Sadie; a brother, David Palo of Long Island, N.Y.; a sister-in-law, Noreen Rooney and her husband, James and their children of Easton. Rich was an avid sports fan, holding an extensive collection of baseball cards, a life-time fan of the Mets, and a constant volunteer in his children's sports teams. Often teased for his finely honed frugality skills and his ability to find office candy, Rich always met us with a smile.

Rich, you will be missed.



Willie Mae Hugee

CONN-OSHA is saddened the loss of Willie Mae Hugee, an office assistant in the CONN-OSHA family. Since 2006, Willie Mae touched our lives with her quiet yet personable nature. In managing the Occupational Health Grant, Willie Mae documented injuries and illnesses occurring to workers in Connecticut. Her generous, caring qualities were demonstrated by her devotion to her church and faith.

Willie Mae Hugee was born June 22, 1968, in Middletown, to Willie and Ada (Johnson) Hugee. She died on April 2, 2009, after a sudden illness. Willie Mae was a resident of Middletown, graduated from Middletown High School and attended Tunxis Community College. She was employed by the State of Connecticut as an office assistant and was a lifelong member of The House of God Church; she received baptism of the Holy Ghost in October of 1997 and was a faithful and loving servant of God. Whereby she served in many capacities for the church on the local and state level of The Diocese of Connecticut — as secretary of the Missionary Board; assistant financial secretary of the State Assembly and Sunday Bible School Convention's Financial Committee team. Willie Mae also served as corresponding secretary for the General and Presiding Elders of The Diocese of Connecticut. At her local church she served as an intermediate and catechism Sunday Bible School teacher.

Besides her parents, Ada and Willie, Willie Mae is survived by one sister, Christine Hugee; a brother, James E. Johnson; a nephew and niece, Christopher and Christian Johnson; a great-aunt and great-uncle, Deacon Thomas and Deaconess Ida Burch; God parents, Deacon Willie and Deaconess Alene Harrison; God daughters, Quina Perry and Adiah Renee Davis; and a host of aunts, uncles and cousins. She was preceded in death by her brother, Robert Wright. Pastor Elder Jacob A. Wallace officiated at the funeral service.

Willie Mae, you will be missed.