



# USMWF

United Support & Memorial for Workplace Fatalities

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USMWF (United Support and Memorial for Workplace Fatalities)

Kentucky based USMWF announces the appointment of two new board members.

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November 7, 2012 Lexington, Kentucky – USMWF is pleased to announce they have added two new Board Members and reinstated two.

“The staff and current board of USMWF are happy to welcome two new board members John Newquist of Chicago, Il and Elizabeth Govaerts of Lincoln, NE. USMWF is working hard to extend its reach to include knowledgeable, experienced and diverse members to the Board. By engaging new leaders, we can support and promote positive changes for family member victims and for workplace health and safety. When health and safety advance, so do families and communities,” said Tammy Miser, director of the United Support and Memorial for Workplace fatalities.

New members include:

**John Newquist** of Chicago, Il is the Assistant Regional Administrator OSHA. Mr. Newquist has 29 years in Health and Safety. A few of his accomplishments are as a Founding Member of ANSI Z359 Fall Arrest Standards, Certified Safety Professional and Fire Inspector, created the OSHA Fall Arrest Course 3110 and OSHA PSM Classes 3300 and 3400.

John was also a proud member of the US Navy Atlantic Intelligence Command with an Honorable Discharge. John has been an inspiration to many USMWF families and we are honored to welcome him aboard.

**Elizabeth Govaerts** of Lincoln, NE is one of the associate attorneys for Vince Powers and Associates where she has been practicing personal injury, workers’ compensation, and professional negligence for 15 years. Prior to joining Vince Powers and Associates she practice appellate criminal defense at the Washington Appellate Defendant Association in Seattle, WA. Elizabeth has been admitted to practice with State of Nebraska, State of Washington, U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Court of Appeals, Eight Circuit and U.S. District Court, District of Nebraska. She is a member of Nebraska State Bar Association, Nebraska Association of Trial



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Attorneys and the American Association for Justice and is involved in her community by being the Board of Directors, The Haymarket Theater 2002-2012 and President and Founder, Lincoln Contemporary Dance Project 2003-present and much more. We are truly honored to welcome Elizabeth to our USMWF family and are excited for what she can bring to our great organization.

Reinstated members include:

**Debi Fergen** of Las Vegas, NV is the Outreach Coordinator for USMWF. Debi got involved with USMWF after her 26-year-old son, Travis Koehler, was killed at the Orleans Hotel in Las Vegas, NV on February 2nd, 2007. Debi has testified before the Nevada Senate on workplace safety issues and participated in a series of Nevada Legislative Commission Sub Committee meetings regarding the Federal Review Report on NV OSHA and has three of her recommendations included in bill drafts to be considered before the 2011 Nevada Legislature.

**Mark Miser** of Lexington, KY is a Paint and Production Engineer at Topy America. Mark has co-owned and operated two successful businesses with the ability to lead and make financial decisions. He is a certified ISO-14001 Auditor and ISO-TS16949. Mark has vast experience and knowledge of environmental procedures and industrial operating processes including safety. He has been involved with USMWF since its conception and worked at a site that had an explosion early on in his career, so he knows the importance of safety on many levels.

The two new members join a seven-member board that oversees USMWF finances, grant making policies and practices, artist residency and retreat center, strategic planning and statewide outreach.

USMWF's mission is to offer support, guidance and resources to those affected by preventable work-related deaths or serious injuries while we continue to grow. USMWF firmly believes that in order to make any real change.