**WORKER'S MEMORIAL SPEECH**

**FOR**

**LOUIS DONSBACH**

**OPENING**:

Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Guests, Good Afternoon – My name is Luke Donsbach, Department Manger of Safety and Industrial Hygiene. On Behalf of the U.S. Steel Gary Complex welcome to the (\*\* th) Annual Workers Memorial Day Ceremony. I would like to personally thank everyone for (braving the elements) to be in attendance for today’s ceremony. First and foremost, I want you all to know that it is an honor to be here to speak with you on such an important occasion.

Worker’s Memorial Day is the day we set aside to remember and honor all the hardworking men and women who lost their lives while on the job. World renowned architect Daniel Libeskind has said this about his arrival to the United States, " ...And I saw that skyline, not just as a representation of steel and concrete and glass, but as really the **substance** of the American Dream." As steel workers, our colleagues and co-workers forge the true foundations of the **real** American Dream... And they do it selflessly and without individual acclaim. At this moment, we have an opportunity to recognize contribution as well as to memorialize the ultimate sacrifices our partners have made.

Today and every day, we mourn not only for those we’ve lost, but for those who have been left behind. Today... and every day, we recognize the burden that workplace injuries and illnesses place on workers, their families, and society as a whole. This is our chance to renew our commitment to strengthen our efforts and procedures to make sure we provide a safe workplace for all employees every single day. This is a solemn ceremony in which we pay tribute and give respect to the dedicated, hard working men and women represented by this memorial. Family and friends are here on this day of remembrance. To those that have been left behind, please know that although these people will not be forgotten, their lives will serve as a symbol for future vigilance. (**If you want to name some of the workers that were lost earlier and mention their family and friends that are present, you can do that here.... As an introduction you can say)** People like \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ remind us that there is great ... and fragile humanity responsible for each and every gesture and accomplishment in this ... and any organization. Human life is our most precious resource and that is the most important thing to remember.

I would also like to recognize the United Steel Worker Locals who represent the hard working men and women of steel (In no particular order)

⇨ Acknowledgements:

Local Unions

❑ 1014 – Gary Primary Operations

❑ 1066 – Gary Finishing Operations

❑ 2695 – Gary Office and Technical

❑ 5133 – East Chicago Tin Operations

❑ 6103 – Midwest Plant Operations

❑ 6103-2 – Midwest Office and Technical

❑ USW District 7, Sub District 5 And the Gary Complex Management and Staff

Today we have a full and meaningful program for you, so with that being said, I would like to start the program off with the introduction of Mark Tabler, Vice Present of Gary and Granite City Operations.

(Different people will speak)

**CLOSING**:

I'm fairly sure that each say, as the alarm clock goes off, no one goes to work thinking they are not going to return home, nor do they anticipate that they might be involved in a life changing occurrence, yet nearly 4 million Americans suffer workplace injuries from which some may never recover.  One instance is one too many, yet 12 people on average a year (**day?)** go to work and never come home.

Tragically, In 2016, Gary Works had experienced the loss of two of our very own – Chuck Kremke, whom we lost in June of last year; and John Arrizola, who passed away in September. They were good men, family men, honest and hard –working men who paid the ultimate price and should not have lost their lives at this facility.

These were preventable tragedies that disabled our workers and devastated our families and have left a lasting impression on our hearts.  By standing together with courage, conviction and a renewed commitment to safety, we can continue to make a difference in eliminating future catastrophes in the workplace. We need to take heed of what Mother Jones said — that we should "pray for the dead and fight like hell for the living."

So, from here on in, tomorrow and every day hereafter, in honor of those we have lost, we will renew our commitment to vigilance... to fight to make sure that every U.S. Steel employee is protected against the hazards affecting the safety, the health, the lives of our workers and in turn the security and well being of their families. Together, through a united effort, we will pledge to keep making progress as we continue to honor the dream that we all share.... and that is to never have to add another name to this wall. Our comrades will never be forgotten, but tragic events like those that have inspired this memorial must be eliminated. We must work towards the mutual mission that one day every preventable worker death ***will be prevented****.* Until that day comes, I pledge my unwavering commitment to keep fighting for “Safety First” and I know everyone of you will join me in this fight. Although General Colin Powell may have originally made this statement about the military, I believe it applies to our industry... and all industires in which inherent danger is a factor. He said, "Never neglect details. When everyone's mind is ... distracted, the leader must be doubly vigilant." In the field, on the site, we are all leaders and we are all partners. Here's to renewed and complete commitment to safety, partnership, and vigilance at US Steel.

Thank you and God Bless everyone!