



## Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, Inc.

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July 24, 2001

Paul Lohaus, Deputy Director  
Office of State & Tribal Programs  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

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Dear Paul:

The Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, Inc. (CRCPD) would like to provide you with information on the annual John C. Villforth Lecture Series. This lecture series began at the most recent 2001 National Conference on Radiation Control held in Anchorage, Alaska with Mr. Villforth being the inaugural speaker. As part of our nominating process, CRCPD would like to extend to your organization an invitation to nominate a maximum of 5 individuals for next year's lecture that will be held on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> during the opening session in Madison, Wisconsin.

This lecture series was established by the Board of Directors to honor Mr. Villforth for his steadfast support of state radiation control agencies as a working partner with the FDA/CDRH in the protection of the American people from unnecessary exposure to electronic product radiation, radioactive materials (especially radium), and protection of the environment from radioactive contamination, and for his strong support of the CRCPD in its early days of development. By establishing this lecture series, the CRCPD is paying tribute to a man with impeccable integrity, a person with outstanding leadership credentials, and a giant in the field of radiological health.

Please find enclosed the following information that should assist you with this request (it is also available on our web site <[www.crcpd.org](http://www.crcpd.org)>):

- A "Fact Sheet" that explains in detail the selection criteria and nomination process;
- A "Nomination Form" for actually submitting your nomination(s) to CRCPD (*Deadline September 15, 2001. The information indicates August 15<sup>th</sup>, however, that date has been extended for societies*); and
- Background information on Mr. Villforth (A Legacy of Leadership).

CRCPD requests that all nomination forms be forwarded under your signature rather than being submitted on an individual basis.

*STP-006 Template*

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Mr. Lohaus

I also wanted to call to your attention the fact that, as noted on the enclosed information, the CRCPD, in recognition for being selected to present the John C. Villforth Lecture, will pay the travel expenses and per diem for the individual to present the lecture at next year's annual meeting, in accordance with CRCPD policies and procedures. The individual will also be presented with a special plaque commemorating their participation in the Lecture Series.

We hope you will consider submitting one or more candidates for nomination to the CRCPD by September 15<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Patricia C. Gorman  
Deputy Director

PCG/ms

Enclosures (Fact Sheet, Nomination Form, A Legacy of Leadership)

cc: Paul Schmidt, Chairperson, Technical Planning Committee  
Charles Hardin, CRCPD Executive Director

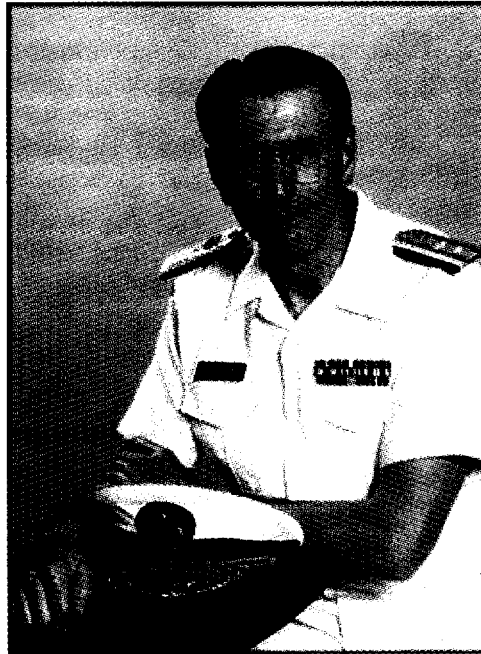
# A Legacy of Leadership

Mr. Villfort attended Pennsylvania State University where he received B.S. and M.S. degrees in sanitary engineering in 1952 and 1954, respectively. Immediately upon graduation, he was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force, Medical Service Corps. He served as the sanitary and industrial hygiene engineer at Loring Air Force Base in Maine. In 1956, he was assigned to the Atomic Energy Commission fellowship program at Vanderbilt University and Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Upon completion of his graduate training and receipt of his M.S. in physics, John was assigned to the Office of the Surgeon Headquarters, Air Force Logistics Command at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. He served as Secretary of the USAF Radioisotopes Committee which was the Air Force contact with the Atomic Energy Commission on matters relating to licensing and use of radioisotopes.

In May 1961, Mr. Villfort entered on duty with the commissioned corps of the U.S. Public Health Service and was assigned to the radiological health facility of the then-Division of Radiological Health at Rockville, Maryland, with the responsibility for the Radiation Surveillance Network (RSN). The RSN was invaluable in alerting the states of increased levels of fallout during the resumption of weapons testing.

In January 1963, Mr. Villfort was assigned as Chief, Radioactive Materials Section, Division of Radiological Health. Mr. Villfort, through the efforts of this Section and in cooperation with the AEC, encouraged the State health agencies to develop a control program for radium and other non-AEC licensed materials, emphasizing the need to control the use, or more appropriately, misuse of radium. One very valuable program for radium control implemented by Mr. Villfort was the convenient disposal of obsolete and damaged sources.

Following the reorganization of the Public Health Service, Mr. Villfort was appointed Chief of the Medical and Occupational Radiation Program. In addition to the continuation of the radioactive materials activities, the Program under Mr. Villfort's



**John C. Villfort**

guidance, developed recommendations for the safe operation of particle accelerators; initiated the only nationwide survey of the use of radionuclides in medicine; and produced a survey manual for dental and medical x-ray equipment.

Congress in the late 1960's enacted landmark legislation — the Radiation Control for Health and Safety Act — authorizing the federal government to set and enforce safety controls for medical, consumer and industrial electronic products that emit various forms of radiation. Shortly afterwards, Mr. Villfort was promoted to the PHS rank of Director (equivalent to Navy Captain) and named Director of the Bureau of Radiological Health, the PHS (and later FDA) component responsible for implementing the new law. In a relatively short time, Mr. Villfort built a national program from the ground up and did so despite the loss of a substantial portion of the cadre of PHS radiological health experts who were reassigned to the newly-created Environmental Protection Agency.

He successfully put into force an interdisciplinary, science-based program that effectively balanced product regulation with training and other voluntary initiatives to reduce population exposure to ionizing and non-ionizing radiation. He did so at a time when, in FDA, reliance on non-regulatory means, such as cooperative programs with states, health provider organizations and consumers to achieve a public health result was a somewhat novel philosophical approach.

By some estimates, Mr. Villfort's radiological health bureau reduced the number of unnecessary medical x-ray procedures performed in the U.S. by as much as one-third, resulting in appreciable savings in patient and health insurance costs, as well as radiation exposure. Separate quality assurance programs conducted under his supervision and in conjunction with state radiation agencies achieved substantial reductions in patient exposures from mammography and dental x-ray procedures. Also under his tutelage, educational materials were produced that were widely adopted by the medical education community and became an in-

tegral part of medical residency programs. Taken together, these initiatives dramatically lowered patient radiation exposure.

In 1979, when America experienced the worst accident in the history of commercial nuclear power generation at Three Mile Island, then-HEW Secretary, Joseph Califano, designated Mr. Villforth as "point man" for all of the Department's radiation emergency response activities. Throughout the crisis, Mr. Villforth demonstrated decisive, competent leadership that enabled national leaders, within and outside government — including President Carter — to make well-informed crisis management decisions and to offer residents in the vicinity of the TMI nuclear plant clear, understandable and reassuring guidance on their personal safety.

In 1982, the FDA Commissioner and Secretary of Health and Human Services recruited Mr. Villforth to take the helm of FDA's medical devices regulatory program. Within a few short years, significant progress was made in fulfilling the prescriptive requirements of the law. Under his direction, the Center made major gains in completing a myriad of regulations required by the 1976 medical device law. As a result, Mr. Villforth restored Congressional and public confidence in FDA's medical device regulatory process.

One very successful program initiated by Mr. Villforth was the development of a commercial-grade television studio that produced videotapes on fast-breaking and important regulatory issues for distribution upon request to interested parties in the U.S. and around the world. In time, the studio's reputation for high quality programming became so renowned that other components of FDA and HHS, as well as agencies elsewhere in the U.S. began using this studio. With this videotape technology, Mr. Villforth created the National Radiological Health Network which entailed the provision of videotape players and monitors to every state radiation control agency in the U.S., enabling the Center to provide state inspectors with monthly training and educational programs. He expanded the studio's capability to use satellite technology to broadcast live video teleconferences to sites around the country and to foreign audiences.

Throughout his distinguished career, Mr. Villforth has shown exemplary leadership and a tireless dedication to public health. His forward-looking and remarkably personable management style has endeared him to subordinates and peers alike. His integrity and stature, along with his extraordinary ability to see the big picture and to motivate others to work toward a common goal personifies the very best in a national public health leader.

He has received numerous awards, including: Elda E. Andersen Award (a highly prestigious award in the field of health physics), Regular Corps Ribbon - 1963, Surgeon General's Exemplary Service Medal - 1974, Meritorious Service Medal - 1980, Foreign Duty Award - 1983, Special Assignment Award - 1983, Distinguished Service Medal - 1980 and 1984, Outstanding Commendation Medal - 1986, National Emergency Preparedness Award - 1989, Unit Commendation - 1989 and 1990, Commendation-Medal - 1990, FDA Distinguished Alumni Award - 2000

Following his retirement from government service in 1981, Mr. Villforth became president of the Food and Drug Law (FDLI) Institute, a non-profit educational organization dedicated to advancing the public health by providing a neutral forum for critical examination of laws, regulations and policies related to human and animal pharmaceuticals, medical devices, radiological products, other health care technologies and foods. He is due to retire from the FDLI in 2001.

## **Fact Sheet for the John C. Villforth Lecture Series**

<b>Purpose of the John C. Villforth Lecture Series:</b>	<p>To honor Mr. Villforth's steadfast support of state radiation control agencies as a working partner with the Food and Drug Administration/Center for Devices and Radiological Health in the protection of the American people from unnecessary exposure to electronic product radiation, radioactive materials (especially radium), and protection of the environment from radioactive contamination, and his strong support of the CRCPD in its early years of development.</p> <p>Mr. Villforth has long recognized the capacity of state radiation personnel to make valuable contributions to the success of national programs to protect the public health of our citizens. The CRCPD has the utmost respect, admiration, and appreciation for the unceasing friendship and support Mr. Villforth has extended to our organization and state radiation control programs over his many years of public service. By establishing this lecture series, the CRCPD is paying tribute to a man with impeccable integrity, a person with outstanding leadership credentials, and a giant in the field of radiological health.</p> <p>For more information on John Villforth, refer to <i>A Legacy of Leadership</i>.</p>						
<b>When and where:</b>	<p>A major activity of CRCPD is its Annual Meeting, the National Conference on Radiation Control. This meeting is designed to provide the participants with the most up-to-date information on the constantly changing radiation protection issues. It is the tradition of CRCPD to recognize dignitaries and special guests during the opening session of the Annual Meeting. It is in this meeting segment that time will be reserved for a speaker to present the John C. Villforth Lecture.</p> <p>This meeting is held in a different location each year. Some of the upcoming meeting sites are:</p> <table data-bbox="649 1365 1380 1491"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Madison, Wisconsin</td><td>May 5-8, 2002</td></tr> <tr> <td>Anaheim, California</td><td>May 4-7, 2003</td></tr> <tr> <td>Minneapolis, Minnesota</td><td>May 23-26, 2004</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Madison, Wisconsin	May 5-8, 2002	Anaheim, California	May 4-7, 2003	Minneapolis, Minnesota	May 23-26, 2004
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<b>Why:</b>	<p>In recognition for being selected to present the John C. Villforth Lecture, CRCPD will pay the travel expenses and per diem (in accordance with CRCPD Policies and Procedures) for the individual to present the lecture at the CRCPD meeting. And the individual will be awarded a special plaque commemorating their participation in the Lecture Series.</p>						

## **Fact Sheet for the John C. Villforth Lecture Series**

<b>Who can nominate an individual:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ An organization having an interest in radiation protection can nominate an individual. If an organization is submitting a nominee, contact information for the organization needs to be provided in addition to the information on the nominee.</li> <li>▸ Individuals can nominate themselves or another individual.</li> </ul>
<b>Nominee background:</b>	<p>The nominee should have working experience and knowledge relating to protection of the public, the worker, and the patient from unnecessary radiation exposure, and/or protection of the environment from contamination from radioactive material. Typical backgrounds of individuals who would likely be nominated include health physics, radiation physics, radiation program management, protection of the environment from radioactive contamination, and radiologic technology. Ideally, the candidates should have demonstrated a major commitment or made a notably positive contribution to the goals and objectives of the CRCPD.</p>
<b>Lecture topics:</b>	<p>The substance of the lecture should be highly relevant to contemporary radiation protection challenges facing government regulators, product manufacturers and users, and the general public, drawing from the lecturer's broad technical and historical experiences.</p> <p>Lectures should be topically relevant to the mission of the CRCPD and its constituents. CRCPD's mission is to promote consistency in addressing and resolving radiation protection issues, to encourage high standards of quality in radiation protection programs, and to provide leadership in radiation safety and education.</p>
<b>Selection criteria:</b>	<p>The Annual Meeting Technical Planning Committee will base their recommendations on the following criteria: (1) the topic addresses a subject that has sufficiently broad interest to CRCPD meeting attendees; and (2) the topic increases an understanding about technically or scientifically complex radiation problems or promotes a useful dialogue about a policy or action that will impact the work of state and federal radiation control programs.</p>
<b>Selections process:</b>	<p>The Technical Program Planning Committee will select no more than three nominees to submit to the Board of Directors. Selection of the speaker for the John C. Villforth Lecture will be made by the CRCPD Board of Directors.</p> <p>The Office of Executive Director will notify in writing the speaker selected for the John C. Villforth Lecture.</p>

## **Fact Sheet for the John C.Villforth Lecture Series**

<b>What should be submitted:</b>	A completed Nomination form, along with an abstract of the proposed lecture.
<b>Submission date:</b>	Submit nominations no later than <b>August 15</b> of the current year for the next year's Annual Meeting.
<b>Nominations and inquiries should be directed to:</b>	<p>Ms. Patricia Gorman, Deputy Director Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, Inc. 205 Capital Avenue Frankfort, KY 40601</p> <p>Tele: 502/227-4543, Ext. 2227 Fax: 502/227-7862 E-mail: <a href="mailto:pgorman@crcpd.org">pgorman@crcpd.org</a></p>
<b>General information about CRCPD:</b>	<p>CRCPD is a nonprofit organization whose membership is comprised of individuals in state and local government who regulate and control the use of radiation sources, and other individuals with an interest in radiation protection, regardless of employer affiliation. CRCPD was formed in 1968.</p> <p>The purposes for which CRCPD was formed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Promote radiological health in all aspects and phases;</li><li>▶ Encourage and promote cooperative enforcement programs with federal agencies and between related enforcement agencies within each state;</li><li>▶ Encourage the interchange of experience among radiation control programs;</li><li>▶ Collect and make accessible to the membership of the CRCPD such information and data as might be of assistance to them in the proper fulfillment of their duties;</li><li>▶ Promote and foster uniformity of radiation control laws and regulation;</li><li>▶ Encourage and support programs that will contribute to radiation control for all;</li><li>▶ Assist the membership in their technical work and development;</li><li>▶ Exercise leadership with radiation control professionals and consumers in radiation control development and action.</li></ul>

# Nomination Form for the John C. Villforth Lecture Series

For Criteria and Details, refer to the John C. Villforth Lecture Series Fact Sheet.

<b>Nominee:</b> (Provide name, address, phone, fax, E-mail)	
<b>Nominee's background:</b>	
<b>Nominee's proposed lecture topic:</b>	
<b>Nomination submitted by:</b>	(Provide contact information if nomination is submitted by someone other than the nominee.)
<b>Submit nomination form and abstract of proposed lecture topic to:</b> Ms. Patricia Gorman, Deputy Director Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, Inc. 205 Capital Avenue Frankfort, KY 40601  Tele: 502/227-4543, Ext. 2227 Fax: 502/227-7862 E-mail: pgorman@crcpd.org	<b>Submission deadline:</b> Submit nomination information no later than <u>August 15</u> of the current year for the next year's Annual Meeting.