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FOP Hails Chao Pick for Transportation *Key Law Enforcement Ally for the New Cabinet*

Chuck Canterbury, National President of the Fraternal Order of Police warmly welcomed news that Elaine L. Chao has been tapped to be the next Secretary of Transportation. He offered the immediate and enthusiastic support of the FOP membership.

“Secretary Chao was a great friend and a terrific partner of the FOP during her tenure as Labor Secretary in the Administration of George W. Bush,” Canterbury said. “Together we accomplished a great deal over her eight years and she will bring the same commitment and dedication to Transportation.”

During her tenure, the Labor Department issued new regulations strengthening overtime protections for law enforcement and other public safety officers. When the new rules became final in August 2004, National President Canterbury described it as an “unprecedented victory” for the nation’s law enforcement officers.

“Our historic work with Secretary Chao on overtime protections also coincided with a pilot scholarship and job retraining program for the spouses of fallen officers that was named after our late National President Steve Young,” Canterbury said. “And in recognition of his leadership and dedication to the profession of law enforcement and our nation’s law enforcement officers, Secretary Chao inducted Steve into the Labor Department’s Hall of Honor shortly after his untimely death in 2003.”

Canterbury noted that Secretary Chao was a regular attendee of the National Peace Officers’ Memorial Service, held each May, and served as its keynote speaker in 2008 as well as the keynote speaker for the FOP’s National Biennial Conference in 2007.

“No other Labor Secretary, before or since, has accorded so much time and attention to law enforcement officers and their concerns as public employees,” Canterbury said. “Law enforcement officers keep our nation’s highways and motorists safe and we look forward to renewing our partnership with Secretary Chao as soon as she is confirmed. We feel certain she will make every effort to include law enforcement’s unique perspective as she undertakes her latest challenge.”

The Fraternal Order of Police is the largest law enforcement labor organization in the United States with more than 330,000 members.

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