

Good afternoon Brothers and Sisters:

It is a privilege for me to speak to you today on the 20th anniversary of Workers Memorial Day in Connecticut. Today in all 50 states and in many countries around the world, ceremonies are held to pay homage to those who died while doing their job.

These men and women went to work, like we all do on any given day and had every expectation to return to their families at the end of the day.

As we reflect and look back on these tragic events I think it is important that we put a name and a face on these workers. They are not just workers!

They are husbands and wives, moms and dads, sisters and brothers, friends and neighbors. They are all someone's loved one!

Since 1970 our Union local has had eight members killed on the job. They are

Nicholas Liquori DOT
Craig LeDoyt UCONN
Gerald Perruccio DOT
Ernest Linsley DOT
Harold Bruce DMR
John Paul Savoie DOT
Darlene Falconeri DOT
Robert Mugford DOT

Unfortunately there is not a thing we can say or do to bring back these good people or all the others who have died on the job.

The good news is that we can use this event to energize the activists and continue the fight for a safer workplace for all workers. Make no mistake; the opposition is as fierce as ever.

The Bush Administration has been one of the most anti-worker and anti-worker safety in history. They claim that safety regulations hurt businesses. They claim that safety regulations hurt profits.

What I want to know is....how much profit would they give up, if it was their loved one at risk of injury or death?

We need to work harder than ever to educate workers and elect pro-worker candidates in Hartford and Washington to pass legislation that protects workers.

This year in Connecticut all of labor, both public and private sector, are supporting Senate Bill 500 -- An Act Concerning Highway Work Zone Safety. This bill would make it a crime to endanger, injure or kill a worker in a work zone. It would increase funding for State Police coverage in highway work zones. We urge you all to contact your legislators in support of this important legislation.

In closing, I want to thank John & Jeanine Olsen, Lori Pelletier, Mike Petosa and the Safety Committee at the CT AFL-CIO for organizing this event. I also want to thank them for the work they do all year long to promote safety in the work place.

Let's make sure that every worker comes home safe at the end of the day!

Remember when it comes to safety... we can never compromise!
And when it comes to safety...we can never take no for an answer!

President Ron McLellan
Connecticut Employees Union Independent
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