

GOOD JOBS. SAFE JOBS.

NOW.

APRIL 28

OBSERVE WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

On April 28, the unions of the AFL-CIO observe Workers Memorial Day to remember those who have suffered and died on the job and to renew the fight for safe workplaces. The toll of workplace injuries, illnesses and deaths is enormous. Each year thousands of workers are killed and millions more injured or diseased because of their jobs.

Eight years of neglect and harmful policies during the Bush administration left the economy in shambles and eroded workers' protections and rights. Under the Obama administration, the economy has begun to recover and, for the first time in years, workers' concerns are a priority. But more than 14 million workers are unemployed and can't find work. And corporate interests and their friends in Congress are trying to block measures to strengthen protections and rights for workers and the public.

We need to turn the country around, starting with the creation of millions of new jobs. These jobs must be good jobs that provide decent wages, health care and retirement security and that give workers a voice.

These jobs must be safe jobs. It's time to update and strengthen the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Act, enacted nearly four decades ago, so that all workers are finally protected, penalties for employers who violate the law are more than just a slap on the wrist and workers can raise job safety concerns without fear of retaliation.

On Workers Memorial Day, we will fight to create good jobs in this country. We will fight for the freedom of workers to form unions, to have a voice and bargain for respect and a better future. We will demand that the country fulfill the promise of safe jobs. NOW!



MOURN FOR THE DEAD. FIGHT FOR THE LIVING.

WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY • APRIL 28 • 2010 • AFL-CIO

DECADES OF STRUGGLE BY WORKERS AND THEIR UNIONS have resulted in significant improvements in working conditions. Eight years of neglect and inaction by the Bush administration eroded safety and health protections. Now, with an administration that is on the workers' side, we have the opportunity to change the direction of the country and chart a new course. It is time to organize, take action and fight for good jobs for workers, including:

- Passage of the Protecting America's Workers Act (H.R. 2067, S. 1580) to provide:
 - Protection under the OSH Act for millions of workers, including public-sector workers and flight attendants, who are not covered by this law.
 - Stronger criminal and civil penalties for companies that put workers in serious danger and repeatedly break job safety laws.
 - Improved anti-discrimination and whistle-blower protections so workers can raise job safety concerns without fear of retaliation.
- New workplace safeguards for long-recognized hazards such as silica and new hazards that are emerging, including the threat of pandemic flu.
- Prohibition on employer policies and practices that discourage reporting of workplace injuries.
- Measures to protect workers from ergonomic hazards that still cripple and injure more workers than any other workplace hazard.
- Increased attention to the safety and health of Hispanic and immigrant workers who are being killed on the job in high numbers.
- Stronger protections for miners, including tighter standards for coal dust to protect against black lung.
- The freedom of workers to have a voice on the job, and to freely choose to join a union and bargain without employer interference or intimidation.

WHAT YOU CAN DO ON WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

- Organize a rally to demand the creation of good jobs and safe jobs in your community.
- Hold a candlelight vigil, memorial service or moment of silence to remember those who have died on the job and to highlight job safety problems in your community and at your workplace.
- Create a memorial at a workplace or in a community where workers have been killed on the job.
- Distribute workplace fliers and organize a call-in to congressional representatives during lunchtimes or break times. Tell your members of Congress to support legislation to create good jobs and safe jobs. Tell them to support the Protecting America's Workers Act.
- Hold a public meeting with members of Congress in their home districts. Bring injured workers and family members who can talk firsthand about the need for strong safety and health protections and the freedom to join a union. Invite local religious leaders and other allies to participate in the meeting.

For additional information or to order materials, contact:

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To order materials, visit www.afclcio.org/shop or call 202-637-5024.