

IN MEMORY OF JOHN F. CONLEY

WHEREAS, John F. Conley dedicated his life to serving his union and his country in various capacities; and

WHEREAS, at age 17, he joined the United States Navy and was stationed aboard the USS Canberra in the Pacific Theater of World War II; and

WHEREAS, he spent more than half a century in the fight for workers' rights following his honorable discharge from military service, serving at various times as a steward, representative, and organizer for the National Maritime Union and its shore side division, the Industrial, Technical and Professional Employees Union (ITPEU); and

WHEREAS, he led the ITPEU into a fully autonomous union after his election to the union's highest office in 1991, and later affiliated the union with OPEIU in 2001, where it is now OPEIU Local 4873; and

WHEREAS, he was repeatedly re-elected president of ITPEU/OPEIU Local 4873 from 1991 until his retirement in January 2013, and concurrently served as international vice president, later becoming international vice president emeritus; and

WHEREAS, his efforts to demand dignity for Service Contract Act and private-sector employees rightfully earned him the Labor Leader of the Year award from the Georgia State AFL-CIO in 2007; and

WHEREAS, the fierce devotion he had to his members and community earned him the coveted Ellis Island Medal of Honor in 2010, joining U.S. presidents, Nobel Prize winners and other distinguished public figures as recipients; and

WHEREAS, a lifetime of service and devotion to the union cause and his community won him the respect and admiration of many.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the OPEIU officers, members and staff hereby express their sincere appreciation and heartfelt gratitude posthumously to John Conley for his more than six decades of devotion and service to the cause of improving the lives of all working people.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED JUNE 2019