PROTECT OUR RIGHTS
SPEAK UP FOR SAFE JOBS

50 YEARS AGO, Congress passed the Occupational Safety and Health Act, promising every worker the right to a safe job. Unions and our allies have fought hard to make that promise a reality—winning protections that have made jobs safer and saved lives. But our work is not done. Each year, thousands of workers are killed and millions more suffer injury or illness because of their jobs.

After years of struggle, unions and our members won new rules to protect working people from deadly silica dust and beryllium, a stronger coal dust standard for miners, and stronger anti-retaliation protections for workers who report job injuries.
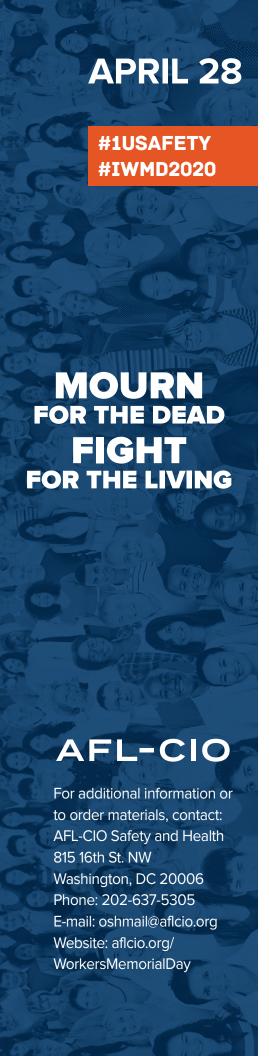
Corporate interests have taken over safety agencies under the Trump administration. Not only has progress stalled, but the administration has weakened or repealed key protections that keep us safe at work and slashed safety agency budgets and staff. It has targeted weakening workplace regulations on beryllium, mine examinations, injury reporting and child labor protections. There has been no action on critical safety and health protections against workplace violence, infectious diseases like the 2019 novel coronavirus, heat illness, silica in mining and exposure to toxic chemicals. The number of Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) inspectors has never been lower and mine safety inspectors are being consolidated.

The labor movement and allies have fought back to block some of these attacks. In the U.S. House of Representatives, we have opportunities to oppose these anti-worker attacks, hold the Trump administration accountable and push forward to win stronger worker protections. We won permanent compensation for those made ill by the 9/11 attacks, and we are fighting for laws that would protect workers from preventable workplace violence, heat illness and asbestos exposures.

On April 28, the unions of the AFL-CIO will observe Workers Memorial Day to remember those who have suffered and died on the job, and to renew the fight for safe jobs. This year we will come together to call for action on hazards that cause unnecessary injury, illness and death. We will stand united against the ongoing attacks on workers' rights and protections, and demand that elected officials put working people's well-being above corporate interests. We will fight for the right of every worker to a safe job until that promise is fulfilled.

OBSERVE WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY APRIL 28

MOURN
FOR THE DEAD
FIGHT
FOR THE LIVING

AFL-CIO

For additional information or to order materials, contact:
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WorkersMemorialDay

WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

Decades of struggle by working people and our unions have improved working conditions and made jobs safer. But the Trump administration and business groups have launched an all-out assault on workers' rights and protections.
We must fight back and continue to push forward. We must:

- Win new protections on workplace violence, silica exposure in mining, heat illness, exposure to asbestos and other toxic chemicals, infectious diseases and other hazards.
- Defend hard-won safety and health protections and workers' rights from attacks.
- Resist any attempts to cut job safety budgets or weaken enforcement.
- Increase efforts to protect the safety and health of Latino and immigrant workers who are especially targeted for speaking up against unsafe working conditions.
- Pass the Protecting America's Workers Act to provide OSHA protection to the millions of workers without it, stronger criminal and civil penalties for companies that seriously violate job safety laws, and improved anti-retaliation protections.
- Ensure workers' right to have a voice on the job, and to freely choose to form a union without employer interference or intimidation.

WHAT YOU CAN DO ON WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, coming together this Workers Memorial Day may be more challenging than in past years. In previous years, we suggested ideas for rallies, memorial services, meetings and workshops. This year, we are suggesting ideas that incorporate safe public health practices during a crisis. The need to rally together and call for stronger safety and health protections is more important than ever.

- Organize an online campaign to call for stronger safety and health protections using our digital toolkit. Email and call elected officials to demand that workers' well-being is put over corporate interests. Connect your call to action with a specific bill or other policy that impacts worker safety.
- Hold a virtual candlelight vigil. Have co-workers and community members post a photo on social media of their candle burning with a caption about the loved one they are remembering.
- Host a phone call or webinar with elected officials in their districts. Include injured workers and family members who can talk firsthand about the need for strong safety and health protections, the ability to speak up against unsafe working conditions, and joining together in union to keep workplaces safe. Invite local religious and community leaders and other allies to participate in the call.
- Create a photo campaign on social media to remember workers who have been killed on the job and lift up the memory of their lives.
- If you are working on the front lines during the outbreak, organize an event at your workplace to stand together to protect all workers' right to a safe job and hold your employer accountable for keeping you safe. Reach out to the press to increase public awareness of the dangers working people face on the job.
- Come together in person once this pandemic crisis is over. As a labor movement, we Mourn for the Dead and Fight for the Living on April 28, and every day of the year.