

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

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FROM: Rome Aloise, Director, Dairy & Food Processing Divisions
RE: Workers' Memorial Day 2021

Every year on April 28, the Teamsters remember all of our members who have sacrificed their health or even their lives on the job. This year we also want to recognize all of our members in the food supply chain for the invaluable contributions they have made to their communities in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Teamsters in the food supply chain faced an immediate challenge of how to continue working without risking the health of themselves or their families after the outbreak of the coronavirus. Teamsters fought for personal protective equipment (PPE), adjustments in work schedules, more flexible leave policies, hero pay and other benefits to counter the risks they were undertaking every day. When employers pushed back, we held their feet to the fire. A perfect example of this was last summer, when we held a national day of action across more than 30 cities demanding that leaders in both the federal government and corporate America do more to protect the essential service workers who were keeping our country moving during this unprecedented national crisis.

In spite of our best efforts, we still lost Teamster brothers and sisters to the pandemic. It has wantonly taken our friends, family and other loved ones from us. I hope that it will be of comfort to those who are feeling this loss to remember those who are no longer with us as dedicated workers, family members and invaluable assets to their communities. For these reasons and many more they will never be forgotten.

Teamsters in the food supply chain have spent the past year demonstrating the resolve, bravery and solidarity that embodies the values of our union by performing work that is essential to the American way of life. I know we will continue to embody these values. Together, we will recover from this pandemic and come back stronger than ever before.

The IBT has developed a variety of resources for Workers' Memorial Day activities at your local union and workplace. For more information, go to <http://ibt.io/2021WMD>.