

534 S. Second Street, Suite 200  
Springfield, Illinois 62701-1705  
217/544-4014 • Fax: 217/544-0225



999 McClintock Drive, Suite 100  
Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527-0844  
312/251-1414 • Fax: 312/251-1420

#### OFFICERS

**Michael T. Carrigan**, President  
**Timothy E. Drea**, Secretary Treasurer

[www.ilafli-cio.org](http://www.ilafli-cio.org)

April 24, 2009

## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACTS: Beth Spencer, Illinois AFL-CIO 217.544.4014

### ***April 28 – Workers’ Memorial Day***

## Labor Organizations in Illinois to Honor Workers Killed or Hurt on the Job

On Tuesday, April 28th, workers across the U.S. will observe the 21st Annual Workers' Memorial Day to honor those who have lost their lives or been injured on the job. In Illinois, services are planned in 10 communities by area Labor Councils. *(See list next page.)*

Illinois has some of the strongest worker safety and workers' compensation laws in the nation, including extremely progressive mine safety legislation. But in 2007, according to a report ***Death on the Job, The Toll of Neglect*** recently released by the AFL-CIO based on U.S. Department of Labor statistics, 182 workplace fatalities did occur in our state and 158,000 workers were injured or became ill because of workplace conditions.

“Worker protection measures, safety training and mandatory safety equipment on the job are on-going concerns,” said Michael T. Carrigan, president of the Illinois AFL-CIO. “We cannot let our guard down for a minute. We have to keep pushing our lawmakers, our employers and our members to make safety a top priority on the job. This is the twenty-first year we have held Workers’ Memorial Day and we are still adding names of men and women who have died while working to make a living for their families. We have to make our workplaces safe.”

Nationally, there were 5,488 workplace fatalities in 2007. Four million U.S. workers were injured on the job and another 50,000 died due to occupational diseases.

The theme for Workers' Memorial Day 2009 is **Good Jobs. Safe Jobs. Give Workers a Voice for Change.**

## **Illinois Workers' Memorial Day Events**

**Alton** – Tuesday, April 28, the Greater Madison County Federation of Labor Workers' Memorial Day Services from 7:30 - 8:30 p.m., beginning in the Muenstermann Building at Gordon F. Moore Community Park, Highway 140 and Park Rd, Alton, followed by a roses and candlelight walk to the memorial at the entrance of the park from the Muenstermann Building. The program will feature guest speakers, color guard, music and video presentation.

**Bloomington** - Tuesday, April 28, Bloomington-Normal Trades and Labor Assembly Workers' Memorial Day Service at 6 a.m. at White Oak Park Pavilion in Bloomington.

UAW Local 2488 in Bloomington will hold a candlelight ceremony and remembrance for two of their members who died due to on-the-job accidents on Tuesday, April 28 at 3:15 p.m. at Union Center on Route 9 West in Bloomington.

**Decatur** – Tuesday, April 28, Decatur Trades and Labor Assembly Workers' Memorial Day Service, 5 pm on the northwest corner of the Macon County Courthouse lawn, located at 253 West Wood Street in downtown Decatur. Gov. Patrick Quinn will be the guest speaker.

**Galesburg** - Tuesday, April 28, Galesburg Trades and Labor Assembly Workers' Memorial Day Service at 5:30 p.m. at the Galesburg Labor Temple, 2243 Grand in Galesburg. Scheduled to speak: Mayor Sal Garza, OSHA Area Director Nick Walters and Pastor Jim Eckland. Cookout immediately following.

**Joliet** – Friday, April 24, Will and Grundy Counties Trades and Labor Council annual Workers' Memorial Day Dinner at the IBEW 176 West Banquet Hall in Joliet.

**Peoria** - Tuesday, April 28, West Central Illinois Labor Council Workers' Memorial Day Service - meeting at the Peoria Labor Temple, 400 NE Jefferson in Peoria at 5:30 to walk to the Workers' Memorial site at 419 Fulton Street for a short ceremony.

**Quad Cities** – Tuesday, April 28, Quad Cities Federation of Labor Workers' Memorial Day Service at 3:30 pm at the USW Local 105 Hall, 880 Devils Glen Rd, Bettendorf, IA. Taps performed by AFM Local 67 member Greg Fitzpatrick, song by Janice Payne – whose husband was killed in a work-related accident and prayer by Minister Ida Berry.

**Rockford** – Tuesday, April 28, the twentieth Rockford United Labor Workers' Memorial Day Ceremony. Meet at the Workers' Memorial Day Tablets located behind the E.J. 'Zeke' Giorgi Building, 200 South Wyman Street in Rockford at 5:00 p.m. for a short ceremony and Wreath Dedication. Refreshments will be served immediately following the ceremony.

**Springfield** – Sunday, April 26, Springfield and Central Illinois Trades and Labor Council Workers' Memorial Day Service at 3 p.m. in the Capitol Rotunda. Keynote speaker will be Michael T. Carrigan, president of the Illinois AFL-CIO. Service followed by a procession to the Workers' Memorial Monument on the North Lawn of the Capitol and then a reception in Room 213 of the Capitol (Secretary of State Office).

**Spring Valley** – Tuesday, April 28, Illinois Valley Federation of Labor Workers' Memorial Day public service announcements to run on local radio stations and an editorial in area newspapers. Workers' Memorial Scholarship Golf Outing: Friday, June 12 at Spring Creek Golf Course in Spring Valley, IL.

*Workers' Memorial Scholarships: \$1,000 scholarships given to eligible dependents of union members who have been either killed or permanently injured on the job and are affiliated with the Illinois Valley Federation of Labor.*

For the complete report: ***Death On The Job, The Toll of Neglect 2008***, go to <http://www.aflcio.org/issues/safety/memorial/>.