A MESSAGE FROM
TERRY O’SULLIVAN
LIUNA!

April 28, 2015

STATEMENT OF LIUNA GENERAL PRESIDENT TERRY O’SULLIVAN
ON WORKERS’ MEMORIAL DAY

Today, the Laborers’ International Union of North America (LIUNA) remembers and
mourns all those working men and women who have lost their lives on the job. We also
pray for, and keep in our thoughts, those workers who were seriously injured and/or
exposed to deadly and toxic substances. Finally, we recommit to building a world in
which every worker returns home healthy and safe at the end of every work day.

Construction is a particularly risky profession, taking the lives of thousands of men and
women around the world every year. Sadly, over the last 10 years, more than 120 LIUNA
members have been killed on construction work sites. LIUNA’s proud public sector
members are no strangers to workplace fatalities, either. Two of LIUNA’s National Guard
members perished with nine other brave Marines and National Guardsmen in a training
accident just last month.

American and Canadian workplaces are much safer than they used to be, thanks to
unions and workers who had the courage to stand together, demand protection from
workplace hazards, and even walk off the job to ensure a safe and productive workplace.
Government regulations that LIUNA, the labor movement, and other organizations fought
to achieve have saved countless lives. Conscientious owners and employers who refuse
to accept accidents and fatalities as a part of doing business have made a difference as
well. But safety, like freedom, demands eternal vigilance, and when we let down our
guard, even for just a moment, workers can be injured or killed.

As long as even one worker dies on the job, as long as even one family is called to the
hospital or the morgue, and as long as even one child must watch a parent leave for work
and never return, our work will not be done. As long as some contractors and employers
continue to cut corners on safety, or leave workers unprotected from toxic and hazardous
substances, we will continue to fight. And as long as anti-worker politicians continue to
attack unions, destroy collective bargaining, and gut enforcement agencies, we will stand
in their way. Because safe workplaces demand workers who are free to organize, who
have a voice in the workplace, and who can rely on swift and effective enforcement of
health and safety laws.

On Workers’ Memorial Day 2015, let us remember all those we have lost at work, pray for
their loved ones, and vow to do what we must to ensure that no workers will ever again
lose their lives trying to make a living for themselves and their families.

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