



BLUE COLLAR ADVOCATE

Raising Voices - Raising Awareness - Raising Standards

“Going To Work Should Not Be A Grave Mistake!”

THIS WEEK’S HEADLINES

Memorial Service Honors Those Who Died in Work-Related Accidents

By Katelyn Boomgaard, Reporter

A daughter is on a mission to remember her father and others who died while on the job.

Danielle Dole lost her father, Sherman Holmes to a logging accident in 2011.

Holmes was well known in Osceola County for his 30 years of service at Pine River High School.

After his death, Dole wanted to honor him and help others deal with losing a loved one in a work-related accident.

Tonight, Dole held the first ever Michigan's Workers' Memorial Day service in Cadillac where many families gathered to honor their loved ones. "This is the first but it's not the last, it's going to happen every year, it may not happen in Cadillac but wherever it takes me this is going to be a constant thing," says Danielle Dole, event organizer.

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Vigil held for victims of work-related injuries

It was an emotional evening in front of the Capitol building Tuesday night.

Families came together for a Worker's Memorial Day Vigil to remember those who have lost their lives to a work-related injury.

Around 4,500 people die, while working, each year.

On average, more than sixty of those victims are Nebraskans—like 25-year-old Ryan Hitchler, who died from a work injury, in Lincoln, in 2009.

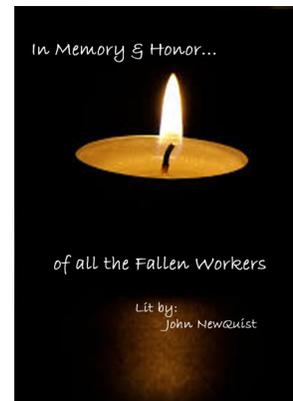
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HONOR FALLEN WORKERS ON FACEBOOK

USMWF in the past month lit approximately 23 candles on their Facebook page in honor and memory of fallen workers and loved ones for USMWF Family Members and Safety Advocates. Thank you to everyone for their support.

To purchase a candle for your loved one or for all fallen workers for an upcoming special occasions (birthdays, anniversaries etc.) please go to

<http://www.usmwf.org/Catalog.htm> Thank You!!!



USMWF'S WORKERS' MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS

APRIL 28, 2015

Oklahoma • Nebraska • Michigan

OKLAHOMA:

Oklahomans joined at the state Capitol Tuesday April 28th to honor their loved ones that they lost due to the lack of workplace safety. On the international day of mourning, what better way to honor them.

We had an increase of attendance due to media and caring people that passed the word around about workplace fatality awareness.

Senator Susan Paddock hosted our vigil again introducing our speakers State Rep George Young, Retired Firefighter George Fina, Worker Comp Lawyer Bob Burke and OK OSHA Area Director David Bates and LeeAnna Mann, USMWF Family Member.

New faces were introduced this year and my hope is that the families were blessed to pay tribute to their loved one. Looking forward to an even better vigil for the state of OK and bringing awareness about workplace safety.



NEBRASKA:

USMWF kicked off the events in Nebraska for Workers' Memorial Day by hosting Nebraska's 5k Family Fun Run/Walk Fundraiser. This event brought over 30 runners/walkers bringing awareness to workplace safety and honoring those we have lost.

On April 28, 2015 we had a full day of events that kept us all very busy. We were so proud and honored to host Nebraska's 4th Annual FREE Safety Expo. Thanks to the kind help of experts Matt Stein, Stein Safety & Health Services, LLC., Risto Rautianinen, PhD., University of Nebraska Medical Center, Julia Roake and FEMACorps Team of American Red Cross, Bernie Hauber, Nebraska OSHA Representative, Douglas Burks, Southeast Community College and Gloria Sarmiento of Nebraska Appleseed. The Safety Expo brought approximately 20 individuals together to discuss Farm Safety, OSHA, OSHA Reporting Regulations, Fall Protection, Confined Spaces and more.

Following the Safety Expo, Family members in Nebraska who lost their loved ones due to work related incidents came together and enjoyed dinner together with each others and had the opportunity to get to know each other and know that they are not alone.

To close all of our events we held Nebraska's 6th Annual Workers' Memorial Day Candlelight Vigil were Lt. Governor Foley, Representatives from Senator Fisher's Office and Congressman's Ashford's Office, President Rod Vleck of Nebraska AFL-CIO, Darwin Craig Assistant Director of Nebraska OSHA & USMWF Family Member Teresa Volquardsen and Family spoke. USMWF was able to donate because of the kind donation of ABC Supply Co., Home Depot and many others Safety Equipment in honor of fallen worker Ryan Hitchler to Grand Island Northwest High School's Construction Course as they are preparing to build houses for Habitat of Humanity. Sadly we read approximately 80 names for those lost in 2014 and 2015, however remembered and honored all that we have lost in Nebraska with a moment of silence to end our Workers' Memorial Day Events.

MICHIGAN:

Volunteer Danielle Dole from USMWF held the 1st Annual Michigan's Workers Memorial Day safety expo and vigil in Cadillac Mi on Monday, April 27th 2015. A free safety expo was held from 9-4 pm at Cadillac Public library. Speakers included Anthony Neroni from MI-OSHA who spoke about LOTO, Will Eubanks talked about Workers Compensation (works as an agent for local insurance company), Tammy Stoner owner of Vertical Safety Solutions of LeRoy MI spoke about Tower Safety and John Newquist spoke out about Tree Trimming Safety. Breakfast and lunch were provided. While there were very few participants the training was informative on many levels and lots of new knowledge was gained. After expo Danielle took family members who lost loved ones in 2014 to dinner. There was a fabulous turn out and lots of tears and laughs were had.

There was a Vigil that was held at the Arts Pavilion on Lake Cadillac.

Dennice and Jayk provided the music for the event, they are from Grand Rapids and friends of USMWF family member Angel. Mayor Filkins of Cadillac, Mr. Barton Pickelman who is the Deputy Chief of MIOSHA, and Danielle spoke. Danielle and Meagan (former Ms. Cadillac read the names). The Cadillac Veteran's presented the colors. The local new station covered the event and balloons were released during the last tearful song.



MICHIGAN'S VIGIL



NEBRASKA'S 5k FUN RUN



OKLAHOMA VIGIL

WMD HONORED AROUND THE U.S.

Here are other great Workers' Memorial Day Events around the U.S.

State hosts memorial to honor those killed at work

By [Luke Duecy](#)

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Come home alive: Education key for Montana workplace safety

By [Jamie Leary](#)

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Workers' Memorial Day honors those killed at work

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Stateliners Honor Union Workers Who Died On The Job

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York, Adams county residents killed at work remembered

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Madison commemorates Workers' Memorial Day

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Community members honor those killed at work

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Kentucky Transportation Cabinet marks Workers' Memorial Day

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Nine Pittsburgh-Area Workers Killed on the Job Honored on Worker Memorial Day

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Workers who died on job remembered Monday

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Remembering those killed on the job

By [Matt Henson](#)

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On Workers Memorial Day, Remembering the Words of Dead Workers

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MnDOT Remembers Workers Injured, Killed on the Job

By: [Meghan Reistad](#)

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Washington State Honors Workers Who Died On The Job, Including Two Teenagers

By [Ashley Gross](#)

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Workplace Safety Advocates Rally To Remember Those Killed While On The Job

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