

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 117

Recognizing the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Laborers' International Union of North America, and congratulating members and officers of the Laborers' International Union of North America for the union's many achievements.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 10, 2003

Mr. KENNEDY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, reported the following original resolution; which was placed on the calendar

APRIL 11, 2003

Considered, amended, and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Laborers' International Union of North America, and congratulating members and officers of the Laborers' International Union of North America for the union's many achievements.

Whereas Samuel Gompers, the first president of the American Federation of Labor, challenged laborers across the country to coordinate their activities into 1 cohesive unit and, in answer, 25 delegates from 17 cities—representing more than 8,000 laborers—met in Washington, D.C. on April 13, 1903;

Whereas after 4 days of meetings, these representatives formed the International Hod Carriers' and Building Laborers' Union of America (Laborers' Union);

Whereas the Laborers' Union was started and built by immigrants and minorities, and today immigrants and minorities continue to be the fastest growing segment of the union's membership;

Whereas in 1920, the Laborers' Union backed efforts by African-Americans to win equal treatment in United States unions;

Whereas by the late 1920's, a boom in construction caused the membership rolls to approach 100,000, and during this period 3 amalgamations added to the union's size: the International Compressed Air and Foundation Workers Union, the Tunnel and Subway Constructors International Union, and the International Union of Pavers, Rammermen, Flag Layers, Bridge and Curb Setters, and Sheet Asphalt Pavers;

Whereas the members of the Laborers' Union provided crucial support to the national defense effort during World War II, and during the post-World War II industrial boom the Laborers' Union began organizing non-construction workers in the labor force;

Whereas in 1950, the Laborers' Union built their own training center in Kansas City, opening the era of high-quality training to help workers advance and find more opportunity for themselves and their families;

Whereas in 1955, the Laborers' Union affiliated with the AFL-CIO Industrial Union Department in order to effectively represent the 60,000 laborers working under the jurisdiction of the Industrial Union Department;

Whereas in 1965, the Laborers' Union officially changed its name to the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA), to reflect the continual expansion of the union beyond the construction field;

Whereas during the 1960's, LIUNA successfully organized municipal, State, and university employees, and in 1968 added the 20,000 member Mail Handlers Union to their ranks;

Whereas in 1970, intensive lobbying by LIUNA and other unions resulted in the creation of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration;

Whereas more than 3,000 members of LIUNA worked round the clock to clean up the site of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in New York City, and the clean-up was completed 3 months ahead of schedule and under budget;

Whereas LIUNA now consists of approximately 800,000 members in more than 650 locals;

Whereas LIUNA has long played a vital role in building America through the laying down of new highways, the building of spectacular bridges, the digging of tunnels and subways, the constructing of new dams and power plants, factories, and office buildings, the erecting of new schools, churches, and hospitals, and the building of apartment buildings and houses throughout the country;

Whereas members of LIUNA work in a wide variety of fields, such as local, State, and Federal government service, health care, mail handling, custodial services, ship-building, food service, and hazardous waste removal;

Whereas LIUNA is one of the most innovative unions in the labor movement, with 69 state-of-the-art training centers

across North America, and is among the most successful unions at organizing within the labor movement;

Whereas LIUNA is an extraordinary union whose leadership works hard every day to promote job creation, protect members' health and safety, provide laborers a strong voice in the workplace, provide extensive skill training to empower members to reach their full potential, and, perhaps most importantly, to ensure the dignity, respect, and security for laborers in the workplace; and

Whereas the efforts of LIUNA in these areas are deserving of our attention and admiration: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) recognizes the 100th anniversary of the
3 founding of the Laborers' International Union of
4 North America, which has made a tremendous con-
5 tribution to the structural development and building
6 of the United States, and to the well-being of count-
7 less workers;

8 (2) congratulates LIUNA for its many achieve-
9 ments and the strength of its membership; and

10 (3) expects that LIUNA will continue its dedi-
11 cated work and will have an even greater impact in
12 the 21st century and beyond, and will enhance the

- 1 standard of living and work environment for laborers
- 2 and other workers in generations to come.

Attest:

Clerk.