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**ENTERTAINER**

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**Building Dedication, Bronze Bust Honor Mike Sacco's Sterling Legacy**



Michael Sacco's widow, Sophie Sacco, shares a moment with the bronze bust of her late husband, which will remain on the campus of a school he helped establish and lead.



The new lettering is unveiled in Piney Point, Maryland, where many SEATU members train.

The longest-serving president in Seafarers International Union history - and the first SEATU President - often described the organization as feeling “more like a family than a union.”

That sentiment seemed palpable June 17 in Piney Point, Maryland, as union officials and employees, Seafarers Plans representatives, Paul Hall Center (PHC) personnel, employer trustees, officials from other maritime unions - and numerous family members - gathered to warmly and respectfully honor Sacco, who passed away in December 2023, at age 86 (nearly a year after retirement). The ceremony featured two main components: naming the school's most modern building in his memory, and unveiling a bronze bust universally regarded as a remarkably accurate depiction of him.

As a result, the campus now boasts the Michael J Sacco Media Center, and that building houses the bronze bust. (Sacco's middle name was John.)

Later in the day, family and executive board members travelled to the nearby Seafarers Haven Cemetery for the blessing of a marble monument honoring Sacco.

The events kicked off with a gathering outside the media center, a building that houses state-of-the-art classrooms, meeting facilities, touchscreen videos, union artifacts, and more. SEATU Executive Vice President Tom Orzechowski served as emcee; his opening remarks were followed by brief speeches from SEATU President David Heindel, PHC Trustee Tony Naccarato, and American Maritime Association Chairman Capt. Robert Johnston.

Sacco's widow, Sophie, and daughter Valerie Moore then did the honors of removing a cover to unveil the newly affixed moniker Michael J Sacco. Moore wrapped up the outdoor portion of the ceremony with heart-rending remarks.

Immediately thereafter, attendees moved inside the building, where SIU Vice President Pat Vandegrift introduced sculpture artist Kelly Micca. Sophie Sacco then unveiled the bust, to widespread applause. The family also received a miniature version.

The speakers all worked with Sacco for decades. During the outdoor ceremony, Orzechowski recalled discussions with Sacco many years ago aimed at modernizing what was then the library (now the media center).

“Mike was a huge advocate for education and making sure our members had the right tools to succeed.... Today, this building exemplifies everything that Mike was about,” Orzechowski said.

Heindel noted that he first met Sacco as a trainee in the early 1970s.

“From the beginning, he was an inspiration to me and of course to countless others,” Heindel said. “Mike had a way of motivating people to learn and grow and to push themselves beyond what they thought they were capable of.”

Reflecting on the planning that led to the building dedication, Heindel said, “When Mike passed back in 2023, one of the first things the executive board and the trustees started talking about was how to honor his legacy. We were eager to demonstrate our appreciation and respect for him, but we also didn't want to rush.

“I think we nailed it with this building dedication. The media center is our most modern facility. It's essential in helping the apprentices and the rank-and-file members continue their education and advance their careers. That's why I think it's fitting that we're naming it after Mike. He was old school in the very best sense of the term, but he also pushed us to plan for the future, to better ourselves, and to be aggressive when it came to staying

one step ahead of the industry's needs. He always emphasized that this school is the key to our future, and that's why he spared no effort in making sure it remained state-of-the-art.”

Naccarato described Sacco as “a force of nature. When I spoke to him, I always learned something new. Ideas flowed out of him like water out of a faucet. Over time, these ideas, strung together, were instrumental in building one of the strongest unions in America.”

A longtime labor relations specialist in addition to his work as a trustee, Naccarato credited Sacco with “intrinsically understanding that in order for any union to survive and thrive, it was essential that it cultivated a close and mutually respectful relationship with his contracted companies.... Mike was an expert at being at the right place at the right time. He had the foresight to see far into the future to see any storms coming our way and preparing to deal with them. His knowledge of the Washington scene and his personal relationships with influential politicians, all the way to the president, was extremely valuable in keeping our industry well-protected.”

He concluded, “This bust will stand in this beautiful media center as a brilliant reminder to future generations of Seafarers that in life you will not be judged by where you start, but where you finish. Mike will be an inspiration to all - he started as an entry-level sailor in Brooklyn and finished leading one of the most respected unions in America, with a benefit fund that is the envy of all.”

Moore captivated the crowd with the last of the formal remarks. She stated, “We gather not merely to reflect on the accomplishments of our late father, but to celebrate the profound impact he had on our lives, the SIU and the maritime industry. We honor his legacy to ensure that his spirit lives on in the union he loved so dearly. We recognize the unwavering commitment, dedication and passion he brought, not just to his role as president of the SIU, but to every single person he interacted with....

“Our father believed in the power of unity,” she continued. “His team was not just a collective voice. They were his family. He worked tirelessly to foster strong employer partnerships. These partnerships have not just benefited our current members, but have also paved the way for future generations of Seafarers, ensuring they are equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to excel in an ever-evolving shipping industry.”

Moore concluded, “Throughout his tenure as president, my father exemplified what it means to be a leader. He faced challenges with courage and resilience, always prioritizing the needs of the SIU and the maritime industry. He touched the lives of countless members.... As you dedicate this building, let it serve as a symbol of my father's enduring legacy. May it stand as a reminder of his commitment to education. Every time students walk through these doors, may they feel the spirit of encouragement and inspiration that my father instilled in all of us.”

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# President's Column

## Solidarity and Strength

This edition of our newsletter includes coverage from the most recent meeting of the Maritime Trades Department (MTD) Executive Board. In addition to serving as president of our union, I am honored to also lead the MTD, which is a constitutional department of the AFL-CIO.

In our previous issue, I very briefly touched on our affiliation with the AFL-CIO, the nation's largest federation of unions. That connection and others are worth a deeper dive.

As you know, the labor movement's core tenets include strength in numbers, solidarity, and the unwavering belief that an injury to one is an injury to all. I experienced welcome reminders of those bonds in late June, as a guest speaker at the Machinists conference. It's always good to interact with our brothers and sisters from throughout the movement, but the timing of this particular gathering proved most welcome, as we in organized labor navigate some turbulent waters.

Using the Machinists as an example, our unions share affiliations through both the MTD and the AFL-CIO. The MTD consists of 25 affiliated unions a network of 21 port maritime councils in the U.S. and Canada, collectively representing around five million workers. The AFL-CIO, meanwhile, features 63 national and international labor unions that represent nearly 15 million working people.

Staying active with those organizations helps give us strength far beyond our own membership numbers. When issues of particular importance to our union surface, we amplify them through the MTD or the AFL-CIO or both. We use additional channels, too, including state labor federations and central labor councils (some of which have been renamed as area labor federations).

Solidarity isn't a one-way street, of course. When our sisters and brothers from other unions need our help, we're there, whether as an individual organization or via one of the aforementioned groups.

The bottom line: Our union is well-served by being part of the larger structure of organized labor. We're also fortunate to have developed longstanding and excellent working relationships with AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler and AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Fred Redmond, two people whom I'm proud to work with and to call friends. We face no shortage of challenges these days, but we've got the right people at the helm.

As we move forward in promoting and protecting workers' rights, remember that we're far from alone in the fight. Whether it's through our parent union, the Seafarers, or any combination of the labor organizations mentioned above, we're part of a strong team that knows how to survive and advance. We do have our work cut out for us, but I'm confident about our future.

The labor movement wasn't built on comfort. It was built in struggle, and it was built to last. We've never had anything handed to us.

It's also worth noting that union approval is the highest it's been in decades. Not coincidentally, union workers consistently earn more money, have better benefits, and enjoy greater protections than their unrepresented counterparts.

From factory floors to federal agencies, unions have always stood as the frontline advocates for working families. And through our persistence and unity, we'll remain a cornerstone of the American workforce.



David Heindel

## AFL-CIO Report Shows Medicaid Cuts Hurt Everyone

The AFL-CIO released new analysis in June, showing that the Medicaid cuts Senate Republican leaders are pushing through the budget reconciliation process would raise health care costs for everyone, including an estimation of up to \$485 a year for the 179 million people with employment-based insurance. The research shows that if it becomes law, the bill would result in higher premiums, less access to emergency rooms and fewer providers available to provide care—not only for people who use Medicaid, but for millions more working people across the country.

“This budget reconciliation bill makes it seem like cutting Medicaid is going to save taxpayers money when it's really going to cost all of us more—all to give tax breaks to the rich,” said AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler. “We're not going to let the Republican-controlled Congress make our health care more expensive and less accessible for working people.”

The AFL-CIO's new analysis finds that if the reconciliation bill under consideration in the Senate becomes law:

- For the 179 million workers with job-based insurance, premiums could soar by nearly \$500 a year for each person covered and nearly \$2,000 annually for a family of four.

- Sixteen million people would lose health coverage entirely, pushing more patients into urgent care

and emergency rooms—driving up costs for everyone across the health care system.

- States would be forced to gut other vital services to close the gap left by federal cuts. Funding for schools, fire departments and infrastructure projects will be jeopardized, putting state and city essential workers' jobs on the chopping block.

- Hospitals and health care providers will be forced to absorb billions in uncompensated care costs, which will then be passed on to patients through higher premiums and reduced access to care, as facilities will be forced to shutter under financial strain.

- More than 600,000 front-line health care workers would be fired, tossing the people who would care for our parents as they get older and our kids when they get sick out of their jobs.

- More than 330 rural hospitals across the country, from Alaska to Alabama and particularly in the South, would be forced to close if these Medicaid cuts become law. These hospital closures would strip entire communities of access to emergency rooms, ambulances and maternity wards, forcing those in rural and lower-income communities to travel farther and wait longer for care.



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# Federation President Shows the Way Forward

AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler is realistic about the challenges facing the labor movement – and she’s also determined to help lead a strong recovery as the federation battles against a number of recent anti-worker developments.

Shuler spoke to the Maritime Trades Department Executive Board May 7 at AFL-CIO headquarters, located in the nation’s capital. She thanked MTD/SEATU President David Heindel for his leadership and reiterated the federation’s unwavering support.

Shuler pointed to the MTD’s decades of solidarity as a guide for overcoming current challenges.

“Solidarity is a word that really means something with the Maritime Trades,” she said. “You show up. You show up for those who aren’t even necessarily adjacent to your industry.... The OPEIU was born out of the solidarity you showed. In the 1960s and 1970s, when the public sector was trying to organize, you showed up.... We could use that solidarity more than ever.”

The federation president described some recent executive orders as “a full-frontal assault on our labor movement writ large. With the stroke of a pen, eliminating collective bargaining rights for federal union members.... It is the biggest attack on our labor movement in our history. People like to point back to PATCO, the air traffic controllers, which was a moment in time that was seminal. This is that moment on steroids.”

She continued, “No matter what industry you’re in, there’s an executive order for you, and it’s coming a mile a minute. But we’ve been here before. The labor movement endures. It’s a matter of the fierceness and the speed we probably haven’t dealt with before, but we have definitely been here before and gone through hard times and come back stronger. So that’s our objective. We’re going to continue to organize. We’re going to continue to fight back, make our voices heard.”

Shuler has been traveling across the country, mobilizing for various grassroots outreach. Among other messages, she has used the meetings and rallies to promote the AFL-CIO’s Department of People Who Work for a Living – a resource aimed at countering misinformation from the so-called Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE).

In starting the mobilization, “we said, we’ll tell you from our perspective what efficiency looks like, but we also use it as a platform to show the impacts of what these (DOGE) cuts look like on real people. The hearings we did were all across the country, and mainly purple districts.... We invited workers to come in and testify, and we invited small-business people. We invited farmers, we invited veterans to talk about what these cuts mean. And it was so compelling.”

A lifelong trade unionist and longtime backer of the SIU, Shuler said that during her travels, “What I heard was that people want common sense. No matter if you’re Democrat, Independent, Republican, people want common sense. And what they’re starting to see (from the administration) is not that.”

She pointed out that income disparity remains a significant issue in the U.S. For example, a CEO rakes in an average of 238 times more money than a worker at their company.

Shuler also said the many people who attended those meetings expressed fear about potential cuts to Social Security and Medicaid.

“It’s up to us as a labor movement to be that place where you connect that anger and that frustration to action,” Shuler said. “Now is our time, and unions have never been more popular.... We have a real opportunity for organizing and to continue to stay on that front foot.”

During a question-and-answer session at the MTD meeting, Shuler pointed out that the labor movement,



Liz Shuler  
President, AFL-CIO

through its state federations and central labor councils, has “a unique infrastructure. We can activate people in pretty much every town and city across this country and reach real working people all across this country on a moment’s notice. But if we’re not all using those hubs, then we’re less effective.”

Moreover, Shuler said that the AFL-CIO is planning additional outreach centered around Labor Day.

“That’s when everybody is paying attention to labor,” she noted. “We are planning, with all of you, to make this a Labor Day like no other. We want it to be different this year. We want it to be action-focused.”

## Congressman Urges Pro-Worker Platforms, Cooperative Dialogue

U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi (D-New York) firmly reiterated his complete support for the U.S. maritime industry during his May 7 address to the Maritime Trades Department Executive Board in the nation’s capital.

Most of his remarks, however, focused on bigger-picture issues facing America’s working families as well as the Democratic Party.

Suozzi stated, “If you’re in a union, thank God; you’re doing good. You’ve got a good wage and good health benefits. You have good pensions. But the rest of the country, the people who aren’t in unions are in a lot of trouble.”

Suozzi said one of the nation’s goals should be “to get back to a place in our country where the American Dream is a real thing for everybody. I’ll work hard and in return for working hard, I make enough money so I have a good life. That’s it. I work hard, I make enough money, I can buy a house, I can educate my kids, I can pay for health insurance. I can retire without being scared. Too many Americans don’t have that anymore, and that’s why they’re [upset].”

After touching on last year’s election results and current messaging that seems well-received by working families, Suozzi stated, “My party has got to get back to a place where working men and women say,

those are the guys looking out for me. Those are the people looking out for my interests.”

He credited the labor movement for helping build the foundation of the American Dream, then offered a brief history lesson beginning in the 1970s. Suozzi gave examples of how, starting during that period, ownership management in numerous industries began prioritizing shareholder profits far more than employee or community wellbeing.

In terms of generating income, “it worked. We made a ton of money in America from the end of the 70s to now,” he said. “The Dow Jones has gone up 2,500%, the GDP has gone up – but workers wages have not gone up (correspondingly). They’ve been stuck. So, we made all this money, but it was only for a certain group of people.”

Looking ahead, Suozzi said that Democratic legislators and candidates “have to lay out our platform that says very clearly our main focus is raising people’s wages and benefits and retirement security. That’s our number one priority. We’ve got to get back to that basic message, and then we have to have the vehicles to communicate the message.”

The congressman concluded by appealing for more open communication between people and

organizations at every level, from individuals to legislators to businesses and more.

“People are just fighting with each other, and you can’t solve complicated problems with everybody yelling and screaming at each other,” he said. “You can’t do it in your family. You can’t do it in your business. Can’t do it in negotiating a contract. You need people who may disagree with each other to sit down across from each other and say, I think this. Well, I think that. Well, how about this? Well, how about that? And you try and find some common ground so you can move us all forward together. That’s not happening in an environment where everything’s attack and counter-attack, punch and counter-punch.”

“One of the things I’m doing is, I’m the co-chair of a group called The Problem Solvers Caucus,” he continued. “We just had a meeting today.... Fifty members of Congress, Democrats and Republicans. The Republican co-chair is going to be Brian Fitzpatrick (Pennsylvania), who’s a pro-labor Republican. We’re working to try and find common ground.... If you agree with what I’m saying, tell people the same thing and encourage this. Spread the word with your friends and your neighbors and your colleagues.”



U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi (D-New York) (left) addresses those gathered. SEATU President David Heindel is at right.

# Members Graduate From Classes At SEATU-Affiliated Paul Hall Center



*Editor's note: Many classes of SEATU members employed by Norwegian Cruise Lines (NCL) have recently completed the Basic Safety Training course at the Paul Hall Center for Maritime Training and Education in Piney Point, Maryland. The one-week course includes training specified by the vessel operator and approved by the U.S. Coast Guard, and includes fire, survival and first aid training. These training sessions were all administered at the Joseph Sacco Fire Fighting and Safety School, located on a satellite campus. In each photo on the following pages, all members are listed in alphabetical order.*



Pictured above: Tadarius Ayers, Lisa David, Filip Deja, Anthony Gonzalez, Krissy Grant, Cheyenne Harding, Trevan Haynes, Claudia Icabalzeta, Tamara Jensen, Tikesha Jones, Betzaida Lammersdorf, Nathaniel Nibbs, Natasha Pascal, Ariana Richardson, Sengedoo Samdantsogt, Wendy Santiago, Steve Sargetakis, Jertavious Stevenson, Karis Studebaker, Alexander Trullet and Mia Voroshuck.



Pictured above: Jorge Aguero, Malachi Anderson, Brittany Auguillard, Kamal Azimi, Joseph Dadvias, Jaquez Drake, Elisabet Garcia Días, Toni Gipson, Nyeland Harmon, Kyle Hawkins, Cameron Koster, Samuel Lewis, Cezar Montalvo, Mae Pickett, Tina Reimoneng, Joshua Saw, Jamie Schultz, Amanda Stamper, Noah Steele, Christon Taylor and Antonio Vannucci.



Not all are pictured: Brittany Binns, Preston Cason, Abel Castellon, Leandro Cora, Brooke Couvillon, Cole Deboi, Jordan Gorman, Bre'Inna Jackson, Marcus Jeffrie, Gokhan Karademir, Alexander Kokinakos, Jaxon Malcom, Edgar Martinez Lozano, Ian Meyer, German Osorio Arias, Swade Reis, Moranda Rivers, Alondra Rodriguez Santiago, Monika Serrano Cota, Thomas Standiford, Shakara Steadman, Antonio Thomas and Samuel Ward.



Not all are pictured: Steven Armstrong, Herbert Burnside, Jamila Cutts, Karen De Loach, Maranda Deas, Colleen Douglas, Kyle Dubiel, Dominick Duffy, Tashiana Farrar, Nicole Freimuth, Evangelina Fuentes, Cyara George, Gary Jackson, Cindy Kemp, Spencer McFerrin, Shatina McNeil, Sammy Mellado, Mitchell Morgan, Hertis Mullins and Jack Negrete.



Not all are pictured: Fred Noel, Ronald Perez, Jason Powell, Jeremy Proctor, Leonard Rep, Jason Rios, Jose Rios Respeto, Kassi Rosenberry, Carlos Sagaro Rodriguez, Khalid Said, Rahkel Seibert, Michael Tucker, Sandra Vann, Joseph Walker, Keeon Wells, Faber Wiebe, Nicole Williams, Aliyah Wilson, Ky Wilson and Niyah Wright.



Not all are pictured: Abdulaziz Aminov, Deshawn Buie, Norman Carnaby, Paul Chism, Jason Clark, Joshua Cunningham, Ava Davis, Jeralyn Goetz, Thanairis Gonzalez Lopez, Ronelle Grant, Devery Hartman, Kimberley Johnson, Maude Jurisprudencia, Eli Kobb, Sharrell Majors, Kimberly Martindale, Dejah McDaniel-Wimberly, Gisele Mendes, Joclyn Mitchell, Kristel Plander, Montrel Richardson, Nicholi Robles, Armando Salcido and Cynthia Salgado.



Not all are pictured: Kourtney Cary, Clifton Dyer, Denise Espallat, Grace Francis, Ashley Goodwin, Nicklaus Haughian, Kyle Hodgdon, Guyen Huynh, Abdelghani Kaloun, Lilliam Massanet Rodriguez, Lisa Norris, Michael Porter, Naomi Reilly, Leonard Rodriguez, Anaya Rudolph, Carlos Sagaro Rodriguez, Shaheem Santana, Nicole Stanaway and Jacorey Starks.

# Members Graduate From Classes At SEATU-Affiliated Paul Hall Center



Above (not all are pictured): Mayra Alvarado Fuentes, Jordan Anderson-Thomas, Aaron Bateman, Debra Bell, Josephine Bethard, Chase Dean, Angel Dilone, Kathryn Durfee, Toby Gaffney, Alberto Govea, Jose Guitron, Todd King, Agnes Kome, Hunter Lamprich, Caden Lee, Daniel Osawaye, Alyssa Plaza, Jeri Ploog, Reginald Salley, Joseph Santa Maria, Cody Sturdevant, Zachary Tambone and Ryan Zaki.



Above (not all are pictured): Aziz Askak, Emily Barnard, Joshua Birnbaum, Nicholas Booker, Madison Brasch, Belkis Burch, Kerry Burnette, Juliana Carillo Lopez, Carson Che, DeShean Crockett, Marie Demosthene, Ladd Du Pont, Sonja Griffin, Ericka Guincho, Helena Haliabalias, Taqwa Hassan, Jared Hiegel, Blake Hudson, Alesha Hulsey, Laretta Irchirl, Giovanni Jaludi, Niklas Kjeldsen and John Koppenol.



Above (not all are pictured): Destiny Lawrence, Naqwan McLean, Israel Morris, Nelmary Pacheco Jimenez, Stacy Phillips, Danielle Richmond, Madeline Robles, Jeremai Scott, Latoria Similien, Nicholas Simon, Ileana Smart, Oran Smith, Nealand Tah, Mitchel Valencia, Rebeca Vizcarra, Joshua Walker, Walter Wells, Tia White and Mia Withers.



Above: Amani Ali, Erik Batoog, Jennifer Bellow, Holly Evans, Brayden Girard, Melina Green, Diamond Haskins, Perto Herrera, Sunflower Johnson, Logan Maina, Mark Mazaev, Tavian Milton, Justin Rachal, Liana Satchell, Alexandra Schmidt, Jeremiah Smith, Caila Snyder, De Andre Washington, Aaron White and Angela Woods.



Above (not all are pictured): Tadarius Ayers, Lisa David, Filip Deja, Anthony Gonzalez, Krissy Grant, Cheyenne Harding, Trevan Haynes, Claudia Icabalzeta, Tamara Jensen, Tikesha Jones, Betzaida Lammersdorf, Nathaniel Nibbs, Natacha Pascal, Ariana Richardson, Sengedoo Samdantsogt, Wendy Santiago, Steve Sargetakis, Jertavious Stevenson, Karis Studebaker, Alexander Trullet and Mia Voroshuck.



Above (not all are pictured): Jada Bennett, Chasidy Bush, Veronica Cameron, Jennifer Davis, Chris Fuller, Craig-Alexander Golden, Remekia Handy, Madisen Harry, Sunflower Johnson, Matthew Lee, Emily Lopez, Delanie Lucas, Rian Phillips, Mina Porto, Dwestley Ratcliff, Tykera Reid, Darrell Robinson, Karolyi Smith, Latisha Walker, Frederick Westbrook-Coleman and Demetrius Williams.



Above (not all are pictured): Ann Aaron, Jose Aponte, Diamond Chapman, Tatiana Clay, William Collier III, Ashley Cushing, Morgan Gatabaki, Sebastian Hahn, Sophia Innerarity, Alexxa Jernigan, She'ree Lattimore, Johanna Morales, Jalen Nelson, Lance Ovist, Angela Sparks and Sarya White.

# SEATU-Crewed Pride of America Receives Upgrades to Guest Facilities

During the month of May, the *Pride of America* received several notable upgrades to the guest amenities and accommodations aboard the U.S.-flag cruise ship. The renovations included the addition of a new Starbucks location within The Capitol Atrium on deck 5, as well as the addition of brand new pickleball courts added to the existing sports court.

With the completion of the upgrades, the *Pride of America* now features 12 new club balcony suites, as well as three inside staterooms on deck 12. Additionally, several clubs and amenities have been renovated and relocated to other decks, in order to better serve the guests.

“These new renovations are exciting and welcome additions to the already first-class offerings of the vessel,” said

SEATU Representative Amber Akana. “These upgrades are a testament to the importance of the only U.S.-flagged cruise ship, and show our members that their workplace is a valued part of an exciting industry.”

“Delivering the best vacation experience for our guests, where they have the freedom and flexibility to do more of what they love is and will always continue to be our goal,” said David J. Herrera, President of Norwegian Cruise Line. “By listening to guests’ feedback, we are excited to provide them with MORE to do on board starting this summer as *Norwegian Epic* sets sail for Europe, and *Pride of America* continues to offer the world’s only seven-day inter-island Hawaii voyages departing from Honolulu 52 weeks out of the year!”



The images above are artist’s renderings of the renovations aboard the *Pride of America*. (Courtesy of NCL)

## AFL-CIO President Commemorates Workers Memorial Day

*Editor’s Note: The following news release was issued by the AFL-CIO, to which SEATU is an affiliate.*

AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler commemorated Workers Memorial Day alongside Pennsylvania union members, labor leaders and community members at PhilaPOSH’s 37th annual Workers Memorial Day breakfast.

At the event, Shuler spoke about the ongoing crisis of workplace deaths, how existing health and safety laws are failing to sufficiently protect workers, and how the current administration’s actions will put working people in greater danger, as detailed in the AFL-CIO’s 2025 Death on the Job: The Toll of Neglect report.

Shuler’s visit dovetailed with a series of hearings the AFL-CIO has held in states across the nation over the past three weeks, where labor leaders and workers have raised the alarm about how the Trump administration’s actions threaten worker health and safety.

Full text of President Shuler’s remarks:

Thank you so much, Nicole [Fuller, PhilaPOSH executive director], for that introduction and all you and PhilaPOSH do to fight for the safety of every worker.

Thank you to our incredible AFL-CIO state and local leadership: Angela Ferritto, Pennsylvania State [Labor] Federation president, Daniel Bauder, president of our Philadelphia Council [AFL-CIO], and your teams.

Every year, this is one of the most difficult days we have as a labor movement. But in my eyes, it’s also one of the most important.

One of the first phrases I learned in this movement is one that I think we’re

all familiar with, out of the IWW: An injury to one is an injury to all.

That is never more clear than it is on Workers Memorial Day. To every family who has lost a loved one, the 15 million working people of the AFL-CIO are standing with you.

Every year for 34 years now, we at the AFL-CIO have published a report called Death on the Job. Our team looks at every workplace death and injury: the trends we see and how to prevent them moving forward. I’m grateful to our team, who works so hard on this every year.



But this report should not exist. In the richest country in the history of the world...with the technology and capacity we have...there should not be a need to chronicle the stories of thousands of Americans—who are killed, disabled and injured in the workplace every year.

But it does exist. It exists because there are companies who put their profits above our lives. It exists because Black and Latino workers continue to be exploited in higher numbers, dying on the job at the highest rates we’ve seen in decades. It exists because in the year 2025—2025!—states are rolling back child labor laws, and migrant

children especially are being put in unsafe conditions.

As you well know, it was the labor movement that created Workers Memorial Day, back in 1989. It was the labor movement that drove the creation of OSHA and MSHA—that defended the critical work these agencies do and the impact they have made on people’s lives. And I’ll tell you right now: It’s the labor movement that will keep fighting to defend our safety standards and protect working people from the attacks coming every day from this administration.

In just a few moments we’re going to read the names of those we’ve lost this year. Fathers, mothers, husbands, wives, sons, daughters who went to work one day and then never came home. Not to mention those who came home, but were never the same. The way we honor them is by telling their stories, and holding companies and lawmakers accountable. Fighting for better enforcement and resourcing key agencies so they have more inspectors and capacity, and can actually do their job to protect us.

Does it make sense to anyone in this room to gut NIOSH—the agency that makes sure our firefighters, health

care workers and mine workers have the equipment they need to stay safe? Or pause a rule that was protecting our workers from silica dust—so that this disease doesn’t cruelly and slowly take away their ability to breathe?

Does it make sense to anyone that our private sector workers here in Pennsylvania have more safety protections than our public sector workers? That if you’re a firefighter, a police officer, or a transit worker, you have less safety requirements than a construction worker?

We have two paths ahead of us right now. We can let this administration gut our safety protections, take away our voice on the job, give these companies even more power to cut corners. If that happens, there is one thing I promise you: This Death on the Job report will be even longer next year. Or we can stand together, in this moment. We can channel this anger, frustration and pain into action and real change.

We can continue to organize the way Pennsylvania workers have all over this state, at [the University of] Penn[sylvania] and Whole Foods, and the Independence Seaport Museum. So that we all have a voice on the job.

We can use our unions and collective bargaining to keep workers safe. We can fight for stronger deterrents, more resources to reach vulnerable workers, laws that aren’t written by corporate America, but are written by and for workers. We can agree, no matter our politics, no one should leave for work in the morning, afraid they might not come home that night.

We owe it to those we’ve lost and their loved ones. And we owe it to the next generation to make sure they have a safe and secure future. Thank you.

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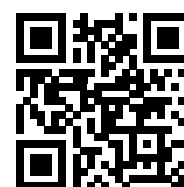


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# The ENTERTAINER

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Class Photos  
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## Delegates Needed

Delegates are needed at workplaces in all SEATU jurisdictions. Contact your local union hall for more information.

## Know Your Weingarten Rights

All SEATU members should be aware of their Weingarten Rights.

Established by the Supreme Court in 1975, the rights guarantee employees the right to union representation during investigatory interviews with management. An investigatory interview is one in which a supervisor questions an employee to obtain information which could be used as a basis for discipline or asks an employee to defend his/her conduct.

If an employee has a reasonable belief that discipline or discharge may result from what they say during such an interview, they have the right to request union representation. It's important to remember that management is not required to inform employees of their Weingarten rights; employees have the responsibility of knowing that these rights exist and to request that they be invoked when appropriate.

Copies of the Weingarten Rights are posted on all union bulletin boards. They also can be accessed on SEATU's web site at [www.seatu.org](http://www.seatu.org), linked under the Members Rights section. Individuals with questions regarding these rights should contact their SEATU representative, delegate or shop steward.

## Become Familiar With Your Labor Contract

All SEATU members, especially those in bargaining unit classifications, are reminded to obtain, read and become familiar with the provisions of their labor contracts.

It is equally important to be aware of the company's policies and procedures where labor issues are concerned. Knowledge of both better enables members to invoke their rights as necessary and protect them when threatened.

Those desiring copies of their labor contracts should contact their on-site delegate or visit their union hall.

## Support Your Newsletter

All members are encouraged to share their ideas for stories and photos with the editorial staff of *The Entertainer*. Become the eyes and ears in your work areas by staying abreast of newsworthy events such as promotions, awards, retirements, participation in community activities, etc.

*The Entertainer* staff would also like to know about anyone who has or participates in unusual hobbies for possible feature stories.

Contact your union representatives with any tips you may have so that we can give recognition to those who richly deserve it.

## First SEATU President Honored

Michael Sacco, the first president of SEATU, was honored in June with a building dedication and bronze bust of his likeness, both of which are prominently on display at the training school in Piney Point, MD. See Page 1 for detailed coverage of the event.



## SEATU Notebook

### Algonac/Detroit Metro

Current Delegates:

**M/V Detroit Princess**  
**Bar Staff:** Seeking volunteers  
**Wait Staff:** Seeking volunteers  
**Kitchen Staff:** Seeking volunteers

### Boston

Current Delegates:

**Plainridge Park**  
**Food & Beverage:** Seeking volunteers  
Anyone interested in becoming a delegate or steward is encouraged to contact the union hall at 701-434-6000.

### Chicagoland/Joliet

Members are encouraged to contact their SEATU representatives with any questions or concerns at 815-723-8002.

**Hollywood Casino Joliet:**  
Celestina Olaleye  
**Ameristar:** Jim Jasman

### Honolulu

The union is always seeking volunteers in all departments aboard the *Pride of America*.

Current Delegates:

**Restaurant:** Keith Shufelt  
**Hotel-Housekeeping:** Lucia Colon  
**Galley/F&B:** Seeking volunteers  
**Bar/Gift Shop:** Seeking volunteers

### Kansas City

Anyone interested in volunteering for a steward or delegate position, call the union hall at 816-453-5700.

**Food & Beverage:** Susan Hunt  
**Slots:** Abbey Heller  
**Maintenance:** Seeking volunteers  
**Main Bank:** Crystal Malone

### Lawrenceburg

Current Delegates:

**Slot Attendant:** Robin Williams  
**Slot Technician:** Nick Hall  
**EVS Steward:** Warren Walls  
**Cage & Credit:** Linda Richter,  
**Food & Beverage:** Cassandra Cole  
**LEC Front Desk:** Brandi Coy  
**ESPN BET:** Charles Turner  
**Hotel:** Linda Hensler  
**Maintenance:** Kyle Callahan  
Anyone interested in becoming a delegate or steward is encouraged to contact the union hall at 812-539-2941.

### Maryland

Anyone with questions or concerns is encouraged to call 410-537-5987.

Current Delegates:

**Hollywood Casino Perryville**  
**Food & Beverage:** Seeking volunteers  
**Table Games:** Jackie Holstein

### Maryland Live! Casino

**Food & Beverage:** Glory Warrick  
**Bartender:** Jeff Wunk  
**EVS:** Seeking volunteers  
**Housekeeping:** Seeking volunteers

**Baltimore/Washington International Airport :** Seeking volunteers  
**Rosecroft Raceway:** Seeking volunteers

### New Orleans

Anyone wishing to become a delegate or steward is encouraged to call 504-328-7545.

Current Delegates:

**MOPS:** Seeking volunteers  
**Food & Beverage Hotel:** Seeking volunteers  
**Bell/Luggage Attendants:** Seeking volunteers  
**Maintenance:** Tony Blanks (chief delegate)  
**Boat:** Trina Hester

### Ohio

#### Miami Valley Gaming

**Gaming Attendants:** Gina Fumi-Fiamawle  
**Player Services:** Tabatha Knedler

#### Hollywood Gaming Dayton Raceway

**VLT:** Josh Steel  
**Facilities:** Damon Boyd Jr.  
**EVS:** Daryl Davis  
Anyone interested in becoming a delegate or steward is encouraged to contact the union hall at 812-539-2941.

#### Hollywood Gaming at Mahoning Valley

Current Delegates:  
**Food & Beverage:** Nilsa Lipscomb  
**EVS:** Ethel Smith  
**VLT:** Keely Nance

### Riverside

Current Delegates:

**Cage:** Seeking volunteers  
**Food & Beverage:** Jaime Edge  
**Count Room:** Jackie Hibbs  
**Slots:** Sabrina Louthain  
**Maintenance:** Ahmad Alzaidi

### St. Louis/Alton Metro

Current Delegates:

**Food & Beverage:** Maggie Roy, Dennis Baker, Lisa Longo  
**Housekeeping:** Seeking volunteers  
**Cage & Credit:** Hope Jones  
**Marine Crew:** Seeking volunteers  
**Count Team:** Chloe Lake