

Memorial for Workers

I write these words of honor, for those who gave their lives;
And for their families, their husbands and their wives.
For those whose lives were spent, doing what they must
Working for a living like every one of us.
Their time cut short, by things that didn't have to be;
To make the workplace safer, for people like you and me.
To make sure their stories will never go untold;
To always keep their memories from ever growing cold.
We must remember the price they all had to pay;
When we honor the men and women on Workers Memorial Day.

Mike Baird
Lodge 21, International
Association of Machinists and
Aerospace Workers



WORKERS' MEMORIAL DAY

Thursday 28 April 2016

At 12.30pm we will assemble in Central Park, Chelmsford, at our Memorial Tree, close to the lake and viaduct, where a short memorial event will take place.

We will also have a health & safety exhibition in Chelmsford Library's public square from 27th April to 1st May.

CENTRAL PARK, CHELMSFORD ORDER OF SERVICE

Welcome by John Pickard,
Chair, Chelmsford TUC.

Guest Speakers: Mark Barter, Unite.
Kam Singh, Thompsons Solicitors.

Memorial for Workers to be read by
Andrew Coburn.

Period of Silence.

Laying the wreaths.



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Workers' Memorial Day

Workers' Memorial Day commemorates the thousands of people who have died, been seriously injured or disabled, or been made ill through their work.

It began in Canada in 1984 and is a national day in 19 countries. Since 1989, trade unions around the world have organised events on and around 28 April. Workers' Memorial Day has been informally recognised in the UK since 1992 but not until 2010 was it officially recognised by the Government. The day is intended to be a rallying cry to 'remember the dead and fight for the living'.

While the UK has one of the best health and safety records in the world, official figures show there is much more to be done to reduce casualties. During the year 2014/15 142 people were fatally injured at work, 1.2 million were suffering from a work-related illness, 2,538 mesothelioma deaths were due to past asbestos exposures, 27.3 million working days were lost due to work-related illness or injury. £14.3 billion is the estimated cost of injuries and ill health from current working conditions and around 8,000 people die each year from occupational cancers and lung diseases.

The current legislative and enforcement framework is failing to protect workers it should be strengthened, not made weaker.