2017 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 35


Relating to: proclaiming Workers’ Memorial Day.

Whereas, Workers’ Memorial Day is observed every year on April 28; and

Whereas, it is a day to honor those workers who have died on the job, to acknowledge the grievous suffering experienced by families and communities, and to recommit ourselves to the fight for safe and healthful workplaces for all workers; and

Whereas, it is also the day the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) was established in 1971. Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their workers. OSHA’s role is to ensure these conditions for America’s working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education, and assistance; and

Whereas, events commemorating this day are being held across the nation and in Wisconsin events will be held in Madison, Milwaukee, and Wisconsin Dells; and

Whereas, in 2015 alone, 104 Wisconsin workers died in the workplace; and
Whereas, of the 4,386 fatal work injuries nationwide in 2015, the highest concentration occurred in two areas, with 765 fatalities involving transportation-related occupations and 937 fatalities in the construction trades; and

Whereas, 118 police officers and fire fighters were killed in 2015 along with 570 fatalities that occurred in farming, fishing, and forestry occupations; and

Whereas, nationwide, every day the families of 12 workers are informed that their loved ones were killed while at work, and the rate of fatal injuries for U.S. workers in 2015 was 3.4 per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers; and

Whereas, the annual observance of Workers’ Memorial Day on April 28 provides us with the opportunity to remember and reflect on the lives of those we have lost and rededicate ourselves to efforts to make all workplaces safer; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That the legislature proclaims April 28, 2017, as Workers’ Memorial Day and asks all Wisconsinites to take time to reflect on the men and women we lost and to rededicate ourselves to making workplaces safer; and, be it further

Resolved, That the senate chief clerk shall provide a copy of this resolution to the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development.

(END)