2021 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 26

April 8, 2021 - Introduced by Senators NASS, WIRCH, BEWLEY, CARPENTER, JOHNSON, LARSON, ROYS, SMITH, MARKLEIN, RINGHAND, AGARD, JACQUE, L. TAYLOR, COWLES, ERPENBACH and PFAFF, cosponsored by Representatives SINICKI, EDMING, MILROY, CABRERA, MURSAU, BROSTOFF, VRUWINK, CABRAL-GUEVARA, OHNSTAD, THIESFELDT, DRAKE, HEBL, HORLACHER, KITCHENS, ORTIZ-VELEZ, DOYLE, NEUBAUER, HESSELBEIN, SHELTON, PETRYK, ANDERSON, BOWEN, SHANKLAND, MOORE OMOKUNDE, SPREITZER, S. RODRIGUEZ, ROZAR, CONLEY, EMERSON, VINING, BILLINGS, SNOGRASS, B. MEYERS, WITTKE, SPIROS, ARMSTRONG, VANDERMEER, CONSIDINE, RIEMER and SUBECK. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

Relating to: proclaiming April 28, 2021, as Workers’ Memorial Day in Wisconsin.

Whereas, Workers’ Memorial Day is observed every year on April 28, when events commemorating the day are held across the nation and throughout Wisconsin; and

Whereas, April 28 is a day to honor the memory of those workers who have died on the job, to acknowledge the grievous suffering experienced by their families and communities, and to recommit ourselves to the fight for safe and healthy workplaces for all workers; and

Whereas, nationwide, every day the families of 14 workers on average are informed that their loved ones have been killed while at work; and

Whereas, in 2019 alone, 119 Wisconsin workers died in the workplace; and

Whereas, of the 5,333 fatal work injuries nationwide in 2019, the highest concentration occurred in transportation-related occupations with 2,122 fatalities, and in the construction industry with 1,061 fatalities; and
Whereas, in 2019, 121 fatalities occurred among police officers and fire fighters, and 291 fatalities occurred in farming, fishing, and forestry occupations; and

Whereas, the rate of fatal injuries for U.S. workers in 2019 was 3.5 per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers; and

Whereas, April 28 is also the date the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) was established by the 1970 Occupational Safety and Health Act. Under the act, employers became responsible for providing safe and healthy workplaces for their workers; and

Whereas, the act directed OSHA to ensure these conditions for America’s working men and women by setting and enforcing health and safety standards, and by providing training, education, and assistance to employers to help them meet these standards; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That the legislature proclaims April 28, 2021, as Workers’ Memorial Day and asks all Wisconsinites to take time to reflect on the working women and men we have 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 Building Trades Council.

(END)