

IAM Honors Fallen Members

Among the names added to the IAM Workers' Memorial this year was New York Local 447 member Joshua Gonzalez, 20, who was killed in an auto accident. Gonzalez was working in an IAM diesel technician apprenticeship program that his mother credits with turning her son's life around.

A troubled youth growing up in New Jersey, Joshua found mentors and structure in the apprentice program. "It was great seeing my son excited when he came home, telling me about when he learned something new or was told he did a job well," said Norma Eneri Gonzalez-Castillo. "At the age of 20, he had his own apartment, his own car and was learning to budget and set achievable goals. He was becoming a man and I was very proud of him."

Twenty-two bricks were added this year to the IAM Workers' Memorial, where more than 260 members who lost their lives to work-related injuries and illnesses are forever remembered.



Family members honor Local 447 member Joshua Gonzalez. From left, Norma E. Gonzalez-Castillo, Ray Castillo and Edwin Morales.

John Piltzcker, left, of the National Park Service and Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund President Jan Scruggs, right, present IAM President Tom Buffenbarger with a ceremonial shovel to commemorate the Machinists Union's help to maintain the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Machinists Pay Tribute to Vietnam Veterans

Thousands of IAM members are proud veterans and many also serve in civilian roles to keep the U.S. military strong. So it was a natural partnership when the IAM pledged a donation to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) to help with the upkeep of the iconic Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

The privately-funded memorial is dedicated to all who served in the U.S. armed forces in Vietnam. It encompasses 13.5 acres where names of the more than

58,000 who perished in the conflict are inscribed on a massive granite wall.

"The IAM and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund have enjoyed a partnership formed around our mutual respect for the men and women who serve in America's armed forces," said International President Tom Buffenbarger. "We are proud of our many members who have served, not only in Vietnam, but in all conflicts since our union was founded in 1888. We thank them for their courage, strength and dedication."



Transportation GVP Robert Roach, Jr., presents CBTU President Bill Lucy, center, and actor and political activist Danny Glover, left, with IAM "Union Strong" shirts during the 39th International Convention of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists.

CBTU Delegates Support IAM-Delta Campaign

In a highly visual display of solidarity with Machinists fighting to win representation rights for workers at Delta Air Lines, more than 1,000 delegates and guests in Detroit, MI, for the 39th International Convention of the Coalition

of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) returned home wearing the bright blue shirts that are a signature of the IAM campaign.

"This campaign is not only for the workers at Delta, but for the very future of labor

unions in the airline industry," said Transportation GVP Robert Roach, Jr., who urged the CBTU delegates to talk with workers at Delta and to explain the benefits of union representation. "Delta will spend millions in an effort to frighten and intimidate workers, but they can't beat face-to-face common sense."

Among the special guests at the CBTU Convention were Mississippi Democratic Congressman Bennie Thompson and actor and political activist Danny Glover, who both expressed support for the IAM organizing campaign at Delta.

Minnesota Members Aid Gulf Cleanup

They may be in Minnesota, but the members of Winona Chain Makers Lodge 1030 are playing a key role in cleanup efforts of the Gulf oil spill. The 190 members at Peerless Chain have put it in high gear to deliver one million feet of chain, roughly 190 miles, for the "booms" used to contain the massive spill. The chain holds the booms in place during the cleanup operations.

"Our members have

stepped up to the plate and worked additional hours to help get the job done. They understand the vital importance of protecting our environment," said District 66 Directing Business Representative Rick Mickschl.

The IAM members at Peerless Chain work in assembly, production and maintenance. Peerless Chain makes all types and sizes of industrial chain.



Local 1030 member Brian Hanson and his co-workers at Peerless Chain in Winona, MN, are making more than one million feet of chain for the "booms" used to contain the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.