

## Flood Waters Spur Machinists Spirit



When flood waters raged through upstate New York last summer, thousands of homes and businesses were destroyed and President Bush declared many places major disaster areas. If not for the fighting spirit of more than 1,000 Local 1529 members, the 700,000-square-foot Amphenol Aerospace plant in Sidney, NY, might have been a permanent casualty

*When major flooding threatened the future of the Amphenol Aerospace plant in Sidney, New York, IAM Local 1529 members got the plant back in operation in record time.*

of the flood. Before the flood waters receded, Local 1529 members returned to the facility in canoes and rowboats to work non-stop to get the plant back in business.

"If they hadn't worked so hard, we might not have recovered," said General Manager Richard Aiken. Amphenol, a maker of components for aerospace and other industries, is a major employer in upstate New York.

"We're looking forward to getting back to some sense of normalcy," said

*Floodwaters in the Amphenol plant were so high that employees used boats to survey the damage.*

Local 1529 President Geno Campagna in *The Daily Star*. "Any time we can prove we can work together for a common goal, everyone benefits in the long run."

"Our members showed the courage and spirit that exemplifies a 'Fighting Machinist,'" said Eastern Territory GVP Lynn D. Tucker, Jr. "They worked day and night to get both the plant and this community back on their feet."



## Nebraska Nurses Seek Professional Representation



Billboards in Lincoln, NE build community support for the Capitol City Nurses Association organizing campaign.

Nurses in Lincoln, Nebraska, are joining together under the banner of the Capitol City Nurses Association to win an IAM contract that protects their profession, their patients and their careers. The nurses' campaign to win professional representa-

tion and a voice at work includes traditional organizing meetings as well as billboards in Lincoln and a special website ([www.iamnurses.org](http://www.iamnurses.org)) that explains how a good contract can provide benefits for patients, hospitals and health care professionals.



Former IAM member and disabled Navy veteran Jeffrey Blackmon, center, and his family from left, son Jeremy, wife Jeanette, and sons Matthew and Christian at the dedication ceremony for their new house built by the local community and IAM members.

## IAM Members Help Build Home for Disabled Vet

Members from Locals 759, 2772 and 2783 in Jacksonville, Florida and St. Mary's, Georgia joined together with teachers and students of Camden County High School, veterans' organizations, local contractors and community volunteers to build a 3,100 sq. ft. wheelchair-accessible home for IAM member and disabled Navy veteran Jeffrey Blackmon and his family.

"This community has much love, respect and appreciation for Jeff Blackmon. It's the least we could do for him, Jeanette and the boys," said District 112 DBR Steve Hernandez.

Blackmon, a member of former Local



1128, worked at Gilman Paper Company and re-enlisted in the Navy after the company went bankrupt. Blackmon was left a quadriplegic after his group of Seabees was struck by a mortar attack in Iraq. "He wasn't supposed to make it," wife Jeanette told *Homes for Our Troops*, "but God brought him back home." Jeff spent a year in VA hospitals and today must communicate through a computer that reads his eye movements.

## Treasure in the Attic

Christina Carter found a treasure trove of IAM history in the attic of her grandfather's house. Buried under generations of keepsakes were items belonging to Christina's great-grandfather, Peter J. Conlon, one of the IAM's original "Boomers" and early leaders. Conlon's motto was that if a shop wasn't organized when he got there, it was when he left.

"I just couldn't throw the artifacts away," explained history-lover Carter. "I wanted to pass them on to people who would appreciate what they were."

Among the riches are souvenir convention books; early IAM Journals; historic photos, including the 1899 Convention in Buffalo, NY; election posters and three generations of IAM dues books belonging to her father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

"These materials are a wonderful reminder of our hard-fought past," said IP Tom Buffenbarger. "Great warriors like Pete Conlon, an original 'Boomer' who traveled the railways to organize workers when working conditions and labor laws were deplorable, encourages us for the future."



Christina Carter with three generations of IAM dues books and other historic treasures belonging to legendary organizer P. J. Conlon, one of the original "Boomers" and early IAM leaders.

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