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AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR 115 WORKERS IN PA, NJ, DE, JUST GOING TO WORK WAS DEADLY

On Friday, the Philadelphia Area Project on Occupational Safety and Health (PhilaPOSH) and the Philadelphia AFL-CIO held their 31st Annual Workers' Memorial Day Program to remember those who were killed by work-related injuries during the past year. Mayor Kenney, Philadelphia City Managing Director Brian Abernathy, and other featured speakers addressed critical worker safety issues, including the opioid crisis and possible spending cuts to federal worker safety agency OSHA. These speeches were followed by a funeral procession to Penn's Landing, where bereaved family members spoke and the names of tri-state area workers who have died from work-related injuries were read.

"This Workers' Memorial Day, we come together to honor the workers that have gone to work and never come home to their families," said Nicole Fuller, Executive Director of PhilaPOSH. "We stand beside the families that each day struggle through the everlasting devastation, pain, and suffering that follows such a tragic loss."

PhilaPOSH was able to identify 115 work-related deaths in Southeast Pennsylvania, Southern New Jersey, and Delaware over the past year, including construction workers, city employees, commuter rail workers, and oil refinery employees. However, there is little official record keeping on work fatalities, and there are doubtless many more worker deaths that remain uncounted. In Pennsylvania and Delaware, the public sector lacks federal OSHA Protections: this puts highway workers, state hospital workers, public school teachers, and other city and state employees at increased risk.

Every day in the United States, 14 workers lose their lives due to preventable work related incidents. Nationally, there have been over 5,000 work related deaths during the past year.

"Together, we can make a difference and prevent workplace incidents, not only on Workers' Memorial Day, but every day throughout the year," said Fuller. "Make workplace safety a top priority in your workplace, and help all workers go home to their families at the end of their shift."

Attached is a copy of this year's Fatality List, by state.