



# THE DISPATCHER

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Assassination of Local 37 officers remembered on 30th anniversary. [page 3](#)



Photo by Dawn Desbrissy

**Power in numbers:** An estimated 1,200 ILWU members and supporters rallied in Portland on June 2nd to protest a EGT Columbia River venture that isn't respecting the region's workforce and labor standards.

## Portland rally tells grain facility to respect local workforce

**A** powerful show of solidarity from ILWU locals up and down the West Coast brought together 1,200 union members and allies who came to Portland for an important rally on June 3rd. The rally was called to protest a massive new grain handling facility being built on the north shore of the Columbia River. The facility has imported outside workers despite high local unemployment, and is being evasive about its workforce moving forward.

### Impressive support

When Local 21 members in Longview issued their call for solidarity, members from throughout the Puget Sound and Columbia River region responded by filling cars and buses. Most California members arrived by air, joining everyone for the Friday afternoon rally.

"I've been to many labor rallies in Portland with 60 or 70 people, but the

huge turnout this time brought tears to my eyes," said Local 8 President Jeff Smith. "I am so proud of the ILWU."

Besides hundreds of ILWU members from locals 4, 5, 8, 10, 13, 19, 21, 23, 27, 40, 50, 52, 53, 54, 92, and 98, dozens of ILWU Pensioners and Auxiliary members attended. Members of the ILWU's Marine Division – the Inlandboatmen's Union – were on hand. A wide range of other

unions helped to swell the ranks, including members of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, Laborers, Teamsters, Painters, Roofers, Letter Carriers, AFSCME, SEIU, Carpenters, Masters, Mates & Pilots Union, and even theater workers from IATSE. The International Transport Workers Federation sent representatives and the Oregon state AFL-CIO and Northwest Oregon Labor Council encouraged affiliated union members to attend. Community groups including Jobs with Justice, the Working Families Party, and Cowlitz County Deserves Better also came to lend their support. Messages of encouragement and support came from as far away as Australia and New Zealand.

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## LETTERS TO THE DISPATCHER

*Dear Editor,*

Every brother and sister in our union should read the article in the April, 2011 edition of *The Dispatcher* by the young brother Roger Mejia of Long Beach who is a casual. This brother is stating important facts and asking important questions about why so many seem to be voting for politicians who don't support unions or working families. Men like him should be moved to the head of the class.

The question is: do you want a strong union? Well, then you have to work hard and obey the rules and know your contract. This is what makes a strong union.

When the old rocking chair gets you, a letter from brother Mejia is what you like to read because it shows that the hard work and struggles of members who have passed along were not in vain.

Always remember the longshore motto: "an injury to one is an injury to all." Don't just say it. Show it in every way on the job. Show it in the union hall toward your brothers and sisters. Make it a habit because habits are hard to break.

**Osborne Hills, Local 10 (retired)**  
Richmond, CA

### CORRECTIONS

Epie Rivera of Local 6 informed us that his first name was spelled incorrectly in a photo caption appearing on page 4 of the November 2010 *Dispatcher*. We thank him for the correction and regret the error.

*Dear Editor,*

I'm writing to draw attention and commend the letter from Roger Mejia in the April *Dispatcher*. The same goes for his cartoon.

I totally agree with the points made by brother Mejia. For any working man, especially a union member, to be non-supportive of any union member simply because they are public-sector, or are being paid by tax money is absolutely outrageous! None of us have what we enjoy today because we set ourselves apart from all others. We have what we have because we are part of a union. Seeing themselves as separate is what keeps so much of the world engaged in the horrors and miseries of war and starvation.

Brother Mejia may not yet be a union brother of mine, but he is a "brother"! My hat is off to him.

**Jim Hammons, Local 12 (retired)**  
North Bend, OR

Send your letters to the editor to: *The Dispatcher*, 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109-6800 or email to [editor@ilwu.org](mailto:editor@ilwu.org)

## Local 502 raises over \$18,000 for Vancouver Children's Hospital



ILWU local 502 in Surrey, British Columbia started raising funds for the Vancouver Children's Hospital three months ago with a goal to at least raise \$10,000. The goal was easily met. The response from everyone in the local was so overwhelming that a new target was set for \$15,000. Again this was met and surpassed. At the end of May, over \$18,000 had been raised with a few days left before the big presentation that was broadcast live on a telethon for the Vancouver Children's Hospital.

The generosity of this Longshore Union, which has traditionally been known as the New West local, has been overwhelming. This great effort is worthy of praise and is something that should be continued every year. The hard work will certainly entice others to get involved and make a difference in the community as well.

— Bal Singh

In the photo: ILWU 502 members (left to right): Sukhminder S. Buttar, Scott Morrison, Raja S. Aujla, Paul Kidd and Peter Van Jole.

## Walter Williamson, former Local 23 President, passed away at the age of 92

Walter William Williamson, 92, President of Tacoma ILWU Local 23 in 1961, passed away March 28, 2011. He was one of the "voices in the wilderness" during his early years in Tacoma ILA Local 38-97. He was famous for his prodigious strength and work ethic on the job and his charismatic speaking at union meetings. Believing in social, political and economic equality, Walt led the pro-Harry Bridges union faction in the 1940s and 1950s. He was involved in the violent episodes on the docks and at union meetings between the pro-Bridges forces and the ILA faction.

It came down to a crisis in the 1948 ILWU strike against the Pacific Maritime Association. Along with 15 other 38-97 members Walt refused to cross the Seattle ILWU picket line on Tacoma docks. He endured vilification and the threat of deregistration. In a famous debate with the anti-Bridges leader "Paddy" Morris, Walt said, "I will not prostitute my principles."

Though Tacoma did not join the ILWU until 1958, Walt Williamson earned the respect of even the die-hard ILA faction. Once a year Harry Bridges came to Tacoma and stayed with both the Williamsons and the

Tanners—usually with a gun under his pillow. Walt and Ernie Tanner accompanied Harry to a lecture hall to meet longshoremen interested in hearing the ILWU story. Gradually, they won over the old-time ILA men.

Of Norwegian ancestry, Walt wanted a Viking funeral and his daughters Karen and Kay obliged. His ashes and those of his wife Lucille will be placed aboard a special boat designed by Walt and spread upon the waters of Henderson Bay.

Peace to their Ashes.

— Ron Magden



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# ILWU members help clean the air at Oakland port

**W**ithin three years, container ships coming to California ports will be required to radically reduce emissions by turning-off dirty diesel power generators and plugging into electric shore power.

The Port of Los Angeles led the way with this technology a decade ago, developing an approach called “Alternative Marine Power” that became operational in the summer of 2004. Since then, more ships and terminals have been outfitted to make the switch in Los Angeles.

Other Ports have been slower to follow LA’s lead, but on May 27, the Port of Oakland held a public celebration to announce their first “cold-



**Local 10 power:** Local 10 members switched the “Singapore” from diesel to electric shore power on May 27th. From left to right; Scott Anders, Melvin Mackay, Derrick Lewis, Dallas Baker, in the middle: Charlie Lincoln, to his right, Meredith Suttice, Frolin Perez, Elton Myers, Remon Tolliver, and Lee Handy. Meredith Suttice can be seen in the photo on the left; Frolin Perez is pictured in the bottom photo.



ironing” project at the APL’s terminal where ILWU members helped switch the 900-foot vessel “Singapore” from diesel to shore power.

The electric power required for these new systems is considerable – and the source of the power is even more important. For example, much of LA’s publicly-owned power currently comes from dirty coal-fired plants in Arizona and Utah – something Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa has pledged to change.

Although the switch to electricity can sometimes mean substituting pollution in one location for another, the benefits to port communities can be impressive. Each ship that switches to electric power while berthed saves about 1,000 pound of nitrogen-oxide generating smog, plus another 165 pounds of sulfur dioxides and 30 pounds of tiny, dangerous diesel particulates – and that’s just in one 24-hour period, so the impact of switching all container ships is potentially dramatic.

Making the switch is expensive. APL says they spent \$11 million to retrofit just five container ships and re-wire their terminal to bring in enough new power. Local and state agencies provided \$4.8 million in grant subsidies to support APL’s switch in Oakland.

As more of these projects appear on the West Coast, ILWU’s Coast Committee will continue working with locals to make sure that ILWU jurisdiction is protected.

## A giant leap for the union

**B**efore John Eberhardt started jumping out of airplanes, he was working on the docks as a Local 13 member and later as a foreman with Local 94. Co-worker Manuel Cabrera got him to take his first jump on July 7, 2002 in the Mojave Desert town of California City – just down the highway from Boron.

“With my first jump, I found out why the birds sing,” said John. “The adrenalin rush is like no other. I’m now ready to jump without any apprehension.”

John was 62 when he took his first big leap. Nine years later, he’s completed 468 jumps including 17 “base jumps” – that’s right, they jump

from cliffs, bridges, buildings, antennas, and mountain tops. John has also fallen five miles, completing two jumps from 31,000 feet – higher than Mount Everest and requiring similar special breathing equipment with oxygen in order to avoid black-outs in the thin atmosphere.

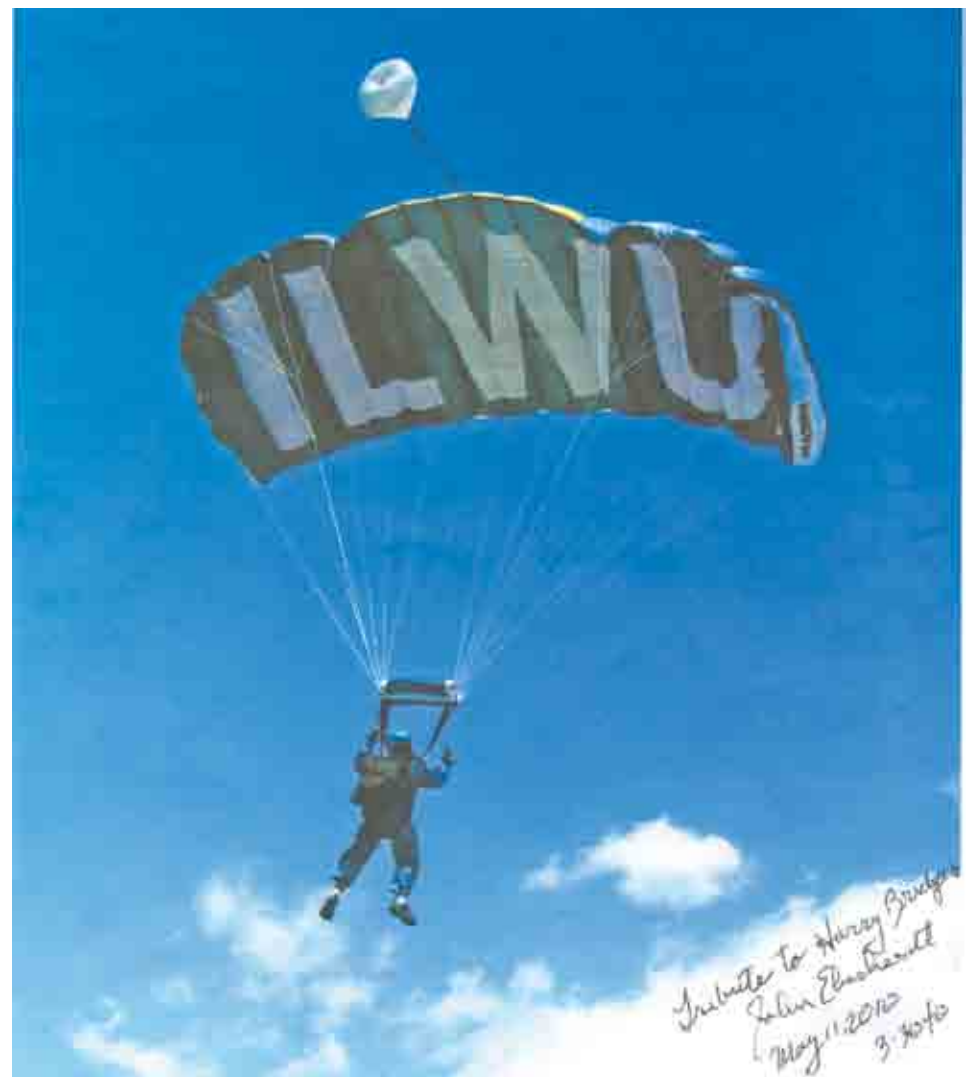
For extra kicks, he’s jumped out of hot-air balloons at 4,400 and 5,800 feet from the ground.

Location-wise, his jumping adventures have taken him to Alaska, British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Arizona, and Virginia – as well as California.

John is an Army vet, but didn’t jump during his military service. He was initiated into ILWU Local 13 by International Union President Harry Bridges on September 5, 1963. In



**Working class skydiver:** Pensioner John Eberhardt now spends much of his spare time pursuing a passion for skydiving, but he remains dedicated to the union. John is standing next to the bronze bust of Harry Bridges in San Pedro that was donated by ILWU pensioners and members.



John’s special “ILWU” canopy is a “navigator” model that allows him to control the direction of his descent through the air. The chute was custom-made and took 9 months to complete. He plans to jump with his union-chute in Montana this month.

1984, he transferred to the foremen’s Local 94.

Despite his retirement and obsession with skydiving, John hasn’t forgotten his roots. “Harry founded and fostered the union foundation that provided a good life for me, my wife and our two daughters, Monika and Jennifer. Our rank-and-file concept here is like no other trade union. We

take it for granted sometimes, but need to remind ourselves how fortunate we are and we must remain vigilant.”

John plans to keep jumping, and maintain his positive attitude. “I’ve been very fortunate in being a member of the ILWU family. You can plan the day, but you can’t plan what’s going to happen. I have no regrets in my life.”

– Al Perisho, Local 63 Pensioner



# ILWU honors internationalism of slain Local 37 officers on 30th anniversary of their assassinations

## Silme Domingo and Gene Viernes remembered for reform efforts and international solidarity

Over two hundred ILWU members, community supporters and labor activists gathered at the University of Washington campus in Seattle to celebrate the lives of Gene Viernes and Silme Domingo, two young, reform-minded officers of Local 37 who were assassinated in broad daylight while working at their union hall in Seattle on June 1, 1981. Local 37 was a longtime ILWU local that affiliated with the Inlandboatmen's Union in 1987. At the time they represented approximately 1,500 cannery workers at fish processing facilities in Alaska. The event is known to local activists as "The Cannery Union Murders."

The two courageous reformers put their lives on the line to rid the local of corruption, favoritism and to build greater ties between the ILWU and a labor movement in the Philippines that was engaged in a struggle against the brutal dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos. The Marcos regime declared martial law in 1972 and workers were one of the regime's first targets. Strikes were outlawed; wages for workers decreased by almost 40% and many of the country's top labor leaders were arrested. In April of 1981 at the ILWU convention in Hawaii, Silme and Gene introduced a resolution calling for an ILWU delegation to investigate "the state of trade unions, working conditions, and civil liberties of Filipino workers." Within a few months, they would both be killed, but the connection between their activ-

ism and subsequent murders would not be fully revealed for many years as an international conspiracy was eventually exposed that involved secret agents, a foreign government, high-level corruption, and political assassinations.

"Silme and Gene represented the best elements of the ILWU. They were dedicated unionists who fought for the interests of all workers and were committed to building a democratic union," said Terri Mast, Secretary-Treasurer of the Inlandboatmen's Union (IBU) and widow of Silme Domingo. "They were murdered for fighting for the rights of workers here in the US and in the Philippines. Today, as millions of workers around the world mobilize to fight the assault on labor rights and topple dictatorships in the Middle East, the solidarity that Silme and Gene died for is as important as ever."

ILWU Vice President Ray Familathe and Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams attended the event as did officers and members from ILWU locals and the IBU throughout the Pacific Northwest. Special guest speakers included Ray Familathe, Paddy Crumlin, National Secretary of the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) and the President of the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) and Raymundo Ruiz Rueda, a member of the Mexican Electrical Workers Union (SME). The SME has been on strike in Mexico for the past 18 months and is under fierce assault by the Mexican government. The ILWU offered early support to the SME in 2009.

There are several projects underway to keep the work of Silme and Gene alive including a documentary film that will chronicle their lives and contri-

butions. A book project is also in the works to publish the history of Local 37 that Gene had written. A memorial scholarship to the University of Washington has also been established. Professor James Gregory, Chair of the Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies presented the first \$5,500 scholarship to Stephanie Velasco, to fund her first year at the University of Washington.

### Internationalism celebrated

The international solidarity work of Gene and Silme was right at home in the ILWU, which has a rich tradition of internationalism to this day. The 30th anniversary memorial service for Gene and Silme celebrated that tradition and underscored its importance today. "I've been an internationalist for 25 years," said Ray Familathe in his remarks at the event. "One of my proudest moments as an ILWU member was when Nelson Mandela, recently released from prison in South Africa, spoke to a crowd of over 100,000 people in Los Angeles. He personally thanked ILWU members for their support in helping to defeat apartheid." Familathe stressed that internationalism is a part of everything the ILWU does. "It's a part of every contract we negotiate. Our employers are global, so we also have to be global."

"This is not just something that happened 30 years ago that we can forget about," said Paddy Crumlin. "In this 'New World Order' of global capitalism, the courage and internationalism of these two courageous leaders is needed more than at any other time."

"Gene and Silme paid the ultimate price for standing up for the working class," said Willie Adams. "I am also inspired by the tremendous fortitude of Terri Mast. She refused to quit in the face of violence and repression and continued the work of Gene and Silme. That speaks to her courage as a trade union leader."

### Rank and File reformers

Both Gene and Silme were second-generation Filipino Americans. Gene Viernes was born in 1951 and was one of 10 children from a working-class family in Wapato, WA. At the age of 15, he joined his father, Felix, in the Alaskan canneries where he worked as a "trimmer," one of the hardest and dirtiest jobs on the line. In his first years in canneries, Gene was not known as a rebel. But after several seasons, the conditions inside the canneries and unfair treatment of the Filipino workers politicized him. It was not long before management and even some Local 37 officials, began to see Gene as a trouble-maker, because he fought against the discrimination and injustices he saw in the canneries.

"We first got upset over the way [management] treated our fathers. The old men couldn't even talk back to the foreman. It really hurt us to see the old men treated this way. That was the catalyst for action," recalled Viernes' boyhood friend and co-worker Andy Pasua in a 1982 article on the murders published in the *Seattle Weekly*.

If the treatment of the elders was the catalyst for action, the discrimination in the canneries was the slow burning ember that fueled anger and resentment among many of the younger Filipino workers in the late 60s and early 1970s. White workers ate better food, had better sleeping quarters, and had better paying jobs. Filipinos had been the primary workforce in the canneries for 50 years yet they were still relegated to the dirtiest and hardest work in the fish house. Managerial positions, carpenters, machinists and other skilled jobs remained almost entirely white.

In 1972 after his complaints about discriminatory treatment went unanswered, Gene began organizing workers to take action themselves. After continued complaints about Filipinos being served lower quality food than the white workers received, Gene organized a successful hunger strike and as a result Filipino workers received a better supply of fresh juice and vegetables for the remainder of the season.

Silme Domingo also became politicized because of the discrimination in the canneries where he worked for three seasons as a waiter in the Filipino mess hall. In 1971, Silme and several of his co-workers complained about the fact white workers received overtime pay while Filipino workers did not. They raised these concerns with management and their fellow workers. For their efforts, Silme and 10 other workers were fired for "agitating the crew" and were blacklisted by the industry. Silme filed a grievance against the company when he returned to Seattle, but Gene Navarro, President of Local 37 at the time, did not want to upset his relationship with the company and did not pursue the grievance.



**Honoring fallen heroes:** From left to right: ILWU Vice President Ray Familathe; Richard Gurtiza, Region 37 Director; Stephanie Velasco, Domingo-Viernes Scholarship recipient; Terri Mast, Secretary-Treasurer, IBU; Paddy Crumlin, General Secretary, MUA and President, ITF; Alan Coté, President, IBU and Willie Adams, ILWU Secretary-Treasurer.



As a student at the University of Washington, Silme became very active in the Seattle's Asian Movement that fought against racial discrimination. The conditions in the Alaskan canneries was a prime concern for the activists and in the summer of 1973, Silme teamed up with Michael Woo, an experienced union organizer to investigate these conditions. Silme and Gene met for the first time during this trip. Shortly after Silme left, Gene organized another hunger strike. This time several weeks before the action, workers ate twice the amount they normally did. They tricked the kitchen crew so they began preparing more food to accommodate the new demand, and then the workers went on a hunger strike and the company had to throw large quantities of untouched food into the garbage. The strike met with success and the foreman agreed to improve the food but as soon as the season ended, Gene was fired and blacklisted.

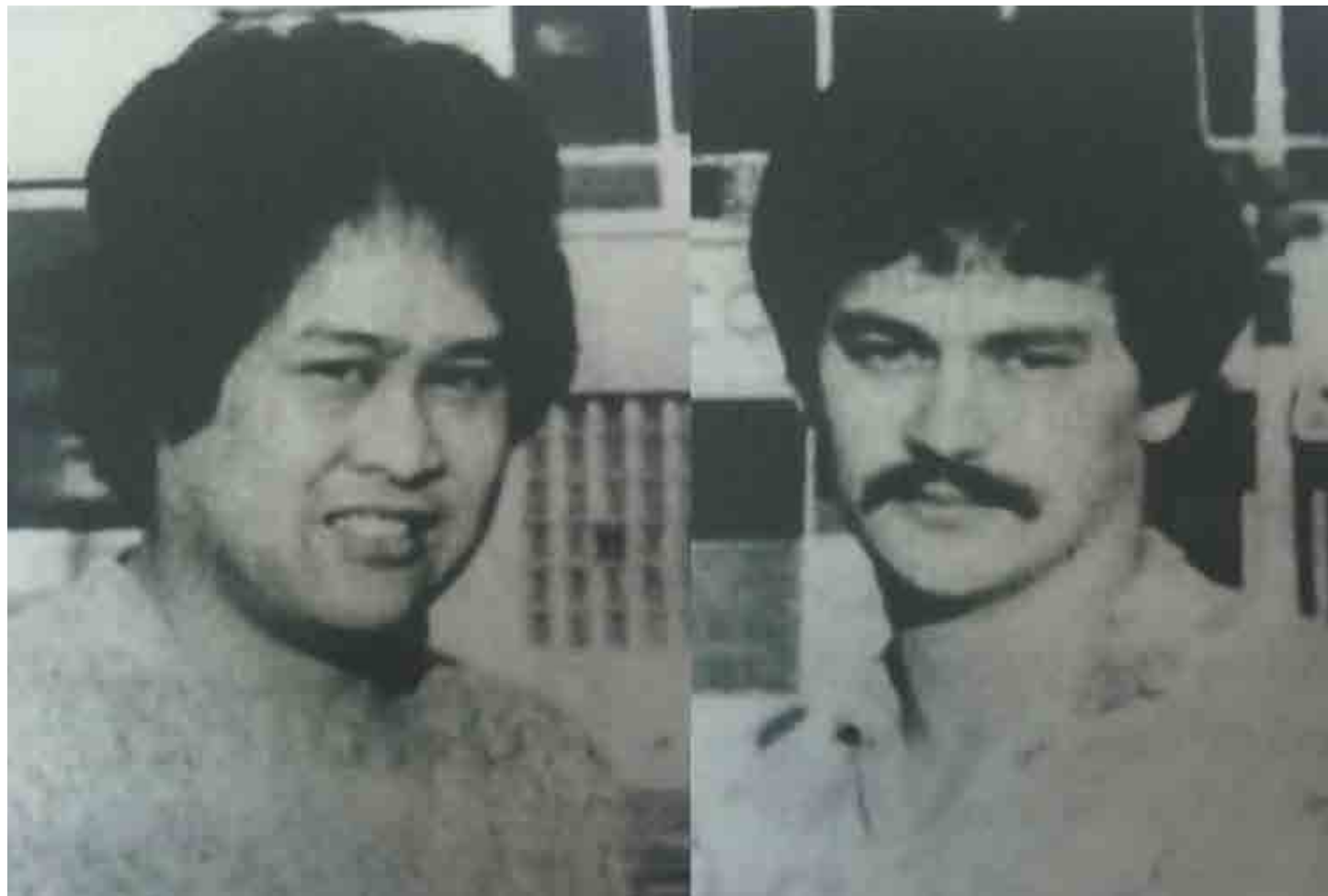
In 1973 when frustration with the local's leadership reached a boiling point, Silme helped found a legal advocacy group, the Alaska Cannery Workers Association (ACWA) that took on the industry's biggest companies. The ACWA filed several lawsuits against canneries for discrimination in hiring practices, housing and food service under the 1964 Civil Rights Act. ACWA was popular among many younger Filipinos, but was seen as a threat by the conservative leadership of the local and company officials. ACWA members were blacklisted from being dispatched to work by both the industry and Local 37.

**"They were murdered for fighting for the rights of workers here in the US and in the Philippines."**

At this time, Silme also became heavily involved in Asian-community politics and in solidarity work with the Philippines. Silme became the first leader of the Seattle-area chapter of the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP)—a US-based organization that opposed the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos in the Philippines. The organization was controversial because it was seen by conservative Filipinos as being an organization of socialists and other radicals and was actively opposed by pro-Marcos members of the community.

Despite the legal successes of ACWA, Gene and Silme understood that real change in the industry could only be won through the efforts of the cannery workers themselves, working through a democratic and accountable union. That meant the Gene and Silme would first have to get back into the union, and then begin to improve conditions in the canneries by cleaning up the Local 37 house. The courts ruled in the ACWA lawsuits that the companies could not retaliate against activists for filing the lawsuits and had to rehire them.

They immediately formed the "Rank and File Committee," a worker-run reform group that advocated for a dispatch system free of bribery and favoritism, a leadership accountable to the membership, open financial books, strong contract enforcement with the companies, an organizing drive in the



**Rank and file reformers:** Silme Domingo (left) and Gene Viernes were assassinated by agents of Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1981 for building ties between the ILWU and Filipino trade unions. An eight-year long legal battle exposed the conspiracy and the complicity of US intelligence services in the murders.

non-union canneries, and stronger safety regulations in the workplace.

In 1978, the Rank and File Committee won several positions on the executive board and the trustee positions; In 1980 they ran a slate that won every position in the local except the President; Silme was elected Secretary-Treasurer and Gene as Dispatcher.

#### The Cannery Union Murders

On that June 1st afternoon, Silme and Gene were alone in the office of the Local 37 when two men—Ben Guloy, a man who Silme knew well, and Jimmy Ramil—entered the building. Both were members of the local "Tulisan," street gang that was tied to illegal gambling operations inside the canneries. Ramil pulled a .45 caliber MAC-10 automatic pistol equipped with a silencer and started shooting. Gene died immediately. But Silme survived and chased the assassins into the street, despite being shot 4 times. Outside, he called for help and identified the two hit men to the firemen who arrived on the scene. He held on for almost 24 hours before succumbing to the assassin's bullets. Guloy, Ramil and third co-conspirator, Tulisan gang leader, Tony Dictado, were convicted and sentenced to life in prison for the murders.

Six weeks after the shootings, an elderly man collecting cans and bottles found the murder weapon in a trash bin in West Seattle's Lincoln Park. The gun was registered to then-Local 37 President Tony Baruso. Initially, Baruso said that he had never seen the gun before; he would later claim the gun had been stolen from his car, although he never reported any theft to the police. Baruso was arrested but was released without charge. During his testimony at the trial of Guloy and Ramil, Baruso would invoke his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination 140 times.

The assassination of Silme and Gene shocked the labor and Filipino communities in Seattle. Initially, the murders appeared to be retributions for reform efforts within Local 37 that threatened entrenched interests. But after a wide-ranging legal investigation

launched by family, friends and community groups, a federal jury in 1989 found that former Philippines dictator Ferdinand Marcos, engaged in a conspiracy to silence political opponents in the US that resulted in the murders of Silme and Gene. The conspiracy involved the Marcos government, the President of Local 37, and a network of Marcos' intelligence agents that operated within the United States since 1973, monitoring and harassing Marcos' opponents in the United States with the full knowledge and complicity of US intelligence services.

#### Reformers undeterred

Mast said the killings stroke a blow to Local 37's reform movement but the Rank and File Committee refused to be silenced. "They underestimated us," Terri Mast said. "One of the hallmarks of great leaders is that they delegate and train others to lead. That's what Gene and Silme did. The Rank and File Committee was able to honor the lives of Gene and Silme by continuing the work they started." The year following their deaths, cannery workers elected their entire slate of reform candidates to run Local 37, including Mast, who was elected the local's first female president.

#### Conspiracy uncovered

The friends and families of Gene Viernes and Silme Domingo never believed this was simply a gang related killing. Within days of the murder they formed the Committee for Justice for Domingo and Viernes (CJDV).

Baruso's arrest on July 13, 1981 provided the first hints that there were larger motives behind the killings. "As soon as we knew Baruso was involved, there was a lot of suspicion, given his whole relation to the Filipino community, and his antagonistic relationship to us," said Mast in a 1990 Bay Area *Guardian* article. Baruso was a staunch Marcos ally. He was a regular visitor to the dictator's palace in Manila and was known to brag about his close relationship to Marcos. Baruso was even given an award by Marcos for "outstanding political service to the overseas Filipino community."

Further indications that a broader conspiracy reaching back to Manila surfaced during the trial of Tony Dictado. "My family in the Philippines will be harmed," Dictado, said, if he told the whole story about the assassinations. At that point the justice committee was certain that powerful forces in the Philippines were trying to cover up the truth.

In 1982, the CJDV filed a wrongful death lawsuit against Marcos and his wife Imelda. Alexander Haig and George Schultz, both of whom served as Secretary of State under Ronald Reagan and FBI Director William Webster were also named as defendants in the suit.

Reagan's State Department came to the defense of the dictator and his wife. They successfully argued that they should be granted immunity as heads of state of a friendly nation. The US officials named in the suit were also dismissed as defendants for "national security reasons." But in 1987, Marcos and his wife would be reinstated as defendants after the regime collapsed and they took refuge in Hawaii. A federal judge ruled that they became "aliens with no official status" and would have to "defend the legality of their private acts committed in this country."

Marcos would now have to answer the CJDV's questions and during the discovery process, the CJDV legal team uncovered an expense sheet seized by US customs officials from Marcos

*continued on page 8*



**Raymundo Ruiz Rueda, a member of the Mexican Electrical Workers Union (SME), discussed to the assault on electrical workers by the Mexican government and the union's 18-month strike.**





Photo by Dawn Desfrassy

International Vice President Ray Familathe (left) and International Secretary Treasurer Willie Adams marched for good jobs in Portland, OR.

## Portland rally tells grain facility to respect local workforce

continued from page 1

### Surrounding the company

The noontime crowd gathered in Waterfront Park at the Salmon Street Springs Fountain, then filled the sidewalks six-deep for a march around the headquarters building of EGT – the company behind the new grain-handling facility that isn't respecting local workers. The group rallied and chanted for an hour and a half, encouraging many office workers and curious onlookers to peer at the large crowd on the picture-perfect sunny spring day. Portland police were good-natured and patient in helping rally participants exercise their First Amendment rights.

### Speakers stress respect

A host of speakers were on hand to explain the necessity of maintaining the good jobs, family wages, and safe working conditions that have been part of the work standards at other grain-handling ports in the Northwest.

ILWU International Vice President Ray Familathe came from San Francisco to speak at the rally, calling on the owners of the new facility's to "honor the tradition of our union waterfront," adding, "this new terminal needs to respect the northwest tradition of providing good jobs to grain workers throughout the region."

Local 21 President Dan Coffman told the crowd that he's happy to see

more grain shipments coming into the Longview area, adding "we're ready to do the work." Coffman estimates that the new shipments that may begin arriving this fall could employ about 50 longshore workers a day.

Also speaking was Brad Avakian, candidate for Congress and Oregon's State Labor Commissioner who emphasized the importance of maintaining the region's good, family-wage jobs.

Local 8 President Jeff Smith pledged that members of his local would continue to show solidarity, and invited everyone over to the union hall for burgers and beer after the rally ended – an offer that attracted plenty of takers who spent the afternoon meeting new and old friends from up and down the coast.

### New facility is coming quickly

The new facility in Longview is slated to begin operating later this fall. It's the first new grain export terminal to be built in the United States in more than two decades, and is being spearheaded by a consortium of multi-national grain corporations: the Japan-based Itochu Corporation, South Korea's STX Pan Ocean, and Bunge North America. Together, their "EGT development" venture is spending \$200 million for a state-of-the-art storage and transfer facility on the Columbia River shore at the port of Longview, Washington. EGT is also building two new facilities in Montana that will each be able to store 800,000 bushels of grain and load 110 train cars in record time that will travel on BNSF railroad tracks to Longview.

### Northwest Grainhandler's Agreement sets the area standard

Most of the massive grain shipments to Northwest Ports arrive on trains and barges. They unload at trans-shipment and storage facilities that comply with area labor standards established by the Northwest Grainhandler's Agreement. The Agreement provides employers with skilled and experienced workers

who know how to store and transfer various grains into ocean-going vessels that export the commodities around the world. Most of the grain is bound for Asia where demand has been steadily increasing.

### Big Business

Last year, the U.S. exported 10.4 million tons of wheat through the Pacific Northwest, about 40 percent of the nation's total. Most grain is transported on barges and trains, with the remainder hauled by trucks. Shipments typically head down either the Mississippi toward Gulf ports or down the Columbia River to Northwest ports. The grain business has been dominated by large, powerful corporations for more than a century, sparking revolts and political movements with socialist and populist leanings in the U.S. and Canada during the early 20th century. Today's powerful players in the grain trade include Cargill, Continental, and Bunge. The latter is one of the partners behind the EGT venture in Longview that isn't respecting area labor standards.

"The industry standards are clearly laid out in the Northwest Grainhandler's Agreement that covers worker safety, staffing levels, pay and benefits," said ILWU Coast Committeeman Leal Sundet. "Members from up and down the coast, from San Diego to Bellingham, want to see those standards respected in Longview."

As *The Dispatcher* was going to press, EGT had not yet signed a union contract, although all other grain export terminals from the Columbia River to Puget Sound have successfully worked with local unions for decades.

ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams who spoke at the rally reminded everyone that "this is just the beginning." He urged everyone to gear-up for a long fight if necessary, "because we are working class people and nobody will fight to protect good jobs unless we take the lead to protect the families here who are depending on us."

## ILWU members join Dutch dockers again to rally in San Francisco and to demand return of pension funds

In 2009, ILWU members and Teamsters joined the Dutch dockers union at a demonstration outside of the Transamerica tower in San Francisco's financial district. The Dutch dockers' union, known as FNV Bondgenoten, was demanding the return of pension money from the giant multinational company, Aegon, who took the funds by using an accounting trick. After an international campaign, Aegon, who owns the Transamerica insurance empire, offered to return a portion of the funds.

Because the Dutch dockers are still owed \$400 million by Aegon, the ILWU held another support rally on June 2 at the Transamerica tower. Rally participants at the noon event demanded that Aegon return all the money. Speakers included ILWU Vice President Ray Familathe, ILWU Sec-

retary-Treasurer Willie Adams, Niek Stam, National Secretary for the Dutch dockers, Tim Paulson of the San Francisco Labor Council, and officials from the Teamsters union.

A giant jumbotron television screen, mounted atop a semi-truck, broadcast a 5-minute documentary, "The Truth About Aegon" that was produced by the Dutch dockers. The giant screen allowed the film to be seen by many curious office workers and pedestrians. The short film explained how Aegon was able to take the pension funds – and how that move by a multi-billion dollar corporation has sparked international outrage.

Vice President Familathe told the rally crowd that support for the Dutch dockers is part of a long and proud tradition by the ILWU to promote international solidarity. International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams said that Aegon's greed was inspiring working-class support for the dockers union around the globe.



ILWU solidarity: International Vice President Ray Familathe told the rally supporting Dutch dockers that international solidarity is a proud tradition of the ILWU.



# ILWU pensioner Leroy King honored with a bronze bust for over 30 years of work on the San Francisco Redevelopment Commission

ILWU pensioner, community and labor leader, and San Francisco Redevelopment Commissioner Leroy King was honored by over 200 people on May 17th. A bronze bust of King, sculpted by artist Dina Angel-Wing, was unveiled at the Jazz Heritage Center in San Francisco's Fillmore District in recognition of King's many contributions to San Francisco and for his work to preserve the African-American and Japanese-American heritage of the Fillmore District. King has served on the Redevelopment Commission since August 19, 1981.

District 5 Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi spoke at the event. "I am proud as the supervisor for this district to know that a constituent of mine is also a hero of mine," Mirkarimi said of King. "I get worried sometimes when I hear that there are young people who

don't know the history of their own neighborhood or their own city. That is why it is so important to recognize great leaders like Leroy. This is a people's history that we have an obligation to make sure gets told."

Local 6 Secretary Treasurer Fred Pecker read a letter on behalf of ILWU President Robert McEllrath who was unable to attend the event. "I want to offer our appreciation for your tireless efforts to secure a better life for San Francisco's families by your work on the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency Commission," the letter stated. "For over 30 years on the commission, an amazing tenure in itself, you have fought for good schools, well planned developments, senior housing, recreational opportunities for children and much more. Your work on the commission has mirrored your contributions to the ILWU, now well in excess of 60 years. Thousands of rank and file ILWU members both active and retired are better off today due to your hard work, commitment and dedication."



Leroy King, (right) poses for a photo next to his bust with renowned sculptor Dina Angel-Wing.



**Honoring Leroy King:** From left to right, Capt. Josh, Local 10 Drill Team; John Castanho, Coast Benefits Specialist; Ray Ortiz, Jr, Coast Committeeman; State Senator Leland Yee; Leal Sundet, Coast Committeeman; Fred Pecker, Local 6 Secretary-Treasurer.

# Local 13's JoJo Cortez honored by the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor



ILWU Local 13 President JoJo Cortez was honored at the Miguel Contreras Cinco De Mayo Celebration by the LA County Federation of Labor on May 4, where he received the Miguel Contreras Leadership Award.

Contreras was the Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Federation from 1996-2005 when he died unexpectedly. He was the first Latino to hold that office. It was under his leadership that the door was opened for immigrants, low wage workers, such as janitors and hotel workers to become active in the movement. The federation has become one of the strongest and most politically effective in the country. In the photo above (left to right): Mike Trudeau, Local 94 Secretary-Treasurer; Robert McEllrath, ILWU International President; JoJo Cortez, Local 13 President; Danny Miranda, Local 94 President.



**Federated Auxiliary Biennial Convention:** The ILWU Federated Auxiliary held their 35th Biennial Convention in North Bend, OR, May 20-22. Speakers included, International Secretary Treasurer Willie Adams, Arnie Roblin, Co-Speaker of the Oregon House of Representatives, Marvin Caldara, Local 12 President, Ed Hall, Labor Liason for US Senator Jeff Merkley and Jennifer Gum, Secretary/Dispatcher for Local 12.

The Federated Auxiliary is an invaluable part of the ILWU family supporting ILWU locals up and down the coast. In the photo, Federated Auxiliary officers are sworn in. From left to right: Carolyn Williams, President; Kathy Gorda, Vice President; Pat Marks, Secretary; Judy Rowley, Treasurer; Pat Dunlap, Area Vice President, Washington; Margo Erickson, Area Vice President, Oregon; JoAlice Swindle, Area Vice President, California.



# Luisa Gratz receives Bert Corona and Dan Foley awards

On May 27th, ILWU Local 26 President Luisa Gratz, received the Bert Corona Leadership award from Hermandad Mexicana Nacional, a civil rights organization founded by former Local 26 President Bert Corona. Corona was a pioneering social justice and civil rights leader in the United States. His work on behalf of Latinos preceded the Chicano movement of the 60s and 70s. By then he was known "El Viejo" ("the Old Man"), by the new generation of Latino activist and was well respected as a veteran who paved the way for the emerging Latino and immigrant rights movements.

Gratz was also honored by South County Labor with the 2011 Dan Foley Outstanding Labor Leader Award on May 21st.

"These awards are not about me," Gratz said. "These belong to the membership of Local 26 and my fellow officers. Everything I have accomplished is because of the hard work and courage of the Local 26 membership. They inspire me every day."



## Celebrate "Bloody Thursday" on Tuesday, July 5th:

**Los Angeles/Long Beach** is hosting a very big event with up to 5,000 expected. The picnic happens at Harry Bridges Memorial Park in Long Beach next to the Queen Mary. But the day actually begins at 9am when members gather at Roosevelt Park Cemetery in Gardena to honor martyrs Dickie Parker and John Knudson who were shot on May 15, 1934 while fighting for the union. A procession of 100 cars and cycles will travel from the cemetery to the picnic, which runs from 10am-6pm and is open to all ILWU families, friends and casuals. Wristbands and free parking will be provided. The Long Beach Fire Dept. will BBQ for the 3rd year in a row. Events for kids include a jump-house and slide, face painting, cotton candy, sno-cones, magicians and more. Live music will run all day plus special dance performances featuring Polynesian, Folklorico, Hip Hop and Croatian dancers. For more information, call Jesse "Nacho" Enriquez (310) 951-1419

**Portland's** Bloody Thursday event begins when members and pensioners begin gathering at 11:30am for a memorial wreath ceremony on the bank of the Willamette River at 12 noon. A family picnic follows with BBQ, soft drinks and live music provided. Amusement park rides for kids are available for a fee. Local 8 is sponsoring the event and welcomes all ILWU members and pensioners to attend. For more information, call Local 8 at 503-224-9310.

**San Francisco's Bay Area** event will occur at the Local 10 Hiring Hall at 400 North Point. Events begin with a short memorial in front of the hall at 10am, followed by a complimentary lunch that's served at 12 noon. It's a family event with magic shows, face-painting, balloon-twisters, caricature artists plus cotton candy, hot dogs and other goodies for the kids. Representatives from several Bay Area locals, ILWU Pensioners, various maritime unions and some local politicians will attend and the event. ILWU members from throughout the Bay Area are welcome. The event is sponsored each year by the Bay Area Longshoremen's Memorial Association - BALMA. For more information, call the BALMA office at 415-441-5511

**Seattle's** Annual Bloody Thursday Picnic is usually a big one, with over 1000 expected. It's a family-friendly event with games and entertainment for the kids, live music, BBQ and soft drinks provided. Retired Local 98 member Jo Toro will be providing tattoos for kids. It begins around 10am and goes into the evening. The event is sponsored by Local 19, 52, 98 and the Credit Union but all ILWU members are welcome. For more information, call Robert Richmire at 206-353-7923.

## Assassination of Local 37 officers for international solidarity efforts recalled on 30th anniversary

*continued from page 5*

when he entered the US. The expense sheet was for the Mabuhay Corporation, a dummy company that served as a slush fund for Marcos' US intelligence operations. It was run by a San Francisco-based physician, Leonel Malebad. The sheet showed an expenditure of \$15,000 for "special security projects" on May 17, 1981—two weeks before the murders. Travel records uncovered by the CJDV also established that Tony Baruso was in San Francisco on that day and stayed at hotel only a few blocks from the Philippine consulate. It was believed that the \$15,000 was given to Baruso during that visit to pay the Tulisans to assassinate Silme and Gene.

On December 15, 1989, a federal jury agreed with CJDV and found the Marcos regime guilty. "The decision was a tremendous victory for Gene and Silme, and all the victims of the Mar-

cos regime," Mast said in a statement in *The Dispatcher*, after the verdict. "We set precedent by bringing a foreign dictator to justice for his crimes." Shortly after verdict, the District Attorney's office reopened the case of Tony Baruso. He was charged and eventually convicted of murder in 1991. Baruso was sentenced to life in prison where he died in 2008.

"The assassination of trade unionists has become a rare event in the US," said Mast. "The killing of Gene and Silme and the attempts by the Philippine and US governments to cover up the truth about what happened shows how threatening international solidarity work is to powerful people. It's important that we keep alive the memory and work of Gene and Silme, not only because it is a part of our history as trade unionists, but because it is a reminder that when we work together, we can confront powerful forces and win."

## TRANSITIONS

### NEW PENSIONERS:

**Local 13:** Harry Ponce; Arthur M. Mendez; Richard L. Hook; Carmen H. Laughlin; Darrell M. Lott; **Local 19:** Jon R. Leppa; **Local 26:** Ralph Rodriguez; **Local 27:** Jerry W. Jackson; **Local 52:** Gary L. Roughton; **Local 63:** Bobby R. Horton; Katarina Weeden; Kathy A. Young

### DECEASED PENSIONERS:

**Local 8:** Richard M. Murphy; **Local 10:** Frank Rodriguez; **Local 13:** James P. Ward, Jr.; Earl B. Bell; Bruce M. Bevan; **Local 19:** Chester D. Critney; **Local 23:** John C. Ehly;

**Local 24:** Eugene Schmidt; **Local 27:** Wesley Rausal; **Local 54:** Arthur Hall; **Local 91:** Manuel A. Cabral; **Local 94:** Robert J. Kostrenich (Mary); John P. Rukavina (Catherine)

### DECEASED SURVIVORS:

**Local 8:** Betty L. Ewing; Edna M. Faulkner; **Local 10:** Mary C. Galloway; Mary Bartoni; **Local 13:** Mary M. Lopez; Rosa M. Jimenez; Katia Bacich; Judith R. Snowbarger-Spigner; **Local 19:** Winona Deleo; Carrie M. Boyland; **Local 23:** Geraldine Merz; Joann Lelli; **Local 50:** Philipa L. Kindred; **Local 63:** Esther Graff

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