

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

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Every year on April 28, the Teamsters remember all of our members who have sacrificed their health or even their lives on the job. This year we also want to recognize all of our members in the Airline Division for the invaluable contributions they have made to their communities and their craft in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The pandemic caused an immediate economic crisis in the aviation industry as air travel plummeted. Due in no small part to the political power of the Teamsters, Congress passed expanded unemployment benefits, cash payments, job protections; most notably economic relief for workers in industries devastated by the coronavirus in the CARES Act of last year and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. These measures prevented many Teamsters in the field of aviation from bearing the brunt of both economic and public health catastrophes simultaneously. This success was in no small part because of letters to congress, calls to members of congress and other forms of advocacy from aviation workers and their collective bargaining representatives.

Tragically we lost many Teamster brothers and sisters to the pandemic. It has taken friends, family and other loved ones from us. I hope that it will be of comfort to those who are feeling this loss to remember those who are no longer with us as dedicated workers, family members and invaluable assets to their communities. For these reasons and many more they will never be forgotten.

Teamsters in the Airline Division have spent the past year demonstrating the resolve, bravery and solidarity that embodies the values of our union. Together, we will recover from this pandemic and come back stronger than ever before.

The IBT has developed a variety of resources for Workers' Memorial Day activities at your local union and workplace. For more information, go to <http://ibt.io/2021WMD>.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Bourne".

Capt. David Bourne
Director, Teamsters Airline Division