

## (1)

## IN MEMORIAM

**WHEREAS:** In the two years since our last convention, many faithful and dedicated trade unionists have passed away, including Brothers David Caldwell, Babe Erdos, James Bonsky, Gary DiCeglio, Mike Bindas, Bob Baker, Homer Cordle, and Sister Cenia Willis.

**WHEREAS:** Brother Caldwell began his career with Buckeye Steel Castings in Columbus and was a lifelong member of USW Local 2342 where he held various elected positions including local union president. Brother Caldwell rose through the United Steelworkers, ending his career as Assistant Director of United Steelworkers District 1. Dave was also a Vice President of the Ohio AFL-CIO, President of the Central Ohio CLC, a workers compensation advocate, and Director of the Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation up until the time of his death; and

**WHEREAS:** Brother Erdos began his work as a coal miner in Harrison County, OH with the Y&O company at it's Nelms #2 mine, and quickly raised through the ranks to become local union president of UMWA Local 1304. Since then he has held a variety of positions within his own union, including International Auditor, International Executive Board member, and Ohio COMPAC director. Babe was also elected to Mayor of his hometown Cadiz, OH. He served as a vice president on the Ohio AFL-CIO Executive Board for over 25 years until the time of his death; and

**WHEREAS:** Brother Bonsky worked his entire, adult life at Republic Steel and was a lifelong member of USW Local 1200. In addition to many positions held within the local, Brother Bonsky served as Secretary Treasurer of the Hall of Fame Labor Council Recording Secretary/Treasurer for the Northeast Ohio Area Labor Federation AFL-CIO, and participated in the Union Counselor Program for AFL-CIO. Additionally, Jim spent much of his time working on fundraising for the United Way; and

**WHEREAS:** Brother DiCeglio began working for Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company while putting himself through law school and graduated Cum Laud. After graduation he began a private law practice and became Division Chairman with United Rubber Workers. He joined Ohio AFL-CIO as Director of

Compensation and Safety. He ended his legal career with being the Industrial Commission Chairperson; and

**WHEREAS:** Brother Bindas began working at Packard Electric in Warren in 1956, and in 1958 he was elected to his first union position for IUE Local 717. In 1961, he was one of the youngest members of the IUE National Negotiations Committee and continued to take part in the committee until 1982. He continued to hold this position until 1983 when his hard work led him to becoming elected as Secretary Treasurer of IUE District 7 in Kettering. Following this move to Dayton, he was elected President of IUE District 7. In 2003, his career trajectory led to his final position, which was the President of the IUE-CWA in Washington, D.C., and he held this position until retirement in 2005, ending his 49 years of union service; and

**WHEREAS:** Brother Baker began his career with ATU Local 627 in 1973 as a bus operator with the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority. He immediately became involved in the activities of the Local. He was elected president of Local 627 in 1980. While in that position, he also served as president of the Ohio Legislative Conference for 10 years, president of the ATU-Joint Conference for six years and president and executive board member of the more than 100,000-member Cincinnati AFL-CIO for 12 years. In 1989, he was elected an international vice-president and was re-elected to that position at the next seven Conventions. He was elected International Executive Vice President in 2010; and

**WHEREAS:** Brother Cordle served as a labor liaison with the Central Ohio United Way as a member of the United Industrial Workers of the Seafarers International Union. His community involvement over the past 40 years included United Way, Charity Newsies, One New Toy Drive, American Red Cross Disaster Services, St. Stephens Community House, VFW, Amvets and the American Legion. Homer received awards for his dedication and devotion from CBTU Community Service Award, Charity Newsie of the Year, George Meany award, John Maloney award from St. Stephen's Community House, Citations from American Red Cross and American Legion. Homer was vice-president of Central Ohio Labor Council and past board member of St. Stephen's Community House; and

**WHEREAS:** Sister Cenia Willis was employed 39.5 years with the Toledo Board of Education. Mrs. Willis was educated in the Utica, MS School System and earned a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Toledo. Her professional affiliations included CBTU, AFSCME, Lucas County Democratic Party, NAACP, and Democratic Women in Action. She was also a long time Ohio AFL-CIO Executive

Board Vice President; and

**WHEREAS:** It is fitting and proper that the delegates to this Ohio AFL-CIO Convention pause in their deliberations to pay tribute to those members who are no longer with us, including the hundreds of Ohio workers who were killed on the job since we last met; and

**WHEREAS:** These men and women have contributed much to the cause and advancement of unionism in Ohio. We can best honor the memory of these sisters and brothers by rededicating ourselves to the highest ideals of the labor movement.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That in honor of the memory of our labor leaders, and sisters and brothers who have passed away since our last convention, including the hundreds of workers who have been killed on the job, we ask for a moment of silent reflection.

**Submitted by: Ohio AFL-CIO Executive Board**