

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, fifty years ago, Congress passed the Occupational Safety and Health Act, and more than 40 years ago, Congress passed the Mine Safety and Health Act, promising every worker the right to a safe job and enshrining the essential Right to Know; and

WHEREAS, the first Workers Memorial Day was observed in 1989; with commemorations sustained by Labor, Public Health, Social Justice and Government advocates to recognize that every year tens of thousands of American workers are killed by workplace injuries and occupational disease and tens of thousands more are permanently disabled while millions are injured or made ill; and

WHEREAS, workers who have stepped forward to educate and protect themselves and others at work have taken on the extra risk of being penalized for speaking out and asserting those rights; and

WHEREAS we recognize that Black, Indigenous, People of Color and immigrants are at higher risk of workplace hazards, both because of the absence of needed protections and a greater risk of punishment for speaking out; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 crisis has brought to the forefront of our community and our nation a profoundly deeper appreciation for the many workers that are essential to our lives who keep showing up daily to keep our communities going; and during this national crisis it is even more important that we stand together to ensure working safe conditions; and

WHEREAS working during the pandemic, or losing work due to the pandemic, has endangered our mental health, causing burnout, stress and fear about family and community well-being; and

WHEREAS, during the pandemic, using out of the box thinking, changes were made to ensure critical safety training needed for City of Olympia staff to perform their jobs safely every day continued while maintaining COVID-19 restrictions. For example, a new Hybrid CPR/First Aid/AED class has been piloted that allows staff to complete the classroom portion online and the practical portion in a one-on-one setting; and

WHEREAS, today we honor Nick Cammarano, a Maintenance Worker and valued member of the City of Olympia Public Works Drinking Water Operations team, who on September 11, 2008 passed away suddenly after collapsing on the job; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Olympia City Council does hereby proclaim April 26 through April 30 as

WORKERS MEMORIAL WEEK

In the City of Olympia and encourage all community members to give recognition to the workers killed, injured and disabled on the job and encourage the continuing improvement in all workplaces to prevent further tragedies.

SIGNED IN THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON THIS 13th DAY

OF APRIL 2021.

OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL

Cheryl Selby
Mayor