

H. Res. 186

In the House of Representatives, U.S.,

April 9, 2003.

Whereas Samuel Gompers, the first president of the American Federation of Labor, challenged laborers across the country to coordinate their activities into one cohesive unit, and in response 25 delegates from 17 cities—representing more than 8,000 laborers—met in Washington, D.C. on April 13, 1903;

Whereas after four days of meetings these representatives formed the “International Hod Carriers’ and Building Laborers’ Union of America” (Laborers’ Union);

Whereas the Laborers’ Union was started and built by immigrants and minorities, and today immigrants and minorities continue to be the fastest growing segment of the Union’s membership;

Whereas, in 1920, the Laborers’ Union backed efforts by African-Americans to win equal treatment in other United States labor unions;

Whereas by the late 1920s a boom in construction caused the Laborers’ Union membership rolls to approach 100,000, and during this period the merger and addition of three other unions—the International Compressed Air and Foundation Workers Union; the Tunnel and Subway Constructors International Union; and the International

Union of Pavers, Rammermen, Flag Layers, Bridge and Curb Setters and Sheet Asphalt Pavers—further added to the Laborers’ Union’s size;

Whereas the members of the Laborers’ Union provided crucial support to the National defense effort during World War II, and during the post-World War II industrial boom the Laborers’ Union began organizing nonconstruction workers in the labor force;

Whereas, in 1950, the Laborers’ Union built their own training center in Kansas City, opening an era of high-quality training to help workers advance in their jobs and careers by providing more opportunities for them and their families;

Whereas, in 1955, the Laborers’ Union affiliated itself with the AFL–CIO Industrial Union Department in order to effectively represent the 60,000 laborers working under the jurisdiction of the Industrial Union Department;

Whereas, in 1965, the Laborers’ Union officially changed its name to the “Laborers’ International Union of North America” (LIUNA) to better reflect the continual expansion of the union beyond the construction field;

Whereas, during the 1960s, LIUNA successfully organized municipal, State, and university employees, and in 1968 added the 20,000 Mail Handlers Union to their ranks;

Whereas, in 1970, intensive lobbying by LIUNA and other unions resulted in the creation of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration;

Whereas more than 3,000 LIUNA members worked round-the-clock to clean up the site of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on New York City, completing the clean-up three months ahead of schedule and under budget;

Whereas LIUNA currently consists of approximately 800,000 members in more than 650 locals;

Whereas LIUNA has long played a vital role in building the United States by constructing highways, bridges, tunnels, subways, dams, power plants, factories, office buildings, schools, churches, hospitals, and apartment buildings and houses;

Whereas LIUNA members work in a variety of fields such as local, State, and Federal government service, health care, mail handling, custodial services, shipbuilding, food service, and hazardous waste removal;

Whereas LIUNA is one of the most innovative unions in the labor movement, with 69 state-of-the-art training centers across North America, and is among the most successful unions at organizing within the labor movement;

Whereas LIUNA is an extraordinary union whose leadership works hard to protect its members' health and safety, to provide laborers a strong voice in the workplace and extensive skill training designed to empower members to reach their full potential, and perhaps most important, to ensure the dignity, respect, and security of laborers in the workplace; and

Whereas LIUNA's efforts are deserving of our attention and admiration: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Laborers' International Union of North America and acknowledges the tremendous contributions LIUNA has made to the structural development and

building of the United States and to the well-being of countless laborers;

(2) congratulates the members and officers of the Laborers' International Union of North America for LIUNA's many achievements and the strength of its membership; and

(3) looks forward to the continuation of LIUNA's efforts and believes that LIUNA will have an even greater impact in the 21st century and beyond, enhancing the standard of the living and work environments for future laborers.

Attest:

Clerk.