Workers Memorial Day
Scholarship Essay Contest

Each year on April 28th, workers, legislators, members of organized labor unions, worker advocates and others gather together on Workers Memorial Day to honor the memory of those workers who have lost their lives because of workplace injuries or illnesses during the course of the past year. The sacrifices made by these workers and of the families left behind are spoken of in these ceremonies and those who attend are inspired to work harder on behalf of the welfare of all workers.

This year the Connecticut AFL-CIO Health and Safety Committee is offering a scholarship essay contest to inspire Connecticut high school seniors to think about the importance of workplace health and safety, of the consequences that arise when workers are forced to toil in unsafe working conditions and of the role that organized labor has played in protecting workers both in the past and present.

In this scholarship essay contest Connecticut high school seniors are asked to respond in 1,000 words or less to ONE of the three scenarios below with serious thought, some research and most importantly awareness of the true cost of workplace hazards on the lives of workers. Entries will be judged anonymously on content, originality and clarity of vision.

1) Identify any workplace hazards that you or a friend face in part-time work, state how it would affect you or your friend and what would be needed to correct the unsafe conditions.

2) How did workers and their unions achieve worker protections in the past?

3) How important is organized labor to protecting worker safety?

The winners of this contest will be asked to share a portion of their essay during our 2018 Workers Memorial Day event to be held at the Bushnell Park Worker Memorial in Hartford on Saturday, April 28, 2018. The essay questions are:

Please email the completed essay and the application below to office@ctaflcio.org no later than April 1, 2018.
2018 Workers Memorial Day Essay Application

Student’s Name: ________________________________________________

Home or Mailing Address:________________________________________

City: ___________________________ State: ______ Zip Code: __________

Home Phone: ____________________ Cell Phone: ____________________

Email address: _________________________________________________

Parent(s)/guardian(s) name(s): __________________________________

High School Name: ______________________________________________

High School Address: ____________________________________________

City: ___________________________ State: _____ Zip Code: __________