

Let me say this about that

## ...Unionists' obituaries

(From Page 2)

**JOHN W. BOGGS SR.** of Fairview, a retired member of Operating Engineers Local 701, died at age 78 on Feb. 25.

He was born on July 3, 1928 in Morgantown, West Virginia. He served in the U.S. Navy in World War II and moved Gresham several years after the war. He later moved to Milton-Freewater in Eastern Oregon but returned to Gresham in the 1970s. He moved to Fairview in the 1990s.

**SURVIVORS INCLUDE** his wife, the former Eloise Hudson, whom he married in 1950; a son, John, Jr.; a sister, Eleanor Weisz; and brothers O.J. and Franklin Memorial contributions can be sent to the American Heart Association. Funeral arrangements were by Bateman Carroll.

★★★

**STANLEY D. DORNAN** of Vancouver, Wash., a member of Portland-based Iron Workers Local 29, died Feb. 23 at age 65. A memorial service was conducted on March 2 at Omega Funeral and Cremation.

He was born Aug. 12, 1941 in Webbers Falls, Okla. He served in the U.S. Army in the Vietnam War. Later, he moved to Vancouver.

**SURVIVORS INCLUDE** his wife, Dorothy, whom he married in 1974; a daughter, Priscilla; a son, Robert; four grandchildren; his mother, Lola; and two sisters, Fran Meyer and Joyce Miller.

★★★

**BLANCHE FEELY** of Portland, a retired union grocery clerk, died at age 92 on Feb. 8. She had worked for Safeway and Albertsons as a member of Retail Clerks Local 1092, which later became part of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555.

She was born on Sept. 24, 1914 in Tidewater, Ore.; and later lived in Brownsville before moving to Portland in 1939. She married Cyrus McAllister in 1934; they later divorced.

She married Robert H. Feely in 1970; he died in 1985.

**SURVIVORS INCLUDE** a son, Gerald McAllister; a brother, Cedric Williamson; a sister, Irene Fee; and nieces and nephews.

Remembrances can be sent to the Doernbecher Children's Hospital Foundation. Riverview Abbey handled funeral arrangements.

★★★

**GLENN E. GREGORY**, a retired member of Portland-headquartered Sheet Metal Workers Local 16, died on Feb. 9 at age 89.

He was born on April 8, 1917 in Index, Wash. He moved to Portland in 1953 and went to work in the sheet metal trade as a member of Local 16. He later served as a business agent for the union.

**HE MARRIED** Ella B. Reniker in the late 1930s, she died in 2004.

Survivors include his daughters, Jan Nerison and Jeanne L. Warren, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions can be sent to the American Cancer Society. Funeral arrangements were handled by American Burial and Cremation.

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**HARROLD GLENN JOHNSTON** of Portland, a retired member of Machinists Auto Mechanics Local 1005, died Feb. 24 of Alzheimer's disease at age 80.

He was born on Aug. 21, 1926 in Portland. He graduated from Roosevelt High School. He served in the U.S. Army in World War II and later lived in Los Angeles before returning to Portland in 1962. He worked as a Local 1005 member at the Freightliner truck manufacturing plant on Swan Island for 28 years.

**SURVIVORS INCLUDE** his wife, Marjorie, whom he married in 1952, two daughters, Kim Peil and Lauren Fox; a son, Randy, a sister, Marci Juarez, six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Contributions can be sent to the Alzheimer's Association. Affordable Funeral Alternatives handled funeral arrangements.

★★★

**DAVID WILLIAM OLNEY** of Oregon City, a retired member of Operating Engineers Local 701, died Feb. 22 at age 74. A memorial service for him was held March 1 at Grand View Baptist Church in Beavercreek.

He was born on Nov. 28, 1932 in Portland. His family later moved to Colton where he grew up. He lived in Colton until moving to Oregon City last year. He worked as a heavy equipment operator for about 30 years.

**SURVIVORS INCLUDE** his wife, Darl, whom he married in 1953; three daughters, Theresa Olney, Julie Olney and Jenny Hopkins; five sons, Jeffrey, Mike, Tony, Nick and Charlie; a sister, Mary Wheeler; 30 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Funeral arrangements were handled by Family Memorial.

## ...9/11 rescuers suffering from ill health

(From Page 10)

two young children. "They were no more than 8 years old, trying to climb in the coffin to say goodbye to Daddy," Sferazo said, with tears in his eyes and a choked voice.

Part of the rasp in Sferazo's voice is from the ailments he contracted as one of the thousands of workers from around the country who spent months picking through and sorting the debris of the Twin Towers, dubbed "The Pile." Workers loaded debris onto trucks and ferries and carted it off to the Staten Island landfill without any protection for their bodies — and especially their lungs. Now they're paying the price.

"I'm typical of the others who stayed 29-32 days at the site. My medical conditions are reactive airway disease, restrictive airway disease, sinusitis, continual lung infections, post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression, sleep apnea" and gastric diseases, the now-disabled Sferazo told a House Oversight and Government Operations subcommittee.

City medical and civic officials also testified that the Bush Administration harmed clean-up workers twice in the aftermath of 9/11: Once by saying the air was safe to breathe at "Ground Zero" without masks and then by short-changing programs to deal with their health problems.

A study by the city released late last year said 681,000 people could be affected. That includes workers on "The Pile," lower Manhattan residents, school children and workers

in nearby buildings where toxic debris and gases wafted into rooms and heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems.

The federal government's response to their plight? A Bush budget proposal for \$25 million this year for follow-up study of the victims — just enough to keep two of the three treatment centers for them operational. The money would go to the city Fire Department, which lost

9/11 illnesses. The Victims' Compensation Fund, open only to families who lost kin in the terrorist attacks, and which is now closed, should be reopened and extended to the other victims, they added.

"Individuals who are now suffering from 9/11 health effects were responding to an act of war against this nation. The government is responsible for assisting them, but New York City cannot bear the re-

sponsibility on its own, especially for those who aided New York in its time of need but now live in other states," declared Linda Gibbs, the city's deputy mayor for health and co-chair of its World Trade Center health panel, which produced last year's report. The city wants

a permanent dedicated fund to help pay the health care costs of the victims.

Besides the money, the continuing victims of 9/11 want recognition of their ills, especially by a government that told them it was safe to work on "The Pile" without breathing apparatus or masks. That's why Sferazo, Bethea and the others hold the Bush Administration responsible for their ills.

"If I am to be the voice of the responder," the now-disabled Sferazo rasped, "then I am outraged by the lack of responsibility and loss of obligation this Administration has towards us. We are clearly being shown that we are expendable. George Bush came to the Trade Center and told us 'We will never forget.' ... Well, we feel he forgot."

...victims of 9/11 want recognition of their ills, especially by a government that told them it was safe to work on 'The Pile' without breathing apparatus or masks.

343 union firefighters in the attacks, and to Mt. Sinai Hospital, which treats other first responders — but not those who dug into "The Pile" later, nor the kids nor community residents. They're treated at Bellevue Hospital, which gets none of the funds.

And Bush officials told lawmakers they are concentrating on documenting data of long-range health effects of 9/11 so future claims are legitimate and victims who become ill in coming years will really have been sickened by the toxic gases and particles.

That's not good enough, union members and other witnesses told the subcommittee. The city report estimates that between \$250 million and \$393 million will be needed to treat all the victims of subsequent

## Workers want unions more than ever

By ROSS EISENBREY

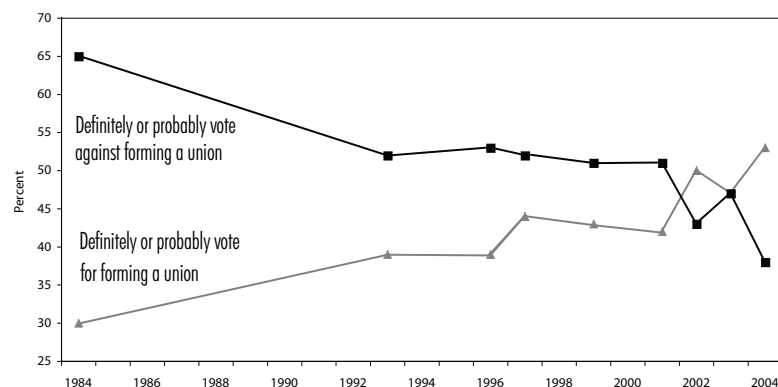
Today, more than at any time in the recent past, American workers want to join unions and have unions represent them in the workplace.

In 1984, about a third of nonunion workers wanted a union to represent them, while two-thirds said they would definitely or probably vote against forming a union.

As shown in the figure at right, by 2005, nearly the opposite was true: 53 percent of nonunion workers wanted a union and only a little more than a third said they would vote against a union.

According to new survey research by Richard Freeman of Harvard University that combines results from both union and nonunion private sector workers, "if workers were provided the union representation they desired in 2005, then the unionization rate would be about 58 percent" almost eight times higher than the actual rate of 7.4 percent, and considerably higher than the 44 percent found in polls from the mid-1990s.

Nonunion worker likely vote in a union representation election, Hart polls, 1984-2004



Source: Hart Research Associates, various polls, except 1984. Those year's data are from Harris TK.

These results track a significant improvement in the general public perception of unions. While a majority of the public has always approved of unions and a minority disapproved, the gap between approval and disapproval grew from about 20 points in 1981 to 43 points in 2005, the largest gap between approval and disapproval of unions ever recorded in the Gallup and Hart Research polls.

Americans approve of unions and

want unions to represent them. Only employer hostility and inadequate laws keep employees from having the union representation they want.

Further discussion of this topic can be found in the briefing paper, "Do Workers Still Want Unions? More Than Ever," at [www.sharedprosperity.org](http://www.sharedprosperity.org).

(Editor's Note: Ross Eisenbrey is vice president and policy director for the Economic Policy Institute.)