



Portland rallies to save U.S. Post Office from privatization

Led by postal workers, teachers and veterans' administration workers, a few dozen community members rallied at the Main Post Office in downtown Portland July 26 to commemorate the 243rd birthday of the U.S. Post Office (USPS) and decry the Trump Administration's threats to public services.

On June 21 the White House issued a proposal "Delivering Government Solutions in the 21st Century" that calls for the privatization of the USPS. The proposal would reduce the USPS obligation to provide universal service, deliver fewer days of the week, eliminate at-the-door and curbside delivery, sell and close post offices and processing plants, as well as eliminate labor protections and reduce wages and benefits for postal workers.

The Republican-controlled Administration, Congress, and Supreme Court have taken aim at public services and public-sector workers and their unions

in a series of recent assaults. From moves to privatize the postal service and veterans' healthcare, to incentives to close and privatize schools, to the removal of union security for public sector workers in the *Janus vs AFSCME* decision, the public and our services are under siege.

"Privatization means more profit for the 1 percent and less service, higher costs, and lower wages for the 99 percent. Our only hope is to unite and fight back," said Jamie Partridge, a retired Letter Carrier and member of Portland Communities and Postal Workers United, a main sponsor of the rally and birthday celebration.

Other sponsors included the American Postal Workers Union and Portland Jobs with Justice.

On July 25, Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler issued a proclamation declaring July 26 as Postal Heritage Day in Portland.

Cement Masons Local 555 Pays tribute to America's Workers This Labor Day 2018!



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"The basic goal of labor will not change. It is – as it has always been, and I am sure always will be – to better the standards of life for all who work for wages and to seek decency and justice and dignity for all Americans."

--- George Meaney

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