

“Weekends and overtime and benefits — things that now, nonunion workers take for granted — well, you got those because unions were out there fighting for you for a very long time.”

Barack Obama



THE FIRST LABOR DAY

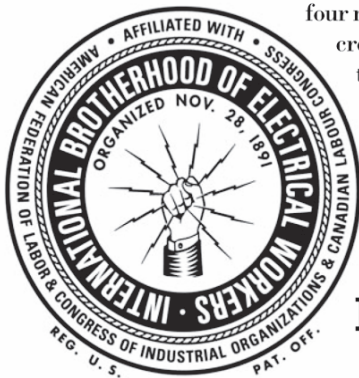
Two men have been credited with suggesting a holiday to honor working people in the United States — Matthew Maguire, a machinist from Paterson, N.J., and Peter J. McGuire, a New York City carpenter who founded the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners. Both men played an important part in staging the first Labor Day parade in New York City on Sept. 5, 1882. In 1887, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Council, Oregon became the first state to make Labor Day a legal holiday.

In 1884 the first Monday in September was selected to be the holiday, as originally proposed, and the Central Labor Council urged similar organizations in other cities to follow the example of New York and celebrate a “workingmen’s holiday” on that date. The idea spread with the growth of labor organizations, and in 1885 Labor Day was celebrated in many individual centers of the country.

As the years went by the nation gave increasing emphasis to Labor Day. The first governmental recognition came through municipal ordinances passed during 1885 and 1886. From them developed the movement to secure state legislation. The first state bill was introduced into the New York Legislature, but the first to become law was passed by Oregon on Feb. 21, 1887. During the year four more states — Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York — created the Labor Day holiday by legislative enactment. By the end of the decade Connecticut, Nebraska, and Pennsylvania had followed suit.

By 1894, 23 other states had adopted the holiday in honor of workers, and on June 28 of that year Congress passed an act making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and the territories. President Grover Cleveland signed it into law making Labor Day a national holiday.

Have a safe and happy Labor Day from the Members, Executive Board and Staff of IBEW Local 125



Celebrating Labor Day and the work you do every day

In solidarity,
Oregon School
Employees Association

A Member's Union
OSEA
AFT Local 6732



Wishing all Union members, family and friends a happy and safe Labor Day



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Happy Labor Day

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Here's to you on Labor Day!

Your labor has kept the family strong and this nation proud.



Plasterers Local 82

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