ON APRIL 28, THE UNIONS OF THE AFL-CIO OBSERVE WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY to remember those who have suffered and died on the job and to renew our efforts for safe workplaces. This year the struggle continues to create good jobs in this country that are safe and healthy and to ensure the freedom of workers to form unions and, through their unions, to speak out and bargain for respect and a better future. It’s time for our country to fulfill the promise of safe jobs for all.

BUT OUR WORK IS NOT DONE. Many job hazards are unregulated and uncontrolled. Some employers cut corners and violate the law, putting workers in serious danger and costing lives. Workers who report job hazards or job injuries are fired or disciplined.

Employers contract out dangerous work to try to avoid responsibility. As a result, each year thousands of workers are killed and millions more injured or diseased because of their jobs.

FOUR DECADES AGO, Congress passed the Occupational Safety and Health Act, promising every worker the right to a safe job. Unions and our allies have fought hard to make that promise a reality—winning protections that have made jobs safer, saved thousands of lives and prevented millions of workplace injuries and illnesses.

THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION HAS STRENGTHENED PROTECTIONS with tougher enforcement and a focus on workers’ rights. Much-needed safeguards on silica and other workplace hazards, stalled for several years due to fierce business and Republican opposition, have finally started to move forward.

We must redouble our efforts to make sure these safeguards are finalized and put in place.