

*The Light of Freedom, Family, Fellowship, Solidarity, Leadership & Education*

WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

A Day of Remembrance and Action

Nearly 55 years ago, on April 28, Workers Memorial Day, the Occupational Safety and Health Act went into effect, promising every worker the right to a safe job – our fundamental right. The law was won because of the tireless efforts of the labor movement, which organized for safer working conditions and demanded action from the government to protect working people. Since then, unions and allies have fought hard to make that promise a reality – winning protections under the law that have made jobs safer and saved lives. But all of that is in danger as elected leaders threaten to cut staff, defund or outright eliminate federal job safety agencies.

WHY APRIL 28 MATTERS...

Since its inception, April 28 has been the focal point of a global movement committed to raising awareness of the hazards faced by workers daily. From factory floors to construction sites, and from healthcare settings to office environments, this day calls attention to the ongoing risks workers face. In some regions, Workers Memorial Day also serves as a platform to campaign for more stringent occupational safety standards, while encouraging stronger health and safety measures at work.

While April 28 is set aside for the formal commemoration, activities surrounding Workers Memorial Day continue throughout the year. Campaigns to improve workplace safety, calls for regulatory change, and efforts to raise public awareness do not stop after this day of remembrance. Instead, these efforts are amplified, allowing the memory of those who have suffered in unsafe workplaces to fuel the global mission of ensuring no worker faces unnecessary risks in their daily duties.

WHAT YOU CAN DO...

As we grieve those we have lost from unsafe working conditions, we must fight to protect our right to a safe job. We must:

- ▶ **Defend hard-won safety and health protections** and workers' rights from attacks.
- ▶ **Oppose cuts** in job safety staff and funding.
- ▶ **Demand strong enforcement** of all job safety laws.
- ▶ **Hold our elected leaders accountable** for any actions that weaken workers' right to a safe job.
- ▶ **Win new protections** against heat illness, workplace violence, silica exposure in mining, infectious diseases, exposure to asbestos and other toxic chemicals, and other preventable hazardous exposures.
- ▶ **Increase efforts to protect** Black, Latino and immigrant workers who are disproportionately affected by and especially targeted for speaking up against unsafe working conditions.
- ▶ **Guarantee all workers have a voice** on the job to raise safety concerns and the right to freely form a union without employer interference or intimidation.
- ▶ **Pass the Protecting America's Workers Act (PAWA)** to provide OSHA protection to the millions of workers without it, stronger criminal and civil penalties for companies that violate job safety and health laws, and improved anti-retaliation protections.



Remember these four UAW members who lost their lives in the workplace this past year

Each day, more than 340 workers are killed and more than 6,000 suffer injury and illness because of dangerous working conditions that are preventable.

This year, we ask that we keep in our prayers the four UAW members and their families who lost their lives in workplace accidents this year. They are as follows:

DAULTON T. SIMMERS

UAW Local 974 UAW Region 4

FRANKLIN 'TRACY' LOGSDON

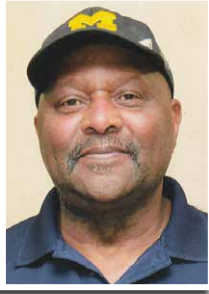
UAW Local 3047 UAW Region 8

ANTONIO E. 'TONE' GASTON

UAW Local 12 UAW Region 2B

RONALD 'RONNIE' ADAMS

UAW Local 723 UAW Region 1A



UAW RETIREE CHAIRMAN

by Jessie Collins

Don't Be Fooled!

Hello My Sisters & Brothers,

I hope all is well with you and your family.

Trump and Musk's War on Social Security Continues

Despite pushback from Democrats in Congress and advocates for seniors, Donald Trump and Elon Musk have sustained their attack on the Social Security Administration (SSA), the agency that administers earned benefits for some 73 million Americans. Trump and Musk claim to be unearthing "fraud," but don't be fooled. Their real agenda isn't about efficiencies. It's about dismantling one of America's most popular federal programs, piece by piece.

What started as a campaign of misinformation has grown into a reckless operation aimed at destabilizing the SSA. Musk, with an assist from Trump, has spread outlandish lies, claiming massive fraud in Social Security with zero evidence. Take Trump's ridiculous implication that *360-year-olds might be collecting benefits*, or Musk's claim on X that fraud in federal programs surpasses all private scams combined. These allegations have been thoroughly disproved. In fact, federal audits show improper Social Security payments are below 1% of total benefits paid – hardly "massive."

Undaunted by thorough fact checking in the media, Musk declared this week that there is "\$700 billion in waste and fraud "within Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. The waste and fraud in entitlement spending ... that's the big one to eliminate," Musk said, suggesting cuts of up to \$700 billion a year.

The real danger lies not only in the rhetoric, but in the actions of Trump, Musk, and their Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). Under DOGE's influence, SSA leadership has unveiled plans to radically reduce the agency's workforce (which already is at a 50-year low), is bullying career employees into early retirement, shuttering field offices, and tried to make it more difficult for parents to obtain Social Security numbers for their newborns.

Just recently, according to the *Washington Post*, the Trump administration is considering "dramatically curtailing" customer service on the agency's 1-800 phone line. Under this new policy, elderly and disabled people would be redirected to the internet and a shrinking number of SSA field offices for "claims processing and direct-deposit bank transactions." This is another sign of the administration's callous disregard for beneficiaries, especially those who rely on telephone assistance and may not be able to access services online or in person.

The Trump administration's latest policy reversal perfectly encapsulates the cruelty of their approach. While former Social Security Commissioner Martin Malley worked to mitigate the financial pain inflicted on beneficiaries who receive overpayment notices, Trump's SSA has reverted to withholding 100% of beneficiaries' monthly benefits as a default until overpayments are fully repaid. We call this policy petty and cruel, especially because overpayments are usually due to errors on the agency's part.

Trump and Musk's actions are undermining customer service for Social Security beneficiaries. Wait times on the agency's 1-800 phone line are increasing, while the availability of appointments at SSA field offices are becoming next to non-existent. More people will die while awaiting a decision on disability claims. Basic services that seniors, disabled individuals, and families rely on could grind to a halt. This is a deliberate effort to undermine public confidence and make Social Security a scapegoat for some imagined failure to make the best use of resources. More to come in next month's issue.

New Requirements to Fly Starting May 7, 2025

Are you ready for **REAL ID**? See chart on page 5 of this *Headlight*. You will need a **REAL ID** to fly in the U.S.

Workers Memorial Day Remembrance

UAW Workers Memorial Day is observed on April 28th each year, and our UAW Local 599 Retired Workers Chapter sends out our prayers to the families who lost loved ones in industrial accidents in this passed year.

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FREE LISTINGS for
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Classifieds

Members may submit one ad, fifteen words or less, by 10:00 a.m. on the last Wednesday of every other month.

Email to: riddler07@comcast.net
or mail GENE RIDLEY: 4034 W. Dodge Rd., Clio, MI 48420



by MARY SIMMONS

A Mood In America

Well, the mood in America hasn't gotten any better. Dare I say, it has gotten worse.

Before I start my rant, I want everyone to take a moment to say that Workers Memorial Day is a remembrance of the fallen worker. So, if you know of someone who you worked with and/or knew, please take a moment to send up a small prayer for them and their family, for solace and peace.

THE SITUATION IS DIRE FOR THE WORKPLACE

Job safety agency resources already are critically underfunded. It would take the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 185 years to inspect every workplace once, and Congress only allows the agency to spend less than \$4 protecting each worker it's responsible for. Cuts to hazard investigations and coal mine inspectors take us back decades and harm workers.

Many of our hard-won workplace safety and health rights are under threat. Working people have fought for our rights for decades and still do every day – from the shop floor to the halls of government. But now under the Trump administration, new anti-regulatory attacks, such as executive orders and removal of important information from OSHA's website, threaten the gains we have won and will prevent OSHA and the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) from setting needed job safety standards and enforcing the law. Funding and staffing cuts will make oversight on businesses nearly impossible. When no one is watching, many employers fail to do the right thing.

UAW LOCAL 599 RETIREE CHAPTER

HEADLIGHT

The Light of Freedom, Family, Fellowship, Solidarity, Leadership & Education

RETIREE CHAPTER EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chairman Jessie Collins
2nd Vice Chair Mary Simmons
Recording Secretary Gene Ridley
Financial Secretary Liz Melchor
Guide Barb Young
Sergeant-at-Arms Billy Henderson
Delegate-at-Large Gene Ridley

EDITORIAL POLICY

The HEADLIGHT is the voice of the Retirees Chapter of UAW Local 599. The purpose of this paper is to inform and educate the membership of issues of our Chapter and the community in which we live. Articles from members and stories about members are welcome. While your contributions are welcome, they should be constructive. At no time shall the Editor tolerate any defamatory remarks regarding policies of our Chapter, International Union, or UAW person or persons. The Editor reserves the right to edit any article for clarity and/or length. Opinions reflected in signed articles do not necessarily reflect the position or opinions of the Chapter.

HEADLIGHT Editor Gene Ridley



What can we look forward to in this presidency from hell? Now that Trump has one hundred days in, I think he feels now he has a no limits. I mean, why wouldn't he? Congress and the Supreme Court have not stopped him. I guess they haven't made enough money from his destroying the U.S. yet. I just hope when they come to their senses our world will still be recognizable. Right now, I'm starting to think about hiring a wizard or witch to cast a spell on him to disappear, along with all his toxic cabinet (LOL). So, for the time, let's just hope his ideas of sending American convicts to El Salvador or snatching black males off the street and sending them away are just part of his fevered ramblings.

I'm going to stop before I scare myself any further. So, until next time and maybe brighter days ahead. *Peace and Love...*

CHAPTER MEETINGS are held at UAW LOCAL 651 UNION HALL

on the last Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m.

If you need assistance, call Chairman Jessie Collins at 810-287-6612 or Recording Secretary Gene Ridley at 810-516-1773

If you have Benefits questions, call UAW Local 659 Benefit Rep. at 810-232-4130, ext. 213

— IMPORTANT NUMBERS & WEBSITES —

UAW Trust	866-637-7555	www.uawtrust.org
Ford / General Motors / Stellantis (formerly FCA/Chrysler)		
Elder/Child Care Resources	800-733-3702	
GM Benefits and Services	800-489-4646	www.gmbenefits.com
GM Benefits TTY	877-347-5225	
MetLife	888-543-3461	Group Life Insurance • Basic, Dependents & Optical Supplement Life Insurance
Social Security Administration.....	800-772-1213	www.SA.gov
"NEW" UnitedHealthcare	844-320-5021	Medicare Advantage Plan (Medical Benefits)
"NEW" UnitedHealthcare	855-409-0219	Medicare Rx
(Optum Rx – Prescription Drug Benefits)		www.uawtrustpdp.com
Blue Cross / Blue Shield	877-832-2829	www.bcbsm.com
Davis Vision	888-672-8393	Silver Sneakers
Delta Dental	800-942-0667	www.silversneakers.com
Flexible Spending Acct..	866-567-3993	TruHearing.....
Medicare	800-633-4227	844-320-5420
Physical Therapy	888-636-8786	UAW Legal Service
Retiree Health Care Connect...	866-637-7555	800-482-7700
		United Auto Workers.....
		www.uaw.org

— DISCOUNTS —

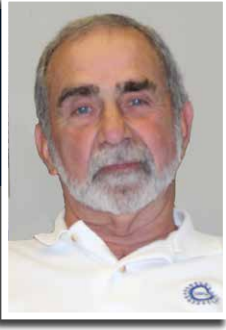
Pep Vehicle Purchase	www.gmfamilyst.com
Gm Vehicle Purchase.....	800-235-4646
Gm Parts Discount.....	855-462-2737 (Prompt 5)

If you live in Genesee County and need an attorney, we recommend...

John Chowning (810) 695-2110 & Brian L. Walker (800) 826-0101
Workers Compensation Lawyer UAW Legal Service Lawyer

FIND LOCAL 599 UPDATES AT...

region1d.uaw.org/uaw-local-599/login?destination=uaw-local-599/about-us



RECORDING SECRETARY

by GENE RIDLEY

Trump's First 100 Days

Well, it has been 100 days since Trump and Musk became president and I was doing some reflecting on some of his campaign promises and which ones he has kept. The following is a sampling of his campaign promises...

- To pardon all those who took part in storming the Capitol and destroying our Capitol building, threatening to hang the Vice President, and injuring those Capitol police officers trying to defend it. – *promise kept*
- To go after everyone who was against him or tried to prosecute him for the crimes he committed. – *promise kept*
He is currently going after the press and calling for TV programs to be taken off the air and suing those who had exposed him for the lies he has stated.
- Immigration to begin mass deportation from day one. – *promise kept*. He is currently deporting innocent migrants without due process of law.
- To end birthright citizenship. – *promise not kept*
- To end the war in Ukraine within 24 hours of taking office. – *promise not kept*
- To implement tariffs on all products from Mexico and

Canada. – *promise kept*

Not only on Mexico and Canada but every country that we do business with, which has caused a history making drop in the stock market sending Wall Street in turmoil and causing retirees 401(k) to lose thousands of dollars that retirees were depending on for their retirement.

- The biggest promise was dismantling our government, throwing thousands of workers to the street while ending government programs that help Americans to survive.
- Promising to lower prices from day one. I don't know about you, but I m paying more for just about everything I buy today compared to a year ago. – *promise not kept*

Following this article, I have placed a list of fact-check sites, and I encourage everyone to use them and learn what is true and what is not.

One last thought... It is time to quit concentrating on Trump. He is here for 3 more years. We need to be concentrating on the next 18 months and getting out to support labor-friendly candidates for Congress who will protect our democracy and working families... not the rich.

Don't let Trump sidetrack you from the real things that are going on right now. He has everyone thinking tariffs while he is dismantling our education system, cutting government funding for programs for Americans and so much more, all while cutting taxes for the very rich and powerful.

Condolences

I would like to extend my condolences and prayers to the family of Mike Mills on his passing. Mike was a good union person and a Skilled Trades Shop Committeeman for UAW Local 599 Skilled Trades. He will surely be missed by family and friends. *Rest in Peace, Mike.*

ATTENTION: All Retiring UAW EMPLOYEES

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- AP FACT CHECK – <https://apnews.com/ap-fact-check>
- CHECK YOUR FACT – <https://checkyourfact.com/>
(Right-Center Bias)
- EXPOSING TRUTH – <http://www.exposingtruth.com/>
(Left-Center Bias)
- FACT CHECK – <https://www.factcheck.org>
- FACT MYTH – <https://factmyth.com> (Left-Center Bias)
- LEAD STORIES – <https://leadstories.com>
- MEDIA BIAS FACT CHECK – <https://mediabiasfactcheck.com>
- POLITIFACT – <https://www.politifact.com> (Left-Center Bias)
- THE POYNTER INSTITUTE – <https://www.poynter.org/media-news/fact-checking/>
- REUTERS FACT CHECK – <https://www.reuters.com/fact-check/>
- SNOPE – <https://www.snopes.com> (Left-Center Bias)
- TRUTH OR FICTION – <https://www.truthorfiction.com>
- WASHINGTON POST – <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/fact-checker/>
- ZEBRA FACT CHECK – <https://www.zebrafactcheck.com>

ELECTION

RETIREE CHAPTER



All members of the Retiree Chapter of Local 599, UAW, in good standing, and in compliance with the UAW International Union Constitution and Local 599 Retiree Chapter By-Laws stand nominated for the following positions:

- ✓ CHAIRPERSON
- ✓ 1ST VICE CHAIRPERSON
- ✓ 2ND VICE CHAIRPERSON
- ✓ RECORDING SECRETARY
- ✓ FINANCIAL SECRETARY
- ✓ SERGEANT-AT-ARMS
- ✓ GUIDE
- ✓ One (1) REGIONAL DELEGATE-AT-LARGE
- ✓ Eight (8) REGIONAL DELEGATES

The Regional Candidate with the *Ninth (9th) Highest Vote* will be Elected as *ALTERNATE DELEGATE*.

Acceptance must be turned in to the

DUES OFFICE, UAW LOCAL 651

3518 Robert T. Longway Blvd., Flint, MI 48506

by **3:00 p.m. on June 11, 2025.**

Acceptance must be signed by each individual candidate, accompanied by their Social Security number.

PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME AS YOU WISH IT TO APPEAR ON THE BALLOT. PAPER BALLOTS WILL BE USED.

ELECTION HELD AT UAW LOCAL 651

3518 Robert T. Longway Blvd., Flint, MI 48506

ELECTION TIMES & DATE:

Poll **OPEN: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25 • 10:00 A.M.**

Poll **CLOSE: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 2025 • 2:00 P.M.**

In Case of RUN-OFF, Final Election will be held:

Poll **OPEN: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 • 10:00 A.M.**

Poll **CLOSE: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2025 • 2:00 P.M.**

Each voter shall be required to show picture identification.

In Memoriam

Our prayers go out for these beloved Local 599 retired members and also to their friends and families.

Mike Mills Betty Green

They are already missed.



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is at the **UAW LOCAL 651 UNION HALL**

TUESDAYS: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

and the **LOCAL 659 UNION HALL**

TUESDAYS: 12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m.

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Linden Chapel 810.735.7833

Miller Rd. Chapel 810.635.4411





Starting May 7, 2025, you will need a **REAL ID** to fly in the U.S.



What is a **REAL ID**?

REAL ID can be any of the following:

- Your driver's license or ID card but only if it includes the **REAL ID** star in a gold circle or as part of an image of Michigan.
- Your enhanced driver's license or enhanced ID card
- A valid U.S. passport, passport card, or other document listed at [TSA.gov](https://www.tsa.gov)

How will **REAL ID** affect me?

Beginning May 7, 2025, you must have a **REAL ID**-compliant document to board domestic flights and enter certain federal facilities, nuclear power plants and U.S. military bases. **REAL ID** is a federal law passed after 9/11.

Applying for a **REAL ID** driver's license or ID card

Schedule a visit at a Secretary of State office at Michigan.gov/SOS or by calling

888-SOS-MICH / (888) 767-6424

Bring the following to your office appointment:

1. Your driver's license or ID card.
2. Your certified birth certificate with a raised seal or stamp issued by a governmental agency; your valid, unexpired U.S. passport; or an approved citizenship or legal presence document. Faxes and photocopies won't be accepted.
3. If your name differs from what is on your birth certificate, bring certified documents for every time your name has changed, such as marriage licenses or court orders.
4. There is no additional fee for a standard **REAL ID** if you apply when renewing your license or ID card. If you apply for **REAL ID** at any other time, a duplicate card fee will be due.
5. There is an additional fee for an enhanced license or ID.

Are you ready for REAL ID?	REAL ID		
	Standard license/ID without a star	Standard license/ID with a star	Enhanced license/ID
Fly in the U.S.		✓	✓
Re-enter the U.S. by land or sea from Canada, Mexico, Bermuda or the Caribbean			✓
Enter federal facilities, nuclear power plants and U.S. military bases		✓	✓
Use it as identification	✓	✓	✓
Cash a check	✓	✓	✓
Purchase alcohol, tobacco, age-related products	✓	✓	✓
Rent a vehicle	✓	✓	✓

For more information about REAL ID, visit Michigan.gov/REALID