

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, the state of Washington has a unique labor history that has made it a leader among states in securing workplace rights, establishing civil liberties, equal rights, and the dignity of all workers, and in recognizing the importance of labor unions; and

WHEREAS, organized labor has been vital to the progress of American democracy, helping to secure not only higher standards of living, but also higher standards of citizenship, giving workers the ability to counter the power of money with the power of many, both in the workplace and in the halls of government; and

WHEREAS, many of the episodes that frame our state's sense of historical identity involve worker struggles and labor issues; and

WHEREAS, 2009 presents the opportunity to acknowledge several important anniversaries: the Spokane free speech fight of 1909; the Seattle general strike and Centralia massacre, both in 1919; the Longshore strike of 1934; and the 10th anniversary of the Battle in Seattle WTO demonstrations;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Christine O. Gregoire, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby honor the heritage of the labor movement in our state, and I encourage all citizens to involve themselves in educational activities that foster understanding of the history of working people and the role of labor organizations in Washington State.

Signed this 30th day of January, 2009

Christine Gregoire
Governor Christine O. Gregoire

