

# UTILITY WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA

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Affiliated with A.F.L.-C.I.O.



1300 L STREET, N.W.  
SUITE 1200  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005  
202-899-2851  
202-899-2852 FAX  
[www.uwua.net](http://www.uwua.net)



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Dear UWUA Brothers and Sisters,

This Year and every year, we take this Memorial Day as an opportunity for solemn reflection. The coronavirus pandemic poses new challenges this year as we seek to honor the servicemembers we've lost from our homes. Although COVID-19 has hindered some physical celebrations like parades or large-scale gatherings it still leaves us many ways to remember and honor the fallen and families of the fallen. COVID-19 has taken many American lives and caused great suffering of our family and friends.

This year let's use some of the military traditions to honor those also who have lost their battle with the virus. Memorial Day is not just a three-day weekend, an unofficial start to summer, or an excuse to barbecue, Memorial Day is a chance to honor all those who sacrificed their lives while serving our nation. We can and should incorporate by extending remembrance of those we lost to COVID-19 into our thoughts and prayers.

The National Moment of Remembrance is scheduled for 3 p.m. local time each Memorial Day. It presents a chance for all Americans, alone or with family and friends, to commemorate the fallen by pausing for a minute to remember all those who humbly gave their lives for the betterment of our nation.

There are many ways to celebrate on Memorial Day and throughout the Memorial Day weekend to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country; although we cannot attend a local parade or memorial service, we can don patriotic gear, or fly your American flag at half-staff. Visit a cemetery and leave a small stone telling that military member you where there and thank them for their ultimate sacrifice.

However, you choose to spend Memorial Day and Memorial Day weekend, I encourage you to reflect on the freedoms and liberties you enjoy every day and give thanks to those who sacrificed their lives to protect them. Please also give special attention to those UWUA soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen who have given the ultimate sacrifice throughout our union and nation's history. Please keep our UWUA first responders and essential workers who put themselves in harm's way during this pandemic in your thoughts, many of whom have lost their life's by serving others. God bless them and keep them all. Have a safe and rewarding Memorial Day weekend.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Passarelli". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "P".

Richard Passarelli Director of Veterans Affairs  
And Workforce Development USN  
UWUA, AFL-CIO  
1300 L St Suite 1200  
Washington D.C 20005  
[rpasarelli@uwua.net](mailto:rpasarelli@uwua.net)