

Milestones in Labor History

--April--

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1968 - Martin Luther King, Jr. assassinated while helping striking sanitation workers in Memphis, Tennessee.

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1889 - Birthdate of A. Philip Randolph, an African-American union organizer and civil rights leader. Founder and first president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters in 1925, he took on the powerful Pullman Company forcing them to bargain with his union. In the 1940s, he showed the same determination in pressuring two presidents to integrate the defense industries and armed forces. A decade later, he led civil rights demonstrations culminating in the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

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1970 - Post Office and leaders of seven exclusively recognized postal unions announce agreement on a plan for Postal Reorganization, leading to creation of the U.S. Postal Service.

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1914 - Company gunmen attacked a tent colony of striking mineworkers and their families in Colorado, setting it ablaze and killing 19 men, women and children in what is remembered as the Ludlow Massacre.

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1917 - Charter granted by the American Federation of Labor to "National Federation of Postal Employees," a product of the merger of the National Federation of Post Office Clerks and the Brotherhood of Railway Postal Clerks.

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1825 - Carpenters strike for 10-hour day.

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1989 - Workers' Memorial Day established to remember all workers killed or injured on the job.

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1979 - APWU POWER (Post Office Women For Equal Rights) founded in Saint Louis, Missouri.