

Milestones in Labor History

--December--

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1866 - Textile strikers in Fall River, Massachusetts win 10-hour day.

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1906 - National Federation of Postal Clerks (NFPOC) chartered by the American Federation of Labor. Locals chartered establishing official birth of NFPC: Chicago, Louisville, Milwaukee, Muskogee, Oklahoma, Nashville, Salt Lake City, San Francisco.

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1955 - Merger of the American Federation of Labor (AFL) and the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO), forming the AFL-CIO. The merger ended a 20-year split in the American labor movement growing out of differences over the form trade union organizations should take. The merger recognized that both craft and industrial unions are appropriate, equal, and necessary as methods of union organization.

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1886 - American Federation of Labor (AFL) organized in Columbus, Ohio by twenty-five craft unions.

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1869 - Knights of Labor founded. The Knights broadened the labor movement beyond a few skilled trades and reached out to all working men and women. Its goals of equal pay for equal work, abolishing child labor, and the eight-hour day provided a rallying cry for all workers.

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1898 - Accident Benefit Association (ABA) established.

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1924 - Death of Samuel Gompers, president and founder of American Federation of Labor. One of the labor leader's most famous remarks, in response to the question, "What does labor want?" was: "We want more schoolhouses and less jails, more books and less arsenals, more learning and less vice, more constant work and less crime, more leisure and less greed, more justice and less revenge."

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1888 - Retail Clerks National Protective Association chartered (RCNPA) by the American Federation of Labor. The RCNPA became the Retail Clerks International Union, which merged with the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America to form the UFCW in 1979.

1913 - Seventy-two miners' children killed during strike in Calumet, Michigan.

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1936 - United Auto Workers sit-down strike against General Motors begins at Fisher Body plant in Cleveland.

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1970 - Congress passes Occupational Safety & Health Act.

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1936 - United Auto Workers sit-down strike begins in Flint, Michigan.