

# LOCAL 237

# NEWSLINE

Vol. 54, No. 2

Summer 2020



**CITY EMPLOYEES UNION LOCAL 237**  
AFFILIATED WITH THE  
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

216 WEST 14<sup>TH</sup> STREET NEW YORK, N.Y. 10011-7296  
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Dear Member:

Former President Barack Obama said: "When times are tough, we don't give up. We get up." That's precisely what you did.

At a time of unimaginable grief... when a sudden, highly contagious virus rocked the entire world and our own personal, little world — you didn't give up, you got up and went to work. During these tough times, that drenched us in dread, paralyzed so many in fear — an unnerving time that sadly, for some, meant there would be no final hug, goodbye or sacraments to meet our maker — our members were on the job. And many of our own were lost too. They were our friends. Our co-workers. Our mentors. Our "students". Together, we shared family good times and bad, complained about the job—and often, each other. We hung Christmas decorations in the lunch room and blew out birthday candles. And although it may be a worn-out phase: "gone but not forgotten", it's true. You'll always remember the heated debates you had with them about why the Knicks blew their lead. You'll remember her special style and flair for fashion. Or his recipe for the best-ever chili... and the samples brought in to share.

In the years to come, there'll be countless books written — movies too, college courses and TV "talking heads" galore, all trying to explain and help us understand this horrific time in the history of the world which resulted in so much loss. And those losses are almost incalculable, not just in terms of people and their livelihood, but in terms of their loss of confidence in government and our leaders too. Confidence is shattered in so many ways—in the quality and equality of our health care system as well as in our nation's ability to achieve true racial justice. No doubt, there'll also be countless analyses and studies in the years ahead to bolster or refute the endless rounds of the blame-game that will be played by political wannabees and pundits.

We'll also remember and wonder how something so devastating could creep up on us... could catch us off-guard? How could this nation have lost more lives in just three months than in 10 years of our fighting the Vietnam War, Gulf War, Afghanistan War, and Iraq War combined? And the racial inequality of the lives lost! The pandemic crisis was like a movie. A bad movie. But, who would ever have thought that a 2-hour movie you could have enjoyed with buttered popcorn and M&Ms—a movie that scared you silly the whole time it was on the big screen—but nonetheless, didn't stop you from enjoying your burger and fries at McDonald's after the mayhem from Hollywood had ended—who would ever have thought that the movie would be coming to us in real-life and in real time? The actors in this flick don't take off their pancake makeup at the end of the day's filming and head over to their favorite pub to throw back a few. No backlot here. The "actors", unfortunately, are all of us! In the beginning, we may have been hopeful for a happy, Hollywood-style ending, but the problem and the pain didn't quickly subside and seemed never-ending.

But in all of this darkness, there are many examples of the best of people on display. Health care professionals, first responders, transit workers — to name just a few — are among those who risk their lives to save the life of another person. And how about the 22,000 volunteers from other states who rushed to New York to help us out — in a place they don't know, for people they don't know. All they know is that there are people in need. But we also don't need to look beyond our own members at Local 237 to see the best examples of the best of people. Our members did their jobs to safeguard the most vulnerable populations in New York City. Unfortunately, many made the ultimate sacrifice doing it. Our members are defined as essential workers, and their work was truly essential to help keep New Yorkers functioning and to help New York rebound. You are truly inspiring.

So, what do we do now? Certainly, we are all prayerful that this pandemic ends soon and for good. We must have more testing, reliable treatments, and a preventive cure. The frightening facts of the quality and inequities of our nation's health care cannot be ignored. They must be fixed. But, there is also another concern to consider: What will we do when the crisis ends? Will the heartbreak and bitterness ever end? That makes me wonder about a Holocaust survivor who suffered the unimaginable inhumanity of a Nazi concentration camp; or the viciousness many African Americans endured living in the deep south of this country in the '50s and '60s; or the brutality of genocide in Uganda or the savagery of the 9-11 terrorist attack at the World Trade Towers—a day none of us will ever forget! How did those victims...those families, live on? How do our members, and the families of our lost union brothers and sisters live on? Or, does the pain from this Coronavirus destroy us forever? What does lingering bitterness get you? Though I leave the speculation to historians, there seems to be some undeniable lessons to learn. We should savor the good times; prioritize what truly matters and don't squander our blessings. Human kindness is a treasure more valuable than any stack of gold. And the love and support of our family, friends and coworkers makes us billionaires.

True to former President Obama's words, Local 237 members did "get up". They went above and beyond the call of duty. In this special edition of Newsline, we not only honor our members lost but also thank our members, essential workers, who epitomize what David Brooks, a columnist for the New York Times wrote in a recent column: "One of the lessons of this crisis is that help isn't coming from some centralized place at the top of society. If you want real leadership look around you."

In solidarity,

Gregory Floyd  
President, Teamsters Local 237

When times get tough,  
we don't give up. We get up.

Former President Barack Obama



Gregory Floyd  
President  
Teamsters Local 237



## Local 237 Member Services

### UNION HEADQUARTERS

212-924-2000  
216 West 14th Street  
New York, NY 10011-7296

### LOCAL 237 DIVISIONS

**CITYWIDE**, 2nd Fl.  
212-924-2000  
Donald Arnold, Director

**LAW ENFORCEMENT**, 2nd Fl.  
212-924-2000  
Derek Jackson, Director

**HOUSING**, 2nd Fl.  
212-924-2000  
Carl Giles, Housing Director

**SPECIAL PROJECTS**, 2nd Fl.  
212-924-2000  
Debbie Coleman, Esq., Special Projects Director

**LONG ISLAND**  
631-851-9800  
100 West Main Street, Babylon,  
New York 11702  
Benedict Carenza, Director  
Long Island Welfare Fund:  
For information on the various  
funds call 800-962-1145

**RETIREE**, 8th Fl.  
212-807-0555  
Provides a variety of pre- and post-  
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pension and health insurance  
counseling to members. (Pension  
counseling by appointment, Thurs-  
days only). General retirement  
counseling and retirement plan-  
ning series during spring and fall.  
Julie Kobi & Susan Milisits,  
Co-Directors

### LOCAL 237 DEPARTMENTS (Citywide and Housing)

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212-924-2000  
Donald Arnold, Director

**HEALTH AND SAFETY**, 2nd Fl.  
212-924-2000  
Donald Arnold, Director  
Carl Giles, Coordinator

**MEMBERS HEALTH**, 2nd Fl.  
212-924-7200  
Susan McQuade, Director  
smcquade@local237.org

**MEMBERSHIP**, 3rd Fl.  
212-924-2000  
Provides membership services and  
records, including address changes.

**WELFARE FUND**, 3rd Fl.  
212-924-7220  
The Fund administers the eligibility,  
enrollment, disability, optical and  
death benefits directly by the Fund's  
in-house staff, as well as prescription  
and dental programs indirectly.  
Mitchell Goldberg, Director

**SOCIAL SERVICES**, 3rd Fl.  
212-924-7220 ext.7562  
Living and working in New York can  
be challenging and our members  
work extremely hard. Social workers  
also work hard by connecting peo-  
ple to much needed assistance and  
resources. With this in mind, Local 237  
has introduced a new Social Ser-  
vices Department featuring free  
social work services that are available  
to all members. The union knows  
that its members have tough jobs  
and that when encountering tough  
personal challenges, learning about  
possible solutions to those challenges  
would make things that much easier.  
Contact us to learn about the many  
service we can provide.  
Ayana Ali, Director

**LEGAL SERVICES**, 4th Fl.  
212-924-1220  
Lawyers advise and represent  
members on covered personal  
legal problems, including  
domestic relations (family court  
proceedings, divorce and separa-  
tion), purchase and sale of a pri-  
mary residence, wills, adoptions,  
credit and consumer problems,  
tenant rights and bankruptcies.  
Mary Sheridan, Esq., Director  
Kenneth Perry, Esq., Deputy Director

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Ruben Torres,  
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Donald Arnold,  
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**PERSONNEL**, 5th Fl.  
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Donald Arnold, Director and  
Chief Negotiator

**POLITICAL ACTION &  
LEGISLATION**, 5th Fl.  
646-638-8501  
Local 237 protects members'  
rights by helping to sponsor  
legislation that is important  
to members, and by opposing  
initiatives that would hurt  
members.  
Phyllis S. Shafran, Coordinator

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PROBLEMS**, 7th Fl.  
212-924-2000

For grievances and job related  
problems, first contact your  
shop steward and/or grievance  
representative. If they can't  
resolve the issue, contact your  
business agent.  
Mal Patterson, Director of  
Grievances and Hearings  
Diana Doss, Esq.  
Grievance Coordinator

### CIVIL SERVICE BAR ASSN

7th Fl., 212-675-0519  
Saul Fishman, President  
Aldona Vaiciunas,  
Office Administrator and  
Grievance Coordinator  
Abbott Gorin, Esq.,  
Business Representative  
CSBA Welfare Fund  
Alicare 866-647-4617

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Local 237 Newsline and  
Retiree News & Views, Editor  
Website: www.local237.org

**EDUCATION AND TRAINING**  
8th Fl.  
212-807-0550  
Provides a variety of training  
and educational advancement  
opportunities for members.  
Bertha Aiken, Director

### USEFUL NUMBERS FOR PRE-RETIRES

#### NYCERS (New York City Employees Retirement System)

By Mail:  
335 Adams St., Suite 2300,  
Brooklyn, NY 11201-3751

In Person:  
340 Jay Street, Mezzanine,  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Gen'l Information:  
347-643-3000

Outside NYC toll-free:  
877-6NYCERS

**NYCERS Internet**  
www.nyclink.org/html/nycers

**NYC Department of  
Education Retirement  
System**  
65 Court St., Brooklyn, NY 11201  
718-935-5400

**Social Security  
Administration**  
800-772-1213

**NY State and Local  
Retirement Systems**  
518-474-7736



## *A message from the President*

# We the people

By Gregory Floyd

President, Teamsters Local 237  
and Vice President-at-Large on the General Board  
of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters

Some have said that the tragic murder of George Floyd, a black man by a white police officer in Minneapolis, and the ensuing protests, represent an awakening in America. Civil rights scholar Aldon Morris noted that the protests “are unprecedented in terms of white participation in a movement targeting black oppression and grievances.” Throughout America’s history, there have been countless protests against racial injustice, but as black scholar, Professor Sharde Davis said: “What feels different this time is that white folks are listening.” New York Times journalist Charles Blow called out those who don’t see this moment for its full meaning, writing that: “People are marching as a way of exhaling pain... This isn’t only about the pain of police brutality. It’s about all the pain.” Many point to what happened to George Floyd not as an isolated incident perpetrated by one “bad apple” but rather as part of systemic racism long evidenced in our nation in many ways, including policing, health care and economic opportunity. Blow quotes one protester as saying: “They are lucky that what black people are looking for is equality and not revenge.” The one-two punch of the horror of the pandemic crisis and the surge of death of blacks at the hands of white law enforcement can’t be minimized. More than 100,000 lives were lost in America; more than 40 million people became unemployed and the isolation felt by restrictions on social interaction, all hit people of color the hardest. In many ways, the protests brought on by the murder of George Floyd are about him and more. As Blow wrote: “Black people are saying: ‘See me! See what you have done to me and continue to do to me...’ They are staying, ‘Stop killing us!’ And in that, they mean killing in every conceivable way.”

The question now is where do we go from here? We’ve seen the expensive, full page ads from corporate America, including several by black-owned corporate giants, demanding an end to police brutality and calling for an end to systemic racism not

just in policing but in all institutions... including finance, education and health care. We’ve seen elected officials at all levels of government call for changes to police practices and policies that range from job performance transparency to defunding. While some of those initiatives are well thought out and long-overdue, others suggest a misguided, knee-jerk reaction that reek of political pandering. The problem with many of the “solutions” is exactly what Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said: “It’s all right to tell a man to lift himself by his own bootstraps, but it is cruel just to say to a bootless man that he ought to lift himself by his own bootstraps.” But until there are more blacks on corporate boards; and until there’s not just job retention but promotion and recruitment for blacks; until educational institutions are more concerned with cultivating black talent than not just trying to fill a quota, and until we stop vandalizing and destroying our own hard-built black businesses in the name of a protest, then all we’ll have left is what President Abraham Lincoln warned against: “Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves.”

Many have said that this is a defining moment in America. But what will that definition include? Certainly it’s not enough that the Merriam-Webster dictionary is revising its definition of racism after a Missouri woman’s emails claimed it fell short of including the systemic oppression of certain groups of people. Instead, this moment must be more. It should be a movement toward goodwill. We’ve strayed too far from America’s motto: “E pluribus unum”, Latin for “Out of many come one.” And we can’t afford to embrace the new motto: “Out of many, come none.” Instead, let this moment — which was fermented on a health crisis and ignited by racial injustice, become the catalyst for reinvigorating and revising an old, but powerful message from the founding fathers: “WE THE PEOPLE”. Except, this time, we must be vigilant to ensure that “THE PEOPLE” includes everyone. ■

## A New Equation for America: WE = ALL





During this time of national crisis, our members served  
**Above and Beyond the Call of Duty**

So many of our members go above and beyond the call of duty, performing acts of heroism, ingenuity, kindness and generosity that demonstrate their professionalism and heart. They were willing to go that extra mile, and by so doing, made a difference in someone's life. Here are some of the pictures they want to share:



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 NEWSLINE**

216 West 14th St., New York, NY 10011  
 646-638-8501  
 Website: [www.local237.org](http://www.local237.org)  
 e-mail Newsline: [pshafran@local237.org](mailto:pshafran@local237.org)

Local 237 Newsline (USPS 700-000 ISSN 1083-3536) is published quarterly by Local 237, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, 216 West 14 Street, New York, NY 10011. Periodical postage paid at New York, NY. Postmaster: Send address changes to Local 237 Newsline, 216 West 14th Street, New York, NY 10011.

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- |                                   |   |   |  |
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**Phyllis S. Shafran**  
 Editor

Special thanks in the preparation of Newsline to:  
**Gisela (GiGi) Reyes**, Executive Administrative Assistant

IF YOU MOVE – Please send your change of address in writing to **Membership** to insure that you continue receiving your newspaper.





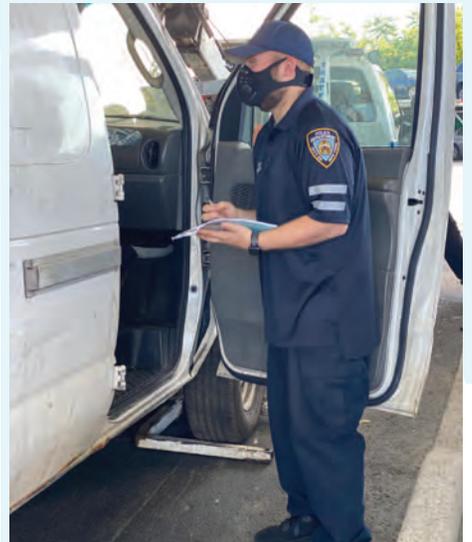
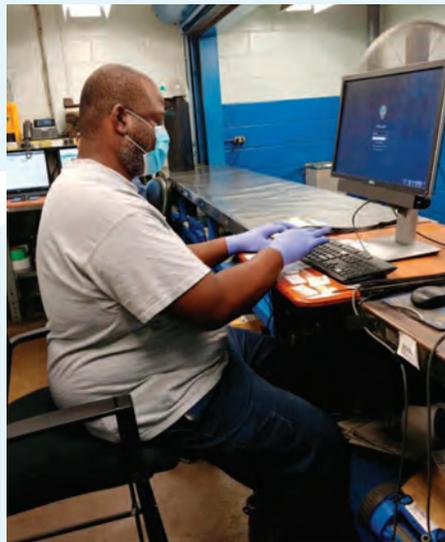
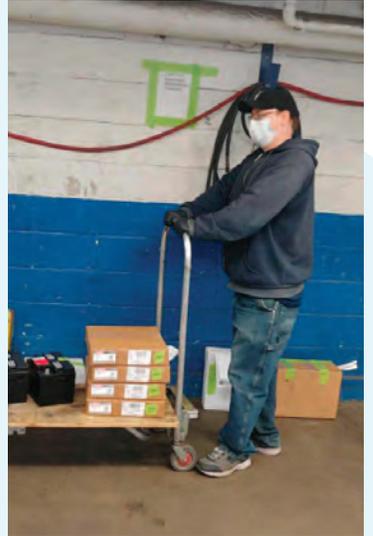
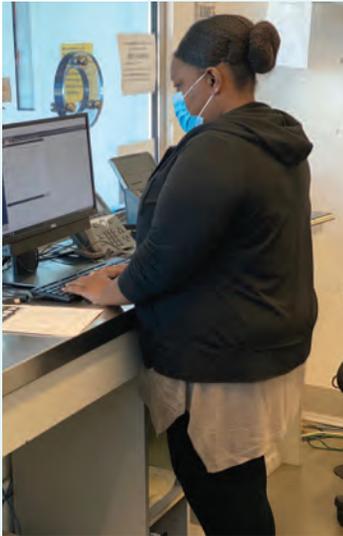
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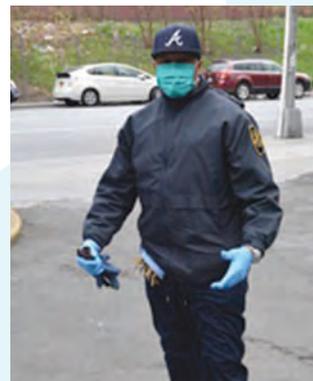
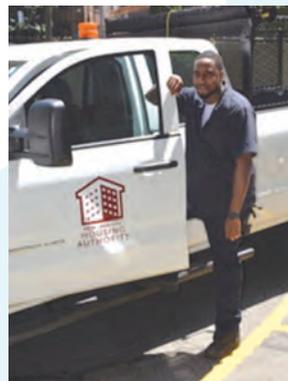
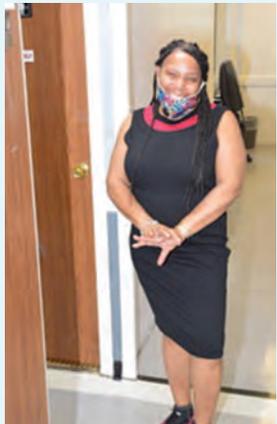
## COVID WARRIORS IN THEIR OWN WORDS

“Over the past few months during the Coronavirus pandemic, many lives have been lost and many have fallen very ill. Due to the vast spread of the COVID-19 VIRUS, many businesses were forced to close, schools were shut down, supplies and resources became very scarce, and public transportation became extremely delayed, and sometimes stopped running completely.

Throughout it all, Teamsters Local 237 members who work for NYCHA have remained on the frontlines shining a light on their resiliency, bravery and diligence. Although faced with hardships themselves, NYCHA employees have continued to come to the aid of New York City and NYCHA residents.

Local 237 members have made their way into work when trains and buses were not operating. Employees have taken on heavier workloads when staffing levels dropped to a record low due to their fellow colleagues being out of work ill or facing childcare difficulties. Some employees have battled Coronavirus first hand, By testing positive for COVID-19, only to recover and then return back to work to help with the workload.

Local 237 is proud to call all of these employees our members. We thank you all for the work that you do and for always being on the frontlines going above and beyond the call of duty.”





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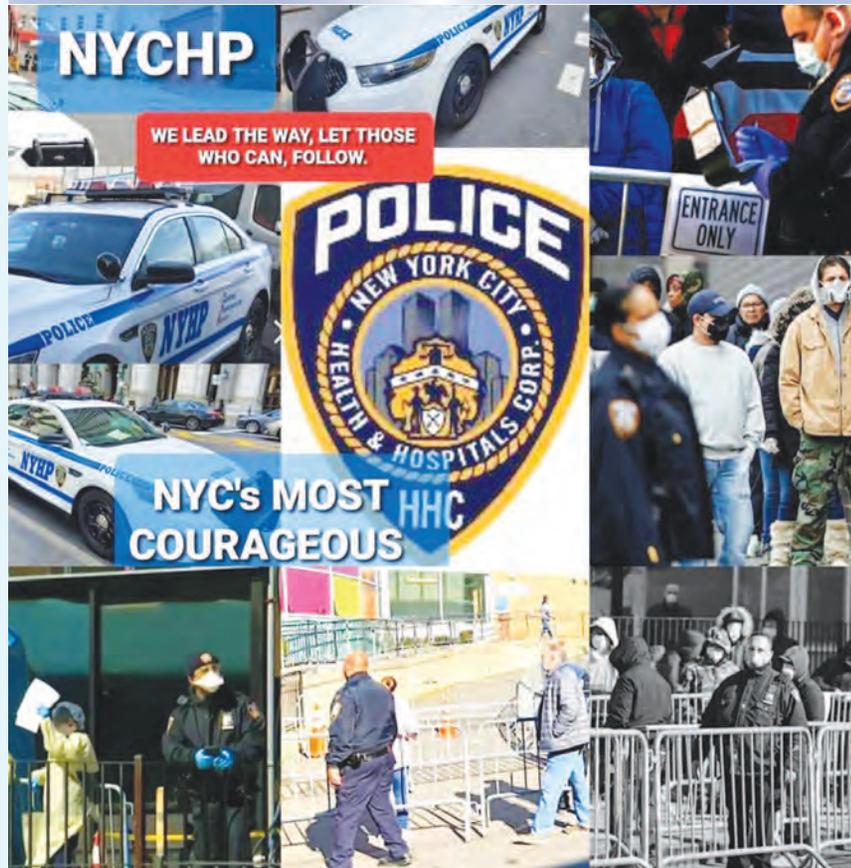
# I N T

## STATEN ISLAND AGENTS



“On Tuesday, May 19th, I observed a young homeless man on Staten Island by a local 7-Eleven store with no shoes and broken socks. He was basically barefooted. I decided to coordinate with other Agents in getting a pair of shoes for him. What I received were 6 pair of shoes, under garments, shirts, socks, a pillow, a pack of toothbrushes, mouthwash, deodorants, snacks, a \$15 Burger King gift card, a \$15 Dunkin’ Donuts gift card and a \$25 gift card in less than a day of organizing this. On Sunday, May 24th at approximately 1230 hours this young man received all that was donated after numerous attempts in locating him. All donations were given to him by MOS’s from Staten Island Curtis HS Agents including SSA3 Nicole Franceschini, SSA3 Denard Hines, SSA1 Nancy Rivera-Hines, SSA1 Lisa Michon, SSA1 Chris Ruiz, SSA1 Shrona Williams. Special thanks for the Staten Island C.O., SSA3 Wise (Staten Island Community Outreach and SSA Coriell (Crime Prevention) for support; Photo credits to SSA 1 Catherine Deleon from PBMN for your the photo’s taken of donations being given outside of the 7-Eleven.”

## THE NEW YORK CITY HOSPITAL POLICE



“Day in and day out, the brave men and women of the New York City Hospital Police, serving the nation's largest municipal hospital system, are in the thick of things; in the emergency department, on the street outside the hospital, standing at the main entrance lobby, patrolling each and every floor of their respective facilities in all 5 boroughs of the City of New York, responding to calls for service, diligently providing police and security services to the hospital community.

These brave, dedicated law enforcement officers suit up daily in this crisis, put on their bullet proof vests, masks, surgical gloves and selflessly place their very lives in jeopardy protecting the patients and H+H staff, maintaining order in chaos and helping those in need.

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your service. These cops have truly earned their department's motto a million times over: "New York City's Most Courageous". May God bless you, protect you and your families.”

## STATEN ISLAND EXPLORER



“Staten Island’s NYPD Post 2015 Explorer **Elizabeth Eadicicco** has been troubled with numerous illnesses and health issues long before COVID-19 struck NYC and despite her health issues has always supported Post 2015. They wanted to show her support and love on her 16th Birthday.”



## NYPD SAFETY AGENT CORONAVIRUS NURSE'S KIND

“A nurse went above and beyond while treating an NYPD safety agent hospitalized with coronavirus.”

Stacey Bradford said her symptoms got worse by the minute. She couldn't move her right arm, her speech slurred and she was weak. Her family rushed her to urgent care. Bradford could tell her family was in panic mode, but her 12-year-old safe meant she was calm.

Doctors worked around the clock to stabilize Bradford, but one nurse, Bradford's long, natural hair. Shameka Paterson took action. 'I'll monitor me,' Bradford said. 'I'll braid your hair.' Nurse Paterson took minutes. 'It was her day off and she braided my hair and kept her word,' Bradford said. 'My safety agent is on the mend and my braids and all.

Bradford hasn't seen nurses like Nurse Paterson. 'Thank you to the nurses at PIX11, to her family, to her friends and to her community. I'm so fortunate,' Bradford said. 'I'm

## ON INSTAGRAM



nyhealthsystem One night, Senior Supervisor of Environmental Services Odel King of NYC Health+Hospitals Coney Island cleaned the entire Emergency Department. This wasn't in his job description, but he did it to keep patients safe. Thank you to all the heroes. #HealthCareHeroes.

# THEIR OWN WORDS

## SCHOOL AGENT WITH RUS SHARES ACT OF NESS

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he clock at Southside Hospital  
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n. 'First she hooked me up to  
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erson turned stylist for a few  
d she came back, combed my  
adford said. Now the school  
nd getting ready to go home,

e Paterson since, so she asked  
e nurse with the magic touch,  
and to the doctors. 'I'm very  
blessed.'"

AM



Senior Supervisor of Environ-  
NYC Health+Hospitals/Coney  
Agency Department by himself.  
ion, but he knew it had to get  
thank you for being one of our

## ON THE FRONT LINES



"Elmhurst Hospital is located in Queens, New York, and is known around the world as the EPICENTER of the Virus known as COVID-19. We have been deemed and continue to be a COVID-19 healthcare facility.

We the staff are very grateful for the numerous donations from various organizations during this pandemic; especially our union Teamster's Local 237 and the president Mr. Gregory Floyd for donating supplies to Elmhurst Hospital which was orchestrated by Mr. George Wade and Mr. Curtis Scott.

I have personally observed throughout these past months hundreds of staff, from a multitude of disciplines working in unison to provide the most optimal level of care to every patient. There have been medical personnel and service men and women from other states who have assisted the staff at this facility by: obtaining stretchers/wheelchairs to escort patients from one area to another, expediting labs and assisting the general staff with many of the daily routines.

I work in the Radiology department and I am also a Shop Steward for Teamsters Local 237. I would like to acknowledge the entire staff of this department for their diligent and industriousness work during this pandemic. The staff exhibited such eminent compassion towards every patient who entered this department.

I would also like to acknowledge Ms. Marie Philogene (Associate Supervisor Radiographer Level 2) who worked tirelessly and congruously along with the Radiologists, Radiographers, Nurses, PACS (Picture Archive Computer Systems staff), Clerical Staff, and Housekeepers in conjunction with other disciplines (In-Patients Units, Out-Patients) to complete radiological procedures in a timely manner. Communication and teamwork are essential tools with regards to health care. This has been exhibited within this department and other areas throughout the hospital.

We are also thankful for the new digital portable x-ray machines. These portable units allow the technologists to obtain radiographs and view the images immediately upon taking an exposure. This helps the radiographer to reduce the processing time and continue to proceed to the next patient without going back and forth to the department.

Once again through my observation, I have noticed healthcare workers at this facility going above and beyond the call of duty, and that is why I would like to consider us as: ELMHURST HEROES!"

*Lucretia Grant CNA, LRT, B.S., MBA*

Courtesy of AMNY

## DROWNING VICTIM PULLED FROM CHOPPY WATERS OF CONEY ISLAND BEACH



"A young woman was pulled from the frigid, choppy waters of Coney Island Beach this afternoon by a Good Samaritan assisted by NYPD School Safety Officers who were patrolling the community for only their third day, police said.

The woman, unidentified at this time, was brought back to life by Emergency Medical Technicians and firefighters who immediately began CPR on the woman after she was pulled from the water.

She was rushed to Coney Island Hospital where she is in critical condition, police officials said. 'She had a heartbeat,' exclaimed one top cop.

The woman was pulled out of the water at Ocean Parkway in Coney Island by a Good Samaritan Mike Perez of downtown Brooklyn, who just happened to have his wet suit on where he usually goes kite surfing and swimming.

'At first she took off her pants and was walking on the beach without pants and just wearing a jacket, but then she went into the water – she looked like she was splashing and playing and people were watching,' said Perez, an unemployed artist and bartender because of the coronavirus. 'Then, I wasn't paying attention to her for a moment and she was gone. I called 911 and told them where I was, but then I said to myself, 'I'm wasting time, I should go in there' so I told the operator I have to go and hung up and went in.'

Perez made his way along the rocky jetty when he spotted her foot in the surf, grabbed her, and started dragging her to shore. Waiting for him was School Safety officer Anthony Baisden, his third day assigned to the beach. He helped drag the woman to shore where they were also met by cops from the 60th Precinct.

EMS also arrived quickly and began CPR and were able to get a heartbeat, police say. The woman was loaded onto a police gator, a four-wheel drive all-terrain vehicle and driven to a waiting ambulance.

'I don't know, there really wasn't heroics, I was just doing my part,' said Perez, born and raised in Brooklyn, a Brooklyn College alumni. He then thanked the safety officer for his help dragging the unconscious woman to shore.

School Safety Officers began patrolling the boardwalk and beaches of Coney Island on Monday after the NYPD postponed the summer detail to save money and manpower for the Memorial Day weekend.

'People have been so friendly to us, they seem really happy that we are here,' said one safety officer, normally assigned to a school in Brooklyn. 'It's really different from what we normally do.'

The city is in the process of deciding if the beaches will be open this summer and how that might look in the age of Covid-19. It was also unclear whether an NYPD detail will be assigned after Memorial Day, though officials privately expect that it will occur to help control massive crowds that are expected this summer despite COVID-19."



# LONG ISLAND REPORT

*North Babylon School Bus Drivers visiting all senior students houses, congratulating them and dropping off signs for all.*



*Brentwood School District Food Service Teamsters feeding thousands of people every day during the pandemic.*



*Local 237 keeping our members safe and healthy by dropping off PPE to all locations to supplement the schools, towns, villages, library's and OTB/ Jakes 58 Casino across the Island.*



## POLITICAL AND LABOR NEWS

# Legislative Initiatives That Impact Our Members

By Vito R. Pitta, Esq. *Member, Pitta Bishop & Del Giorno, LLC*

Since March 13, 2020, when President Trump issued a “Proclamation on Declaring a National Emergency Concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak,” there has been a flurry of federal, state, and local legislative action to respond to the COVID-19 crisis. These legislative initiatives have ranged from the stimulus programs designed to inject much needed funds into a shutdown economy, to whistleblower protections for workers speaking out about COVID-19 risks in their workplaces, to death benefits to the families of workers that have died from COVID-19. With the prospect of a feared “second wave” of COVID-19 affecting the country later this year, it is possible that our federal, state, and local law makers enact even more legislative responses to assist in dealing COVID-19.

Local 237 members and their families are greatly impacted by a host of these legislative proposals. The following summary is intended to identify the most relevant pieces of legislation that have been taken up by the New York State Legislature and New York City Council, along with their current status:

### New York State Legislature

S8427 Gounardes/A10528 Rules (Abbate) (Signed Chapter 89 of 2020)

This legislation provides accidental death benefits to the statutory beneficiaries of all public employees (state and local) who worked on or after March 1, 2020, contracted COVID-19, and died of COVID-19 on or before December 31, 2020.

S8397-A Savino/A10326-A Reyes (Delivered to Governor)

This is an act to amend the labor law to provide workers at healthcare facilities with greater whistleblower protections in the state of New York, so that patient care can improve and such workers can be safe.

S8113-A Parker/A10521 Rules (Mosley) (Delivered to Governor)

This legislation aims to prevent utility corporations or municipalities from terminating the services of residential customers who are enduring financial hardship because of COVID-19.

S8189 Hoylman/A10270 Rozic (Signed Chapter 90 of 2020)

This legislation updates New York’s statute regarding price gauging of consumer goods by expanding it to cover essential medical supplies and services and other goods used to promote the health or welfare of the public for such items as N95 masks and hand sanitizer.

S8192-B Hoylman/A10290-B Dinowitz (Passed Senate and Assembly)

This is the Tenant Safe Harbor Act and seeks to keep residential tenants in their homes following the COVID-19 pandemic by allowing only money judgments and preventing evictions for unpaid rent that comes due while restrictions are in place due to COVID-19 on businesses, public accommodations, and nonessential gatherings.

S8496 Bailey/A10611 Rules (O’Donnell) (Signed)

This legislation repeals section 50-a of the Civil Rights Law that provides additional protections to the personnel records of police officers, firefighters, and correction officers. This protection has been interpreted to include disciplinary records of law enforcement officers.

S8266 Ramos/A10401 Simotas (Pending in Committee in Both Houses)

This bill would establish a rebuttable presumption that frontline and essential workers who contract COVID-19 were exposed while at work for the purpose of workers’ compensation insurance coverage and eligibility.

### New York City Council

Intro. 1932-A Rivera (Enacted Local Law 55 of 2020)

This legislation protects commercial tenants’ personal assets by temporarily prohibiting the enforcement of personal liability provisions in commercial leases or rental agreements involving COVID-19 impacted tenants. Threatening to or attempting to enforce such a provision will be considered a form of harassment, effective immediately.

Intro. 1936-A Torres (Enacted Local Law 56 of 2020)

This legislation expands the definition of tenant harassment to protect tenants from threats based on status as an essential employee or being impacted by COVID-19.

Intro. 1940-A Matteo (Enacted Local Law 57 of 2020)

This legislation codifies the Mayor’s EO 107, which suspends renewal requirements for licenses and permits from City agencies during the duration of the emergency and extends such suspension for an extra 45 days. This will provide both City agencies and applicants enough time to complete and process renewals after the end of the emergency and when businesses come back online again. This bill takes effect immediately and will require the City to post a list of licenses not covered under the EO.

Int. No. 1961-A Torres (Enacted Mayor’s Desk for Signature)

This legislation requires the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), or another agency designated by the Mayor, to ensure a report providing details of the program is posted online and updated daily. This report will include data on (i) the number of employees hired by the contact tracing program, disaggregated by languages spoken and zip code of residence, (ii) the number of persons identified to the program as having tested positive, (iii) the number of persons identified by the program who may have had contact with a person who tested positive for currently having COVID-19, and (iv) the number of those individuals the program successfully contacted, disaggregated by zip code, race, ethnicity, gender, age range, COVID-19 symptoms present in the last 14 days, and whether such persons were referred to wraparound services. ■



*Vito R. Pitta is a partner at Pitta LLP, a firm whose practice consists primarily of traditional union-side labor law, employment law, employee benefits law, and campaign finance compliance law. The firm counts more than forty local and international labor unions as its clients. Mr. Pitta’s practice consists of counseling the firm’s clients on traditional labor and employment matters, as well as advising the firm’s political campaign and political action committee clients with respect to federal, state, and local campaign finance laws. Mr. Pitta is also a Partner in Pitta LLP’s affiliated personal injury firm, Pitta & Baione LLP, which represents victims of the September 11th terrorist attacks; and a member of Pitta LLP’s affiliated lobbying firm, Pitta Bishop & Del Giorno LLC.*

## City to pay \$27 Million in School Safety Settlement

The overtime lawsuit brought on behalf of 3,880 School Safety Agents (Levels I and II), in June 2017, has reached a settlement for back pay damages, liquidated damages and attorneys’ fees. The settlement came after the Judge, US District Judge Lora G. Schofield, issued two decisions in February 2020 that were favorable to the SSAs’ overtime claims and defeated an attempt by the City and the NYPD to have each of the 3,880 plaintiffs’ claims litigated separately rather than on a collective basis. The judge ruled that the plaintiffs were not paid for the work they did pre-shift and during their meal times.

The current and former School Safety plaintiffs will receive a total of



Photo courtesy of NYC Public Schools

\$13,789,357.12 in back pay for a three year period between June 8, 2017 and April, 2022. The city will also pay \$13, 957.718.10 in liquidated damages, attorneys’ fee and litigation costs.

Teamsters Local 237 assisted with finding employees to participate in the lawsuit, which was brought under the Fair Labor Standards Act by the law firms of Gillivary Steele Elkin and Spivak Lipton. The lead counsel was Hope Pordy (of Spivak Lipton, who Local 237 President,

Gregory Floyd, publically thanked for her efforts in “getting the money they earned and deserved.”

For questions, Ms. Pordy can be contacted at: [hpordy@spivaklipton.com](mailto:hpordy@spivaklipton.com) ■



## FORECLOSURES DURING COVID-19

By Mary E. Sheridan, Esq.

Director Local 237-Legal Services Plan

Each State has their own rules when it comes to foreclosures. If you do not live in New York State, you should refer to your State's government website for foreclosure relief rules and information.

The Federal CARES Act applies to all Americans. If you have a COVID-related hardship and have a federally insured mortgage such as FHA, VA, Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac or a HUD reverse mortgage, you are entitled to deferment on your mortgage payments for up to one year. No documentation of a COVID-related hardship is required, rather your verbal affirmation is sufficient. You can look up your whether you have a Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac mortgage at the following links:

**Fannie Mae:** <http://www.knowyouroptions.com/loanlookup>

**Freddie Mac:** <https://ww3.freddiemac.com/corporate>

You can also call 1-800-2FANNIE or 1-800-FREDDIE to see whether or not you have a Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac mortgage.

New York State has placed a temporary ban on the filing of new foreclosure actions, and enforcement of existing foreclosure actions, until June 18, 2020. This applies not only to COVID-19 related missed mortgage payments, but also where homeowners fell behind on their mortgage prior to the national pandemic.

Governor Cuomo has since issued an Executive Order extending the ban to August 20, 2020 when the homeowner is eligible for unemployment insurance or benefits under state or federal law or otherwise facing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

What about non-federally insured mortgages? In New York State, the NYS Department of Financial Services has directed non-federally insured mortgage holders to grant up to 90 days of deferment for COVID related financial hardships. Additionally, servicers can not report late payments to credit agencies. They must waive late fees and give homeowners who qualify an additional 90-day grace period to complete a trial loan modification.

Importantly, forbearance or deferment does not mean that your mortgage payments are forgiven. At the end of the deferment period, the money will be due. You must work this out with your mortgage servicer. There are a variety of options depending on the mortgage, which could include a lump sum payment at the end of the forbearance period, repayment over a period of time or a loan modification where you add the missed payments back into your loan.

If you are in forbearance, you will not be charged late fees and a forbearance will not be reported negatively on your credit report.

Should you require legal assistance, please call your Legal Services Plan at (212) 924-2000 to leave a message. |



## Met Life Value Added Benefits

By Mitch Goldberg

Director of the Welfare Fund

Effective May 1, 2020 the life insurance benefit was increased to \$15,000. The benefit is insured through a group term life insurance policy from Met Life. The spousal benefit will remain at \$5,000. The dependent benefit has also been increased to \$5,000. Other key features of our plan design with Met Life include, Will Preparation Services, MetLife Estate Resolution Services, Delivering the Promise Program, Funeral Planning Guide, Beneficiary Grief Counseling Services, Wills Center.com, Met Life Infinity and Met Life Travel Assistance all of which compliment your Met Life insurance coverage.

Will Preparation services, ensuring your final wishes are clear. Members can choose to work one-on-one with an attorney, in-person or on the phone, to prepare or update a will, living will, or power of attorney.

Estate Resolution Services, settling an estate with confidence. With unlimited consultations, either face-to-face with an attorney or by phone, you and/or your beneficiaries can settle an estate with assurance.

Delivering the Promise, Beneficiary Claim Assistance - Making the claims process easy. Beneficiaries receive guidance from experts as they work through their options and financial needs with the Met Life Delivering the Promise services.

Funeral Planning Guide, Electronic Funeral Planning Guide is automatically available to all Group Life participants with access to My Benefits or MetLife.com. Standard on all Life Plans. The PDF Guide provides members and loved ones with information on funeral planning and on estate settlement, as well as descriptions of Met Life benefits that may be available to

them, and a list of additional resources they may need.

Beneficiary Grief Counseling Services. Offering professional support in times of need. Face-to-face sessions with a licensed counselor to help beneficiaries cope with a loss. Or beneficiaries can speak to a licensed counselor in the comfort of their home through the helpline.

[WillsCenter.com](http://WillsCenter.com). An online document service allows members to prepare and update a will, living will, power of attorney or HIPAA authorization form in a secure environment. This service does not provide face to face consultations with attorneys.

MetLife Infinity Digital Legacy. Sharing important documents is easy with MetLife Infinity. Members can store important documents such as deeds, wills, and personal photos and videos safely on a secure online portal.

MetLife Travel Assistance To complement your MetLife insurance coverage, you have access to Travel Assistance services, a unique program where you and covered family members can contact AXA representatives to administer emergency medical, travel and personal assistance services on your behalf wherever you are in the world.

Visit [www.metlife.com/teamster-local-237](http://www.metlife.com/teamster-local-237) to learn more or enroll.

The Board of Trustees hopes everyone utilizes the benefits provide by the Welfare Fund. Hopefully we can continue providing benefit improvements in the near future. Met Life offers a substantial amount of value added benefits included in your Group Term Policy. If you are interested in additional supplemental life benefits, visit the link provided on our website or go to the URL above. |



# What's more important than knowing your loved ones are protected?



Teamsters Local 237 has partnered with MetLife to provide a limited-time offer to enroll for optional life insurance coverage with simplified enrollment.

- **Member:** Enroll for coverage up to \$25,000 without having to answer any health questions.
- **Spouse/Domestic Partner:** Enroll for \$10,000 of coverage without having to answer any health questions.
- **Dependent Child(ren):<sup>1</sup>** Enroll for \$10,000 of coverage without answering any health questions.

Members and their spouses/domestic partners may also apply for higher coverage amounts by answering five health questions.<sup>2</sup>

**Enrollment ends July 24, 2020**

Learn more and enroll by visiting

<https://www.metlife.com/teamsters-local-237/>

<sup>1</sup>Child/ren's eligibility is from age 15 days to age 26.

<sup>2</sup>MetLife will review your information and evaluate your request for coverage based upon your answers to the health questions, MetLife's underwriting rules and other information you authorize us to review. In certain cases, MetLife may request additional information to evaluate your request for coverage.

Nothing in these materials is intended to be advice for a particular situation or individual. Like most group insurance policies, MetLife group life insurance policies contain certain exclusions, limitations and requirements for maintaining coverage in force. Any such exclusions, limitations and requirements will be described in the life insurance certificate.

# Keeping you in the know





**TEAMSTERS LOCAL 237  
RETIREE DIVISION  
PRE-RETIREMENT PLANNING  
ONLINE SERIES**

Your first step in deciding when to make the transition from work to retirement

Life Savings

Security

Personal Finance

Nest egg

Retirement Savings

Rainy Day Fund

**WWW.LOCAL237.ORG/HOME/RETIRING**

**TO RETIRE OR NOT RETIRE!** This online series is designed to provide you with the information and resources you will need to decide if retirement is right for you. Maybe you have been thinking about retirement but are not sure. This online series will help guide you with your decision making. Retirement is a time to redefine yourself.

Each online sessions will provide an overview of the resources available and the processes necessary for a smooth transition into retirement. In addition, we will focus on different aspects of retirement such as financial, benefits and transition from work to retirement. Topics for you to consider and decide what retirement is to be like for YOU! Retirement is a very personal experience. This online series is designed to help you plan for your unique retirement.

**HERE ARE THE GOALS OF THE ONLINE SERIES:**

1. Learn about the retirement process
2. Learn about the New York City Health Insurance Benefits and Local 237 Welfare Fund Benefits
3. Learn about financial planning, Social Security and Local 237 Legal Services

**Visit: WWW.LOCAL237.ORG/HOME/RETIRING**

The Retiree Division staff are here to assist, support and guide you through this special time of your life. Local 237 remains with you throughout your life...

**YOU RETIRE FROM WORK... NOT FROM THE UNION!**

## It's Summertime, It's Hot: Stay Safe at Work in the Heat

By Susan McQuade

Health and Safety Coordinator



Local 237 members who work in extreme heat or in hot environments may be at risk of heat stress and other heat-related illnesses. This is a problem in the summer, but it is also a concern working in boiler rooms and kitchens and other hot spaces throughout the year.

Heat-related illnesses can be serious, and include heat stroke, heat exhaustion, cramps or even rashes. Symptoms of these conditions could include headache, nausea, dizziness, hot, dry skin, profuse sweating; more serious problems include high body temperature, which can lead to confusion, slurred speech and even loss of consciousness.

Over the past 10 years, an average of 36 workers in the US died every year due to heat, with another 2,800/year suffering from serious heat-related illnesses.

Working in the heat (and often high humidity) can also increase the risk of injuries, as workers can get sweaty palms, fogged-up safety glasses, and can feel dizzy when working. Overexertion during hot spells can also lead to health issues.

**Workers need time to build tolerance (acclimate) to the heat.** During their first few days in warm or hot environments, workers should be encouraged to gradually increase time in the heat, and to drink enough liquids to remain hydrated.

Employers should reduce workplace heat stress by ensuring that their workers:

- Limit time doing tasks in the heat and increase recovery time spent in a cool environment after spending time outdoors in the heat.
- Drink water! Make sure to have cool water in the work area and encourage others to drink frequently to stay hydrated.
- Are well-trained about heat stress so they can identify signs and take action to offer first aid when needed. Training should include info on the causes of heat-related illnesses, and how to reduce the risks. Proper care and use of heat-protective clothing and equipment and the added heat load caused by exertion, clothing, and personal protective equipment should be discussed.
- Implement a buddy system where workers observe each other for signs of heat intolerance.
- Implement a heat alert program whenever the weather service forecasts that a heat wave is likely to occur.
- Immediately reporting to the supervisor any symptoms or signs of heat-related illness in themselves or in co-workers.
- Know and understand the procedures for responding to symptoms of possible heat-related illness and for contacting emergency medical services.

Heat kills more people than any other weather event, so be safe and stay cool this summer. Call Susan McQuade, Health and Safety Coordinator, if you have any questions or concerns at 347-449-3222. |

**PRIMARY FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO HEAT STRESS**



**ENVIRONMENT**  
Air temperature, humidity, the sun



**WORKER**  
Hydration, clothing, medical conditions, acclimatization  
(how your body copes with a hot environment)



**WORK**  
The amount of work done and how much effort it takes to complete the work

Reference: WorkSafeBC, Preventing Heat Stress at Work, 2007.



**Shape our children's future. Start with the 2020 Census.**

Young children experience new adventures each day, and little ones need all of the support they can get during these early years.

**Responding to the 2020 Census is an easy, safe, and important way to help provide resources for children and their communities for the next 10 years.**

Everyone living in the United States is asked to complete a simple questionnaire every ten years that asks for basic information about the people who live or sleep in their home. Children under the age of five, however, are often missed.

Young children who are missed in the census tend to live with large, extended families or with multiple families living under one roof. When newborn babies and children are not counted, support for programs such as health insurance, hospitals, childcare, food assistance, schools, and early childhood development is impacted.

Responding to the census is easier than ever. You can complete the census questionnaire online, by phone, or by mail.

And remember, just as you protect the children in your care, the U.S. Census Bureau protects your information. The Census Bureau is required by law to protect any personal information collected and keep it strictly confidential. All Census Bureau staff take a lifetime oath to protect your personal information and any violation of this oath comes with a penalty of up to \$250,000 and/or up to five years in prison.

**Start shaping their future by going to 2020CENSUS.GOV.**

Shape your future  
START HERE >



## Resumen En Español



**CITY EMPLOYEES UNION LOCAL 237**  
 AFFILIATED WITH THE  
**INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS**  
 216 WEST 14<sup>TH</sup> STREET NEW YORK, N.Y. 10011-7296  
 212-924-2000 • www.local237.org



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Querido Miembro:

El Ex Presidente Barack Obama dijo: "Cuando los tiempos se ponen difíciles, no nos damos por vencidos. Nos levantamos."

Eso es exactamente lo que usted hizo. En un momento de inimaginable dolor... cuando un repentino y altamente contagioso virus sacudió el mundo entero, y nuestro pequeño mundo personal, usted no se rindió, se levantó y fue a trabajar. Durante estos tiempos difíciles, que nos llenaron de temor, que paralizaron a tantos en el miedo, un tiempo desconcertante que, tristemente, para algunos, significó que no habría un abrazo final, un adiós o sacramentos para conocer a nuestro creador, nuestros miembros estaban en el trabajo. Y también perdimos a muchos de los nuestros. Eran nuestros amigos. Nuestros compañeros de trabajo. Nuestros mentores. Nuestros "estudiantes". Juntos, compartimos los buenos y malos momentos familiares, nos quejamos del trabajo y, a menudo, los unos de los otros. Colgamos adornos navideños en el comedor y soplamos velas de cumpleaños. Y aunque puede ser una frase gastada: "ido, pero no olvidado", es verdad. Siempre recordará los acalorados debates que tuvo con ellos sobre por qué los Knicks perdieron la ventaja. Recordará su estilo especial y su instinto para la moda. O su receta para el mejor chile de la historia... y las muestras que trajeron para compartir.

En los años venideros, se escribirán innumerables libros y películas también, cursos universitarios y un sinfín de "informativos" de la TV, todos tratarán de explicar y ayudarnos a entender este horrible momento en la historia del mundo que resultó en tantas pérdidas. Y esas pérdidas son casi incalculables, no sólo en términos de personas y de sus sustentos, sino también en términos de la pérdida de confianza en el gobierno y en nuestros líderes. La confianza está destrozada de muchas maneras, tanto en la calidad e igualdad de nuestro sistema de salud como en la capacidad de nuestra nación para lograr una verdadera justicia racial. Sin duda, también habrá innumerables análisis y estudios en los años venideros para reforzar o refutar las interminables rondas en el juego de culpas que jugarán los aspirantes políticos y expertos.

También recordaremos y nos preguntaremos cómo algo tan devastador pudo acercarse hasta nosotros... ¿podría sorprendernos desprevenidos? ¿Cómo es posible que esta nación haya perdido más vidas en sólo tres meses que en 10 años de nuestra lucha contra la guerra de Vietnam, la guerra del Golfo, la guerra de Afganistán y la guerra de Irak juntas? ¿Y la desigualdad racial en las vidas perdidas! La crisis de la pandemia fue como una película. Una mala película. Pero, ¿quién hubiera pensado que una película de 2 horas que podría haber disfrutado con palomitas de maíz con mantequilla y M&M's, una película que le asustó todo el tiempo que estuvo en la pantalla, pero que, sin embargo, no le impidió disfrutar de su hamburguesa y papas fritas en McDonald's después de que el caos de Hollywood había terminado, ¿quién hubiera pensado que la película vendría a nosotros en la vida y tiempo real? Los actores de esta película no se quitan el maquillaje al final del día de filmación ni se dirigen a su bar favorito para tomar unos cuantos tragos. Aquí no hay regreso. ¡Los "actores", desafortunadamente, somos todos nosotros! Al principio, podíamos tener la esperanza de un final feliz, al estilo de Hollywood, pero el problema y el dolor no disminuyeron rápidamente y parecían interminables.

Pero en toda esta oscuridad, hay muchos ejemplos de lo mejor de las personas en la pantalla. Profesionales de la salud, socorristas, trabajadores de tránsito, por nombrar sólo algunos, están entre los que arriesgan sus vidas para salvar la vida de otra persona. Y qué hay de los 22.000 voluntarios de otros estados que se presentaron en Nueva York para ayudarnos, en un lugar que no conocen, para gente que no conocen. Todo lo que saben es que hay gente necesitada. Pero tampoco necesitamos mirar más allá de nuestros propios miembros en el Local 237 para ver los mejores ejemplos de lo mejor de las personas. Nuestros miembros hicieron su trabajo para proteger a las poblaciones más vulnerables de la ciudad de Nueva York. Desafortunadamente, muchos hicieron el último sacrificio al hacerlo. Nuestros miembros se definen como trabajadores esenciales, y su trabajo fue realmente esencial para ayudar a mantener a los neoyorquinos funcionando y para ayudar a Nueva York a recuperarse. Usted es realmente un ejemplo.

Entonces, ¿qué hacemos ahora? Sin duda, todos rezamos para que esta pandemia termine pronto y para siempre. Debemos tener más pruebas, tratamientos confiables y una cura preventiva. No podemos ignorar los hechos aterradores de la calidad y las desigualdades de la atención médica de nuestra nación. Deben ser corregidos. Pero, también hay otra preocupación que considerar: ¿Qué haremos cuando la crisis termine? ¿Acabarán alguna vez la angustia y la amargura? Eso me hace preguntarme sobre un sobreviviente del Holocausto que sufrió la inimaginable crueldad de un campo de concentración nazi; o la brutalidad que muchos afroamericanos soportaron viviendo en el extremo sur de este país en los años 50 y 60; o la brutalidad del genocidio en Uganda o el salvajismo del ataque terrorista del 11 de septiembre en las Torres Gemelas, ¿un día que ninguno de nosotros olvidará jamás! ¿Cómo vivieron esas víctimas... esas familias?

¿Cómo viven nuestros miembros y las familias de nuestros compañeros sindicales perdidos? O, ¿el dolor de este Coronavirus nos destruye para siempre? ¿Qué es lo que produce la amargura persistente? Aunque dejo la especulación a los historiadores, parece que hay algunas lecciones irrefutables que aprender. Debemos saborear los buenos tiempos, priorizar lo que realmente importa y no desperdiciar nuestras bendiciones. La bondad humana es un tesoro más valioso que cualquier pila de oro. Y el amor y el apoyo de nuestra familia, amigos y compañeros de trabajo nos hace multimillonarios. Fieles a las palabras del Ex Presidente Obama, los miembros del Local 237 se "levantaron". Fueron más allá del llamado del deber. En esta edición especial de Newsline, no sólo honramos a nuestros miembros perdidos, sino que también agradecemos a nuestros miembros, trabajadores esenciales, que personifican lo que David Brooks, un columnista del New York Times, escribió en una columna reciente: "Una de las lecciones de esta crisis es que la ayuda no viene de algún lugar centralizado en la cima de la sociedad. Si quieren un verdadero liderazgo miren a su alrededor."

En solidaridad,

Gregory Floyd  
Presidente, Teamsters Local 237

**Quando los tiempos  
se ponen difíciles,  
no nos damos por vencidos.  
Nos levantamos.**

— Ex Presidente Barack Obama



Gregory Floyd  
Presidente  
Teamsters Local 237





# During this time of national crisis, our staff members served Above and Beyond the Call of Duty

So many of our staff members go above and beyond the call of duty, performing acts of heroism, ingenuity, kindness and generosity that demonstrate their professionalism and heart. They were willing to go that extra mile, and by so doing, made a difference in someone's life. Here are some of the pictures they want to share:

## IN THE OFFICE AT LOCAL 237



PERIODICALS  
POSTAGE PAID  
AT NEW YORK, NY



**NEWSLINE**  
Local 237, IBT  
216 W. 14 Street  
New York, NY 10011

SUMMER 2020

DATED MATERIAL

### Are you moving?

To change your address, fill in the form below, cut it out, and mail it back to Newsline at the above address.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
New Address \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_

# Forever In Our Hearts



As the world weeps, and Americans from coast to coast try to break free from the horrific grip that Covid-19 has had on all of us, the Local 237 family also feels profound sorrow at the loss of several of our members. As we pause to remember those 237 brothers and sisters who served with dignity and honor, and are no longer with us, we pray that their families find comfort in knowing that we feel the pain of their loss. We will greatly miss our co-workers and friends. They will remain forever in our hearts.

**May they rest in peace.**

*Gregory Floyd, President, Teamsters Local 237, IBT*