



NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Jennifer Rose
Director of Cooperative Programs
Jennifer.Rose@doli.virginia.gov

Governor Youngkin Recognizes Virginia Workers' Memorial Day

RICHMOND, – Commissioner Gary G. Pan announced today that Governor Glenn Youngkin has issued a proclamation recognizing April 28, 2023, as Worker Memorial Day in Virginia. The [Virginia Workers' Memorial Day proclamation](#) provides as follows:

Virginia Workers' Memorial Day

WHEREAS, Virginia's workers are essential to a strong and growing economy; and

WHEREAS, forty Virginians lost their lives to work-related fatalities in the Commonwealth last year; and

WHEREAS, a workplace injury or fatality can result in immeasurable human loss; and

WHEREAS, such loss can result in a major hardship to the families, and

WHEREAS, every Virginia worker should return home as they did when they left for work; and

WHEREAS, workplace health and safety procedures are important for the well-being of both employees and employers;

WHEREAS, workers are the backbone of any successful endeavor, and without safe and healthy employees, businesses cannot grow, and more jobs cannot be created in our communities; and

WHEREAS, Worker's Memorial Day is recognized annually on April 28, the anniversary date that the Occupational Safety and Health Act went into effect in 1971; and

WHEREAS, citizens are encouraged to remember the men and women who lost their lives or have been injured at work, and recognize that the Commonwealth's greatest resource is its educated, skilled, and dedicated workforce;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Glenn Youngkin, do hereby recognize April 28, 2023, as **VIRGINIA WORKERS' MEMORIAL DAY** in our COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.

"The Virginia Occupational Safety and Health program has investigated 7 fatal accidents so far in 2023, however, last year at this time, we investigated 10, an all too tragic reminder of the importance of providing safe and healthy workplaces for workers in Virginia", said Commissioner Pan. I would ask all citizens of the Commonwealth to take a moment to honor those workers and their families on April 28th, Virginia Workers' Memorial Day."

On April 28, 2023, let us observe Workers' Memorial Day by remembering and mourning those lost, and pledging to assure safe and healthful workplace conditions. I encourage employers to consider participating in Virginia Workers' Memorial Day by, among other things:

- Conducting a safety and health meeting and encourage discussion on recognizing and correcting hazards in the workplace.
- Pledging to work together with front line employees as a team to make the workplace a safer, healthier and happier place to work.
- Establishing and implementing a safety and health program for the site with full employee involvement.
- Encouraging accident prevention and the reporting of hazards and injuries in the workplace. Minor injuries are often unreported and result in more severe injuries as a result of an uncorrected hazard in the workplace.

The Virginia Department of Labor and Industry offers employers resources to assist them in better understanding and complying with the Virginia Occupational Safety and Health (VOSH) standards. [VOSH Consultation Services](#) is a state/federally funded program that provides no cost services to employers. Priority is given to high hazard workplaces with 250 or fewer employees. On-Site Consultation services help employers identify and correct potential safety and health hazards through walk-through surveys (without citations or penalties), provide abatement advice, provide on-site training, and provide program assistance to develop safety and health programs. The [Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program](#) (SHARP) recognizes worksites that operate exemplary safety and health programs that result in the immediate and long-term prevention of job related injuries and illnesses. Additional information about On-Site Consultation Services and the SHARP program can be obtained online at www.doli.virginia.gov or by emailing Consultation Services at consultation@doli.virginia.gov.

The Virginia Department of Labor and Industry also offers a recognition program, the [Virginia Voluntary Protection Program](#) (VPP), which is designed to recognize and promote exceptional safety and health management programs, and is generally for larger employers. Additional information about VPP can be obtained online at www.doli.virginia.gov or by calling Milford Stern, VPP Program Manager at (540) 562-3580, ext. 123 or milford.stern@doli.virginia.gov.

The Virginia Occupational Safety and Health (VOSH) program is financed with 50% state funds and 50% federal funds in the form of a grant from the U. S. Department of Labor – OSHA, under §23(g) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970.

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