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## **WHY WE CELEBRATE LABOR DAY**

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Labor Day is more than just a long weekend marking the unofficial end of summer. It is a day to reflect on and celebrate the hard-won victories of the labor movement and the importance of workers' rights. From improved working conditions to fair wages and the right to organize, labor unions have played a crucial role in shaping the modern workplace.

The origins of the Labor Day holiday can be traced back to the late 19th century when American workers were facing grueling conditions in factories, mines, and other industries. Labor unions began to organize and advocate for better working conditions, fair wages, and an eight-hour workday. By 1894, 23 states had adopted their own Labor Day holiday, and on June 28, 1894, President Grover Cleveland signed the law which established the first Monday in September of each year as a national holiday.

Unions have been instrumental in pushing for legislation that protects employees from exploitation and ensures they are fairly compensated for their work. That legislative work has directly led to the establishment of the eight-hour workday, minimum wage laws, occupational safety, and collective bargaining.

As we enjoy our well-deserved day off, let us also remember that the struggle is far from over. Your union will continue to fight for fair wages, healthcare and benefits, job security, and a fair and equitable workplace, ensuring that every worker's voice is heard and every right is protected. Happy Labor Day!

Sincerely and fraternally,

John M. Coveny, Jr.  
President/Directing General Chair

JC/td

cc: R. Johnsen, General Vice-President, Air Transport Territory  
E. Fraser, Chief of Staff, Air Transport Territory  
T. Regan, Airline Coordinator  
DL 142 Executive Board

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