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April 25, 2017

To Local Union Presidents and Recording Secretaries

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Nominate a member for the Bud Jimmerfield Award

“Don't mourn my death, fight for the living.” This is the challenge that Bud Jimmerfield passed on to all Unifor brothers and sisters prior to his death.

Brother Jimmerfield was a tireless health and safety, environment and workers' compensation activist, not just in his workplace but at other workplaces and in communities nationwide. Bud worked as a machinist for 31 years, exposed every working day to cancer causing metalworking fluids at an auto parts plant in Amherstburg, Ontario. Bud was diagnosed with esophageal cancer in 1996 and died just 18 months later at age 49, leaving behind his eight children and wife Diane.

Before he died, Bud charged union activists with an important responsibility “do your best to try to prevent future occupational diseases, death and injuries from occurring.”

Unifor members are rising to address workplace challenges including corporate trends and policies that increase safety risks, the fallout of Workers Compensation Board cost cutting measures, and the health repercussions of climate change. It is in recognition of this work that I proudly ask for nominations for the 2017 Bud Jimmerfield Award, which Unifor presents to an outstanding union member to recognize their effort to continue Bud's legacy.

The recipient must demonstrate strong leadership and a proven commitment to prevent future occupational diseases, deaths, and injuries, be a current Unifor member and be nominated by their Local union leadership or Local unit/workplace leadership.

Nominate a deserving member today, access the form at unifor.org/healthandsafety. Be sure to submit nominations no later than June 16 to the Unifor Health & Safety, Environment Department at healthandsafety@unifor.org.

In solidarity,

Jerry Dias
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