

RESOLUTION NO. 1

As this Convention focuses on its important role in building lives and building communities, it is fitting to reflect on our rich history – and specifically, on the careers of the recently retired leaders whose tireless service has built BAC into the strong and vibrant Union that it is today.

James J. Boland

A 42-year member of Local 3 California, Jim Boland's own experience as an immigrant and his passion for working people had a profound influence on his career as a Local and IU officer, driving him to ensure that the Union is welcoming of all comers.

Born in County Leitrim, Ireland, Brother Boland immigrated to the United States in 1970 to find work and a better life for himself and his family. After joining BAC in 1977, he worked in the San Francisco Bay Area in brick, block, stone, and marble before becoming a Business Agent in 1988. In 1992, he became President of Local 3 California, an office he held for two years until called to serve the International Union as both Assistant to the President for Trade Jurisdiction and Regional Director for California and Nevada.

Brother Boland was elected to his first term as a member of the IU Executive Board in 1995. He became Secretary-Treasurer in 1999, and President in 2010. He was re-elected President twice, and served in that office until his retirement at the end of 2019.

His accomplishments as President were many and varied, but none were more significant – and none closer to his heart – than his leadership in BAC's successful effort to persuade OSHA, in the final year of the Obama Administration, to revise its outdated and inadequate silica standard. This was a goal that BAC had sought for decades, and Brother Boland's tenacity and tactical nous played no small part in finally achieving it. The new silica standard will prevent hundreds of deaths and thousands of illnesses each year among construction workers and BAC members in particular. Brother Boland's powerful testimony on the silica standard serves as a fitting encapsulation of his beliefs about the role of workers in society.

Brother Boland has served admirably on many boards and committees outside of BAC, including the National Endowment for Democracy, the Democratic National Committee, and the AFL-CIO Executive Council, but his heart and primary focus has always been with BAC and the trowel trades craftworkers that he knows so well.

Henry F. Kramer

A third-generation bricklayer and 46-year member of Local 74 Illinois, Henry F. Kramer joined BAC in 1974. Beginning in 1978, he served as Recording Secretary, then President of Local 74. In 1988, he became Business Manager, an office he held until his appointment as an IU Regional Director in October 2005. Brother Kramer was also an elected Regional Vice President to the BAC Executive Council, serving from 2000 to 2005. During this period, he played an instrumental role in the Union's strategic planning.

Brother Kramer was appointed as IU Executive Vice President in 2008. He became Secretary-Treasurer in 2010 and was re-elected twice. He served as Secretary-Treasurer until his retirement at the end of 2016.

During his tenure as an Executive Vice President, Brother Kramer had oversight of the Union's Field Staff, and in that role has advanced the Union's strategic plans. As Secretary-Treasurer, he had oversight responsibilities for many of the International Union's financial and administrative programs and shaped the IU's communication, education, and government relations initiatives. No Secretary-Treasurer would choose to enter the role at the beginning of a recession, but that's just what Brother Kramer did – and his resolve and meticulous attention to detail were indispensable to the IU's steady financial stewardship during the Great Recession.

Brother Kramer's leadership, accomplishments, and Union service have earned him a permanent place of honor in our Union's great history and in the proceedings of this Convention.

Gerard Scarano

A 51-year member of Local 5 New Jersey, BAC is part of Gerard Scarano's family tradition that includes not only his father, but also four brothers, two sisters, and his son Jerry.

Brother Scarano joined BAC Local 35 New Jersey in August 1969 as an apprentice bricklayer, cement mason, and plasterer, and became a journeyman in 1973. He served numerous roles within his Local Union and New Jersey State Conference, including: Secretary-Treasurer of the consolidated Local 5 in southern New Jersey; a member of the National Heavy & Highway Alliance Regional Committee and the New Jersey Transit Authority Committee; Co-Chair of the New Jersey State Labor Management Committee; and Vice President of the New Jersey State Building Trades Council.

In February 2001, Brother Scarano joined the IU's staff as Regional Director, and was appointed Executive Vice President in 2005, a position to which he was re-elected for three additional terms. He is a graduate of the Harvard Trade Union Program.

Brother Scarano's work on the International Union Executive Board included the critical areas of political action and safety and health. A fierce defender of the right to a safe workplace, Brother Scarano's legacy will be defined by the critical role that he played in BAC's successful fight for passage of the new silica standard in 2016.

Brother Scarano has never forgotten where he comes from and who our union fights for, and his tenacity in the silica battle was testimony to his fervent belief in the power of solidarity.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this 2020 Convention of the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers expresses to James J. Boland, Henry F. Kramer, and Gerard Scarano its deepest appreciation for their exceptional years of service and leadership and best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

SUBMITTED BY:

IU EXECUTIVE BOARD

Timothy J. Driscoll
Bob Arnold
Carlos Aquin
Jeremiah Sullivan

RESOLUTION NO. 2

The International Union remembers the shoulders on which it stands – the great servants of BAC whose distinguished service has grown the Union and continues to inform and inspire the deliberations of delegates to the 2020 Convention. We honor the memory of these dedicated IU brothers and sisters whom the BAC family has lost since September 2015.

Thomas J. McIntyre

Thomas “Tom” McIntyre, a proud 67-year member of Local 3 Massachusetts/Maine/New Hampshire/Rhode Island and retired IU Vice President, died on November 12, 2018 at the age of 87.

Brother McIntyre joined then-Local 3 Massachusetts in 1951 as an apprentice bricklayer. A "brickie," a Supervisor of Apprentices, and eventually 10th Vice President of the International Union, he remained on the forefront of the development, growth and vitality of all labor unions, and their importance to the lives of workers and their families. Passionate about affordable housing, he helped form the Bricklayers and Laborers Non-Profit Corporation and pioneered the innovative collaboration of Boston's labor unions, Boston City Hall and the city's financial institutions in designing and constructing affordable housing for working class citizens in South Boston, Dorchester, Mission Hill, and the award-winning Building 104, Senior Housing, in the Charlestown Navy Yard.

A staunch and avid Democrat, Brother McIntyre supported and campaigned for Democratic candidates on the local and state level beginning in the 1960s. He was proud and honored to have been chosen by the Massachusetts delegation to announce the nomination of Governor Michael Dukakis for President at the Democratic National Convention in 1988.

A rank-and-filer who never forgot where he came from, Brother McIntyre considered his life a great bit o' business.

Alfred A. DiRienzo

Alfred “Al” DiRienzo, a proud 69-year member of Local 3 Massachusetts/Maine/New Hampshire/Rhode Island and retired IU Director of Trade Jurisdiction, passed away peacefully on November 5, 2019. He was 88.

Brother DiRienzo started his career as an apprentice bricklayer at then-Local 3 Massachusetts in 1950. He was a Navy veteran, having served in the Seabees during the Korean War. He faithfully served BAC in various capacities over the years, including as Business Manager of Local 3

Massachusetts for 10 years. He was elected as a Vice President of the International Union in 1990, and went on to serve as an IU Regional Director and IU Director of Trade Jurisdiction.

Even after his “retirement” in 2000, Brother DiRienzo’s commitment to his fellow craftworkers brought him back to serve the International Union on special assignments, including some that would have tested the resolve and stamina of younger men.

William J. Ruff

William “Bill” Ruff, a proud 66-year member of Local 21 Illinois, and retired National Refractory Director, passed away on January 29, 2019 at the age of 85.

Masonry ran in Brother Ruff’s family, and his grandfather was a Local 21 business agent. He joined Local 21 Illinois in 1952 as an apprentice bricklayer, and after a long career – much of it spent traveling throughout the United States – as a refractory bricklayer, he was tapped to serve as the IU’s National Refractory Director in 1993.

As National Refractory Director, Brother Ruff oversaw the millions of bricklayer hours worked every year under the National Refractory Agreement, and led the labor-management National Refractory Committee. Brother Ruff spearheaded the development of the National Agreement for Glass Tank Construction, and played a critical role in difficult, high-stakes litigation against a large refractory contractor.

He retired in 2002 to his beloved adopted state of Colorado.

James J. McGovern

James “Joe” McGovern, a proud 70-year member of Local 3 New York and retired National Refractory Director, died on October 11, 2016. He was 95.

Following the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Brother McGovern left his job at Bethlehem Steel in Buffalo, and enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. From 1943 to 1945 he served as a heavy machine-gunner and participated in four invasions: Roi-Namur, Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima. He earned an individual citation for bravery from his unit commander and his division and two Presidential Unit Citations for "outstanding performance in combat during the seizure of the Saipan and Tinian."

After returning from the war, Brother McGovern joined then-Local 45 New York in 1946 as an apprentice bricklayer and stone mason. He served for 20 years as President of Local 45, and was

later elected Business Agent for several terms. He was asked to serve the International Union as National Refractory Director, and held that office for seven years before retiring in 1993.

Brother McGovern was inducted into the New York State Assembly's Labor Roundtable Hall of Fame. He spent his retirement years in both Buffalo and Florida, and traveled to Ireland several times with his wife to visit family.

Merlin L. Taylor

Merlin Taylor, a proud 65-year member of Local 8 Southeast and retired Special Assistant for Apprenticeship & Training, passed away on October 3, 2016. He was 86.

Brother Taylor joined then-Local 1 Louisiana as an apprentice bricklayer and stone mason in 1951. After completing his apprenticeship, he became active in union affairs and his leadership, management and personal skills became evident to all with whom he worked. In 1961, he was elected business manager of the Local, a position he held until 1965 when he accepted positions with the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of National Employment and Training Programs, first in Atlanta, GA, then Washington DC.

In 1968, Brother Taylor was appointed by then AFL-CIO President George Meany as Executive Director of the AFL-CIO Human Resources Development Institute (HRDI), created to serve as the employment and training arm of the AFL-CIO. In 1970, he was appointed by President Thomas F. Murphy to serve as Special Assistant for Apprenticeship and Training at the International Union headquarters in Washington, DC. He served in that capacity and in other positions at headquarters, and co-authored 3 volumes of "The Bricklayer: Brick and Block Construction," which served as a cornerstone of IMI's masonry curriculum for many years.

In 1987, Brother Taylor returned to the U.S. Department of Labor as Southeastern States Director of the Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training, a position he held until his retirement in 1997. He was highly regarded by both Labor and Management as an expert in labor relations, as well as employment and training matters. Following retirement, he continued to utilize his unique skills and talents in those areas for a number of years through Poseidon & Associates, a consulting firm he founded.

Joseph E. Stewart

Joseph "Joe" Stewart, a proud 56-year member of Local 9 Pennsylvania and retired IU PCC Craft Director, passed away on December 30, 2017 at the age of 80.

Brother Stewart joined then-Local 33 Pennsylvania in 1963, working as a cement mason, pointer-cleaner-caulker, and welder. He served as Business Agent and Financial Secretary of then-Local 33. After Local 33 merged with Local 9 Pennsylvania, he became President of Local 9 in 1995. In 1996, he was appointed IU Craft Vice President for Masonry Restoration/Pointing/Cleaning/Caulking and served in that role until his retirement in 2004.

A true “union man,” Brother Stewart was dedicated to serving his community and sharing his unwavering belief that every person had a right to dignity and a fair shake at life.

George L. Shuman

George L. Shuman, a proud 67-year member of Local 8 Southeast and retired Assistant to the IU Executive Vice President, died peacefully on August 17, 2016. He was 87.

Brother Shuman lived a very full life, one filled with great adventure, public service and tremendous charity toward others. He served his country honorably in the Army during the end of WWII from 1946-1948. He was declared the First Army Champion in boxing’s Featherweight Class in 1946. He boxed professionally under the name Mickey Dunn, compiling a record of 21 wins and 4 losses.

Brother Shuman joined then-Local 19 Florida in 1949 as an apprentice bricklayer and stone mason. He became their youngest instructor and rose through the ranks, eventually becoming the Business Agent for then-Local 1 Florida. Due to his dedication and leadership, he was asked to be the Assistant to the Executive Vice-President of the International Union in Washington, D.C., from where he retired in 1991.

Brother Shuman’s dedication to service extended beyond BAC, so much so that he ran for and was elected to the Jacksonville City Council and served from 1979-1983. In addition, he helped many families who needed a helping hand with food, home maintenance, and even funeral expenses.

Gerald Hendry

Gerald "Gerry" Hendry, a proud 52-year member of Local 4 California and retired IU Director of Canadian Affairs, passed away on March 29, 2019 at the age of 82.

Brother Hendry, a very proud Scotsman, emigrated with his family to Ottawa, Canada from Scotland in 1966. He joined then-Local 2 Ontario in 1966 and worked as a bricklayer. He went on to become President of Local 7 Ontario. In 1979, Brother Hendry moved with his family to Los Angeles and joined Local 4 California, ultimately becoming Business Agent. It was while in

California that he was offered the opportunity to turn his attentions north again, as he was appointed as IU Director of Canadian Affairs. In that position, he worked tirelessly to promote the advantages of the Union and her employees to both Federal and Provincial governments across Canada.

Brother Hendry retired to Surprise, Arizona and enjoyed many very happy years there before his passing.

Patricia L. Rowan

Patricia “Patsy” Rowan, retired Executive Board Secretary, passed away on April 6, 2020 at the age of 97.

Prior to her arrival at BAC, Patsy worked at the American Federation of Labor (long before the merger with the CIO), and was herself a proud member of OPEIU Local 2. While at the AFL, an official at the then-Bricklayers, Masons, and Plasterers International Union (BMPIU) requested Patsy move to our Union. She began working at BAC on October 11, 1948 – Harry C. Bates, who later would play such a critical role in the AFL-CIO merger, was our President at the time.

Patsy worked for John T. “Jack” Joyce while he was Treasurer, and moved to the President’s office with him in 1979. After an astounding 57 years working for BAC and its members, she retired on December 31, 2005.

Patsy likely attended more BAC Conventions than anyone else in our history, including our 2015 Convention – so it is only fitting that we include her in this one.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this 2020 Convention of the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers, in recognition and appreciation of the distinguished service rendered to our Union by these extraordinary officers and staff, hereby commends the achievements and accomplishments of the careers of Thomas J. “Tom” McIntyre, Alfred A. “Al” DiRienzo, William J. “Bill” Ruff, James J. “Joe” McGovern, Merlin L. Taylor, Joseph E. “Joe” Stewart, George L. Shuman, Gerald “Gerry” Hendry, and Patricia L. “Patsy” Rowan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the memories of these gifted servants of BAC will remain alive in the hearts and minds of the delegates to this 2020 Convention.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Board will convey to the families of Brothers McIntyre, DiRienzo, Ruff, McGovern, Taylor, Stewart, Shuman, Hendry, and Ms. Rowan the gratitude and esteem expressed by the Convention delegates for their contributions to the Union, and for the many years of camaraderie we enjoyed together.

SUBMITTED BY:

IU EXECUTIVE BOARD

Timothy J. Driscoll

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