

Wilbur Wilson to be Inducted into Iowa Labor Hall of Fame

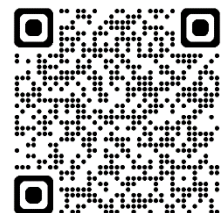
This week, on August 21, the Iowa Federation of Labor will be inducting three labor activists into its Labor Hall of Fame Class of 2025. Since 1982, the IFL has accepted nominations and recognized Iowa labor leaders for this prestigious award. We are proud to tell you that one of this year's inductees is one of Local 310's own, Brother Wilbur Wilson. This is a huge honor, not only for Wilbur and his family, but for Local 310 and the United Steelworkers as an organization. Only one other Local 310 member, James Caffrey in 1986, has been accepted into the Hall of Fame.

Wilbur was a force at Local 310 for 32 years as a member, and continuing upon his retirement in 2005 until his death in 2021. He was a true union activist and leader. While he never held a top office in the local, Wilbur was a leader nonetheless. If there was an action at the local, he was likely front and center leading it. If there was a union rally in town, he was probably there. While Wilbur was still working, he was a voice for all of his union siblings. He was never afraid to speak up against an injustice to a member. You might say he was well-known with management. He was also a mentor to many. He made it a habit to teach the newer and younger members about the union. Even after his retirement, he offered his wisdom and encouragement to the members still working. He also continued to serve the local in retirement as the chair of our SOAR (Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees).

One of Wilbur's greatest achievements was his work to bring the local back together after the 1994 strike, also known as the War of '94. Wilbur risked friendships and his reputation for what he knew was right for the union, in the process changing hearts and minds for the survival of Local 310. If not for his foresight, we may not be here today. There is a video interview with Wilbur where you can learn more about this time and how the local got through it. We will provide a link here in the newsletter.

Leadership is not about elections, or titles, or having your name on things. Leadership is about getting things done, doing the right things for the right reasons, and doing right by others. Wilbur was a testament to this. He loved his union and was a union man through and through, until the day he died. Those of us who knew Wilbur, let's take some time to remember him this week, and those who didn't, please take the time to watch the video. And let's each of us think about what we can do to make our union and the labor movement stronger--like Wilbur did--and as we recite in our oath, say something good about our union every day.

SCAN FOR VIDEO



Solidarity for Soldiers

Next Gen's annual Solidarity for Soldiers Drive is currently underway. This effort benefits the Des Moines Homeless Veterans Stand Down, which takes place September 12-14. This year, the focus is winter clothing and gear. Donations can be dropped off at the collection bin at the Union Hall through the September 4. We are also looking to provide some volunteers for the event. If you are interested, there is a Sign Up Genius set up with slots to be filled throughout the weekend.



SCAN FOR SIGN
UP GENIUS

Women of Steel Fall Projects

The WOS Committee will be holding their annual "Fall Family Gate Collection" on September 23. They will be at the guard shack prior to each shift that day. The proceeds from the gate collection allow the committee to adopt families from Families Forward to provide them Thanksgiving meals, and children from Orchard Place to provide them Christmas gifts.

The following month, October 14 and 15, the committee will hold its annual bake sale in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness month. The proceeds from the sale will go to Broadlawns Mammography Department, helping to provide mammograms to those who are under or uninsured. The committee will also take donations of baked goods for the sale. See Chrissy Lehman on 7 Banner if you would like to contribute in that way.

These two fundraisers have been successful for many years due to the generosity of the membership. We hope that you can participate this year!

Labor Day

As you know, Labor Day is Monday, September 1. Labor Day is a holiday created by unions for the working class. Each year we celebrate this day as a labor community with a parade and picnic. To participate in the parade that morning, you can park at the Fairgrounds at the Varied Industries Building, anytime between 8:00 and 10:30 AM to catch a shuttle to the Iowa State Capitol, where the parade begins at 11. Each local union will have a spot to walk together. Any 310 member who participates in the parade will receive a Labor Day shirt so that we all match. The parade route takes us back to the fairgrounds. After the parade, the picnic takes place directly after at the Union Labor Park, 4640 NW Morningstar Dr. Food and other activities are planned. We hope you can join us and help show the strength of the labor community in Des Moines!