

April 28th, National Day of Mourning.

April 28th is **National Day of Mourning** to honor those workers who have been injured or died as a result of their employment. While health and safety has come a long way over the past several decades, we still have too many brothers and sisters injured and killed in our industry and in Canada at large. Between 1993-2005, Canada averaged five work-related deaths per work day when you look at both occupational disease (example: lung cancer from asbestos) and workplace fatalities.† This statistic serves only one purpose: to highlight that we can and must do all we can to correct this tragic situation.

More recently, the Boilermaker Family lost a Brother to a job site accident this year on March 18th. Brother Mike Damiano, a 35 year member of Lodge 680, was killed in a shipyard crane accident where he was employed at Port Weller Dry Docks in St. Catharines, Ontario. Brother Damiano was in the cab of the crane when it left the tracks crushing the cab on the thick wall that divided the two bays at the shipyard. Brother Damiano leaves behind wife Alvira and 11 year old son Alexander. A trust fund has been set up for Alexander; Meridian Credit Union, 400 Scotch Street, St. Catharines, Ontario, Account # 6613756

Wherever you find yourself on April 28th, at home, on the road or on the job, please take a moment to remember those fellow brothers and sisters like Brother Damiano who have died as a result of their employment. In remembrance, let us all renew our commitment to health and safety, and to each other, so that every boilermaker will arrive home safe at the end of the workday. We all have a role to play in ensuring a healthy and safe workplace.

Learn more about the National Day of Mourning on the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety web site:
(<http://www.ccohs.ca/events/mourning/>).

For general OHS duties and responsibilities, see OHS resources article below for highlights.

†Source: Centre for the Study of Living Standards (2006).