

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

September 23, 2007 will be the sixth anniversary of Jim Walters No. 5 mine disaster. Twelve brave men lost their lives along with the one they were trying to rescue. There will be a 6 pm ceremony at the Memorial in Brookwood, Alabama. Grandfathers, husbands, fishing buddies and war veterans perished in the worst United States mine disaster in seventeen years.

Mine safety is a hot topic every year when state and federal legislators assemble. One would think, with all the mining disasters in the United States and abroad, those legislators would see that miners had the latest safety equipment and enough mine inspectors to improve working conditions. According to the Department of Labor, there have been 390 fatalities in United States coal mines since 1996.



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No. 5 Mine Monument

The death of twelve miners last year at the Sago Mine in West Virginia brought a host of safety standards, but funding cuts for inspectors has hindered enforcement of those rules. The Crandall Canyon disaster will also spur new legislation dealing with mine safety. Phil Smith with the United Mine Workers of America put it into perspective when he said;

***“Every law and every safety regulation on the books is written in the blood of dead coal miners.”***

Just a reminder to everyone, the September 10, 2007 meeting will be in the Probate Judges court room at 7:30 pm at the Tuscaloosa County Court House. We will be selecting three (3) delegates to the Alabama AFL-CIO Biennial Convention in Mobile.

In Solidarity,  
 James M. Crowder

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**No. 5 Coal Miners Memorial Service**

- September, 23, 2007
  - \* Where: No. 5 Coal Miners Monument  
West Brookwood Church, Brookwood, Alabama
  - \* Time:
    - 4:00 pm—Pre-Service Music
    - 5:00 pm—Service Begins
    - 5:20 pm—Moment of Silence (time of 1st explosion)

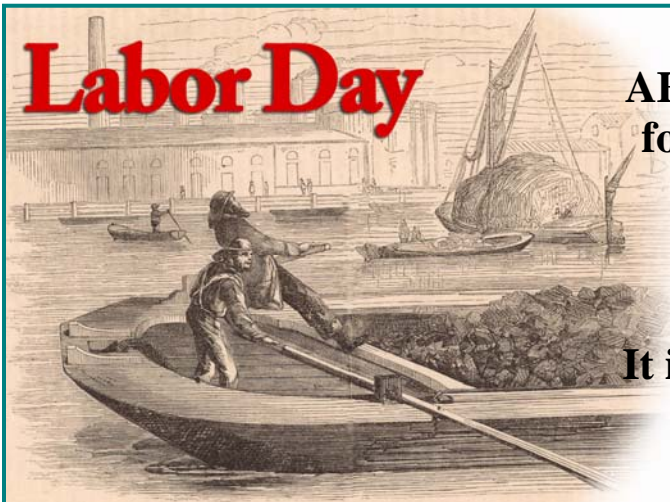
**Alabama AFL-CIO Biennial Convention**

- October, 22—24, 2007
  - \* Where: Mobile Convention Center  
Mobile, Alabama
  - \* Contact: AL AFL-CIO (334)834-1061

# Workers Memorial Commons

Planned for the RiverWalk, Tuscaloosa, Alabama

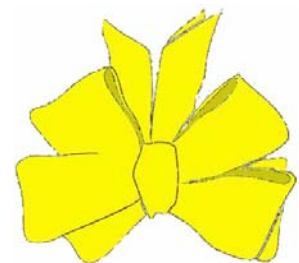
Workers Memorial Commons is a centrally-located, perpetual memorial dedicated to all workers that have been killed or injured on the job. The Memorial's design includes a section of I-beam recovered from *World Trade Center, Tower One*. Workers Memorial Commons will be accessible to the public and provide information about the purpose and history of the memorial and the artifact used in its construction. A contribution to Workers Memorial Commons Foundation is a meaningful way to honor and commemorate those that have been killed or injured on the job, including the 2752 people who were working and perished on September 11.



**AFL-CIO campaign to make health care for all a mandate for the 2008 elections was launched on Labor Day @ the Tannehill State Park.**

**It is up to us to hold candidates for office accountable to progressive reform.**

Grandall Canyon  
Miners



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