

Training Named for Mazzocchi

The USW safety and health training initiative has been named after one of the American Labor Movement's most renowned advocates for safe workplaces and a healthy environment.

Tony Mazzocchi began his career in the labor movement when he became active in the CIO following his service as a combat soldier in WWII. He served as President of Oil Chemical & Atomic Workers (OCAW) Local 8-149, Vice-President of the Nassau-Suffolk, N.Y., CIO Council and the Long Island Federation of Labor.

He was elected International Executive Board member of OCAW District 8, and he was the union's Citizenship-Legislative Director, leading the legislative struggles of the 1960s and 1970s. Mazzocchi became known as "the Ralph Nader of industrial safety," and he played a key role in the passage of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA).

Mazzocchi worked closely with OCAW member Karen Silkwood in the 1970s, and made public the truth about her death and the safety and health issues at the Kerr-McGee nuclear facility in Oklahoma where she worked. Her story was produced as a movie starring Meryl Streep in 1983.

In 1988, Mazzocchi was elected OCAW Secretary-Treasurer. He established the Alice Hamilton College, a school-without-walls dedicated to the educational needs of union members, and published *New Solutions*, a journal of environmental and occupational health policy. OCAW merged with the United Paperworkers Intl. Union (UPIU) in 1999 to form PACE.

In 1991, he and other trade union activists formed Labor Party Advocates, a nationwide effort to organize a political alternative for working people. As a result of this effort, the U.S. Labor Party was founded in 1996, and Mazzocchi was appointed its National Organizer. The Debs-Jones-Douglass Institute was founded 1998, with Mazzocchi as its first director.

The USW is proud to name the Center for Safety, Health and Environment Education after Tony Mazzocchi. The Center is a joint effort with the Labor Institute. The Labor Institute, also founded by Mazzocchi, is based in New York City,

Just before his death in 2002, his last message to the U.S. Labor Party was one of inspiration.

"I am both afflicted with an incurable disease and blessed with an incurable optimism," Mazzocchi wrote. "For the first time in 20 years, corporate America is losing legitimacy. It is cracking under the weight of its own greed. No longer can it play the goose that lays the golden eggs." Brother Mazzocchi was 76 when he died.

