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TEAMSTERS LOCAL UNION 295

AIR FREIGHT CHAUFFEURS, HANDLERS, WAREHOUSEMEN & ALLIED WORKERS
AFFILIATED WITH INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS



EXECUTIVE OFFICES

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March 31, 2005

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As many of you already know, we lost one of our brothers a few weeks ago. On Thursday, March 3, DHL driver Brian Bennett was killed in an accident while driving along his route. He collided with another vehicle and his truck spun out of control. Brian worked out of the DHL barn in Newburgh, NY, and was only 45 years old. He is survived by his wife and their seven-year-old twins. This was a truly tragic accident and we all send our thoughts and prayers to Brian's family.

This horrible accident is a reminder that our jobs are dangerous. We are truck drivers, forklift operators and heavy equipment operators. We work on busy streets and highways, in warehouses and on airport tarmacs. We work in all kinds of weather and conditions. We deliver to high-crime areas. We lift heavy packages. We have to deal with construction along our routes. We hope that other drivers see us when we get in and out of our trucks. As if that isn't enough, we work in a highly competitive industry.

That's why it is so important that we do all we can to minimize the dangers we face and make our jobs safer.

Our union contract protects us in a lot of ways. We earn good wages, health care and pensions. We also have contract language to deal with workplace safety. These rules were written to protect us. If we ignore them, the wages, health care and pensions are meaningless.

Sometimes, you get pressure from supervisors to cut corners, to do your job a little faster. We know that supervisors have a lot of power on the job. But there's too much at stake to let them bully you into working recklessly. Safety must come first. Supervisors can pressure you all they want to work faster. But when you get into an accident or get hurt, do you really think they'll have your back?

If you get in a situation where a supervisor is getting on you to do things that you think are dangerous, tell your shop steward. Remember: DHL needs us to work safely just as much as we do.

Never let the pressures from management get to you. Our members work hard and do a great job. We are proud Teamsters and should never feel inferior to our supervisors. As Eleanor Roosevelt said, "No one can make you feel inferior without your consent."

A few months ago, we wrote to you about the need to do your jobs correctly, regardless of any pressures that supervisors put on you. In that letter our concern was that members were allowing supervisors to force them into ignoring contractual work rules, thereby eroding our contract.

This time, we're asking you to follow the rules for your own safety and for your families. There is never a reason to work unsafely. Always work safe and work smart.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lou Calemine". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lou Calemine