



## **A Message from Local 1-2**

**Brothers and Sisters as we gather for another Memorial Day dedicated to those who gave their lives for this country let's pause to remember that this singular American Holiday was forged in blood and helped to shape this great Nation. Memorial Day as we celebrate it honors those who died so we can meet as free Americans without fear or favor as proud members of UWUA Local 1-2.**

**All nations remember their war dead in one fashion or another, which is fitting. What makes our Memorial Day different and distinctive from all other is that it grew from our civil war, the great struggle for the union that settled once and for all, that enslaving others is a moral wrong. It was during that conflict that this country's traditions of Liberty and Justice for All, was truly upheld. More than 600,000 Americans from both sides paid the ultimate sacrifice in that war.**

**So let us take a minute or two to reflect on the great nation that came into maturity during that awful time.**

**From its crucible came our highest ideals of freedom for all without regard to race, creed or color. Yes our declaration of independence had enshrined these virtues, but it was the war of brother against brother, that a real, diverse, republic much as we know it today came into being. In many ways the civil war was a war of immigrants, where poor Irish, German, and every ethnicity imaginable took part. It was here on the battlefields of Antietam and Gettysburg where America's huge, proud, ideals were embraced by men fighting to keep intact all of our ideas of individual freedom. Men who fled other countries for a chance here.**

**Since then Memorial Day has grown to honor and cherish all of our war dead in the past 150 years. Each man and woman who gave their all is included in this roster of memory. They fought and died just for a day like today. A day where friends and family can gather to laugh, to love, maybe to barbecue, to go to the beach, or to take a drive to enjoy our freedom. This is the greatest reason for the ultimate sacrifice. No doubt each of us would be equally willing to pay this price for the safety and security for those we love.**

**Brothers and Sisters, have a good time this memorial day. Enjoy yourselves, eat and be merry, but remember, just for a minute why we give thanks.**