

# Office of the Mayor

CITY OF NEW YORK



# Proclamation

**WHEREAS:** IN AMERICA, WHOEVER YOU ARE, AND WHEREVER YOU'RE FROM, YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO LIVE AND WORK IN DIGNITY. OVER THE PAST CENTURY, THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR HAS WORKED TO TURN THIS NATIONAL IDEAL INTO REALITY. IT HAS IMPROVED WORKING CONDITIONS, EXPANDED EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES, AND AIDED WAGE EARNERS, JOB SEEKERS, AND RETIREES. AS A RESULT, OUR NATION HAS BECOME BOTH AN ECONOMIC POWERHOUSE AND A BEACON OF HOPE TO HARD-WORKING MEN AND WOMEN OF EVERY BACKGROUND.

**WHEREAS:** IT IS FITTING THAT NEW YORK CITY JOIN IN COMMEMORATING THE LABOR DEPARTMENT'S CENTENNIAL. THE FIRST LABOR DAY HOLIDAY WAS CELEBRATED HERE, IN 1882. DURING THE PROGRESSIVE ERA, NEW YORK'S HEALTH AND FIRE SAFETY CODES AND RESTRICTIONS ON CHILD LABOR SERVED AS MODELS FOR FEDERAL ACTION. AND FRANCES PERKINS, THE LONGEST-SERVING LABOR SECRETARY AND THE FIRST WOMAN APPOINTED TO A CABINET POSITION, WAS A NEW YORKER WHO WITNESSED THE TRAGIC TRIANGLE SHIRTWAIST FIRE IN OUR CITY IN 1911. PERKINS NEVER FORGOT WHAT SHE SAW THAT DAY, AND WENT ON TO PIONEER WORKPLACE REFORMS AS NEW YORK STATE'S COMMISSIONER OF LABOR BEFORE SHE JOINED FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT'S ADMINISTRATION AND HELPED WRITE KEY NEW DEAL LEGISLATION.

**WHEREAS:** WHEN PRESIDENT TAFT SIGNED INTO LAW THE BILL CREATING THE LABOR DEPARTMENT IN 1913, HE DEDICATED THE UNITED STATES TO WORK THAT CONTINUES TO THIS DAY. WE FACE NEW CHALLENGES IN KEEPING WORKPLACES SAFE, WHICH IS WHY OUR CITY HAS TIGHTENED SAFETY STANDARDS AT CONSTRUCTION SITES, FOR EXAMPLE. WE ARE ALSO DEVELOPING INNOVATIVE NEW PROGRAMS TO CONNECT OUR CITY'S VETERANS, ESPECIALLY, TO CAREER-TRACK JOBS. FOR 100 YEARS, THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR HAS ENVISIONED AND ASSURED THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF AMERICAN WORKERS. IN NEW YORK CITY, WE HONOR THIS PROUD HERITAGE, AND PAY TRIBUTE TO IT THE BEST WAY WE CAN – BY STRIVING TO REMAIN A LEADER IN ATTRACTING THE WORLD'S BEST AND BRIGHTEST, AND IN ENSURING SAFE AND HUMANE WORKING CONDITIONS FOR ALL.

**THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, IN RECOGNITION OF THIS ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM MONDAY, MARCH 4TH, 2013 IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK:**



**"UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR DAY"**

  
MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG  
MAYOR