

**A PROCLAMATION SUBMITTED  
BY LEGISLATOR BURKE**

**RE: Recognizing International Workers Day in Erie County**

**WHEREAS**, the backbone of a strong capitalist economy is the American workforce; and

**WHEREAS**, in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century the working class struggled to gain an eight hour work day, usually working ten to sixteen hours in unsafe conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, these conditions often resulted in death and reducing life expectancy to the early twenties; and

**WHEREAS**, workers gathered and initiated organizations that varied from political parties to choir groups to community associations; and

**WHEREAS**, these groups then joined together to form labor unions marching under the slogan, "eight hours shall constitute a legal days labor"; and

**WHEREAS**, the first May Day celebration of May 1<sup>st</sup> 1886 motivated 300,000 workers in 13,000 businesses to walk off their jobs while 40,000 went on strike; and

**WHEREAS**, the fight for an eight hour work day lead to the realization of the need for a greater social revolution and drastic change in economic structure.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, that the Erie County Legislature hereby recognizes the sacrifices of the working people of the United States and the world, who fought to secure an eight-hour work day, and laid the foundation for the middle class; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this Honorable body proclaims May 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 as May Day, International Workers Day in Erie County.