

# Letters to the editor: April 21

## Let's celebrate lives lost at workplaces

It has been nine years since I lost my brother, Shawn, in a preventable dust explosion. Every loss is painful but one that is tragic, unexpected and unnoticed is devastating. Many people are affected by just one loss.

I realized fast the issue had to be bigger than one person. We lose up to 5,000 people — as young as 14 or as old as 70 — in workplace deaths each year. These deaths often happen one at a time in vehicles, trenches, falls, suffocation and the list goes on and on; there is truly no prejudice.

More important are the lives behind the numbers. I speak to people every day whose lives are forever changed. They share how their children will never grow up to have a family and how a child should never go before a parent. They explain how their fathers were never able to see their grandchildren or walk them down the aisle. They speak about how their mother is no longer there for guidance and comfort.

We reminisce and grieve for our loved ones throughout the year. But on Workers Memorial Day, April 28, many families from across the United States are either attending a memorial or creating one. We even have a small one in Lexington that was started last year at Jacobson Park by United Support for Memorial for Workplace Fatalities.

It's just one day a year family members of victims can gather for support and honor their loved ones' memories.

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