

Ladies and gentlemen,

Today, we gather here not just to recount history, but to reflect on the arduous journey toward securing workers' rights--a journey paved with determination, resilience, and courage. Decades ago, our predecessors stood at the daunting crossroads of labor exploitation and economic disparity. Their voices, often stifled, echoed the cries for fairness, dignity, and a decent livelihood.

In the early 20th century, the sweat and toil of industrial workers were met with minimal rewards. Long hours, unsafe conditions, and inadequate wages were the norm. Yet, from these harsh realities emerged a unified call for change. Brave individuals and unions came forth, leading campaigns, strikes, and negotiations that slowly transformed the landscape of labor rights.

Remember the significant strides made with the introduction of the 8-hour workday, safer working conditions, and the recognition of labor unions. These were hard-won victories achieved through tireless advocacy and unwavering solidarity.

Today, as beneficiaries of this rich legacy, we must continue to uphold these principles. It is our responsibility to ensure that every worker enjoys the rights and protections that were fought for so diligently. Let us draw inspiration from the past, championing fair practices and standing united in our pursuit of justice.

Thank you.