

FALL 2010

Plasterer & Cement Mason



Holiday Wishes

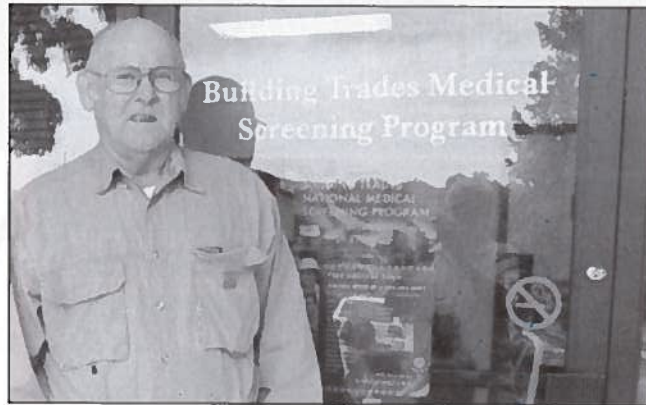
*Wishing You
Every Happiness
This Holiday Season
And Throughout The
Coming New Year.*

Local 78 Member Promotes Free Medical Screenings

Free exams by Building Trades program could save your life

Since the 1940s, cement masons across the country have worked on Department of Energy (DOE) sites that produced nuclear weapons. But these cement masons who were building or repairing structures on DOE sites were surrounded by some of the most hazardous materials known to man, yet many were working without any protection, especially in the "early days." Materials like radiation, asbestos, beryllium, and silica are particularly deadly because workers can be exposed without knowing it. Since the type of work that our trade does creates a lot of dust, our members working on DOE sites were particularly vulnerable.

Despite work histories in different decades and in different parts of the country – from Washington State to the shores of the Savannah River in Georgia – these workers shared a common legacy: possible health problems from their exposure to hazardous materials. Today, more than 200 cement masons who've worked on DOE sites have another thing in common: their participation in the Building Trades National Medical Screening Program (BTMed). This program offers DOE con-

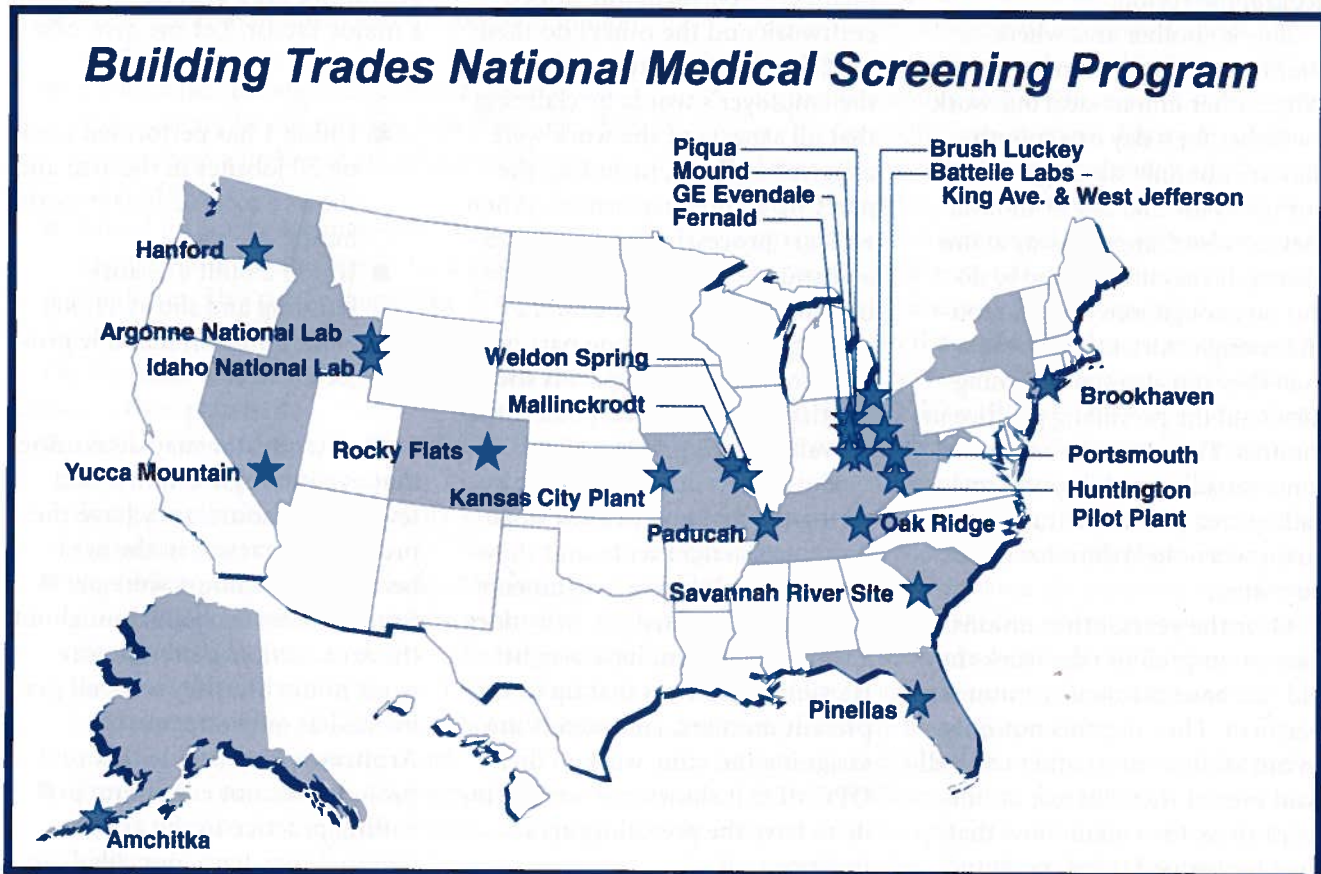


Grady Boyd, Jr. is one of many cement masons who has worked on a highly hazardous Department of Energy nuclear weapons facility.

struction workers a free medical screening to see if their health has been affected by hazards in the workplace.

Grady Boyd, Jr., 68, is one of these 200 workers. Between 1993 and 2007, he worked handling concrete everyday in one of the three Oak Ridge Reservation areas: Y-12, K-25, and X-10; the last six of those years

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Building Trades Medical Free Screenings

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doing so as the Business Manager of OPCMIA Local 78. He first heard about the BTMed program and the free medical screening it offers workers like him when he attended a Building Trades Council meeting

After spending 14 years on the Oak Ridge site, Grady knew right away that it was necessary for him to participate in the program.

"I knew the site had hazards," Grady explained, echoing many of his cement mason brothers, "but I did what they told me to do." Without hesitation, he moved through the BTMed program, a process that consists of two steps: a work history interview and a medical exam.

In step one, a specially trained building trades worker conducts a work history interview to determine what

"You'll never get a physical as good as the one you receive through the BTMed. Not even from your own personal doctor."

– Grady Boyd, Jr.

exposures to hazardous material the former worker may have had. In step two, former worker receives a free medical screening examination, or what Grady calls "the best physical you will ever get," to test for illnesses that may have developed from exposure risks, as well as other health problems. Following the exam, the worker receives a letter indicating any medical findings and indicates which findings could be work related.

After going through the program, Grady fortunately found out that he was relatively healthy – something many other former DOE construction workers are unable to say. Even still, Grady walked away knowing he'd be back in three years for a re-screening, as there's always a future of uncertainty awaiting each one of us.

But for those who are eligible to participate and have yet to do so, Grady insists that their future is now when he tells them, "You'll never get a physical as good as the one you receive through the BTMed. Not even from your own personal doctor."

Don't wait – Call Now.

The BTMed Program is coordinated by CPWR – The Center for Construction Research and Training and supported by the Building & Construction Trades Department of the AFL-CIO.

If you have worked at one of the covered DOE/AEC Sites listed on the right or map on page 9, please contact the Building Trades National Medical Screening Program, 1-800-866-9663, www.btmed.org

BUILDING TRADES NATIONAL MEDICAL SCREENING PROGRAM

1-800-866-9663

WWW.BTMED.ORG



FREE MEDICAL EXAM

**DID YOU WORK AT
A DOE/AEC SITE?**

*If so, you may be eligible
for a **FREE** medical exam.*

DOE/AEC SITES

AMCHITKA
ARGONNE WEST
BATTELLE LABS
(KING AVE & WEST JEFF)
BROOKHAVEN
BRUSH LUCKEY
FERNALD
GE EVENDALE
HANFORD
HUNTINGTON PILOT PLANT
IDAHO NATIONAL LAB
KANSAS CITY PLANT
MALLINCKRODT
MOUND
OAK RIDGE
PADUCAH
PINELLAS
PIQUA
PORTSMOUTH
ROCKY FLATS
SAVANNAH RIVER SITE
WELDON SPRING
YUCCA MOUNTAIN



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