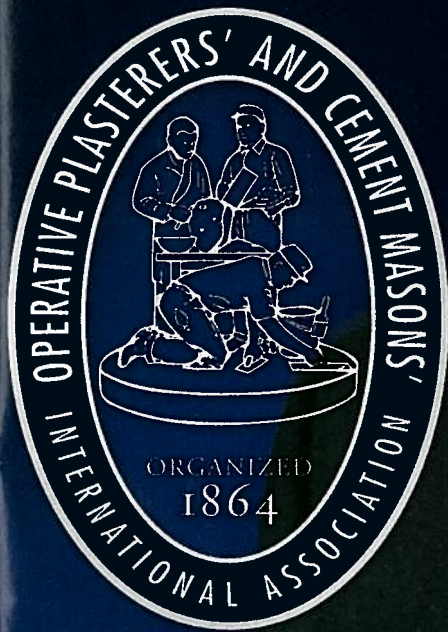


WINTER 2009

Plasterer & Cement Mason



Dominic A. Martell
GENERAL PRESIDENT EMERITUS
1927-2008

nities in the construction industry. Through Helmets to Hardhats, veterans can launch new careers in the building and construction trades that provide competitive wages, excellent benefits and economic security for their families. Vets and military service men and women can access the free

program through the Helmets to Hardhats Web site (www.helmetstohardhats.org) where jobseekers they can find valuable information about apprenticeship programs, civilian career opportunities and connect to one of program's 15 Regional Directors.

Building Trades Medical Screening Program

Jerry Doom was a participant in the Building Trades Medical Screening Program. If you worked construction at a Department of Energy (DOE) site and would like a free medical screening to see if your health has been affected by your work, please call 1-800-866-9663 or visit www.btmed.org.

"When my husband passed away, he was full of cancer," says Rose Doom of her recently-deceased husband, Jerry, a Cement Mason out of OPCMIA Local 135 who worked at the Dept. of Energy Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant on and off for forty years. "Paducah was the first job he ever went on. He walked on the job in 1959 alongside his brother and father."

Through the time he spent on the site, Jerry worked amidst a variety of chemicals, some he wasn't aware he was around and others he didn't even know existed.

Rose recalls one in which her husband was sprayed directly in the face with chromate phosphate. "The doctor said it's what eventually caused the melanoma in his brain," she added.

Jerry had brain cancer. And lung cancer. And skin cancer.

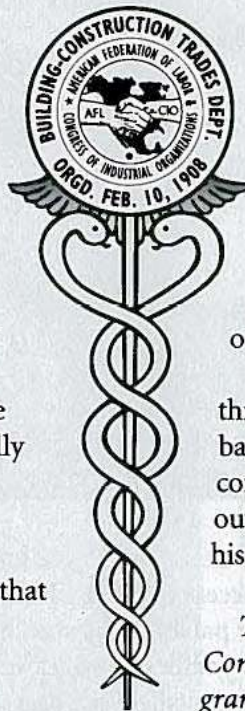
After they filed a claim in April 2005 under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOIC-PA), which enables all former Dept. of Energy construction workers with a covered illness to file, they found the road to reconciliation to be much more difficult than what they had initially thought.

"At first, we were told that you couldn't file unless you had check stubs proving who you worked for," explained Rose. "They also told us that skin cancer wasn't covered when it was."

This was to be the beginning of what Rose describes as a process that has involved a lack of information along with some occasions of misinformation. "Some people were very helpful, but some just didn't know the information they had to give you. This was especially our experience in the beginning."



Building Trades Medical Screening Program locations.



According to Rose, the lack of information and explanation given to claimants is something that needs to be changed because it makes it difficult to the point at which claimants simply give up. "I personally know a lot of workers who have quit the program and others who have just avoided the process altogether even though they have a serious illness."

In spite of this and the fact that it has been over three and a half years since she filed with her husband, Rose is going to continue her battle to receive compensation. Now, however, she must battle without her husband beside her; now, she must battle in his memory.

The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) is a program run by the Dept. of Labor offering workers medical coverage for the illness from the date the claim was filed and a compensation lump-sum payment. If you would like more information about filing a claim please call 1-866-888-3322.