

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Representative Cherelle Parker

DATE: March 29, 2011

SUBJECT: Co-sponsorship of Resolution -- 100th Anniversary of the Triangle Factory Fire

In the very near future, I plan to offer a resolution remembering the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire on its 100th Anniversary.

On March 25, 1911, a building fire at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in New York City took the lives of nearly 150 garment workers, who were primarily young immigrant women. The fire swelled through the top three levels of the ten story building, where factory workers were prevented from escaping due to cluttered work spaces, locked doors, and unmaintained fire escapes. Many workers perished in the fire, while others attempted to leap from windows, to the great horror of emergency responders, who were unable to reach them, and onlookers who had gathered in the street below.

The tragedy of the fire was amplified due to poor working conditions, and the unnecessary loss of life focused national attention on the need for safety regulations in the workplace. The event spurred advocates to strengthen their calls for workers' rights. As a result, many state and federal legislators were compelled to support measures that they hoped would protect working residents and prevent future tragedies. Today, we have a strong foundation of laws that have evolved along with our workplaces that safeguard workers from similar hazards and injustices.

I believe it is important to remember the Triangle Factory workers and their important legacy for workers through this country, and I hope that you will join me in co-sponsoring this resolution.

To be added to the resolution, please contact Germaine Brown in my Harrisburg office at (717) 783-2178 or gbrown@pahouse.net.