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Honoring Missouri's Workforce this Labor Day

Celebrating Labor Day for many of us means spending time with family and friends at picnics and taking road trips. However, the day really serves to commemorate the social and economic achievements of American workers, whose efforts have secured and continue to maintain this country's strength and prosperity. While the modern expression of Labor Day has changed, the meaning has not. The day is still a tribute dedicated to the American worker — a day set aside as a break from daily tasks to spend time with family and friends.



Labor Day — celebrated on the first Monday of September every year — is unlike many holidays that celebrate a specific accomplishment or victory. Instead, this holiday celebrates the efforts of the working man and woman. No matter their occupations, working men and women are the driving force behind Missouri's economic engine, and no one can debate the value of such a constant, thriving workforce.



The first Labor Day parade in New York on September 5, 1882.

Labor Day first began on September 5, 1882 when thousands of people took an unpaid day off of work to march in a New York City parade. The parade served as a unified movement to promote a greater awareness for the dismal conditions that existed for far too many American workers. Soon, the unofficial holiday spread to towns and cities throughout all 50 states. In 1894, Congress passed

an act officially designating the first Monday in September as a legal national holiday to be observed and celebrated. The United States has the highest standard of living in the world thanks to the contributions of past and present workers.

Today, many families are struggling with the downturned economy. Many are looking for work and fighting to make ends meet. However, no matter how dire the situation may be, the spirit of the American worker is resilient and strong. It is not the government that will turn the economy around, but it is truly the efforts of workers in this state that will help our economy recover.

However you choose to celebrate Labor Day this year, keep in mind the Missouri workers who have made it their daily goal to make a living in a way that impacts our state. From ranchers to grocery store stockers, from construction workers to bus drivers, anything on the shelves and anything that exists to make Missouri a better place to live, work and do business can be attributed to the efforts of a Missouri worker. Take pride in our state this Labor Day. Take pride in the very people who have labored in the name of strength, prosperity, and leadership for the good of this state and country.

Contact Me

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions, and concerns. Please feel free to contact me in Jefferson City at (573) 751-2459. You may write to me at Jason Crowell; Missouri Senate; State Capitol; Jefferson City, MO 65101, or email me at:

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