NATCA Honors the 42nd Anniversary of the PATCO Strike

Forty-two years ago, our union brothers and sisters took a remarkably brave and honorable stand for our profession and the safety of the National Airspace System (NAS).

On Aug. 3, 1981, 13,000 Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization (PATCO) members decided to strike for safer work conditions, reliable equipment, adequate staffing levels, and fair work and pay rules.

Two days later, President Ronald Reagan fired all striking controllers. About 875 controllers returned from the picket line to work before the firings, but 11,350 PATCO members stayed out and subsequently lost their jobs.
These men and women gave up their careers and salaries to defend a profession they loved. The costs to them and their families were profound and lasting. Looking back, we remember them and honor their sacrifices, their commitment to our profession, and their bravery in fighting for union principles.

NATCA is the union it is today because our founders never forgot the great legacy of PATCO. As we face current challenges, we must not take our jobs or our union rights for granted.

We ask NATCA members to join us in remembering our PATCO brothers and sisters. We continue to be humbled by their solidarity and commitment. We honor them by continuing their legacy of protecting our profession and the NAS. We must fight every day to ensure the rights of NATCA members are always protected.

**Help NATCA Better Communicate How Six-day Workweeks & Mandatory Overtime Affect Our Members**

NATCA continues to work with members of Congress to make sure that the FAA is hiring and training enough controllers to ensure that our National
Airspace System remains the safest and most efficient in the world.

We all know that U.S. air traffic controllers are stretched thin, with many working six-day workweeks and mandatory overtime. These schedules affect our quality of life and our physical and mental health – and we need your stories to help educate Congress and the aviation community.

People understand that working such hours every week is a lot, but explaining the real long-term consequences will help personalize the issue for our Union’s advocacy efforts. So that we can better communicate how the six-day workweeks and mandatory overtime is affecting NATCA’s members, please fill out the following web form and tell us how you and your family are being affected. We will share some of these stories in our communications, while meeting with members of Congress, and in media outreach.

The web form can be accessed here.

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**Updated NATCA Constitution Mailed to Members and Available Online**

The NATCA Constitution was created to govern members in efforts to advance the status, professionalism, and working conditions of all aviation safety professionals through collective bargaining, political action, and other lawful concerted activity. During the 19th Biennial Convention in Fort Lauderdale, members discussed and approved changes to the NATCA Constitution, Standing Rules, and Policy & Position Statements.

This week, the National Constitution Committee (NCC) has mailed an updated copy of the Constitution to all members. Members can also view and download the updated NATCA Constitution on our website here.
Look for the Updated NATCA Constitution in Your Mail