

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the historical significance of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire in the struggle to improve worker safety standards and protections on the 100th anniversary of the fire.

Whereas on March 25, 1911, a fire, commonly referred to as the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire, broke out at the Triangle Waist Company;

Whereas the factory was located on the top floors of the Asch Building on the corner of Greene Street and Washington Place in New York City;

Whereas the factory conditions were deplorable, and included poor sanitation and overcrowding;

Whereas the factory workers, who were mostly young immigrant women, fought against these deplorable conditions by holding major strikes including what became known as the Uprising of the 20,000 and struck a number of factories, including the Triangle Waist Company, in order to improve conditions shortly before the fire;

Whereas the fire swept through the factory in under a half hour;

Whereas employees were unprepared for the fire because the Triangle Waist Company did not conduct fire drills and locked doors hindered the evacuation;

Whereas 146 of the over 500 factory employees died in the fire;

Whereas the victims were predominantly European Jewish and Italian immigrants who had recently emigrated with their families to the United States in search of a better life;

Whereas in the wake of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire tragedy, people throughout the Nation demanded restitution, justice, and action to safeguard the vulnerable and oppressed;

Whereas the Triangle fire sparked massive protests by people angry at the indifference and greed that led to the Triangle Fire tragedy;

Whereas over the next 20 years, there was a substantial effort to alleviate the most dangerous aspects of sweatshop manufacturing in New York and throughout the Nation;

Whereas Local 25 of the ILGWU, women's and immigrant rights' groups, Jewish and Italian-American organizations, family members, and fire and safety organizations came together then and work together now to fight this long and difficult battle to secure the right to safe and decent working conditions in factories;

Whereas the Triangle Fire raised awareness of the many difficult conditions endured by factory workers and paved the way for worker protection laws;

Whereas on February 17, 2001, the last survivor of the Triangle Fire, Rose Freedman, passed away at the age of 107;

Whereas March 25, 2011 is the 100th anniversary of the Triangle Fire: and

Whereas over 170 unions and community organizations and dozens of family members of the victims have come together to commemorate the Centennial of the Triangle Fire and initiate the creation of a public art memorial to, remember the victims and honor their legacies by continuing to fight for safe working conditions for all workers;

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the historical significance of the of the fire that occurred on March 25, 1911, at the or the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory, commonly referred to as the Triangle Fire, in the struggle to improve worker safety standards and protections;

(2) honors the victims of the Triangle Fire; and

(3) commends all the government agencies, labor unions, industry and community groups that attempted to aid the victims of the Triangle Fire and continue to play instrumental roles in facilitating lasting improvement in worker safety standards and protections.