



No work is insignificant. All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence.

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

NTEU
The National Treasury Employees Union
Chapter 296



What is Labor Day?

- ▶ Labor Day was created to celebrate the social & economic achievements of U.S. workers.
- ▶ The first Labor Day in the U.S. was on September 5, 1882 in NYC. It was planned by the Central Labor Union, and the estimated 10,000 workers taking part had to take unpaid leave to participate.
- ▶ In 1894, Grover Cleveland & Congress declared every first Monday in Sept. a legal holiday. This was done as conciliation for calling the army to bust up the Pullman Railway strikers.



Why Labor Day Matters

- ▶ Labor Unions Have:
 - Shortened the work week from the Industrial Era standard of 61- 84 hrs to 40 hrs per week. Hence, the weekend!
 - Helped to end child labor. In 1882, children as young as 5 years old reported to work on a daily basis.
 - Won widespread Employer-Based Health Coverage and FMLA.
- ▶ Labor Unions continue to unite to fight for income equality, paid parental leave, pensions, retirement, respect, and a just and equitable workplace!

