



Montevideo, February 2nd, 2021

John J. Sweeney, President Emeritus of the AFL-CIO, Passes Away

The Executive Secretariat of the TUCA expresses their condolences on the passing of comrade John J. Sweeney, AFL-CIO President Emeritus, this Monday, February 1.

Comrade Sweeney was president and leader of the AFL-CIO from 1995 to 2009, leading an important stage of changes in American unionism, focused on trade union action and organizing towards more disadvantaged sectors of workers, such as migrants, women and African Americans and determined action to confront anti-union attacks from employers and conservative political sectors.

After his departure from the presidency in 2009, comrade Sweeney maintained his commitment to the working class, assuming advisory duties and supporting, as President Emeritus, the AFL-CIO in its actions for more and better rights. In recognition of his trajectory of struggles, in 2011, John Sweeney received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the United States, awarded by the government of Barack Obama, in recognition of his work on behalf of the workers.

In this moment of pain, we send our solidarity to his relatives, to the comrades of the AFL-CIO and to the entire American working class.

In solidarity,

Rafael Freire Neto
Secretario General