

INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE & WAREHOUSE UNION



1188 FRANKLIN STREET
SAN FRANCISCO
CALIFORNIA 94109
(415) 775-0533
(415) 775-1302 FAX
www.ILWU.org

WILLIAM E. ADAMS
President

ROBERT OLVERA JR.
Vice President

WESLEY FURTADO
Vice President

EDWIN R. FERRIS
Secretary-Treasurer

Former ILWU International President Dave Arian passes: “He provided leadership to our union and served his community”

Former International President David Arian died peacefully on Wednesday, January 2, in his home surrounded by family members. Arian was 72 and had been diagnosed last summer with an aggressive form of thyroid cancer.

Arian rose through the ranks at Local 13 where he was elected to serve three terms as President. In 1991, he was elected to serve as the ILWU's International President. Arian returned to work on the docks in 1994 until he retired in 2009. In 2010, Arian was appointed to the Los Angeles Harbor Commission by Mayor Villaraigosa, and was then re-appointed by Mayor Eric Garcetti.

“Dave was constantly encouraging young people to step forward,” said International President Willie Adams, who was among those helped by Arian. “Dave was a mentor to many young leaders and his influence and impact will be felt in the ILWU for years to come.”

Arian was born in 1946 and raised on San Pedro's 8th Street. He started working the docks in 1965 at the age of 18, following in the footsteps of his father Lou. Some doubted Dave's ability to do heavy, physical work on the docks with his short and slender 130-pound frame, but Arian surprised his skeptics.

Arian and his family helped found the San Pedro Community Action Center in 1966 and supported the Toberman Neighborhood Center, Harbor Interfaith Services and the San Pedro Boys & Girls Club, where he played as a youngster. In 1993, Arian founded the Harry Bridges Institute to educate young workers about labor history and organizing, where he served as president. After retiring, Arian produced a book, *“The Right to Get in the Fight,”* featuring his views on the ILWU and progressive politics that he advocated throughout his life.

Arian is survived by his two children and five grandchildren: son Sean and son-in-law Councilmember Mike Bonin; daughter Justine and son-in-law Ethan Edwards; and grandchildren Jady Rose, Destan, Jacob, Aneka and Keira. Services are pending.

#