

In Memoriam: Robert Upson



The Council 4 union family mourns the passing of Robert Upson, a longtime state Correction Officer who served our members for 26 years as a Council Service Representative and Staff Representative.

Bob began his employment with the state Department of Correction on June 9, 1961, working at the old Cheshire Reformatory, now known as Manson Youth Institute. While working as a state Corrections Officer, he helped to organize state correctional employees at a time when they had no collective bargaining rights and therefore no voice on the job.

In 1976, Bob was elected to serve on the negotiating team for the first-ever Corrections contract. A year later, he helped lead a three-day strike to improve working conditions for DOC employees.

Bob became a full-time Service Representative for Council 4 in 1980, covering the entire state while providing leadership and assistance to thousands of state, municipal and board of education bargaining unit members within Council 4.

"Bob Upson was instrumental in helping Council 4 organize and mobilize public service workers," said Council 4 Executive Director Sal Luciano. "I will always remember Bob as a man with a great sense of humor and a handshake like a vice. We extend our deepest sympathies to the Upson family and we will forever keep Bob in our memory.

We will post any information on arrangements as soon as possible.