



# WORKERS' MEMORIAL DAY

Every **April 28** on **Workers' Memorial Day** we mourn for workers who were killed on the job and we renew our commitment to fight together for safe working conditions to prevent work-related fatalities, injuries and illnesses. All workers, including Passenger Service Agents, deserve the right to a safe job and safe workplace.

Join us as we remember our two **CWA Local 3645** members, both Passenger Service Agents, who died on the ramp in preventable workplace accidents.



On the night of August 11, 2019 at the Charlotte Airport (CLT), **Kendrick Hudson** was driving a tug on an insufficiently lit, very dark area of the tarmac when he hit a piece of baggage he did not see which should not have been there.

The tug he was driving, which did not have any kind of rollover protection, flipped over on top of him and he was crushed to death. Piedmont Airlines was aware of the dangerously dark area because Local 3645 members had raised this concern in the past, but nothing had been done to make the area safer. There also wasn't a program in place to keep the ramp free of debris.

CWA Local 3645 and its members were actively involved in the lengthy investigation conducted by the NC Department of Labor (NC OSHA). Piedmont was found to have violated health and safety standards and was fined. Piedmont fought the citations and eventually signed a settlement agreement with the NC DOL.



**Courtney Edwards** died on the job on December 31, 2022 at the Montgomery Airport (MGM). She was a Ground Handling Agent for Piedmont Airlines. The Embraer 175 aircraft she was working, which was

parked at the gate, had one engine running because of an inoperative auxiliary power unit (APU). The engine was spooling down after the Ground Power Unit (GPU) was connected. Unaware of the immediate danger, Courtney was pulled into the rotating blades of the engine as she passed too close to the engine ingestion zone and was killed instantly.

OSHA found Piedmont never conducted comprehensive training for agents about the deadly dangers of engine ingestion zones. After the fatality investigation, OSHA fined and cited Piedmont for not providing a safe workplace. OSHA found the lack of effective training, communication on the ramp, and clear instructions from supervisors contributed to Courtney Edwards's preventable death. Piedmont has fought the citation and the case will be tried by a judge at the OSHA Review Commission, expected in July 2024.



Here is what you should know and how you can remember Kendrick Hudson and Courtney Edwards as **We Fight for the Living and for Safe Workplaces:**

- Take a moment of silent solidarity with your co-workers on **April 28th** to think about and remember Kendrick Hudson and Courtney Edwards. If you would like to mark their remembrances individually around the time of their deaths, for Kendrick Hudson that would be between 9 p.m. - 11 p.m. and for Courtney Edwards that would be between 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
- **NEVER EVER** walk in front of, or closer than 15 feet minimum, an engine that is running or spooling down with the blades still moving. The intense pressure created in front of the engine, called the 'engine ingestion zone', is strong enough to pull you off your feet in an instant and into the blades of the engine. Simply stay far enough away.
- **Do not** put your life at risk for any reason or task – not to put down a cone, open a cargo door, or board the plane to clean – until the area is completely safe. If the beacon on top of the plane is still flashing or if you can still see the blades of the engine turning, it is unsafe to approach.
- If any vehicle or piece of equipment you use on the ramp is broken or defective and poses a safety risk to you and your co-workers, **tag it out and report it.**
- **Talk to your co-workers** about safety concerns and **work together** to bring these concerns to your supervisor or Station Manager. **This is collective action.** You can also bring your concerns to your local union steward and your local union leadership.
- **Get involved** in health and safety activities, like a health and safety committee. You can speak to your local union leadership about how to do this and about forming a union health and safety committee.