

IP Emeritus Jones dies at 86

Charles W. Jones, 86, who served as International President of the Boilermakers union from 1983 to 2003, and as International President Emeritus since his retirement, died in hospice care in Kansas City, Mo. on April 5, 2010.

Born in 1923, he grew up mainly in Gary, Indiana before beginning a career with the Boilermakers that spanned more than half a century. Jones began work as a construction Boilermaker in 1942 with Local 193 in Baltimore. Following his enlistment in the U.S. Army during WWII and service in the Pacific Theater, he resumed his career with the Boilermakers. He joined the International staff in 1947 as a district representative and went on to serve as an organizer, research and education director, International Vice President, and International President.



Jones hailed from an extended Boilermaker family. His father, brothers, and two uncles worked as Boilermakers. His son Newton B. Jones is the current International President, and his son Charles A. Jones is director of the Boilermaker History Preservation Department.

The late Charles W. Jones was known for his intellect and initiative. During his career, he implemented or expanded programs for organizing, education, apprentice training, and political action. He originated the Boilermakers' Fight Back program that led to numerous successful challenges to unfair hiring practices by nonunion employers, and millions of dollars in recovered wages and benefits. His support for labour-management cooperation in the construction industry helped earn a coveted NOVA industry award in 1996 for MOST, a cooperative venture that addresses safety, training, manpower, and other construction related issues. He also was the chief architect for and proponent of the Boilermakers' Construction Division.

Jones was preceded in death by his wife Ursula M. Jones on December 30, 2008. In addition to his two sons, he is survived by his daughters Donna Jones and Doris Cobb and five grandchildren. Funeral services have not yet been determined.