



# UNION LABEL REPORT

By Jeff Dold, Union Label Liaison

Many decades ago, one of our greatest statesmen, Thomas Jefferson, had this to say, "I have come to a resolution myself, as I hope every good citizen will, never again to purchase any article of foreign manufacture which can be had of American make, be the difference of price what it may." We need to post this on every wall and make it our daily refrain. Had the American public heeded those words many long years ago, we wouldn't necessarily be finding ourselves in the tough economic times that we are in today.

At the risk of repeating myself, I am going to once again dedicate this article to the importance of "Buying American and Buying Union." It can't be repeated often enough; the message needs to be heard.

In light of our recent automaker struggles, I would like to address a few of the misconceptions surrounding the American automakers and their union employees. I've said it before - do your research. I believe a lot of people will

be surprised (pleasantly) by what they discover.

Let's start with our automobiles:

1. GM makes more cars that get over 30 mpg than any other automaker!
2. The most fuel-efficient American full-size pickups have higher EPA ratings than Toyota or Nissan.
3. The Big Three combined, invest more money on Research and Development than any other industry.
4. The JD Power Initial Quality Study scored Buick, Cadillac, Chevrolet, Ford, GMC, Mercury, Pontiac and Lincoln brands' overall quality as high as or higher than most foreign brands, including Honda and BMW.
5. We've gotten ripped because the public doesn't think we're trying to build environmentally. Ford and GM offer more hybrid models than Honda or Nissan.

There is a very popular misconception regarding union workers. A lot of non-union, non-automotive citizens see

us as overpaid, non-productive and just plain lazy. According to the Harbour Report, they measured the amount of work done per employee in the manufacturing field, eight of the ten most productive vehicle assembly plants in North America belong to the Big Three. I'm pretty sure you can't achieve that status by being lazy. As for being overpaid, UAW wages are comparable with Toyota workers.

Enough about the auto industry, the problem is much more widespread than just that. It's everywhere, from the foods that we eat to the stores we shop in. Often, I hear people say that you can't buy anything American made anymore. I say they're not looking. We have a great resource right at most of our fingertips, the Internet. There is a wealth of information regarding American-owned, American-made products and services. We only need to take a moment and look.

When the stove goes on the fritz, take a few minutes, do your research. There is still a lot of name brand, quality appliance makers that are American owned - Amana, Hotpoint and Kenmore to name a few.

Need a new computer? Why not purchase an Apple, Compaq or Hewlett Packard? Don't forget to check these

out prior to purchase, what's American-owned today, may not be tomorrow.

We had quite a few scares thrown at us in the last year as far as our children were concerned. How long are we going to tolerate unsafe, even deadly, unregulated products begin imported and sold for our children to play with? How long are we, as consumers and parents, going to continue to purchase them and put our next generation at risk?

Let's not forget about the whole pet food fiasco either!

We need to take a good, hard look at what we are doing. Take the time to really know what you are purchasing. Educate yourself, your family, your neighbors. If they'll listen, talk!

Or if you're like me and sometimes still prefer the written word, there is a great book available, "How Americans Can Buy American," by Roger Simmermaker. It will be available in bookstores soon; in the meantime, it can be purchased online at his website, [www.howamericanscanbuyamerican.com](http://www.howamericanscanbuyamerican.com). Check it out next time you're online, he has a lot of information and links to websites that sell American-made/owned products.

In closing, I'd like to wish everyone a Happy New Year!

## In Memoriam

The leadership and staff at UAW Local 735 extend their heartfelt sympathies to the family and families of the following deceased members. They will be missed.



Daniel M. Adams ..... 03-22-08	Robert J. Forrest ..... 02-14-08	Ernes Krushlin ..... 10-30-08	Leonard Rachwal ..... 11-21-08
Irvin Aniol ..... 12-05-08	Myrtle R. Freese ..... 05-17-08	Stanley Kuplicki ..... 11-14-08	Carl W. Rains ..... 09-14-08
Leonard J. Aytes ..... 03-13-08	Charles Friedman ..... 03-21-08	Beverly Signorelli-LaVoisine .. 08-26-08	Shirley Ramseur ..... 12-06-08
Joseph Badila ..... 01-13-08	Fred Glacken ..... 09-20-08	Leslie Lawson ..... 10-04-08	Daniel Reich ..... 09-28-08
Eugene Baj ..... 02-10-08	Lawrence Gosselin ..... 09-01-08	Lloyd Lening ..... 05-17-08	William Rounds ..... 12-05-08
William Barnhart ..... 11-16-08	Roy Gowen ..... 04-12-08	Lucille Liss ..... 04-23-08	Shaheed Salahud-Deen.. 01-17-08
Bety Beuschlein ..... 12-01-08	Paul Grace ..... 03-22-08	Thomas Lusk ..... 10-29-08	Glen L. Schlough ..... 01-07-08
Claude Bolton ..... 09-27-08	Irving R. Grenke ..... 04-19-08	Bruce MacArthur II ..... 10-14-08	George Shandilis ..... 05-26-08
Clarence Borener ..... 10-12-08	I. Hall ..... 05-02-08	Steven MacIntyre ..... 03-04-08	Marie Shorter ..... 10-15-08
Verta Caples ..... 04-07-08	Richard Hall ..... 12-04-08	Stirl Maiden ..... 09-13-08	Clifford E. Sims ..... 03-08-08
Sheldon Chusid ..... 03-13-08	Charles L. Hammond ... 04-20-08	Robert H. Mack ..... 03-13-08	Sharon D. Smith ..... 10-20-08
Kenneth B. Clarke ..... 02-19-08	Willo Hammond ..... 07-16-08	Ed Maijka ..... 09-30-08	Eva Syak ..... 03-28-08
Richard Clark ..... 11-29-08	Hubert Hensley ..... 02-11-08	Edward J. Majjka ..... 09-30-08	Lee Trueman ..... 01-16-08
Sylvester Coil ..... 09-09-08	G. Henton ..... 06-05-08	Van Buren Maroney ..... 04-26-08	Lois L. Tucker ..... 06-16-08
Grant Cole ..... 09-04-08	W. James ..... 04-21-08	Russell Maycock ..... 11-20-08	Russell O. Vaughan ..... 05-21-08
Ralph J. Cole ..... 09-29-09	Frank Jaroma ..... 10-05-08	James P. Megyesi ..... 03-13-08	Charles Vespie ..... 04-23-08
James Cousino ..... 11-29-08	Cecil Jones ..... 11-16-08	William Murphy ..... 12-09-08	James Webb ..... 11-24-08
Francis J. Cox ..... 01-16-08	Leslie N. Jones ..... 04-18-08	Paul W. Muscoe ..... 05-14-08	John T. Westlake ..... 09-25-08
Gordon Craft ..... 12-05-08	Glenn Justice ..... 09-23-08	Jerome J. Nowicki ..... 03-06-08	William Wilson ..... 05-07-08
Margaret Crawford ..... 05-10-08	Richard Karbo ..... 03-26-08	George Odette ..... 07-16-08	Merrill E. Wolff ..... 01-14-08
Lucjan W. Cwiek ..... 04-04-08	William J. Karczewski .... 01-05-08	Robert J. Opalewski ..... 10-27-08	Joseph Woodson ..... 09-30-08
Paul E. Decker ..... 09-29-08	Robert L. Keith ..... 01-15-08	Alvin Parker ..... 12-17-08	Robert M. Wontkowski .. 04-02-08
Thomas DeWitt ..... 12-22-08	Raenell Kenyon ..... 06-11-08	Glenwood Parsell ..... 09-18-08	Lloyd T. Yancy ..... 03-05-08
Arthur Ellerson ..... 11-25-08	Florence Kessler ..... 03-14-08	Mattie Pitchford ..... 10-04-08	Hazel Young ..... 01-07-08
Beverly Ellerson ..... 11-23-08	Phillip D. Kessler ..... 05-27-08	James Porter ..... 09-01-08	Nicklois J. Zarr ..... 03-04-08
Richard E. Farr ..... 07-11-08	E.J. Kindall ..... 01-12-08	Richard Pullen ..... 11-30-08	Mitchell Zelek ..... 10-02-08
	Estella King ..... 10-21-08	Alfred J. Purdy ..... 09-30-08	Pietro S. Zuccaro ..... 09-21-08
	Gerald Kim ..... 12-19-08	Peter L. Quick ..... 04-12-08	Edward A. Zmich ..... 05-10-08