

## LETTER FROM PATRICK MARMO ABOUT THE PASSING OF HIS FATHER, PATSY MARMO AND HIS LIFE-LONG ASSOCIATION WITH TWU LOCAL 100

Dear Local 100 President John Samuelson:

I am writing to thank the Transport Workers Union Local (TWU) for its large presence at the wake and funeral of my father, Patsy Marmo. Numerous TWU members attended my dad's wake, funeral mass at Our Lady of Lourdes RC Church in West Islip, and burial at St. John's cemetery in Middle Village, Queens. Also, I would like to thank the TWU for the excellent tribute to my dad that appeared on the TWU Local 100 website, shortly after his passing, that highlighted him being part of the small TWU delegation that marched with the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama in 1965.

The sight of so many TWU members at my father's wake and funeral very much pleased our family and would surely have had dad smiling, if he were able to watch from above. After his family, my father considered his association with TWU Local 100 the next most important part of his life. Since my brother and I were young children, we constantly heard stories about dad's involvement with the TWU.

Dad began working for New York City Transit (NYCT) in the early 1940s as a Bus Mechanic at the East New York bus garage. Following three years in the US military during WW II as a paratrooper with the 11th Airborne, dad became involved with union work, working alongside some of TWU's early great pioneers.

In fact, a few years after he started working at NYCT, he passed the Foreman's exam, but he turned down this promotion and a chance to join management's ranks at the urging of Michael Quill. Dad always thought his calling was to support and help the working person. As an organizer for Mr. Quill's TWU, my dad worked with some great union staff, including Danny Gilmartin, Ellis Van Riper, Matthew Guinan, Roosevelt Watts, John Lawe, Bob Fulton, Sonny Hall, and others, to help build up a TWU membership that was a small percentage of the workforce of NYCT in the 1940s, to a number near 100% a few years later. All told, dad spent almost 50 years working for NYCT and TWU Local 100.

Other highlights of dad's career with the TWU included his involvement with the 1966 and 1980 transit strikes and his becoming pension consultant and community service director for Local 100 which had him functioning as a trustee for the NYCERS pension fund. As a trustee for NYCERS, Dad was always proud of the role that NYC unions played in helping to bail out the city during the financial crises of the 70s.

During the strike of 2005, dad, who was in his 80s, showed up at the East New York Depot to join TWU Local 100 members on the picket line to show his support for their cause. He enjoyed telling them about the strike of 1966 and what that eventually meant to not only those Local 100 members, but just as importantly, to all TWU members who followed them. Dad truly lived his life believing that "once a TWU member, always a TWU member."

During retirement dad would often be seen running errands around town, or attending family functions, proudly wearing his red TWU baseball cap. Always hoping someone might ask him about the cap, so he could tell them stories about how his beloved TWU helped make working conditions so much better for New York City Transit workers. He always considered TWU members to be an extension of his family, and he was always available to support them when he attended general membership meetings after he retired, when he was well into his 70s and 80s.

However, undoubtedly dad's proudest moment as a member of TWU Local 100 was his involvement with the group of TWU staffers that marched with the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama in 1965. Dad very often spoke of that 1965 march and the perils encountered by all who participated. He also proudly reminisced often about Dr. King's work during the 1960s and its impact on the country, and he was always very proud about how he and the TWU played a small role in supporting Dr King's vision for a better America.

In closing, let me again thank everyone at TWU who attended his wake and funeral. Also, thank you for the beautiful Bible that was presented to our family at the wake and for the very nice tribute to dad's passing that was posted on the Local 100 website. Let me assure you that until the last weeks of my father's life, he was constantly watching, reading and talking about the TWU.

Patrick Marmo