

Labor will remember Gallagher

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Gerry Gallagher was a dedicated crusader.

Ten years ago, his campaign for improved safety measures in the construction industry, especially in the hazardous areas of underground work on subway tunnels and sewer lines, earned him a reputation as a non-conforming labor leader not afraid to call a walkout to make his points.

The 64-year-old long-time Mississauga resident died last Saturday of a heart attack.

The outspoken campaigner's methods may have been somewhat unorthodox, but they were effective, and earned him the respect of both labor and management.

Gallagher played a major role in the establishment and expansion of Local 183 of the Laborers' International Union, serving as the local's president and business manager.

As his health deteriorated in later years, he served as director of social services for the local.

He was a member of the city's independent commission on ward boundaries and salaries several years ago and was most recently in the news when he criticized council's use of inmates

from the Mimico reformatory on some parks projects.

His efforts on behalf of labor will be remembered.