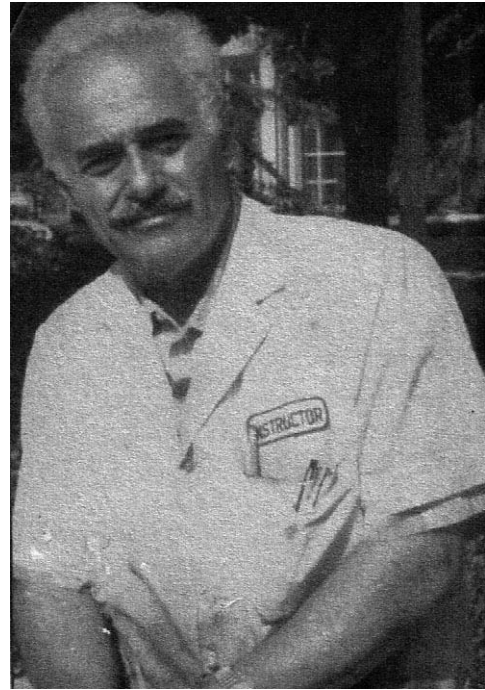


Pete Goodman: Presente!

If you can say one thing about Pete Goodman, it's that he didn't compromise on what he believed. And if there was one belief that for Pete overshadowed all the rest, it was that for working people, this is a rotten system and we can do better. That belief made him a labor activist his whole life, but not just what he would have called a "pork chopper." Pete wanted our labor movement to fight. He wanted it to represent the political dreams that our class is capable of achieving. And he would never have been afraid to use those long-forbidden words – "working class," "capitalism," and even "socialism."



Pete was a left-winger all his life, and a rank-and-file militant. He was raised and educated in an anarchist commune in Stelton, New Jersey built around the Modern School. This foundation never left him. He was too young to go to Spain, although many of his friends did. So he supported the Lincoln Brigade vets from then on, and when World War Two came along, he fought fascism himself in the Merchant Marine.

Pete became a sailor, and later a longshoreman and machinist. The atmosphere of ships and docks never left him - he was a worker his whole life. Finally, he got a job at the University of California, where he fought to give his union what he knew was needed to take on California's largest anti-union employer. Active first in AFSCME, he then helped found the University Professional and Technical Employees, and was one of its leaders for many years.

Pete was a longtime delegate to the Los Angeles County Labor Federation, going to almost every meeting, and then joining his leftwing friends for drinks and argument at a local (union, of course) Mexican restaurant afterwards. No one who sat next to him at one of those sessions will ever forget his sharp and often salty criticism of our many shortcomings.

Because of his stature and longevity in the labor movement, Pete could get away with saying things the rest of us could only whisper. He never feared tilting his sword at any titan who would attack the working stiff. He was on the forefront of social justice issues as a pioneering supporter of women's rights and civil rights. He walked with Cesar Chavez in solidarity with farmworkers. He lived his life speaking out against injustice. For many of us he was a teacher, bringing the history of the labor movement to life and connecting history to the problems we wrestle with today. His work continues through each of us that he touched.

Even at the end of his life Pete had a sense of irony. He passed away on May Day, International Workers Day. We're sure he's smiling about that one. Pete Goodman was a real working class hero. Join us in celebrating his rich life and significant contribution to the movement – and have an Irish coffee in his name.

**Memorial: Sunday - May 23 – 1 - 4 p.m.,
Masters, Mates and Pilots, 533 North Marine in Wilmington.**