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**Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) mourns loss of a Great Man:
Larry Hanley Fought for Working People, Public Transit & our Democracy**

By **Mark Henry**, Chair, ATU NYS Legislative Conference Board and President/ Business Agent, ATU Local 1056

We – and I mean everyone, not just the members of ATU, not just all of our brothers and sisters in labor, not just working people and their families everywhere – lost an impassioned, committed, spirited and effective labor leader, a friend, a mentor, a political strategist, an advisor to federal, state and local government leaders. Larry exemplified the best qualities in labor, advocating not just for the members but the public his members served.

Larry brought people together, going back to his days as an active member and later President of ATU Local 726 in Staten Island. Larry started as bus driver as age 21 in 1978 in Brooklyn as a member of Transport Workers Union Local 100. After he transferred to Staten Island 18 months later, he joined ATU Local 726. In 1980 he walked the picket lines all 11 days of his first strike. By 1984, his brothers and sisters in the local elected him as Secretary-Treasurer. He set an example as part of a NY labor support group for strikers against Hormel in Austin, Minnesota. In January 1987 he was elected local President, and earn re-election five times, serving through 2002.

An effective political activist, Larry took charge of the Staten Island operation of David Dinkins' successful campaign for mayor of New York. He was one of the founders of New York's Working Families Party in 1998. Larry also spearheading the involvement of union members in the Democratic Party with amazing successes on Staten Island.

Larry left Local 726 in 2002 to become an International Representative, becoming an International Vice President in 2004; in that role he negotiated the national Greyhound bus contract for Local 1700. Local 1056 and our New York state local sister local were very active in promoting and supporting Larry's 2010 election at International ATU President.

Larry's made strong support from the International very clear as our locals in New York and across North America fought to improve bus public transit, the life of working people and their families and the case for unions as a bulwark for protect working people everywhere.

At ATU we carry on in Larry's memory and spirit and rededicate ourselves to making a different for our members, the public we serve and working people everywhere.

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