

Thanksgiving Message.

To all Brothers and Sisters at Local 88

With Thanksgiving upon us, it is always a good time to look around and think about how lucky we are. We live in a great country. We don't witness wars; our families and kids are generally safe in our day to day lives. We can take time out with family and friends and spend a 4-day weekend away from work.

I sent a message to the headquarters of the UAW this morning. I wished them the best and urged them to stay strong and stand together. I asked them to fix what I believe are the two most important issues in today's climate – the need to lock in production and keep everything from moving to Mexico, and the need to make dramatic changes to the new hires and grow in conditions of the new members.

I have worked at CAMI for over 29 years, I have been plant chair for 13 years. In all that time I have never seen the plant run as cheap as it is now.

Despite our best efforts, In the past couple of months, they have taken away the Culligan water, 300 Culligan water stations have been replaced by 30 water filling stations, welcome to the assembly desert – last water for 50 miles. The hot food service (that left 11 cafeteria staff with no jobs) is gone, another convenience taken away that our members relied on when needed. And now, they won't even order t-shirts with pockets in them. The pockets are extremely useful to hold pens, your QC stamps, various tools, etc. GM reports over 10 billion dollars a year in profits and we can't get hot food or water. A prison still supplies hot food and water, and you may even get a pocket as they too have a uniform policy. And a prison's attendance policy is likely no worse than ours. This week we had to argue like crazy to make sure the blockheads who run assembly B shift didn't suspend members who called in the day before a layoff – calling in conjunction with planned time off – a layoff is somehow planned time off by our members???

This year we get BIQ 4, we blow away GM in our latest audit, and somehow

we lose food, water and clothing?? When you are thinking of what to be thankful for this weekend, workplace of choice will be at the bottom of everyone's list.

I would like to personally thank everyone on the shop floors, who work and make the best quality trucks in the GM lineup despite how we are managed. At some point GM will put another vehicle into this plant, they really have no choice, this membership leads GM in almost every matrix that GM uses.

Enjoy your long weekend, I will raise my glass and toast each of you – that should give me about 2000 drinks and make me forget about this place for a couple of days.

Mike Van Boekel