

## USA for six-day delivery



**Timothy C.  
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**O**n Sunday, March 24, rallies were held all across the nation. Many Americans participated to save six-day delivery.

The event that I attended was in my home city of Philadelphia. More than 400 people attended the rally to support “USA for Six-Day Delivery” at the Ben Franklin Post Office, located at 316 Market St. It is fitting that the event was held at the Ben Franklin Post Office, because Ben played an important part in American history and was instrumental in the beginning of the Post Office.

I also would like to note that in last year’s postal plan of closures, the USPS intended to close this historical site in Philadelphia. Children and tourists from around the world come to visit this post office. Closing this

post office would be a tragedy for the American public. When you come to Philadelphia next year for the national convention, be sure to visit the Ben Franklin Post Office. It is just a couple of blocks from the convention center.

The rally was led by National Business Agent Bill Lucini, who did an excellent job. Rep. Michael G. Fitzpatrick (R-PA) spoke in support of maintaining six-day delivery. Rep. Robert A. Brady (D-PA) also spoke in support of six-day delivery and stressed the importance of letter carriers and what we mean to the American public and to him personally. He also mentioned how important we are to the elderly and to the small businesses in each community.

In a conversation I had with Congressman Brady, he told me a story. His letter carrier saw something suspicious at Brady’s house one day. On that day, the letter carrier wrote down a license plate number of a vehicle that happened to belong to a man who, as it turned out, allegedly had just robbed the congressman’s home. The suspect was later apprehended and all of the stolen property was returned to Brady, thanks to the quick thinking of the letter carrier. This is just an example of what letter carriers do every day across the nation.

There were a number of other speakers, including a representative from the local AFL-CIO and a reverend who thanked letter carriers for filling his food pantry every year. Also speaking was State Rep. John Sabatini, a representative from United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 1776. Richard Dalton, a letter carrier and former Marine, spoke about veterans issues and the importance of the USPS and six-day delivery.

It was a great feeling to see so many people with their families and friends participate in this rally, aimed at protecting the Post Office. I believe Ben Franklin would have been proud. I started my speech with, “Hear ye! Hear ye! We the people are here today to save six-day delivery.” The difference between today versus the past is that, as postmaster general, Ben would have looked for innovative ways to bring new revenue in to preserve the Post Office. He would never have resorted to cutting services and delivery. More than likely, he would have expanded delivery so the American public would be able to receive goods and services in an expedited manner.

My sincere thanks goes out to NBA Bill Lucini, Ed Morgan, Clay Smith and the many other members who worked tirelessly to make the event such a success.

Thanks to all the people who worked to coordinate similar efforts around the country. It was truly an inspiring day.

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### In Memoriam

On a separate note, I want to extend my deepest sympathy to the Kelly family in the passing of James J. Kelly. Jim was a life member of the NALC and past president of Philadelphia Branch 157. His love and devotion to the NALC was much appreciated. He always had a joke that he could tell you, and he was a true gentleman. Jim and Margaret had 11 children and 17 grandchildren. Our thoughts and prayers are with Jim’s family and friends.