

Proud to Serve is a semi-regular compilation of heroic stories about letter carriers in their communities. If you know about a hero in your branch, contact us as soon as possible at 202-662-2489 or at postalrecord@nalc.org. We'll follow up with you to obtain news clippings, photos or other information.

Honoring heroic carriers

Heroism, like the mail, comes in many packages—think of police officers or firefighters. But for some citizens in need of assistance, their heroes come in the form of concerned letter carriers.

Letter carriers are members of nearly every community in this nation and know when something is wrong. Spotting fires and injuries, they often are the first to respond. The following stories document their heroism. For them, delivering for America is all in a day's work.

Carrier finds unconscious man in middle of road

On May 21, 2021, Bux-Mont, PA Branch 920 member **Michael Till** was driving his vehicle while delivering mail on his route when he saw an unconscious man lying in the middle of the roadway. The carrier immediately made a U-turn and went over to check on the man, who it turned out was barely breathing.

"It sounded like he was snoring," Till said.

The carrier called 911 and told the operator that the man was breathing, but not normally, and the operator told him to begin CPR. When Till said he didn't know CPR, "they said, 'put your phone on speaker,' and they walked me through it," he recalled. With the help of the 911 operator, Till administered chest compressions, and the man began to breathe normally again.

Paramedics soon arrived on the scene and took over; the man was taken to the hospital and survived. Till later met the man, who expressed his gratitude.

Till's rescue was covered by Fox News 29. "I just did what I thought I had to do. Hopefully someone would be there if they found me laying in the street, too," Till told the news station.

The carrier was also recognized by Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (D-PA) as a "Hometown Hero of the week." "I don't

feel like a hero," Till said. "All I was doing was helping someone out."

Group effort saves woman

Davida Peele was driving home in her personal vehicle on May 5 after a day of delivering the mail. Waiting at a red light, she saw a car rolling into her side of the road.

At first, the eight-year carrier and West Palm Beach, FL Branch 1690 member thought the car had been knocked to the wrong side of the road after a collision, but then she heard yelling and saw people gathering around the car and realized that the driver was incapacitated. Peele put on her brake and hazard lights and joined several good Samaritans who had left their cars to help the driver, a woman having a medical emergency. Peele immediately began directing traffic so that approaching cars would not collide with the errant car or with the people helping the woman.

After other Samaritans pushed the car off the road and called for help, Peele went home. The actions of Peele and the other helpers were captured on a traffic camera and broadcast on local TV news stations.

Later that month, on Mother's Day, Peele's thoughts turned to the woman she had helped. "It could have been much worse than what it was," she told ABC affiliate WPBF-TV, "but because we all banded together, no matter how big or small, she got to celebrate Mother's Day."

Peele said she doesn't think that she deserves much praise. "If it were me, I would hope a whole lot of people would stop, too," she said.

Patron pinned by car

As Northeastern New York Branch 358 member **Ann Beatty** was delivering on her route in February, she

passed a customer, Jason Duell, fixing his car. The car was propped up on a jack, and one of the back tires was off while Duell worked under the car.

As Beatty went by, they exchanged a few words, with Duell telling her that he was replacing the car's brakes. As the carrier got back in her LLV and prepared to drive away, she saw the back end of Duell's car come down, and she heard a scream.

Beatty said that she immediately "knew what had happened"—the jack had slipped, allowing the back end of the vehicle to fall on Duell. The carrier ran to help her customer. When she reached Duell, she saw that his ankle was pinned by the car.

Beatty tried to get the jack back in place, but the car had come down too far for her to brace it back into position. Looking around, the carrier spotted a shovel that she thought could be used to pry the car off of Duell's leg.

As she ran back with the shovel, "the gentleman by then had pushed the car off his leg with all his strength," she said, just enough to free his ankle.

Once free, he asked the carrier to check his ankle. Beatty didn't see any blood, but suggested that they call 911 for assistance. Because he had left his phone inside his house, she called emergency services and waited with Duell until they arrived. While they waited, Beatty also called Duell's girlfriend to let her know about the accident.

The customer received medical attention, and it was determined that his ankle was badly bruised; thankfully, no bones were broken. The Duell family sent Beatty flowers the next day to thank her for her help.

The carrier denied having a major part in the rescue. "Jason was the true hero, lifting the car up as he endured the excruciating pain," she said. "I just happened to be there." **PR**



Davida Peele



Ann Beatty