

Letter carriers and the mail on social media

Various news stories and interesting anecdotes that celebrate letter carriers and the mail have been appearing on social media. The following are some that have come to the union’s attention. If you come across a story you’d like us to consider featuring, send it to social@nalc.org.

New York carrier muscles through freezing weather

The city of Syracuse, NY, nestled southwest of Lake Ontario, is a cold and snowy place in the winter. In early February, when a local TV station decided to warn residents about how to protect themselves against the elements, the reporter turned to Branch 134 member **Dan Reed**—as the station said, “There may not be much better people who know how to deal with the weather this time of year than a mail carrier.”

Reed said his primary line of defense is multiple layers—and to stay on your feet. “I got an extra hoodie on, gloves, the hat, the pullover hat, and you keep moving so that keeps you warm.” He also told viewers to bring supplies.



Dan Reed

“You just prepare. I brought some extra hot chocolate and some little chips to keep the fuel going because, at the end of the day, it will beat the heck out of you.”

Reed also emphasized the mental aspect, as well as the gratitude from customers. “You just can’t quit because it’s cold, so you just keep that in mind and you power through,” he said. “You have to set your mind to it sometimes, especially knowing a storm is coming. People are always saying ‘Thank you’ or ‘I can’t believe you are out here,’ and ‘You are doing great,’ and, you know, it’s nice to hear that.”

Oregon carrier keeps his dance partner

In the early days of the pandemic, Portland, OR, carrier **Ian Simon** delivered daily to a home where a little girl named Avalina lived. Avalina would watch through the living room window and delightedly dance upon spotting the letter carrier. The Branch 82 member began mirroring her dance moves—he would dance up to the front stoop, wave to Avalina and dance away merrily, waving goodbye—until the next day.

The girl’s father, David, was quoted in the June 2021 issue of *The Postal Record* as saying that the joy Simon delivered along with the mail “meant a lot to me and my family.” He said the world “needed something to feel good about” while so many were quarantining at home.

Fortunately, there is something more to feel good about—on Feb. 3, David posted a video montage of the pair dancing through the seasons from 2020 on up to this year, revealing that the toddler and the letter carrier are “still friends... and they’re still danc-

And they're still
Dancing...



Ian Simon and Avalina

ing.” The tweet added that the whole thing “reminds us to be grateful for the little things that bring us joy.”

Within a few days, the video had garnered 50,000 views and dozens of positive comments. It appears that the dance parties between Avalina and Simon are warming many more hearts than just their own.

Beloved Missouri ‘mail lady’ retires

On March 4, Sedalia, MO, carrier **Julie Taylor** retired after 29 years with the Postal Service. Taylor, known to many residents as the “mail lady,” holds the record for the longest tenure of any female city carrier at the Sedalia Post Office, according to *The Sedalia*

Democrat. “For a while,” she said, “I had ‘mail lady’ on my license plate. I’ll go into Walmart, and people will say, ‘Hi, mail lady.’”

The *Democrat* inquired about Taylor’s experience, and the Branch 82 member explained that mail delivery isn’t as easy as it looks, and the Postal Service is ever-changing. Taylor reminisced on the early days of her career, noting that “We had more first-class letters and magazines. That was the bulk of our mail... so, skip ahead now to today, and we have a lot less first-class mail, but what we focus on most is the packages now. So, that’s why it’s gotten harder, because you have all these heavy packages.”

After getting a business degree with a management major from the former Central Missouri State University in Warrensburg, Taylor applied for a job at the Sedalia Post Office, considering a career in management. She spent a year working as a carrier, during which she fell in love with the job and decided to stick with it. “I was like, I love this job too much. I don’t want to get into management. Call me crazy, but that’s all I’ve done now.”

For the past decade, Taylor has also been involved with helping organize the local Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive, and has served as branch treasurer.

She especially enjoyed the constant exercise, as well as meeting the residents. When asked whether she would do it all



Julie Taylor

Photo by Faith Bemis / Sedalia Democrat

Social media (continued)

over again, Taylor smiled and promptly answered, “Yes.”

Britain’s Royal Mail says goodbye to Queen Elizabeth II stamps

Many Americans intently followed the life and passing of Queen Elizabeth II in Great Britain, but the postal side of the events slipped more under the radar.

For the past 57 years, the silhouette of the queen’s profile has been featured on all Royal Mail stamps, but the final set of stamps with the iconic silhouette was issued in late February. This final set of 12 stamps commemorates the 100th anniversary of the Flying Scotsman locomotive, the first train to make the nearly 400-mile trip from London to Edinburgh non-stop.

A Royal Mail spokesman said that all future special stamps will feature a silhouette of King Charles III, who succeeded his mother following her death in September. The New King Charles III Definitive Stamp goes on sale this month.

Postal Service issues floral stamps to celebrate spring

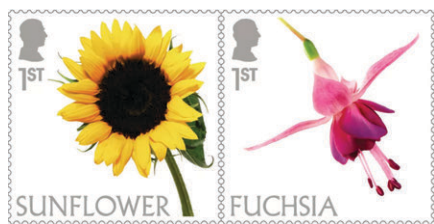
After a long, cold winter, everyone looks forward to a beautiful spring,

and the Postal Service is recognizing that desire by issuing the new Tulip Blossoms Forever stamps. The *Southern Maryland Chronicle* reported that the “first-day-of-issue event would take place at the Wooden Shoe Tulip Festival in Woodburn, OR, on April 5.”

The *Chronicle* explained some of the history of the tulip: a member of the lily family, it originated as a wildflower in Central Asia as early as 1000 A.D. Hundreds of years ago, Dutch immigrants to this country brought the first tulip bulbs; today, more than 1 billion tulip bulbs are imported to the United States annually.

The Tulip Blossoms Forever stamps feature closeup views of 10 tulips in a rainbow of colors, as “a celebration of spring and the enduring beauty of tulips, which continue to captivate and inspire us.”

The Tulip Blossoms Forever stamps aren’t the only stamps getting their day in the sun—in February, the Postal Service released Floral Geometry Stamps to celebrate the beautiful patterns present in nature. The stamps display geometric shapes arranged to resemble the symmetry flowers, and were created with watercolor paints and foil to add extra shimmer. **PR**



The first British stamps to feature King Charles III

The USPS’s new Tulip Blossoms Forever stamps

