

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](mailto:postalrecord@nalc.org). We'll follow up with you to obtain news clippings, photos or other information.

## Honoring heroic carriers

**H**eroism, 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.

### Vet rushes to help gunshot victim

With only a few stops left on his route, T-6 **Roosevelt Knight** noticed a couple he knew from his route getting into an argument on an April afternoon. "I saw this young lady arguing with her boyfriend," he said. The North Florida Branch 53 member, who joined the Postal Service in 2005 after 23 years in

the Army, didn't think much of it. "Then I heard a gunshot," he said.

"Why did you shoot me?" he heard the woman say.

Knight, whose Army service included combat experience in Iraq, Bosnia, Somalia and Honduras, and who also is certified as an emergency medical technician (EMT), rushed to aid the woman. Meanwhile, the boyfriend, in shock at what he had done, tried to help, too. Knight urged the boyfriend to move aside. "He was out of it," he said.

The carrier called 911 and immediately elevated the woman's legs so her blood would flow to her head and vital organs. He used one of his shirts to put pressure on the wound and slow the bleeding as he spoke to the woman, trying to keep her awake. "She was in and out of consciousness," he said. When she had trouble breathing and appeared to be vomiting, he turned her sideways. He checked for an exit wound in her back in case she was bleed-

ing from there, too, but found none.

Emergency responders soon arrived and took her to a hospital. Knight stayed to tell police what he had witnessed. The boyfriend was arrested. Unfortunately, the woman later died, but not before Knight had done all he could to save her.

Knight has helped people in medical distress on his route before, including some suffering from apparent heat exhaustion and convulsions.

Knight didn't even mention the incident when he returned to the post office—the regular carrier on that route heard about it from his customers. "It's not like it was something to brag about when I went to the station," he said. After many years of combat, Knight took it in stride, though he of course wishes he could have saved the woman's life. "I think about it every day," he said. **PR**

Roosevelt Knight



## Neighborhood watch

**O**n a chilly February day, **Joe Gansky** was walking his route, approaching a home where he knew that two young girls lived.

Gansky, a member of Springfield, IL Branch 80, spotted one of the girls leaving the back gate. "She took off running" across the street, he said. Knowing that

she was too young to be out alone, Gansky knocked on the door and alerted the girl's father. "He grabbed his shoes

and coat and ran off to find her," Gansky said. The father soon found the girl safe nearby. "You may feel like it was a small thing, knocking on our door and asking about our daughter when you saw something out of the ordinary," the girl's family wrote in a thank-you note to Gansky, "but if you had not made that choice, I don't know how long it could've been before I knew she had left." Gansky was humble about it. "I would think anybody else would have done the same thing," he said.

**A**s a former police officer, **Eden, NC Branch 3712 member Joseph Edwards** is used to keeping an eye out for people in need. Driving his LLV on his route last spring, the city carrier assistant, who started carrying the mail in August of 2022, spotted a man holding a dog on a leash. The man was in obvious distress. "You could tell he was in pain," Edwards said, "and his dog was going crazy." Edwards carefully parked his vehicle and went to help the man, who said he had been out walking his dog when he

began experiencing severe back pain. Edwards helped the man stay upright and held his dog, then called 911 and the man's wife. When emergency responders arrived, they asked Edwards to help put the man on a stretcher. His wife arrived and took the dog. When Edwards encountered the thankful man again with his dog, he knew he had recovered. "I still keep in contact with him," Edwards said, "and make sure he is OK." **PR**



Joe Gansky



Joseph Edwards