



STEVE FILSON

CENTRAL OREGON BRANCH 1937

On Jan. 17, 2012, Central Oregon Branch 1937 letter carrier **Steve Filson**, a 15-year veteran of the Postal Service, was on the workroom floor at his post office in Bend when he noticed that it seemed vacant. When he saw a co-worker running from the parking garage, he knew something serious was happening. He walked to the garage and saw a crowd of people. They were gathered around fellow Branch 1937 member—and his good friend—**Jim Lascurin**, who was lying on the ground with blood around his head.

Filson leaped into action. Relying on his training as a Navy corpsman—he served from 1984 to 1988—and as a lifeguard, Filson checked the stricken carrier and found no breathing or pulse. He performed CPR while speaking to his friend, hoping to get a response, until emergency responders arrived and took Lascurin to a trauma center. Filson and his co-workers then went back to work to get the mail delivered.

“Despite the agony of waiting for news of his close friend’s fate, Steve got his job done that day,” NALC President Fredric Rolando said. “That makes his life-saving heroism even more impressive.”

“That was a long day,” Filson said about waiting to hear Lascurin’s fate while on his route. “Later, I received a phone call from the pastor whom I had spoken to prior to leaving the office for mail delivery. He told me, in a happy voice, that Jim was going to make it.

“That made it a good day,” he said.

A doctor at the hospital where Lascurin was treated later said that he had experienced a form of heart failure that only one in 20 victims survive, and that Filson’s actions had saved his life.

“Steve Filson reacted to the situation and took quick action, relying on his life-saving skill to save a co-worker against the odds,” the judges said. “His actions were truly heroic.”

“I’m just glad I was there,” Filson said. “I would have hated it if the outcome was different.” Lascurin, who has retired from the Postal Service, is doing well, Filson added. “Every time I see him, he’s smiling.”

