

Evangeline Johnson

Detroit, MI Branch 1



2016 SPECIAL CARRIER ALERT
HERO OF THE YEAR

Evangeline Johnson was delivering the mail on a warm May morning when she saw smoke coming from a patron's house. She went to the back yard to investigate and discovered that the back of the house was engulfed in flames.

"I knew someone lived there and I ran to the front door to alert anyone who might be inside," Johnson said. "A woman answered the door and ran to grab her child. They had been sleeping." Both escaped. Johnson called 911 and firefighters soon arrived and extinguished the blaze. The firefighters said the family had been lucky that Johnson was able to wake up the family before the fire spread throughout the home.

Her heroic actions led the judges to name her the Carrier Alert Hero of the Year.

Johnson said she was glad to be at the right place at the right time. She had chosen to deliver on that street first thing in the morning because it had little shade and the air was still cool in the morning. When she first noticed the smoke, she thought, "Who is barbecuing this early in the morning?"

But she doesn't feel like a hero. "I always help people on my route," Johnson said. The hero award is "a bit overwhelming, because I think anyone would do the same thing."

That morning, the Heroes of the Year judges said, Johnson demonstrated "the four C's of being a letter carrier—carrier, cool, calm, collected.

"She did something that saved an entire family," they said.

