



NALC

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Bulletin

NALC Heroes for 2016 honored in Washington



NALC's 2016 National Heroes of the Year (from l): Lars Edleblute; David Crestik; Evangeline Johnson; Mark Pizzo; Brad Gentz; Colleen Maiorano and Thomas Dlugolenski of Syracuse, NY Branch 134; Patrick Byrne and Michael Murphy.

their well-being and they care about their safety.”

The Heroes event was held on Sept. 21 in the nation’s capital. Attendees included the union’s resident national officers, U.S. Postal Service executives and leaders from other postal unions. The annual ceremony highlighted the special acts of courage and compassion performed by seven NALC letter carriers, as well as an entire NALC branch, to improve lives—or save lives—along their route.

A panel of independent judges reviewed more than 100 stories about heroic and humanitarian acts published in *The Postal Record* between July 2015 and June 2016 and selected this year’s heroes from among those featured.

“I would submit to you that the heroes gathered here today have exhibited the very essence of what leadership is all about,” Rolando said. “They saw an urgent danger or an unmet need—and they stepped up. They evaluated the situation, they devised a plan, and they took action. In so doing, they demonstrated alertness, empathy, bravery and decisiveness. And then, rather than seeking personal credit, they simply moved forward—doing their job with the same quiet professionalism as before.”

The NALC president presented each honoree with an award certificate and a special lapel pin that the carrier can wear to highlight the distinction:

- **Mark Pizzo**, a member of Rock Hill, SC Branch 1003, who saved a girl by fighting with a pit bull that had her head in its jaws, was honored as NALC’s 2016 National Hero of the Year.
- **Brad Gentz**, a member of Mason City, IA Branch 471, noticed a boy sitting in a wheelchair on his mail route and transformed the young man’s life by participating with him in marathons around the country. He is the 2016 Humanitarian of the Year.
- **Lars Edleblute**, a member of York, PA Branch 509, saved a boy who ran from his mother during a heavy downpour and jumped a fence onto a highway. He is the 2016 Eastern Region Hero of the Year.
- **Michael Murphy**, a member of Hazelwood, MO Branch 5847, tackled a cinderblock-wielding man attacking women in two cars. He is the 2016 Central Region Hero of the Year.
- **David Crestik**, a member of San Diego Branch 70, spotted smoke coming from a home and carried an injured resident to safety. He is the 2016 Western Region Hero of the Year.
- **Evangeline Johnson**, a member of Detroit Branch 1, helped a woman and her daughter escape from a house engulfed in flames. She is the 2016 Special Carrier Alert Award honoree.
- **Patrick Byrne**, a member of Lynn, MA Branch 7, helps others break through the stigma of substance abuse by telling the story of losing his own son to an overdose. He was presented with NALC’s 2016 Special Education Award.
- Letter carriers from **Syracuse, NY Branch 134** delighted a seriously ill young man by organizing a parade of postal trucks and other community service vehicles to welcome him home after months in the hospital. They received the 2016 Branch Service Award.

You can find links to all of the coverage, as well as hear the heroes themselves telling their stories, on the NALC website at nalc.org/heroes.

Bargaining for a new National Agreement continues

NALC and the U.S. Postal Service announced on May 20 that the bargaining period would be extended beyond the midnight expiration of the 2011-2016 National Agreement. This development came after 90 days of bargaining over the terms of a new agreement, culminating in a week of intense negotiations.

“We are making real progress and have been continuing productive conversations since we got back from our 70th biennial convention in Los Angeles,” NALC President Fredric Rolando said. “We are committed to remaining at the table as long as we have a realistic chance to reach a deal that is good enough to send to our active members for ratification.”

As bargaining continues during this extended period of negotiations, the terms and conditions of the 2011-2016 contract remain in effect. Any change in the status of contract negotiations will be posted at nalc.org and sent through the NALC Member App for smartphones via push notification.

“The men and women who deliver mail throughout this vast country take their job seriously as they provide Americans with the most affordable and efficient postal services anywhere,” NALC President Fredric Rolando said as he welcomed a large audience to the 2016 NALC Heroes of the Year Awards luncheon. “But their commitment to the families and the neighborhood goes way beyond that. Every day, letter carriers help people who need help—and they sometimes save lives in the process, and sometimes at great personal risk.

“They don’t do these things because they are supermen or superwomen,” Rolando said. “They do them because they are familiar with the communities that they serve and they know when something’s not as it should be. Because they are often the first ones on the scene. Because they’ve watched the families grow and they’ve watched the children grow up over the years and they care about



NALC President Fredric Rolando was the Heroes of the Year Awards’ master of ceremonies.

NALC Member App a huge hit

Since it was introduced at the national convention this past summer, the NALC Member App for iPhone and Android smartphones has become a hit with members. More than 15,000 letter carriers have installed the app on their phones as of mid-October, and hundreds more are putting it on their phones every day.

Reviews on the Apple App Store and Google Play Store have been overwhelmingly positive, with average ratings of 5 stars and 4.9 stars, respectively.

In many ways, the app expands on the notification system of the e-Activist Network by being broader and sending out personalized notifications about everything the union does. Once you’ve entered your interests, any time a message is sent out about that interest, your phone will alert you that you’ve received the notification.

When you install the app, it’ll ask you for your home ZIP code, so it can give you the correct legislative information. You then sign up for notifications based on your interests.

From the app’s News tab, you can see all the latest news items from nalc.org. For those interested in the union’s legislative and political agenda, the Government Affairs section has tools for you. The app makes it easy to access Workplace Resources, by clicking on that tab. And there’s also a tab for Member Benefits.

Most rotating calendars don’t take holidays into account, or they give you only one year of NSD dates. This app resolves all of that. Whether you have a rotating or fixed schedule, you can see your non-scheduled days for years in advance. And when your NSD lands on a holiday, the app shifts the holiday designation to the correct day, meaning you’ll know exactly how many days you have unscheduled.

The app is free and available in the Apple App Store for iPhones or Google Play for Android phones. For more about installing and using the app, visit nalc.org/app.



PERF: Helping postal families in need

After killing hundreds in Haiti and elsewhere in the Caribbean, Hurricane Matthew made landfall in South Carolina on Saturday, Oct. 8, dumping torrential rains on the entire Southeast, causing massive flooding and other damage from Florida through North Carolina. More than two dozen Americans have died as a result of the storm—more than half of them in North Carolina, where residents were still reeling from the aftermath as this *Bulletin* was being prepared.

By Oct. 10, volunteers, U.S. marshals and water-rescue crews had used helicopters, boats and massive trucks to save people stranded throughout the North Carolina. In some locations the flooding had topped the roofs of cars. Many postal facilities were either cut off or flooded and NALC and postal officials were still scrambling to make sure all of the postal workers were safe.

Meanwhile, communities in south Louisiana are still recovering from the catastrophic flooding that devastated the area in August, killing 13 people and causing \$8.7 billion in damage, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

By the end of September, the Postal Emergency Relief Fund (PERF) had received claims from more than 180 postal employees in Louisiana, including about 60 coming from NALC members. Claims from postal employees who were in Hurricane Matthew’s path are just now starting to get filed.

PERF helps active and retired postal employees, both management and craft, whose homes, as a result of a major natural disaster, were completely destroyed or left uninhabitable—displacing the postal employees and their families for an extended time. The fund is governed by postal employee and management groups and provides small relief grants to help qualifying victims of such circumstances re-establish residence and to help replenish basic necessities in the aftermath of a devastating loss.

Visit postalrelief.com to learn more, and consider giving to PERF during the Combined Federal Campaign.

Carriers help ‘Deliver the Cure’ for MDA

NALC President Fredric Rolando joined representatives from the 11 highest fundraising NALC branches (announced in the April issue of *The Postal Record*) in Dallas recently to participate in a Muscle Walk for the Muscular Dystrophy Association, NALC’s only official charity.

Team NALC raised more than \$9,000 at this event. Additionally, a few local branches joined and raised an additional \$8,000.

Visit facebook.com/DeliverTheCure to see a photo album from this and other events, and consider supporting MDA during this year’s Combined Federal Campaign.



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