



A first-class love



Photos courtesy of Gus Ruiz Jr.

Ron and Peggy McMahan clock out together for the last time, as both Branch 1707 members retire from the Hayward, California, post office.

Ron first saw Peggy at the time clock. She was just getting ready to start work when he approached. “Would you go out sometime?” he asked.

“I would if someone asked me,” she replied. “You can call me.”

That stopped him for a moment, she recalled, because the call would have been long-distance. She told him he could call collect if he wanted.

Ron called, but not collect.

Three decades later, Ron and Peggy McMahan clocked out together, as husband and wife, retiring from their jobs as letter carriers at the Hayward, California, post office. Both Branch 1707 members walked their last mail route on July 2.

After their first encounter at the office, Ron and Peggy dated for nine months, and then he proposed. “I’ll think about it” was her first reply. Eventually she said yes, and their postal marriage began.

Ron’s experience with the Post Office has always been a family affair. When he was 9, he would often visit his dad, a postal worker. “I’d hang out in the swing room and play, waiting for him to get off from work,” he said. It seemed to make sense, then, that he would become a carrier and meet his wife in the office.

Having the same job made for good conversation on their hour-long commute to and from the Hayward Post Office.

“Since we did the same job, we understood each other’s perspectives,” said Peggy. “By the time we got home, we were talked out about work.”

“We talked about how many dogs tried to bite us each day,” joked Ron.

Ron retired with 43 years of service, Peggy with 36. Both were Million Mile drivers. According to the USPS, they are the only known married couple in the Postal Service to reach a million miles of safe driving, or to retire on the same day.

Ron and Peggy left behind hundreds of co-workers and customers who will miss them, they said.

“Our customers share their lives with us,” Peggy said.

“We’ve watched as families have grown, as children have been born,” said Ron, “and we keep an eye out for whatever is going on in the neighborhood.”

Their first task in retirement was a relaxing Caribbean cruise. Their next step is to decide what to do with themselves: Take a class? Find a new job? Volunteer? Whatever they choose, said Peggy with a laugh, it will be “something that doesn’t involve getting up before dark or walking in the rain.” ☒