

Proud TO SERVE

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, submit any news clippings, photos or other information to: Postal Record, NALC, 100 Indiana Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001 or e-mail us at postalrecord@nalc.org.

Despite the sometimes extraordinary circumstances, most letter carriers take their role as heroes in stride. From being the first on the scene to going above and beyond to make sure all is well in the neighborhoods they serve, these men and women make a difference in the lives of patrons who find themselves in situations where a little extra help is just what is needed. Here are the stories of some of those special letter carriers.

Carrier prevents crime spree in Michigan neighborhood

While on his route April 12, **David Bartaway** noticed an unfamiliar person in the neighborhood. The carrier observed the man as he walked up to various houses, knocking on doors. Later that morning, Bartaway saw the same man walking around customer John Lemmer's yard, looking for an open door or window and getting on the porch to do the same.

The Western Wayne County, MI Branch 2184

member grew concerned and called the local police to inform them of the suspicious activity. Once police arrived, the man had already left the scene, but Bartaway was able to provide police a description and location of the possible suspect. Within minutes, officers were able to locate the man and make a felony arrest. They obtained a confession and the subject was eventually charged as a habitual offender and sentenced to prison.

Lemmer had returned to find footprints outside his garage door and a broken doorjamb and door, but the criminal was unable to get inside. "In today's society, special attention is rarely given, but David has gone the extra mile and prevented a potential disastrous situation," Lemmer wrote to the postmaster.

This was not the first time Bartaway has been recognized. He was named the NALC's Central Region Hero in 2004 for risking his life to divert a truck heading toward people attending a festival in Trenton, MI. "The streets of Trenton are a much safer place with the keen eyes and ears of Mr. Bartaway," Sgt. Richard Lyons of the Trenton Police wrote to the postmaster. ☒

WHILE WALKING A ROUTE AS A PTF on Nov. 1, **Sandra Goodwin** of Lawrence, MA Branch 212 had just delivered the mail to a residence in an apartment complex for the elderly in North Andover. As she moved on, she heard someone yelling from inside the apartment and then a loud alarm. Goodwin went inside and found an elderly woman in distress. Her skin was a sickly gray and she was struggling to talk. Goodwin called 911 and waited for para-

medics and police to arrive, and stayed with the woman to keep her calm. The woman had apparently set off a medical alarm to summon help. When she knew the woman was in good hands, Goodwin continued on her route. "I don't feel like I saved a life," Goodwin said. "I just did the right thing and called 911." The woman's daughter told the regular carrier the next day that her mother probably would have died without Goodwin's prompt action. ☒



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