



## Time to change horses

***'I'll be somewhere down in Texas if you're looking for me.***

The lyrics are from a George Strait song that I believe best describes my time as a national officer. I hope you will take the time to give it a listen. I don't have any words that can describe the feelings inside of me right now, other than it's been a humbling experience. I have been an elected officer of the NALC since 1973, starting out as the vice president of the TSALC District 3 some 37 years ago. Just saying "thank you" doesn't seem to be near enough, knowing you were always there for me and my family over the years.

The person who sacrificed the most is my wonderful wife, Carol. For 40 years, Carol has put up with me being on the road doing union business and now she will have

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to put up with me being home. On the lighter side, one of us may need a union steward after the first month.

I have had the honor to serve as the executive vice president of the NALC because you, the membership, believed in our union. But let me make this clear: The NALC has never been about one person; it's about a cause. Our union will face some of the toughest challenges ever over the next 24 months. We must show our full support of the NALC as we move into contract negotiations and deal with the new laws that Congress tries to pass in 2011.

Our union brothers and sisters before us sacrificed greatly so you and me can have the pay and benefits we enjoy today. Now it's our turn to protect the future of the letter carriers of tomorrow. Whether you like it or not, we are federal employees and our jobs will always be under attack from the private sector. Being a letter carrier is a great job, and it's up to you and I to keep it that way by giving to COLCPE, joining the e-Activist Network and attending NALC branch meetings. These are three easy

ways to protect your family's future. On top of that, they beat standing in the unemployment line.

**I ended my travels for the year by doing a "Get out the vote" push in Scranton, PA, with Branch 17 and my good friend for life, Tom Gavin. Thanks again, Scranton, for being pro-union and for taking care of an old cowboy.**

On my way back to Washington, I stopped off at Branch 115, Wilkes-Barre, PA, and made its branch meeting, too. Brother Scott Correll, it was good to get a chance to visit with the membership. Keep up the good job.

My fall itinerary also took me up to Pittsburgh for a retirement lunch on the river, and to the Connecticut congressional breakfast. Thanks, guys—I enjoyed it!

My last two trips as an officer were to the Ft. Worth, TX Branch 226 retirement dinner and Lubbock, TX Branch 2589 installation dinner. That's right—it was just like being home!

**Speaking of home, I ran across the picture below of the true heroes of NALC Region 10 from 20 years ago. From left to right: LBA Richard Tyler; Carol Mullins, my boss; LBA and pilot Frank Herrington; Mary, our secretary; the real leader, RAA Pete Goodman; and some young cowboy NBA called Mullins. My, how time flies!**

Thanks for the memories and I hope to see y'all somewhere down in Texas, on my mail route! ☒



Region 10 office staff, circa 1990