

Separate tragedies claim two letter carriers' lives

Hao Yun Lin

Hao Yun “Eddie” Lin, a member of Garden Grove, California Branch 1100, died June 3 from head injuries he received when a Rottweiler lunged at him while he delivered mail on his route in Oceanside, a seaside community about halfway between Los Angeles and San Diego.



Postal inspector Silvia Torres told the *North County Times* that the dog had apparently pushed the 33-year-old Lin to the ground sometime late in the afternoon on May 25.

According to the *Times*, police received a phoned-in tip about the incident and found Lin lying in the street, suffering from an apparent head injury. He was taken to a nearby hospital, where doctors placed him in a medically induced

coma to try to control severe brain swelling.

The paper noted that a coroner’s report listed Lin’s cause of death as “blunt head trauma.”

“Dog attacks can be exceedingly dangerous,” NALC President Fredric Rolando said. “They can happen at any time, in any location, and the results can be horrific.

“The thoughts and prayers of the entire union go out to Lin’s family and friends.”

The letter carrier is survived by his wife, Teri, a 10-year-old daughter, a 4-year-old boy and a 5-month-old baby girl.

Lin’s wife described her husband as devoted to his family.

“He was a very sweet guy,” she told the *Times*. “He was very responsible. He took care of his family, and he loved his kids.”

The paper reported that the dog was euthanized at the owner’s request.

Postal inspectors were continuing their investigation as this issue of *The Postal Record* went to press. ☒

Christine Jones

Christine Jones, a member of St. Louis, Missouri Branch 343, was killed June 15 after the tree the letter carrier used for shelter during a thunderstorm was struck by lightning.



KMOV-TV

A neighbor told the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* that he spotted Jones on another neighbor’s porch before the storm hit, then watched her head to another house. Later, he said he heard a loud “boom,” and when he went to his front door, he saw Jones lying face down under a sweetgum tree.

The paper noted that the lightning bolt appeared to have partially split the tree and scattered bark onto nearby lawns.

Branch 343 shop steward Kiesha Wiley told the *Post-Dispatch* that Jones’ customers “all told me what a friendly, helpful person she was,” adding that Jones had dogs and exotic birds as pets. “She’d really light up when you’d get her talking about her hobby,” Wiley said.

Neighbors also described Jones, who worked

out of the Jennings Station, as “a very friendly lady who always had a smile.”

Branch President Bill Lister described Jones as “a dedicated, hard worker,” and said that her fellow carriers were looking into setting up a trust fund for her 7-year-old son, Dillon.

Jones is the daughter of Delbert Jones, also a member of Branch 343, who carries mail for the Creve Coeur Station.

“Our deepest sympathy goes out to Christine’s family and her union brothers and sisters,” said NALC President Fred Rolando. ☒

Post office to be named for killed carrier

The Senate passed a resolution on June 16 to name a New Orleans post office in honor of Roy Rondeno, Sr., a member of New Orleans, Louisiana Branch 124, who was killed October 2, six days after his legs were crushed after the driver of a car lost control of her vehicle, which then slammed into Rondeno as he sorted mail at the back of his postal van (see the November 2009 Postal Record). The 34-year veteran carrier, known as “Deno” to his friends and co-workers at the Uptown Station, was just weeks away from retirement when he died. The post office is located at 2000 Louisiana Avenue in New Orleans. The resolution was awaiting President Obama’s signature as this magazine went to press. ☒