



Message delivered

One, three, five, one—man, did you get the job done. How impressive is it that if the NALC wants to get a message out to America, all it takes is an alert from President Rolando and the members will deliver it on cue?

I'm of course referring to the more than 400 Save America's Postal Service rallies held on Sept. 27 all across the country. Thousands of members of the four employee unions of the United States Postal Service joined forces with our families, friends and the members of our communities to send a message to the nation and to Congress.

Our collective purpose during the informational rallies was to visit the home office of each member of the House of Representatives, to thank those members who had signed on as co-sponsors of H.R. 1351 and to encourage those who had not signed as co-sponsors to do so.

The videos, photos and media coverage from those rallies are still coming in. And they are impressive. Thousands upon thousands of union members lining city streets—some in pouring-down rain—all across America with one collective message: Congress caused this problem and Congress can fix it. One, three, five, one—Congress get the job done.

It's your dedication to staying informed and in tune with the true issues facing the Postal Service that we made the day a success.

Your efforts had an immediate impact:

- As a result of the rallies, several additional members of Congress signed on in support of H.R. 1351. As of the writing of this article, there were 225 co-sponsors to H.R. 1351. (Rep. Darrell Issa's Postal Destruction Act still has just two: himself and Rep. Dennis Ross.)
- In addition, several members of Congress signed on to H.Res. 137, a resolution that supports six-day mail delivery. As of the writing of this article, the resolution had 205 co-sponsors.
- National media coverage on the true financial problems of the Postal Service also picked up. A direct result of the rallies was for "The Ed Show" on MSNBC

to run stories about USPS two nights in a row. Several nationally known columnists also took a critical look at the issue and determined that the Postal Service's crisis is political in nature, not financial.

It was truly an incredible feat, and you deserve the credit. You delivered our message with perfection—to both your communities and to the media. Getting in front of a camera is not easy, but those who did made it look simple. That's because our members know what they are talking about.

Delivering a message on that massive of a scope usually tends to evolve into the childhood game of "pass it down"—a story starts with one person, and by the time it's gone around the circle, it has changed and barely resembles the original version. You all would be "pass it down" champions.

Despite everything else that is going on in your lives and on the workroom floor, you remain focused on the task at hand. It was a true testament to your dedication to staying involved and being informed. You made it happen.

The members of this great union will never cease to amaze me. Whether it's rallying to save the Postal Service, collecting money for MDA, collecting food for the hungry, putting out fires, thwarting crime, saving lives, keeping an eye on the elderly, volunteering to deliver medicine in times of biological attacks, watching over entire communities, donating money to those affected by natural disasters, standing up for the middle class, fighting for the right to collectively bargain, defending our contract, or delivering the mail day in and day out—your efforts do not go unnoticed or unappreciated.

Mere words can never express the unbelievable honor it is to be a part of the National Association of Letter Carriers, nor can I ever truly explain what a privilege it is to be one of its leaders.

But our mission, as you know, is not complete. We cannot rest until Congress acts—both quickly and responsibly. We have a lot more work to do, so stay tuned. You will be called upon again to take action. And when that happens, I have no doubt you will deliver again. ☒