

# Why six-day delivery is so important



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**H**ave you heard some members say that they want the week-end off and that they don't understand why the union is pushing to maintain Saturday delivery, or that the union cares only about jobs and more members?

Let me explain the importance of this issue. First, don't fall for management's tricks to divide and conquer us. Their comments, videos and web information are all geared to divide us. The reason we are pushing for Saturday delivery is for the benefit of all of our members, both active and retired. Let me simplify it: It's about *you*. A healthy, thriving Postal Service is good for our members, the American people, and the businesses of America. If we don't fight to protect Saturday delivery, we open the doors to privatization. Last year's Senate bill included a provision

So why am I saying something about this? It is because some people seem to be listening to the Postal Service's statements or people are just thinking of themselves. Don't be fooled!

**Let me take you back in my time, 43 years ago when I** started as a letter carrier. In the first week of being a letter carrier, I was told that Saturdays were going to end. And I have heard that same wolf-cry every year. As you can see, that did not happen.

In the early '80s, the talk got stronger on eliminating Saturdays, and Congress came to our aid with the continuing resolution. This provision has been added to the budget every year since then. Just think about that: Congress took the initial step to protect the Postal Service from those who wanted to start to privatize it. The House and the Senate are made up of both Republicans and Democrats, and they recognized the need for the Postal Service to continue. That is why it is so important for you to write to your congressional representatives in support of continuing six-day delivery.

**This brings us to today. Protection of the Postal Service,** which is our bread and butter, is of the foremost importance for our long-term good. So when you hear someone say something about eliminating Saturday, everyone should stand together in unity to protect the Postal Service, because we are a union that is united on this issue. Stand together like our brothers and sisters did in 1970 when they went on strike, which gave us the benefits and wages you earn today.

Together, we can and we will overcome this. We need everyone working to protect Saturday delivery. This is a red, white and blue issue. America needs us, and they want us.

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that would have permitted private companies to deliver mail on days when the Postal Service did not deliver. We definitely don't want that to happen.

The Postal Service was created for the people, and we must preserve it. Our future is built on sustaining the new growth of the package delivery generated by the Internet. This new growth not only helps the Postal Service and its employees, it brings new commerce to the companies that mail their products. We need to provide these services and more types of new services for businesses. We need to satisfy the American public—that is how we will preserve the Postal Service. Actually, I hope we go to seven-day delivery. Why? Because it gives us an advantage over our competitors. No one else delivers on Sunday, and we could handle the additional influx of packages over the weekend on that day.

## Change to the holiday pecking order

**The new contract brought about a change to a provision** of Article 11, so I thought it was appropriate to indicate the change in this month's *Postal Record* article. The Das award changed Article 11, Section 6 D, on page 16. It now provides for the new city carrier assistant to be designated in the holiday pecking order. The city carrier assistants language replaced the transitional employees language from the old National Agreement. This was the only change made to Article 11.