

NALC remembers, honors Sombrotto

A year after the death of President Emeritus Vincent R. Sombrotto, NALC gathered in his home city of New York to remember his life and honor his work.

On the early afternoon of Jan. 11, NALC held a memorial service at St. Francis of Assisi Church. NALC President Fredric Rolando offered his remembrance of the former NALC president, who served from 1978 to 2002.

“We’re here to celebrate an extraordinary man and to take joy in his memory and in the prosperity of spirit he helped create across the country in the homes of hundreds of thousands of letter carriers,” Rolando said.

“All of us here are the beneficiaries of Vince’s amazing career,” he said. “We are grateful and have dedicated our lives to doing what we can to advance the cause he dedicated his life to—making life better for America’s working families.”

Additionally, NALC Secretary-Treasurer Jane Broendel and Executive Vice President Timothy O’Malley did readings at the service.

That evening, a dinner was held at the Manhattan Center, the same location where New York Branch 36 held its strike vote in 1970 and where Sombrotto led the charge for the wildcat strike that ultimately reshaped the union and the Postal Service.

Local members remembered Vince as a down-to-earth, rank-and-file guy, who rose to the occasion when it was needed most. Attendees also saw the premiere of the short video, “Remembering Vince.”

Former Postmaster General Jack Potter offered his own fond remembrances.

He told a story of how Sombrotto played basketball with Potter’s father, and that when Sombrotto and Potter negotiated, Vince always reminded him of where he came from.

“I respected Vince because he was somebody I knew I could work with,” Potter said. “He earned the respect of everyone at the Postal Service.”

At both the memorial and the dinner, several of Sombrotto’s children spoke about how, even though their father sometimes had to be away on business, to them he was always their dad. And they understood the importance of his work.

“Other kids talked about their dads being police officers,” Stephen Sombrotto said, “but my dad commanded an army of letter carriers. How cool is that?” **PR**



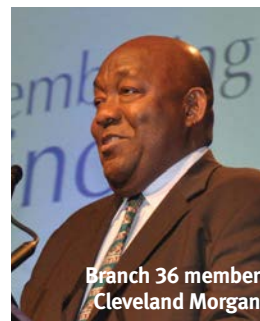
NALC President Fredric Rolando



Members of the Sombrotto family



Vincent J. Sombrotto



Branch 36 member Cleveland Morgan



Jack Potter



Executive Vice President Timothy O'Malley



Secretary-Treasurer Jane Broendel



St. Francis of Assisi Church in New York