

In memory of Alton Cargile Hall III



Manuel L. Peralta Jr.

I write this month's column to share information about a tragedy that cost the life of a letter carrier.

Mid-afternoon on Nov. 14, letter carrier Alton Hall, a member of Las Vegas Branch 2502 for almost 20 years, was in the performance of his duties driving his vehicle through an intersection. Another driver headed to the same intersection blew through a stop sign and struck Alton's vehicle.

It was estimated that the other vehicle was traveling more than 60 miles per hour at the time it struck the carrier's LLV. The other driver is reported to have been distracted and did not pay any attention to the

clearly visible stop sign.

News reports indicate that after the other car slammed into his vehicle, the LLV flipped over three times, coming to rest upside-down in a yard at an intersection. Before coming to a rest, Alton was ejected from the LLV and died at the scene of the accident.

“Our minds protect us when we first become aware of a tragedy such as this.”

That evening, I received a call from a retired member of my branch, now living in the Las Vegas area, alerting me to the news item that he had just seen on the local news broadcast. I searched and found news coverage of the incident. I found myself watching the items repeatedly and reached out to the local branch president for information. The image of the upside-down LLV forever will be etched in my mind with the knowledge that we lost a brother in our union.

Our minds protect us when we first become aware of a tragedy such as this. We want to not believe what happened and seek something to prove that it didn't, but reality sets in as we hold on to disbelief.

The memorial information that I received indicates that Alton served in the U.S. Air Force for 23 years, and during his career he worked directly with the Air Force Thunderbirds in Las Vegas. He retired from the Air Force in 1996. Our membership records show that shortly thereafter, he entered the Post Office as a letter carrier, becoming an

NALC member right away.

I spoke to D.C. Clark, Alton's co-worker at the Sunrise Station in Las Vegas, and he shared a few thoughts with me: "He was an outstanding co-worker loved by all who worked with him." D.C. said that they would often hear the Thunderbirds fly overhead, and when asked what that sound was, Alton would say, "That's the sound of freedom."

On Sunday, Dec. 6, dozens of LLVs accompanied Alton's family during the procession leading to the memorial services held in Las Vegas.

Alton is survived by his wife Christy, to whom he had been married for more than 40 years; his son Shannon; his daughter Heather; and his five grandchildren, Amber, Colton, Haven, Emily and Alexander.

If you wish to send a message to the Hall family, please send to: Alton Hall family, c/o Branch 2502, NALC, P.O. Box 97106, Las Vegas, NV 89193.

The accident that took Alton's life was the other driver's fault. Alton had the right of way.

In closing, be reminded that we need to watch out for the other guy, as they don't watch out for us.



Above, left: Las Vegas Branch 2502 member Alton Hall, shown here on 2015 Food Drive Day



Above, right: The procession of LLVs leading to Hall's memorial services in December