



# Delivering a comedic take on the letter carrier life



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**—Terry Flippo**

**"I eat, sleep, work and draw,"** says **Terry Flippo**. "I draw every morning, seven days a week. I wake up at 5 a.m. and draw before I go to work."

The Rockville, MD Branch 3825 member has put his artistic skills to use by creating "Deliver Me!"—a web comic that illustrates the humorous side of postal life.

"I just wanted to share a little bit of our day-to-day as letter carriers," Flippo said. "When I look around at the stuff that goes on, you just shake your head."

He began his web comic in November 2017, by creating a "Deliver Me!" Facebook group, where he shares his new comics. (Flippo also occasionally shares on the U.S. Postal Maniacs Facebook page and other letter carrier-related sites.)

"After 32 years on the job, I can't say I've seen it all, but I have seen an awful lot," the carrier said. After he had been telling family and friends for years about his postal tales, they convinced him to commit those tales to paper to be shared further.

"It can be a challenging and rewarding job," Flippo

says, "but there's also a humorous side that deserves to be seen as well."

Flippo said he'd been drawing ever since he was a kid. Over the past couple of decades, he taught himself how to make comic strips through trial and error, and he has taken a few community college courses on it.

"You kind of just pick up how they work—the setup and the punchline," he said.

The carrier grew up reading comic strips like "Beetle Bailey" and his all-time favorites, "Calvin & Hobbes" and "Peanuts." But he compares his own "inside postal humor" comic strip to "Dilbert," which he says showcases "corporate bureaucracy and office shenanigans."

When he started with his comic, the first 30 strips were titled "Postage Due," but when he realized there already was another comic strip with that name, he changed it to "Deliver Me!"

Flippo said he gets ideas for his comic from things he notices at work. "You're looking for it; you really start to see it," he said.

When he gets a spark of inspiration while at the post office, he'll quickly jot down ideas to jog his memory later.

"Coming up with the idea is the hardest part, and making it fit in four panels," he said.

Being a letter carrier, you get to know people, he says. So far, only one strip has been based on his experiences. Most of the comics, he says, are "stories I've heard."

His strip depicts carriers in everyday postal life. The main character is both his alter ego and an "every carrier," he says.



Terry Flippo works on his "Deliver Me!" comic strip, which has been collected into a book for sale on Amazon.

"I try to mix up the cast a little bit."  
 Each pen-and-ink strip takes two to three hours to do. He posts a new one online three times a week—Sunday, Wednesday and Friday.

The Facebook group gives Flippo an opportunity to share directly with fellow carriers. Viewers will "like" and post comments on the comic strips. "My goal is to develop a community where letter carriers can share and discuss the ups and downs of this career we have chosen," he said.

The community gets to play a part, too. "People started sending me ideas," Flippo added. "When people take the time to comment, it's great. It keeps me going."

Flippo is happy to be able to interact by commenting back. "I always thank people for giving ideas," he said, and he gives credit to those people when those ideas result in a comic.

In addition to his thrice-weekly strips, Flippo has created a 92-page book, also called "Deliver Me!" It is a collection of comics from his first year.

I had people on the page asking me, 'Are you going to put out a book?' " he said. So that's exactly what he did. He found a self-publisher that prints on demand and sells through Amazon.

Most of Flippo's co-workers don't know that he does the strip, but he is known for another artistic reason around the post office. When his fellow carriers retire, he is recruited to draw caricatures of them, which are then framed and given as a gift. "Everyone knows me for doing that," he said.

On occasion, the carrier branches out to other drawings. For a limited time, Flippo offered sketches to people who have left reviews of his book, and he also designed the festive cover of this issue of *The Postal Record*.

Flippo plans to keep going with his comic "as long as I have ideas," he says. He hopes to compile a book of strips each year.

You can check out Flippo's strips on the public Facebook page by searching for "Deliver Me!" **PR**

## Flippo's favorite comic strips

