

Carrier wounded during Las Vegas shooting

In the last issue of *The Postal Record*, we brought you the story of Garden Grove, CA Branch 1100 member **Paul Gallegos**, who helped others during the mass shooting at a country music concert in Las Vegas the night of Oct. 1. This is the story of another letter carrier who also was there, **Gilbert Segovia** of Los Angeles Branch 24, and who sustained a gunshot wound while, again, helping others.

Segovia was standing near the stage when the shooting began that Sunday night. The letter carrier initially thought he was hearing firecrackers, not gunshots. But then he saw people in the crowd falling to the ground, wounded, and saw others fleeing in a panic. Realizing what was happening, Segovia led his wife, Alicia, and several family members toward a safer place.

"If we weren't going to be shot, we were going to get trampled over," Segovia said. "I told them, 'Let's go. Let's get going.'"

Throughout the crisis, Segovia relied on his military training to act calmly and decisively. Segovia, 40, started carrying the mail in Los Angeles in 2001. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 2005. Upon leaving active duty in 2013, Segovia returned to the Postal Service.

As he led his family members to safety, Segovia came across a woman on the ground with a gunshot wound to her leg. Using one of the towels he had brought to the concert, Segovia applied pressure to slow the bleeding until someone else dragged the wounded woman to safety.

Segovia then encountered another woman lying motionless with severe injuries. Segovia led his wife and some family members to take cover behind a wooden crate inside a vendor's



This photo of Gilbert Segovia (r) and his wife, Alicia, was taken at the concert.

booth. He told them to stay there and went back to help the gravely injured woman. He applied pressure to her wounds with another towel and searched for a pulse.

"All of a sudden, my leg was on fire," Segovia said. "I didn't feel the impact, but I knew I had been shot." He had been wounded in the left calf.

Not knowing how many shooters there were or where the shots were coming from, Segovia worried that a gunman was moving toward them. "The gunshots sounded like they were coming from the stage area," he said. He thought to himself, "the shooters are getting closer."

With his leg bleeding heavily, Segovia went back to his wife and fled the area with her, the other family members and a few strangers who also had taken cover. They ran through a parking lot.

Other concert patrons were fleeing on foot and in cars. Despite their pleas, drivers refused to stop their cars to take Segovia to medical care. "We're on our own," he thought.

They sought refuge in a nearby building. Segovia wrapped his belt around his fist and broke a window. With Alicia and the others, Segovia entered the building. More people seeking cover joined them. They hid in an office and barricaded the door. One woman helped Segovia stop the bleeding from his leg as he lay on the floor. The group called 911 for help, then hid silently until authorities arrived and took Segovia for medical treatment and the rest to safety.

Now back home, Segovia is recovering from his leg injury with the support of his fellow carriers at Branch 24. He hopes to eventually return to his route, but the wound caused nerve damage that doctors say could take a year or more to heal.

Segovia has since found and reunited with most of the people who hid in the building, including the woman who helped him with his wound. They have become close friends. "She was a hero," he said, "and someone I will always be grateful for." **PR**