News

Letter carriers killed by COVID-19

This special memoriam honors letter carriers known by NALC at press time to have died from COVID-19.

s of the second week of May, more than 80,000 Americans have died as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. More than 1.5 million Americans have been infected by the virus. The numbers can be numbing, and the tragedy can seem abstract. But letter carriers know the reality of the pain and suffering caused by the pandemic because we are not sheltering in place. As essential workers, we continue to work and face the risks of interacting with the public and our fellow postal employees, while we do all we can to keep ourselves and our families safe from the COVID-19 virus. Unfortunately, hundreds of us have contracted the viral disease, even if we can't usually know whether we were infected on the job or not. Tragically, at least 14 letter carriers have died due to this coronavirus.

"We mourn the loss of our brothers and sisters in this unprecedented health crisis," NALC President Fredric Rolando said. "NALC offers its prayers and support to their families, because they are part of our letter carrier family too."

The loss of these carriers occurred in the weeks surrounding Workers Memorial Day on April 28, which we observe each year to remember workers who have died while on the job or due to injury or disease caused by their work. This year's observance is made more poignant by the increased risk of COVID-19 exposure that all active letter carriers face on the job.

"Whether or not they contracted the virus while working, the loss of these carriers shines a light on the heroic and dedicated service that letter carriers are providing to a nation that needs their help more than ever," Rolando said. "Letter carriers are bringing supplies, medication, election ballots, checks and vital information to households isolated from the world, and along the way, are delivering a sense of connection and hope."

Let us remember and honor the letter carrier victims of this terrible pandemic. **PR**

