

Honored and proud



**Nicole
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During these difficult times, the honor that I have to be a letter carrier and the pride I feel in being a union member continue to grow by leaps and bounds.

Never has our country needed letter carriers, and our fellow postal employees, more than during this pandemic. In fact, the results of a recent poll made the United States Postal Service the most valuable and essential “company” to the American people in a crisis.

As letter carriers, we have always gone above and beyond, each day out on our routes and in our communities. The stories that are printed in this magazine in the “Proud To Serve” section are a testament

to that selfless dedication to our customers. Letter carriers run toward burning buildings, act when they see a crime being committed, come to the aid of children, keep an eye on the elderly, perform numerous acts of kindness and just plain save lives. But this year, these acts and the steadfast dedication to the customers we serve have been a truly bright and shining beacon cutting through the darkness.

“One customer summed it all up with a note to a carrier that read: ‘Thank you for bringing my mail! I can count on you even when the world goes crazy!’ ”

Because of your never-ending dedication and extraordinary service, letter carriers have once again delivered normalcy in a very not-so-normal life. In fact, I think one customer summed it all up with a note to a carrier that read: “Thank you for bringing my mail! I can count on you even when the world goes crazy!”

And, over the past few months, we also delivered democracy like never before, as millions more Americans voted through the mail in this month’s election.

Every day, in every corner of this country, we as letter carriers are serving the American people to the best of our abilities in extraordinary times. For that, we should all continue to be deeply honored to wear the letter carrier uniform—a true symbol of service.

I’m also proud to be a union member, and that pride has grown because of what union members and union companies have done during the pandemic—a topic that has not been covered enough.

When word had spread that hospitals were low on supplies, several union companies stepped in to address the problem. Their stories were published by the AFL-CIO Union Label & Service Trades Department, and I wanted to share some of them with you.

United Auto Workers (UAW) members at Ford are making face shields, hospital gowns and respirators. The automaker has made more than a million face shields since converting its facility and is using airbag material to make hospital gowns. The union car maker has also joined forces with General Electric to help produce more ventilators. UAW members at a General Motors facility in Indiana have also been producing ventilators.

International Association of Machinist members at Boeing are making 3-D printed face shields and also cloth face masks.

Teamsters, machinists, operating engineers and food workers at Anheuser-Busch are using breweries to make and distribute hand sanitizer. Union members at Wheatley Vodka and GEO Specialty Chemicals are doing the same, producing millions of bottles of sanitizer.

Members of the Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transport Workers union are producing metal nose strips for the volunteers across this nation who are making homemade face masks, and United Steelworkers members at American Roots are making face shields and face masks for front-line employees.

For all of these efforts, I am very proud to be a union member—something this country needs more of.

Finally, as we honor our veterans on Veterans Day this month, I want to thank all of our letter carrier members who have served our country in the armed forces. Although I am not a veteran, I am profoundly humbled that so many of our members are. Let us be sure to thank the men and women who serve or have served in our military for the sacrifices they and their families have made for this country.

Please be safe; I thank you sincerely for all that you do every day.