

Three Generous Donations Recently Made to PERF



Linemen work to restore power after a tornado hit Palmetto, LA, on April 10, 2021.

Photo by Brad Bowie/The Acadiana Advocate

Stamps.com has donated \$475,000 to the Postal Employees' Relief Fund (PERF) as part of its special promotion that late-night comedian and host John Oliver launched last year on his show, "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver," to promote and support the Postal Service.

Oliver's show staff worked with Stamps.com to launch a line of "Last Week Tonight" branded stamps that were available last June. This generous donation will allow PERF to help about 235 postal workers and their families in times of need.

PERF also received a \$70,000 donation from Oh Boy Records in Nashville. The company was launched in 1981 by John Prine, an American country folk singer and songwriter who died on April 7, 2020, from COVID-19. Prior to launching his successful music career, Prine was a letter carrier and NALC Branch 11 member in Chicago from 1964 to 1969. His stint as a letter carrier was interrupted when he was

drafted into the Army in 1966. He served for two years as a mechanical engineer in West Germany before returning to Chicago and his mail route.

According to *Rolling Stone*, his mail route provided the time and space for Prine to reflect on the extraordinary characters and emotions that defined his music: "He often discussed the way that working as a postal carrier gave him the freedom and security to hone his craft as a songwriter. He was just one of countless hard-working Americans who have found a steady job with the USPS, serving a crucial function in our democracy, and building a life of dignity for themselves."

The singer/songwriter was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2019. In 2020, he won a Grammy for Lifetime Achievement. And this year, he won a Grammy posthumously for Best American Song and Performance for "I Remember Everything."

Prine never forgot the Postal Service,

and he made sure that PERF was a beneficiary of his good fortune. Oh Boy Records Director of Marketing Eileen Tilson and Director of Operations Jody Whelan, Prine's son, joined a March 12 Zoom meeting on which PERF presented them with a plaque and thanked them for the donation.

PERF was the recipient of another recent contribution as well. Postmaster General Louis DeJoy showed his support of the relief fund with a generous donation of \$76,000.

You can help your fellow postal employees—active and retired—whose homes have been destroyed or left uninhabitable by natural disasters, with a donation to PERF. Also, consider working with businesses in your community to educate them about PERF and ask for their support of this worthy effort.

The easiest and fastest way to donate is to send your check to PERF, P.O. Box 41220, Fredericksburg, VA 22404-1220. **PR**