

Letter carriers and the mail on social media

Various news stories and interesting anecdotes that celebrate letter carriers and the mail have been appearing on social media. The following are some that have come to the union's attention. If you come across a story you'd like us to consider featuring, send it to social@nalc.org.

Beloved California carrier retires

Frank Beronilla served the Santa Clara, CA, community for 36 years. He started working at the Postal Service in 1987, and he explained to *The Los Altos Town Crier* that he stayed for so long because of the people. The Branch 1427 member befriended everyone—he even recalled a customer's wedding that he attended early on in his career, labeling it “easily the most important event in my career” due to meeting his future wife there. They eventually had two children.

Beronilla was a fixture in Santa Clara, a friendly face who knew every customer by name and always had a smile. According to his customers, Beronilla walked his route and went out of his way to deliver packages. One customer, Maureen Godwin, noted Beronilla's kindness when she had to



Frank Beronilla

Photo courtesy *The Los Altos Town Crier*



The Greenwood Village City Council presents a plaque to Jim Davalos.

relocate for six months on account of an apartment fire—he kept track of all her mail and packages until she could move back.

On Jan. 27, Beronilla said his goodbyes and retired with plans to relax and possibly build a cedar-strip canoe.

City council honors retiring Colorado mailman

Jim Davalos, who served as an Englewood, CO, letter carrier for 18 years, retired in January.

In response, 21 people came to the Greenwood Village City Council meeting to honor and share stories about the Centennial Branch 5996 carrier. A few residents presented him with a plaque, which thanked Davalos for “20 years of excellent service” and for “the many lives you’ve touched with your tremendous work ethic and heart of gold.”

One customer, council member Judy Hilton, said that Davalos has been a fixture in the neighborhood, and “has been very tactful, gentle and positive with all of us.”

Another customer, Katie Kleeman, thanked Davalos for loving their community and noted that he always attended parties, birthdays and funerals for the residents.

Davalos's retirement plans include getting a trailer and playing golf in all 50 states.

California carrier shares heartwarming retirement video

On Dec. 29, 2022, Canoga Park, CA, carrier **Anthony Vives** retired after 24 years with the Postal Service. The Branch 4006 member immediately filmed a video of himself for his wife and daughter, beaming and celebrating his retirement: “I’m done. Thank you, Lord. I’m gonna go home now,” Vives says in the video.

Anthony Vives



His daughter, Belle Vives, posted the video on her TikTok account, and so far it has earned 750,000 views and has been picked up by an ABC 7 news program in Los Angeles.

Belle told ABS-CBN News that her father is “one of the most likable

people ever. He would take time to have five-minute conversations with each customer, every single day, so he personally got to know them. That's why they love him so much. He knows them all by name, the kids, the dogs." On Christmas, the residents would give Vives gifts. "They became like family to me," he said. He loved his customers—though he developed knee problems from walking and was offered a transfer to a department that would allow him to use a service vehicle, he declined, as he didn't want to leave the residents in West Hills.

To celebrate his retirement, Vives's customers threw him a block party. The carrier apologized for retiring and said he would miss all of them, including the dogs.

Vives has been spending his retirement relaxing, as well as preparing for the retirement party his daughters are throwing this month. He has a trip to the Philippines, his home country, planned in July.

Kevin Pinkerton

Photo by Greg Lehman,
Walla Walla Union-Bulletin



Washington carrier reflects on career

Walla Walla, WA, carrier **Kevin Pinkerton** has been working for the

Postal Service as a letter carrier for 15 years. Though winter brings cold temps and long hours, the Branch 736 member doesn't mind it. "The job's got to get done," he told the *Walla-Walla Union Bulletin*.

In fact, Pinkerton loves his job. "In general, it's been a real good experience," he said. "It's kind of nice seeing people when they're excited to get something. It's neat when there's kids, and they see there's a present coming ... or their parents will hand them something, saying, 'Oh, this is from Grandma and Grandpa.' "

Pinkerton also noted his involvement in Operation Santa, which he called a "letter adoption" where individuals can go online, adopt a kid who sent a letter to Santa Claus, and send them the gift they asked for.

Pinkerton says he feels blessed to have this job. "It's definitely been a lot more work than I had known about prior, but it's been a great job," he said. "There's a lot of really friendly people that are happy to see me, wishing me a good day, wishing me happy holidays, looking out for my safety, telling me to keep warm, asking if I'm staying safe."

New Jersey carrier by day, TikTok star by night

Morristown, NJ, carrier **Emmanuel Jean-Pierre** decided one day that he needed a creative outlet, and so he turned to TikTok, where he became "Manny the Mailman." The Branch 272 member has gained 215,500 followers from posting videos while on his lunch break, telling funny stories about his job or giving delivery tips.

Just recently, Jean-Pierre posted a video saying that he wished that he could prank someone into thinking

Emmanuel Jean-Pierre and his book, *Manny the Mailman and his Magical Misadventure*



they're dreaming, a video creating analogies between mail trays and mental health struggles, and a video discussing the animal skulls and pounds of raw meat he once found in a customer's mailbox during a full moon.

Jean-Pierre, is a master of traditional media, as well. He recently published a book called *Manny the Mailman and his Magical Misadventure*, where Manny delivers to a town of fairy tale creatures. But when an adventurous elf drags Manny into helping the magical creatures, Manny has to rush through the tasks in order to deliver the package before 6 p.m.

Jean-Pierre plans to keep on posting on social media. He said that posting creates a break in his day, and it's clear that his many followers look forward to his videos just as much as he does.

Minnesota carrier jazzes up uniform

Minneapolis, MN, carrier **Jimmy Lonetti**, the founder of a baseball glove repair shop, has a love for vintage fashion.

Social media (continued)

The Branch 9 member has been a carrier for a decade, and he immediately opted to spice up his work uniform with a vintage leather bag, retro patches and thrifted buttons. He has a full vintage wardrobe that he wears to work, from a bomber-style hat and a Stormy Kromer cap to a quilted winter coat with standing eagle buttons and a vintage regulation windbreaker. “I always tell guys at work that my dream job at the Post Office would be to somehow be involved in the uniform program,” Lonetti told Uni Watch, a media project that discusses uniforms, logos and related topics.

Lonetti said his appreciation doesn’t stop there—he has previously written

Jimmy
Lonetti



about his disappointment in modern mailbox design, and he has a collection of vintage uniform catalogs, as well as a piece of a vintage mail chute. On his route, he delivers to a record store, where he often says hi and notices the merchandise.

During the holiday season, Lonetti sometimes passes out postcards to his customers with Mr. ZIP on them—a cartoon letter carrier character used by the Post Office Department in the 1960s. “People like that,” he said. He also carries a little pouch on the strap of his bag, which he explains used to be for letter carriers to carry around stamps. Lonetti keeps up the tradition, as many customers ask him for stamps.

Lonetti’s appreciation for clothes extends past aesthetics; he said that “there’s no such thing as bad weather—just bad clothes.” In the winter, he uses anything he can get his hands on to stay warm—as long as it has the standing eagle logo on it.

Old-school Massachusetts carrier loves his job

Lexington, MA, letter carrier **Domenic Corsetti** is just one of many letter carriers who have been in the game for decades and still do every bit of their part to help uphold the Postal Service’s speedy delivery. The Boston Branch 34 member is familiar with the holiday rush, and he doesn’t fret when it comes around. “This is our time,” Corsetti told *The Boston Globe*. “The young guys get a little nervous. I tell them to relax; we’ll get it done.”

Domenic Corsetti

Photo by David L. Ryan, *Boston Globe*



In his fourth decade of delivering the mail, Corsetti said he enjoys the job “more than ever” because of the service he’s able to provide to his customers and his interactions with them.

He says that the face-to-face personality between letter carriers and customers is not gone—“We talk about the Bruins, the Celtics. It’s like when I was growing up in East Boston. Everyone knew the mailman.”

That sentiment is returned by his customers. “We love this guy,” retired teacher Edith Craft said. She explained that Corsetti, aware of her sweet tooth, leaves her doughnut holes to go with her coffee.

Besides delivering the mail, Corsetti plays a leading role in Branch 34’s charitable work with the Muscular Dystrophy Association, and also trains new hires. He transferred to management at one point in his career, but he missed the customer interactions too much. **PR**