

# Letter carriers and the mail on social media

**V**arious 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](mailto:social@nalc.org).

## Utah carrier retires after 35 years

Salt Lake City letter carrier **Scott Vernon** is retiring after nearly four decades with the Postal Service. On Aug. 24, residents threw a block party with live music and plenty of food to celebrate his retirement.

Apparently, Vernon brought lots of life and love to his route: “Every day we were here, [Vernon] would get out of his truck, he’d walk up and he’d say hi to you, and he’d give you your mail in person and he’d tell you a joke,” resident Spencer Cottam recounted to the local ABC TV affiliate. Vernon certainly brought his love of jokes to the job—residents even gifted him

joke books a few times. “I think Scott is just the kind of person we all ought to be. He has done more for other people than most people ever think about. I’m really proud to be his friend,” Cottam added.

The Branch 111 member credits his strong bonds with his customers to the way in which he delivers the mail. “I deliver by name... [so] I know everybody’s name on my route,” Vernon said.

Vernon said his goal when delivering the mail was to raise people’s spirits. “He’s always smiling, and as you find out more about his personal life, he’s had a lot of hard things in his life, but he always cheers everybody up,”



Abraham Cieslinski’s dance was caught on camera.

resident Mary Cottam said.

Vernon kept that energy even after he left the route for the day. His wife, Shauna, said that every day, “he has fun, and he wakes up happy, and I wake up happy.”

## Michigan carrier dances for doorbell camera

Ring cameras are used to capture a lot of things nowadays—disobedient teenagers, mysterious nighttime silhouettes, and, in Bay City, MI, a dancing letter carrier.

In March, Branch 187 member **Abraham Cieslinski** happened to hear a customer’s Ring camera say “You are being recorded” when he delivered the mail. Cieslinski gave the camera a little dance and wished the owner a great day.

“He rarely misses a day that he will have a new dance and a greeting,” the owner, Cindy, told the local CBS affiliate, WNEM-TV. “He made my day with his dancing and greeting and beautiful smile.”

The only time Cieslinski misses a dance is when it’s raining, but he never forgets to wish Cindy a wonderful day.

Scott Vernon dressed as a jester for his retirement party.



## Massachusetts carrier shovels walkway for customer

As the blisteringly hot summer comes to an end, it's nice to prepare for the cool chill of fall and winter. Back in February, Chelsea, MA, carrier **Wanderley Duarte** helped protect one of his elderly customers against the elements by stopping on his route to shovel her walkway.

"I've seen her out there before and I'm like, 'Oh wow, I should help her,'" the Boston Branch 34 member told WCVB-TV. Ann, the customer, tried to offer him compensation, but he declined. "It's just a courtesy. I wasn't looking for money or anything like that, but she was a very nice lady."

"Our carriers are out in every neighborhood every day and watching out for our customers, especially the elderly during this season," Steve Doherty, a USPS spokesperson, said of Duarte's actions. "But it's always nice to see when someone is recognized for their actions, as Mr. Duarte is here."



Wanderley Duarte shovels his customer's walkway.



## California carrier befriends frightened dog

A letter carrier in San Francisco has a new friend on his route—Coconut the Samoyed dog. The dog's owner, who posts content of Coconut to Instagram under the handle @coconutricebear, posted a video on Aug. 8 showcasing Coconut's night-and-day behavior toward the carrier.

When she's inside, all she knows is that letters force their way into the house via the mail slot every afternoon, so she diligently attacks the incoming packages until she realizes they're not fighting back. But when she's outside, she's all wags and smiles toward the carrier.

The video currently has nearly 7,000 likes and almost 100 comments. One commenter called Coconut's reactions "the duality of mailman."

## USPS commemorates judicial powerhouse with new stamp

The USPS is unveiling a new Forever stamp dedicated to the late Supreme



Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Ginsburg served as a justice for 27 years, and is known

for making plenty of contributions to justice and gender equality. The stamp will be unveiled at 6 p.m. on Oct. 2 in a ceremony at the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, DC, that will include a keynote address by USPS Governor Roman Martinez IV.

The stamp features a hyper-realistic oil painting of Ginsburg in her usual state: black judicial robe, lace collar (her method of adding

femininity to the robes) and black-rimmed glasses. It has a deep teal background and Ginsburg's name in gold lettering. The stamp was designed by Ethel Kessler, an art director for USPS, and will commemorate Ginsburg's contributions to the country for years to come. **PR**

