

## Veterans Group

For more information, go to [nalc.org/veterans](http://nalc.org/veterans).



## Additional NALC Veterans Group members

**B**elow are the new Veterans Group members who joined after the November issue of *The Postal Record*, with the full list of Veterans Group members, went to press. Unfortunately,

some of the applications did not arrive in time for that issue and their names are being run here.

To join, go to [nalc.org/veterans](http://nalc.org/veterans), fill out and print the membership

form, and then mail the completed application to: NALC Veterans Group, National Association of Letter Carriers, 1101 Northchase Parkway SE, Suite 3, Marietta, GA 30067.

Eric Cirrito of Buffalo-Western NY Br. 3  
Bryan Lam of Lincoln, NE Br. 8  
Corey Duncans of Chicago, IL Br. 11  
Terry Nugent of Louisville, KY Br. 14  
Robert Heron of Southeast MA Mgd. Br. 18  
Thomas Jones of Southeast MA Mgd. Br. 18  
David Pishkin of Southeast MA Mgd. Br. 18  
William Soares of Southeast MA Mgd. Br. 18  
Jared Floodman of Saint Paul, MN Br. 28  
Michael Riley of Boston, MA Br. 34  
Jermas McNeal Jr. of Indianapolis, IN Br. 39  
John Bailey Jr. of Cincinnati, OH Br. 43  
Adam Scully of Cincinnati, OH Br. 43  
Anthony Casey of Grand Rapids, MI Br. 56  
Michael Feisel of Sioux City, IA Br. 69  
Alva Emanuel III of Seattle, WA Br. 79  
Todd Budden of Seattle, WA Br. 79  
Timothy Goralski of Pittsburgh, PA Br. 84  
Jordan Miles of New Orleans, LA Br. 124  
Daren Helms of Sacramento, CA Br. 133  
Jeremiah Flerchinger of Belleville, IL Br. 155

Garick Ambrose of Austin, TX Br. 181  
Steven Radun of Wausau, WI Br. 215  
Ian Alvarado of Houston, TX Br. 283  
Henry Brutus III of Houston, TX Br. 283  
Harry Ervin of Houston, TX Br. 283  
Michael Jones Jr. of Houston, TX Br. 283  
Raymond Lumpkin of Houston, TX Br. 283  
Rene Mbusa of Houston, TX Br. 283  
Melaina Moore of Houston, TX Br. 283  
James Perry of Houston, TX Br. 283  
Chase Studt of Houston, TX Br. 283  
Terence Watkins of Houston, TX Br. 283  
Clemente Juarez of El Paso, TX Br. 505  
Ace Rheume of Madison, WI Br. 507  
Victorio Martinez of Kokomo, IN Br. 533  
Ashley Soverall of Jamaica, NY Br. 562  
Gilbert Saldana of Kenosha, WI Br. 574  
Justin McKinney of Tampa, FL Br. 599  
Daniel Buonanno of Southeast PA Mgd. Br. 725  
Robert Montgomery of Barberton, OH Br. 897  
Lucas Kirkland of Kalispell, MT Br. 948

Laura Ramirez of Rock Hill, SC Br. 1003  
Hope Wiborn of Rock Hill, SC Br. 1003  
Branden Banegas of Garden Grove, CA Br. 1100  
Timothy Goodson of Florence, SC Br. 1416  
Michael Morcillo of West Coast FL Br. 1477  
Eddie Anderson Jr. of Greenville, NC Br. 1729  
Forris Fulford III of Greenville, NC Br. 1729  
Charles Lindsay of Greenville, NC Br. 1729  
Karen Morris of Greenville, NC Br. 1729  
John Mussavage of Greenville, NC Br. 1729  
Michael Johnson of Lakeland, FL Br. 1779  
Waldo Pirok of Melrose Park, IL Br. 2183  
Donald Buonamici of Sparks, NV Br. 2778  
Noah Hutchison of Los Alamos, NM Br. 4112  
Henry Jerome of Anchorage, AK Br. 4319  
Conchetta Diaz of Emerald Coast, FL Br. 4559  
Keith Donald of Wheeling, IL Br. 4739  
Paul Power of Centennial, CO Br. 5996  
Nnamdi Iwuh of Tucker, GA Br. 6070  
George Schamberger of Metairie, LA Br. 6119

## Veteran profile: Tony Rodriguez

**W**ith 21 years in the Army and an additional 20 years as a Knoxville, TN Branch 419 letter carrier, **Tony Rodriguez** served the American people for 41 years.

After graduating from high school, Rodriguez was unsure of what to do next, so he enrolled in community college. But this was 1972, and there was a draft during the Vietnam War. When his birthday was selected at the end of his first semester, he decided to enlist before he could be drafted.

As he explained, "Two years versus three years. And as a draftee, they'll send you wherever they want. As a regular enlistee, they still send you wherever they want," but they would take into consideration the enlistee's preferences. This didn't end up mattering, as he enjoyed the military so

much that he ended up spending 21 years in the service.

Although he had no choice in joining, he saw the military as a way to help him find his goal in life at a time when he lacked direction.

"I was out there standing on the street corner, playing some football and baseball. You can't do that forever," Rodriguez said.

To this day, Rodriguez is happy with the decision he made all those years ago, saying, "You don't know what you want to do? Join the military!" He still has friends whom he served with a half-century ago.

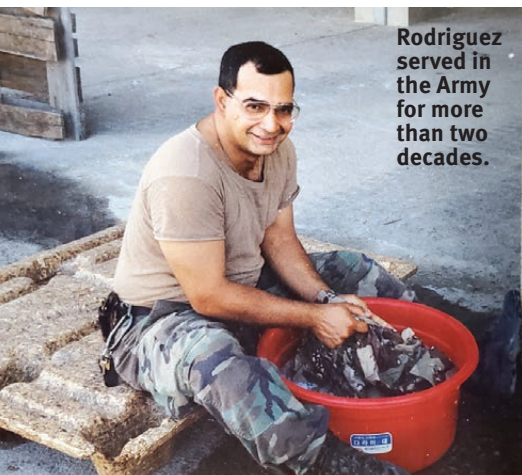
He started out in administration, then was reclassified to acquisition radar operations, serving as an acquisition radar section chief, managing radar coverage for West and East

Germany during the Cold War. His unit used radar to track enemy aircraft and missiles, particularly from East German and Soviet forces.

His schedule was intense; he "had to work 24 on, 24 off, eight on. No sleeping."

During his time on active duty from 1972 to 1979, he was given the opportunity to see many places around the world. He had two tours in West Germany and two tours in Puerto Rico. On the U.S. mainland, he worked in North Carolina, Indiana, Texas, Colorado and Louisiana.

Following his active-duty service, he transitioned to the reserves and became one of the first soldiers in the new Active Guard Reserve (AGR) program, which placed full-time mili-



Rodriguez served in the Army for more than two decades.

tary personnel in reserve units to strengthen deployment readiness. For 14 years he worked in the reserves, reaching master sergeant in the E-8 category. His responsibilities included ensuring deployment readiness, maintaining accountability and ordering equipment and uniforms. He was stationed in Knoxville, TN, for most of his time in the program.

While in the AGR program, Rodriguez worked in an overseas support

mission assisting engineers in Ecuador, providing logistics for building bridges and schools after an earthquake.

Additionally, he took part in the preparation for Operation Desert Shield by working as a senior supply sergeant, helping establish logistical bases in Saudi Arabia.

"We provided the soldiers with beans, bullets, ammo, water—whatever they needed to perform their mission," Rodriguez said.

He likened being a soldier to being a friend, saying, "Friends take care of each other. Soldiers take care of each other."

He takes pride in the fact that none of the soldiers he oversaw died on his watch.

"I used to call my troops my children and if you lose one, God, it's terrible," Rodriguez said. "I never did lose one."

At the age of 41, Rodriguez retired from the Army, but his service still has a big impact on his life.

"I love the military," Rodriguez said. "I'd do it again if there is another life."

He went on to work in a prison as a corrections officer for about two years, then continued his service by becoming a letter carrier in 1996 in Knoxville, calling it the "best job in the country—carrying mail."

"You meet your people, you meet your customers," he said. "You are part of society on the streets that you deliver mail to."

He also began his union involvement, serving 19 of his 20 years as a shop steward. He held several other union positions including branch secretary, arbitration advocate, food drive coordinator and legislative liaison, as well as several positions for the Tennessee State Association, including director of education and vice president. He's worked as state secretary since June 2024.

Even though he retired in 2016, he remains an active part of Branch 419.

A fierce advocate for letter carriers, Rodriguez brought the same level of loyalty for his carriers that he held for his troops. He said, "Don't mess with the carriers. If you mess with the carriers, I'll mess with you."

## Join the NALC Veterans Group

The NALC Veterans Group is designed to provide NALC members—both active and retired letter carriers—who are also military veterans the ability to connect with fellow NALC veterans and stay informed on issues of importance to letter carrier veterans. It is free to join.

Members receive a pin as a symbol of gratitude for your military service and membership in NALC.

If you are interested in joining the group, complete the sign-up card at right and mail it to the address included. A fillable version is also available at [nalc.org/veterans](http://nalc.org/veterans).



You continue to serve your country—  
**THANK YOU!**

## NALC Veterans Group

Complete this form and mail it to:  
NALC Veterans Group, c/o NALC,  
100 Indiana Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20001-2144

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

NALC BRANCH NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ BRANCH OF SERVICE: \_\_\_\_\_

I BELONG TO THE FOLLOWING VETERAN GROUP(S):

☐ AMERICAN LEGION ☐ DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS ☐ VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS  
☐ OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

**Free**  
to join