

## Join the fight



**James D.  
Henry**

**“Fighting against the odds”** refers to overcoming significant challenges and obstacles to achieve success. This often involves facing adversity, setbacks and seemingly insurmountable difficulties, yet persevering with determination and resilience. It’s a testament to the carrier spirit’s capacity to endure and triumph, even when the situation appears bleak. Having well-defined objectives provides direction and a sense of purpose, helping to stay focused and motivated. Self-doubt, fear of failure and lack of motivation can also be significant

hurdles that we must overcome.

Battles against injustice and financial inequity can lead to positive changes and a more equitable work environment. Ultimately, fighting against the odds is not just about achieving a specific outcome; it’s about the journey of growth, resilience and the unwavering committed can-do spirit that can triumph over even the most daunting circumstances. I believe in fighting against all odds to reach your goals.

The fight for your rights and entitlement is not only over immediate needs and desires, but also over advantageous positions in future power struggles. When incumbency yields an extra inch, the opposition attempts to make a door out of it. We can’t afford to give the impression that we the union (which are the letter carriers) will accept anything if it’s too difficult to obtain.

Rather, the message that must be sent is, we will not accept anything that is not worthy of our labor. We will not accept a workroom floor devoid of dignity and respect. We will not accept our safety concerns being ignored. We will not accept grievance settlements being ignored. We will not accept the collective-bargaining agreement being flouted by management. We will not accept anything less than a living wage for all letter carriers. None of the aforementioned are acceptable without a fight, even when the odds are stacked against us!

**We can keep going against all odds because we’ve proven repeatedly that we are greater than our odds ev-**

ery day. So, have the courage to prove to yourself and others that we deserve better.

Author Oscar Bimpong wrote that “Wishing is a form of inspiration for the lazy mind but taking action, persisting and finding alternative routes to your destination against all odds is the definition of a successful venture.” Therefore, this is a call to action for all letter carriers. You must—if you are not already—get involved, participate in the union, and make your voice heard even when you think nobody is listening or cares about what you have to say. Do not allow the odds to determine your engagement and level of activity. Despite being tempted sometimes to succumb to apathy, and feeling as your efforts are in vain, fight for what truly is important. Don’t lose faith. The rank-and-file letter carrier—you are the difference maker. No matter what the odds are against us, together we can accomplish anything and be successful fighting for and with each other.

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**With all the threats and rumors of threats to strip the Postal Service of its autonomy and to attack the collective-bargaining agreement, we must stay vigilant and committed to preserve the USPS and NALC.** It may appear to some that we are fighting against all odds to achieve all that which letter carriers are deserving of, while simultaneously preserving the USPS institution and our beloved NALC. Simply put, we must fight against the odds and never, ever give up the fight!

You are not defined by your past, your struggles or your circumstances. You are defined by your strength, your kindness and your ability to overcome. Keep pushing forward and know that you are never alone in this fight.