

Carrier adopts dog after customer dies

Ian Burke met a very outgoing furry friend named Pretty Boy Floyd three years ago on his route in Denton, TX, when he was bowled over by the 70-pound service dog. That's also when he met the dog's owner, Ken Meyer, a disabled Vietnam veteran who used a wheelchair.

"He got out the door and he charged at me, right like a little puppy," Burke told the local ABC affiliate, WFAA-TV.

The carrier loved stopping by to deliver and check in with Meyer and Pretty Boy Floyd. After about a year and half, however, the Dallas Branch 132 member's route changed.

Burke's co-worker, who now has his old route, told him over Memorial Day weekend that Meyer had died, leaving Floyd without a home. The pup had been surrendered to the City of Denton Animal Shelter. Remembering the bond he had with Floyd, the carrier rushed on Monday morning to the shelter 10 minutes before it opened its doors that morning to be "first in line" to see the available animals.

"I'm taking this guy home with me," Burke told WFAA after officially adopting Floyd. "I don't take it lightly, [this isn't] some random dog I'm adopting."

The carrier's story resonated with many people, and was picked up by multiple media outlets, such as the ABC affiliate in Austin, TX, and nationwide outlets including CBS news, *People* magazine and USPS Link.

Burke, who began delivering mail in 2021, said that his former customer had "loved and cherished" his pet, and that the carrier was honored to continue that tradition of care.

"I kind of felt responsible to take care of him," he said. "I think [Meyer] would be pleased to know that his for-

mer mailman is taking good care of his dog."

Burke doesn't exactly know what sort of breed Floyd is, but he thinks there's a mix of German shepherd and border collie in there. "He's a very handsome boy. So well-behaved, very kind to everybody, never met a stranger. Just the ideal dog," Burke said. "He likes to herd his toys and patrol around the house. I don't know what his mix is, but he's 100 percent dog."

One person who wasn't shocked to hear about Burke's good deed is Dallas Branch 132 President **Kimetra Lewis**. "I met Ian when our branch merged with the Denton branch about a year ago. Ian has always appeared to be a kind and concerned individual," she said, adding, "His strong connection and devotion to his co-workers showed in every conversation we were engaged in; therefore, it did not surprise me that those same characteristics would be a natural part of who he is. I am sure Pretty Boy Floyd has a good home with Ian."

Burke hopes others who hear about his and Floyd's story will be inspired to consider adoption of shelter animals. Taking on Floyd, he said, was "probably one of the best things the Postal Service inadvertently issued me."

The carrier doesn't regard his actions as anything out of the ordinary, though. "I think what I did is just the normal thing for letter carriers to do, which is to help people," he said. Or, in this case, their dogs. **PR**



Ian Burke and his dog, Pretty Boy Floyd

Correction: In the list of branch food drive totals in the July *Postal Record*, the names of Knoxville, TN Branch 418 and Morristown, TN Branch 1256 were swapped.