

Carriers and the mail make news online

Mail-centered stories frequently appear on social media and online news sites. The following are a few that have come to NALC's attention recently. If you find a story you'd like us to consider featuring, send it to postalrecord@nalc.org.

Rain, sleet, snow... Knicks parade

On June 13, the New York Knicks ended their 53-year championship drought by winning the 2026 NBA Finals. Following the win, Knicks fans celebrated in the streets of New York with a parade held on June 18. However, before any of the paraders began celebrating, a letter carrier, New York Branch 36 member **Michael Chan**, was allowed to cut through the parade route and into the crowd to get to his mail route, receiving cheers of appreciation from onlookers as he walked through.

"Normally on my route, everyone's very respectful, but to have an ap-

plause at that moment, that felt amazing," he said.

A TikTok post that recorded that moment received 4 million views, more than 111,000 likes and more than 1,600 comments in support of the letter carrier. The top comment said, "Rain, Sleet, Snow.....Knicks Parade," commending the lengths the carrier went through to get the mail delivered.

The video was recorded as Chan was heading back to the station after about an hour and 45 minutes of delivering mail; not much mail had arrived at the station that day due to road closures.

Some praised him for his efforts, saying that they wouldn't have been able to do the same. Some in the comments joked that dressing up as a letter carrier would be a smart way of evading the crowds.

Not shown in the video was Chan trying to fit his mail cart through, but it wouldn't fit in the same gap in the barrier. Police officers said he had to lift it over the barrier, so eight strangers in the crowd volunteered.

When asked if there was anything else he wanted to say, the New York City native and lifelong Knicks fan said, "No, but I hope they win another championship next year."

Mystery of 300 letters sent between couple during WWII solved

In 1941, the same year the United States entered World War II, Louis "Speedy" Weber and his fiancée, Frances, were married. The following year, Weber joined the Army. Despite their separation, they wrote letters back and forth to each other for the entirety of his service.

In more than 300 letters, Weber chronicled his experience as part of the military during the war and conversed with his wife about mili-



Louis "Speedy" Weber



Michael Chan attempts to navigate his way through the Knicks parade in New York.

Online news (continued)

tary routines, homesickness, jokes, romance and their efforts to stay connected. In addition to letters, they sent each other gifts—Frances sending salami and sardines from the Bronx and Weber sending perfume from Paris.

Years later in 2022, the letters were anonymously sent to the United Service Organizations (USO), a nonprofit organization that provides live entertainment to members of the military and their families. The letters didn't include any explanation or return address. The USO's archivist tried to find the couple, but with only Weber's military service number and the information found in the letters sent during the war, he was unable to find much information on what became of them after the war.

Four years later, the USO sent the letters to *The Washington Post*, hoping media attention would help find the pair or someone who knew them. The news-

paper published an article about the letters on May 29. Only a few days later, someone contacted the publication and told them that they believed they knew Weber's nephew, Arthur Serota.

A *Washington Post* reporter spoke to Serota, who was able to share the story of what happened to Speedy and Frances after the war.

Serota remembered Weber fondly, including one of his first memories when the family was there to welcome him home from the war.

Serota's mother had three brothers, one of them being Speedy. He recalled all of them getting together for weekly dinners. Frances worked for the Postal Service and Serota regarded her as "clearly the brightest of all the aunts and uncles," according to *The Washington Post*. Weber was a truck driver. The pair never had children, but that allowed them to have more freedom to do what they wanted.

"He was warm and fun. She was elegant and wore pencil skirts and had beautiful makeup," one of Weber's nieces, Karen Weber Figilis, said. "They were quite the couple."

When Weber and Frances got older, they moved to Florida and the rest of the family lost touch with them. He died at 78 on Feb. 19, 1997, and she died at 87 on Feb. 24, 2005, and they were buried next to each other.

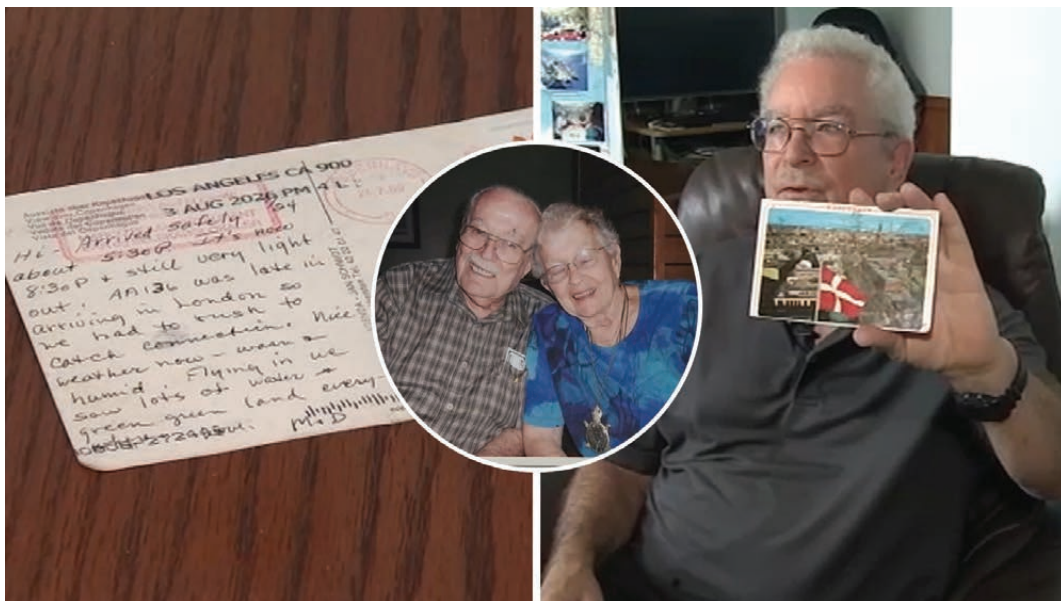
French letter carriers keep an eye on vulnerable residents amid extreme heatwaves

Summer 2026 has meant sweltering temperatures for Europeans. As of mid-August, there have been five heat waves in Europe, which have resulted in 25,000 deaths, including at least 6,000 in France over the summer.

Heat-related deaths are common in Europe due to the lack of infrastructure conducive to air conditioning,

A La Poste letter carrier in France checks on residents while delivering his route.





Bob Sheppard shows off the 26-year-old postcard he received from his deceased parents (inset).

rising temperatures due to climate change and its aging population. The elderly are especially in danger, with about two-thirds of heat-related fatalities in France this summer being age 75 or older.

To help reduce heat-related illnesses and death, the French government has enlisted its postal workers to help protect the elderly and vulnerable. La Poste, France's postal system, has 65,000 workers who regularly visit homes and know their communities well. The government is taking advantage of that and encouraging them to check on the vulnerable, even if they aren't registered with local authorities as being so.

Postal workers take notice of signs of illness, provide companionship, offer hydration and cooling advice and alert family members if someone is in danger.

"Through their daily rounds, postal workers are often the only ones who have regular contact with elderly or isolated individuals," Prime Minister Sébastien Lecornu said in a letter to mayors in France.

'A postcard from heaven'

Long Beach, CA, resident Bob Sheppard's mom died four years ago and his dad six years ago; nonetheless, he received a postcard in the mail from them this August.

"I started looking at it, and I go, 'Oh my gosh, this is a treasure,' " he told a local ABC news affiliate.

The postcard had been written 26 years earlier and sent from Copenhagen, Denmark. Sheppard's parents loved traveling together all over the world, so it was fitting that he received a postcard from one of their adventures.

Sheppard's letter carrier explained that it may have fallen behind something and was reentered into the mail system when it was recently found.

The message was short and was signed simply "M + D." Having lost his dad during the COVID-19 pandemic, Sheppard always lamented that he was unable to say goodbye before he died, so receiving the long-lost postcard meant a lot to him. **PR**

Lynn, MA Branch 7 was not included in the food drive list published in the June issue of *The Postal Record*. The branch collected 16,720 pounds.