

# Carriers and the mail make news online

**M**ail-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](mailto:postalrecord@nalc.org).

## USPS remembers letter carrier who was first Black American to receive the Medal of Honor



William H. Carney

The USPS Link, which provides USPS employee news, recently published an article highlighting Army Sgt. William H. Carney for being the first Black American awarded the Medal of Honor and one of the first Black letter carriers in the United States.

On May 9, 1900—126 years ago—he became the first Black American awarded the Medal of Honor. Beyond his military service, he was also among the nation's earliest Black letter carriers, spending 32 years working in postal service.

During the Civil War, Carney fought with the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment. In battle, he carried the American flag and continued protecting it even after suffering multiple gunshot wounds, determined not to let it fall. Afterward, he famously said, "I only did my duty; the old flag never touched the ground."

In 1869, Carney made history again by becoming the first Black letter carrier in New Bedford, MA. Later, in 1890, he helped establish NALC Branch 18 (now Southeast Massachusetts Merged) and served as its first vice president.

## Writing and reading connects young and old

Writing and reading are key ingredients in any pen pal exchange, but in the Iowa City Public Library and the Iowa City Senior Center's "Stories Between Generations" pen pal exchange, reading takes center stage. In the program, each senior and school-aged child (in Grades 3-8) chooses a book centered on themes like identity, justice, belonging and resilience, then one senior and one child who chose to read the same book are paired together as pen pals.

All participants will be given a free copy of the book and will exchange letters over the summer, discussing the contents of the book. Beyond

encouraging literacy and thoughtful discussion, the program is designed to foster meaningful connections between generations through handwritten correspondence.

The program will also include a mid-summer letter-writing event for kids and a final in-person celebration where participants will meet and discuss the books together over lunch.

## Barbie celebrated in Forever stamps coming out in July

USPS announced a new set of commemorative stamps honoring Barbie, set for release in July. The collection highlights Barbie's long cultural history as a symbol of imagination and possibility, featuring 10 Barbies dressed for a variety of careers including astronaut, surgeon and soccer player.

The stamps were developed in collaboration with Mattel and USPS art directors, using bright, playful design elements intended to reflect Barbie's signature style.

They will be released July 11 at a collectors' convention in Austin, TX. **PR**

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