

Together, we will achieve greatly



James D. Henry

Brothers and sisters, as you know, the NALC is currently in the midst of negotiating a new collective-bargaining agreement with the USPS, and has been doing so for months. The primary goal is to achieve an economic pay package and working conditions that are commensurate with the sacrifices and degree of devotion that city letter carriers have consistently exhibited.

Letter carriers have not only delivered without fail through “snow nor rain” repeatedly over the last several years, but also through an inordinate amount of severe weather phenomena, fires

and even a pandemic. As such, letter carriers richly deserve to be rewarded with a national contract reflective of their hard work and commitment.

The labor-management climate that exists in multiple industries throughout the country is less than desirable. The current USPS labor-management climate is no exception. All too often, there are others giving reasons why we cannot do something, leading people to retreat to the safety of a cautious and familiar mindset and not helping us achieve all we can. However, the good news is that the NALC is on the job representing you!

We won’t stop, can’t stop, until letter carriers are compensated appropriately for all they do, and have work rules consistent with cultivating a harmonious work environment. Those responsible for negotiating the national agreement are absolutely committed to success, come what may, and will persevere until we find a way to prevail.

As I travel the country and speak at NALC branch events, I often reference my time as a Marine, which I am blessed to have served as and retired as. During my time in the United States Marine Corps, I traveled the world and witnessed firsthand that despite our differences here in the United States, there is no place better to live. Because of our fundamental beliefs, by and large we have an envied way of life. There is opportunity when people commit to working hard.

Similarly, my current position as an NALC representative has afforded me the opportunity to travel and inter-

act with different unions and the crafts they represent. Despite our differences in the USPS, there is hardly a place better to work. Being a letter carrier is one of the last middle-class jobs that requires no formal schooling or prior work experience. We have the ability to put food on our tables, clothes on our backs, a roof over our heads and achieve stability due to the achievements gained by the NALC through collective bargaining.

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John F. Kennedy once stated, “Only those who dare to fail greatly can ever achieve greatly.”

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In closing, I would like to say thank you for your service and happy Veterans Day to all my fellow veterans.