

Proud to Serve

Proud to Serve is a semi-regular compilation of heroic stories about letter carriers in their communities. If you know about a hero in your branch, contact us as soon as possible at 202-662-2489 or at postalrecord@nalc.org. We'll follow up with you to obtain news clippings, photos or other information.

Honoring heroic carriers

Heroism, like the mail, comes in many packages—think of police officers or firefighters. But for some citizens in need of assistance, their heroes come in the form of concerned letter carriers.

Letter carriers are members of nearly every community in this nation and know when something is wrong. Spotting fires and injuries, they often are the first to respond. The following stories document their heroism. For them, delivering for America is all in a day's work.

Carrier saves unconscious UPS driver from crash

May 9, 2023, was a hot spring day in Concord, CA, and **Jack Roy**, a 30-year member from Greater East Bay Branch 1111, was on his route. As he pulled into a suburban neighborhood, a UPS truck driver drove by on the other side of the street, so Roy waved at her, and she waved back.

A few hours went by, and Roy was driving out of a three-house cul-de-sac when he saw the same driver crossing in front of him. He couldn't see her face but nonetheless he waved again. This time she didn't wave back. Her head was facing up and Roy said, "I thought she was reading something...maybe there was some information there."

He soon realized that she was driving only a few miles per hour. When he saw the truck going at a weird angle toward the house adjacent to it, Roy put his truck in park, got out and sprinted after the UPS truck. Roy had been training for the Dipsea Race, a 7.4-mile challenge run, for the previous few

months, so he utilized his running skills and quickly reached the UPS truck. He found the driver unconscious and foaming at the mouth, her upper body dangling off the right side of the seat, held in only by her seat belt.

He said he immediately steered the wheel away from the house, then grabbed the gear shift and "slammed it into park."

"I'm like, 'This is like out of a movie,'" Roy said. A passerby came and helped the letter carrier lift the driver upright, so Roy could turn off the vehicle. The man called emergency services, which soon arrived to tend to the incapacitated driver.

Roy later found out that the homeowner had no idea that his house nearly had a UPS truck-shaped hole in it.

This wasn't Roy's first heroic act as a letter carrier; in the 1990s, he received an award for heroism for saving a man who was nearly pinned to death by a car he was working on.

Couple saved from fire under their porch

Jonah Carey, whose route is in Batavia, NY, was picking up an additional route one dry summer day in 2022, when he spotted smoke billowing from underneath the porch of a single-family home.

"It didn't strike me as something that should normally be there," the five-year letter carrier from Buffalo-Western New York Branch 3 said.

The UPS truck Jack Roy managed to bring to a stop



Realizing that the front porch was on fire, he knocked on the front door, but there was no answer, so Carey called the fire department on his cell phone. "Then I decided I might as well try another door," so Carey went to the back door and knocked again, but still no response. He knocked one more time and this time a woman answered the door—she had been vacuuming the basement and hadn't heard the door the first two times.

Carey told her about the fire, so she went to wake up her boyfriend who was sleeping in another room while Carey scooped up one of her small dogs. The couple and their dogs were able to leave, and Carey stayed to answer a few questions from the police, then returned to his route.

Carrier sees fire in two-unit house

Tim Mattson was ending his route in Jamestown, NY, in December 2023, when he spotted smoke escaping from a second story window of a house divided into two apartments. The five-year member from Buffalo-Western New York Branch 3 knew that no one lived in the apartment on the second floor, but that a man in poor health lived on the first floor.

Mattson quickly banged on the front door until the man opened the door. The man was confused as he walked out onto the porch—he didn't understand the urgency of the situation until he gazed upward. "He looked up and he looks like he's in shock," Mattson



Jack Roy



Jonah Carey



Tim Mattson



Christopher Sardynski (above) called emergency officials about a fire at a house he was delivering to (r).



said. The second floor had become engulfed in flames, which soon spread to the rest of the house.

Once the fire department arrived, Mattson returned to his truck. The carrier said that the house had since been demolished and that the side paneling of the house next door was still charred, as a result of the fire.

Preschooler in pj's found outside during freezing temperatures

One bitterly cold morning in February 2022, **Dominique Brooks**, a two-year carrier, began her route at an apartment complex in Richmond, MI, when she saw a small boy in the parking lot waving at cars as they passed by, wearing nothing but his pajamas and socks in below-zero-degree temperatures.

"I thought it was strange," Brooks said.

She looked around to see if he was with an adult—which he wasn't—and

then went over to him, took her coat off and wrapped it around the little boy. The Mount Clemens Branch 654 member then called the police and her supervisor.

After a police officer and her supervisor arrived, the boy led them to where he lived. There, they discovered that the little boy's parents were asleep—he had escaped to have his fun waving at cars in the parking lot, while only the letter carrier noticed.

"After that, I just continued to deliver on the route," she said.

Carrier notifies tenant that his house is on fire

Christopher Sardynski, a CCA since July, was delivering on a Sunday in Cheektowaga, NY, when he turned onto a street and saw smoke coming all the way down the road. He thought that maybe someone had a fire pit going in their yard, but as he got closer, he realized that the house he was supposed to be delivering to was burning.

The Buffalo-Western New York Branch 3 member said he couldn't see flames, but he saw embers burning

in the corner of the house producing smoke.

"You could see the heat coming from it," Sardynski said. "You could see the orange embers on burnt wood." A man wielding a 20-ounce water bottle was trying to put out the embers and smoke. Sardynski told him he was going to call firefighters, but the water-bottle-wielding man didn't want him to.

Sardynski called anyway. "I felt like I needed to call because that was the right thing to do," Sardynski said.

After alerting emergency officials, Sardynski carried on with his deliveries—starting with the woman who lived in the house and who, Sardynski said, was still eager to receive her package. **PR**



Dominique Brooks



Wilma Daley and the man she helped rescue

Eye on the elderly

On an early December 2023 morning in Grand Rapids, MI, the air was bone-chilling and there was snow and ice on the ground from a recent snowstorm.

Wilma Daley, a 26-year carrier, was just starting her route when she saw an elderly man she knew on the ground, fully dressed with only slippers on his feet.

The Branch 56 member didn't think she could get him back on his feet by herself because of his height, and she knew that he lived alone after his wife's death a few months earlier, so there was no one home to help. She began knocking on a neighbor's door, hoping to find someone to assist her. Unable to find

anyone at that early hour, the man who had fallen suggested that they call 911. He thought it was the only way he would be able to stand back up, but Daley was able to find more immediate assistance when a FedEx driver arrived on the scene.

The two of them managed to get the man onto his feet and help him into his garage.

Daley said that the FedEx driver stayed with him after the incident, to ensure that he was able to get into his house.

Soon after, Daley knocked on the man's door to find him in a sling, with a broken bone near his shoulder. Daley said, "he was very appreciative" of her assistance, and had been able to get medical attention. **PR**