

Team NALC



Chief of Staff
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As we begin the new year, I can't help but think back on the national rap session in my hometown of New Orleans just one week before Thanksgiving. In my humble view, it's the greatest city in the world—chock-full of food, culture and heartfelt hospitality. It's always invigorating to spend time with our members and the leaders of our great union, who have shown nothing but gratitude over the years. While the weekend

was centered around informing our leadership, I can't stop thinking about my favorite part of the entire weekend. It wasn't the beads, mildly inappropriate Letter Carrier Political Fund shirts, Mardi Gras cups, "second line" musicians who kicked us off, or even the tired smiles and laughter around the hotel. Instead, it was beautiful words about "Team NALC."

On Sunday morning, as President Renfroe convened the rap session, he called Harold John of Branch 124 to the stage to provide an invocation. Recognizing that NALC is home to many religions and belief systems, this one can hit home for everyone on Team NALC, whether you pray or not.

I cannot do it justice by summarizing. So instead, Harold allowed me to share it with you as a guiding force for 2024 and beyond. I hope it inspires every single reader to keep Team NALC at the top of your hearts and minds as we face challenges with compassion, unity and strength.

Thank you, Brother John, for providing such beautiful words and inspiration to all of us.

Good morning. Can I take a moment of privilege to thank the editor and staff of The Postal Record for their honoring and special edition of and for veterans.

Do we have any veterans in the house? Let's give the editor and staff of The Postal Record a round of applause for their special edition this month honoring our veterans.

*Good morning, branch and state leaders, and all the guests in attendance!
Heavenly Father God,*

*We come to you this morning thanking you for all of the things in life that we sometimes take for granted:
Thank you for our health and strength.*

Thank you for providing us with nourishment for our



*bodies, but also nourishment for our minds and our souls.
Thank you for providing us with wisdom and discernment.
Thank you for providing us with the courage to fight for what's right.*

Thank you for putting us to sleep last night and waking us up this morning to a new day.

And speaking of sleep, the reason we can sleep so good at night is because we're trying to save and not take someone's job. We're trying to uplift and not divide. We're trying to keep focus to better and not destroy.

Thank you for our leadership as well as our membership. We know our members are not perfect, Father, but that's why we defend and fight so hard for them because we know that they are human and make mistakes.

We all make mistakes, Father, and that's why you sent your Son—who suffered and died on the cross for our sins and indiscretions.

You provide us with grace and mercy when others try to condemn us.

We thank you for getting us here safely, Father, and ask you to provide us with travel, grace and mercy for our trip home.

Soon we'll be rooting for our favorite teams and one of those teams is Team NALC.

Team NALC puts money in your pockets. Team NALC provides you with health care. Team NALC makes sure your working conditions and working environment are safe and suitable for all employees.

Team NALC is not against Team USPS, but we're definitely for Team NALC.

Watch over our members, Father, as they work in increasingly more hostile work environments and more hostile communities. It is unfortunate that we don't command and aren't afforded the decency and respect our jobs once had.

Watch over all of our fallen members and their families, Father, as some of them have gone on to be with you. May their souls rest in peace.

*And speaking of peace, Father, we ask you for:
Peace in our minds, bodies and souls.*

Peace in our hearts and peace in our homes.

Peace in our relationships.

Peace in our workplaces.

Peace in our communities.

Peace in our cities and our streets.

Peace in all countries.

And most of all, peace in the Middle East.

These things we ask in your holy name, but we also give you thanks for each and every thing you do for us each and every day.

In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.