

Star City

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

MAY 2007



FOOD DRIVE SUCCESS



Over 130,000 lbs!!

Congratulations, carriers!! Saturday, May 12 saw hundreds of us carriers, city and rural, hauling well over 130,000 pounds of food back to our offices for the food banks to pick up and distribute.

THAT'S MORE THAN 65 TONS OF FOOD!!

In our 15th year of Branch 524's participation in the NALC Letter Carriers' Food Drive, you made it possible for the hungry folks in the Roanoke Valley to be sustained for at least 6 months by the generous donations of your customers.

Wow!

On behalf of the hundreds of hungry and homeless in the valley, many of whom are children and single mothers, I want to say thanks. So many of you have expressed to me how much this drive means to you personally, and I know that most of you see it as a great opportunity to share the blessings of our bountiful lifestyle with the less fortunate. Please know that your efforts are appreciated. not only by the needy, but by your fellow postal employees as well.

JOB WELL DONE!!!

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Food Drive Success!!*
- *Word from the Secretary*
- *John Deatheredge's retirement*
- *Legislative update*
- *Don's Spot*
- *Melrose*
- *Tommy Assaid*

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TOTALS BY STATION/CITY

Here are some of the first set of totals for the food drive in pounds:

Vinton 15,323
Melrose 10,739
Grandin 9,832
Hollins 13,638

Cave Spring 24,650
Annex 33,940
Clifton Forge 200
Buena Vista 2,500
Total Rural pickup:
16,560
Total Combined: 124,494





SPECIAL THANKS
TO:
LOCAL BUSINESS
AGENT
PAUL ENGLISH!!

April 13th, 2007 marked a milestone for Star City Branch 524. Ninety percent of our craft people are now Union members! That's up from 88.3% when I took office. Though that sounds like a small increase, it actually represents an important validation for our team. The Stewards, Officers and members should take great pride in this accomplishment. The more members we have, the stronger our position vis-à-vis managements attempts to circumvent the contract and erode the rights we've worked so hard to attain.

Kudos to the Shop Stewards in the following units who have 100% union member-

ship:

Joan Saunders—Hollins

Billy Bruffy—Grandin Road

And a special thanks to Local Business Agent Paul English, who has a 100% record in signing up all new Roanoke carriers during the past 2 years. His presentation during the Carrier Academy training and his continued mentoring of new hires has played a big part in this accomplishment. I am proud of you all and honored to represent you as President. I encourage you to maintain a positive attitude toward the Union and to help us continue to grown as a dynamic force for the common good of all

carriers. If you know a non-member, particularly one who has benefited from our successful advocacy in recent days, gently remind them that none of the benefits they enjoy come without hard work and effort on the part of our union. Assure them that all city letter carriers are welcome and encouraged to join the team. Just have them see their Shop Steward and request the form.

They will be joining the most effective NALC branch in the Commonwealth!

In Unity,

Don Vineyard

President

NALC Branch 524

SECRETARY'S CORNER



BILLY BOOTH, SECRETARY

Star City Branch 524, as of January 1, 2007 had a total membership of 276. 171 are Active Duty Carriers. 105 are Retired members, and 20 of those are "Life Members", that is, they have been members of the NALC for **50 years or longer**. Life members are also known as "Gold Card" members and are no longer required to pay dues to the Union. Our National Union does not notify your local Branch when they receive a change of address notice. So, in the event that you do happen to move, please send a change of address notice to National and **PLEASE** notify this branch of your new ad-

dress. If you are not receiving your Postal Record magazine or other branch mailings, it is more than likely that we haven't received a change of address from you. Two important forms for you to remember: 1187 for new members and 1189 for recently retired members. Once you retire, if you let your membership lapse by not signing a form 1189, you cannot be reinstated.

Take care & have a great summer!!

Sincerely,

Billy Booth

Secretary

HONORING RETIREES

Hello Everyone!
If any retiree has 50 years or more of service in NALC Branch 524 and has NOT received their 50 year pin, please notify Bill Booth, Tommy Assaid or Charlie Parker so

that we can present your pin to you. Those receiving a 50 year pin at the next retiree function will be:

**Dick Akers,
Andy Anderson
and
Frank McBride.**

We hope to see all you retired letter carriers at our next get together!

~~~~~Tommy

(pictured at right)

For information, call

Tommy Assaid, Director of Retirees:

(540)774-3972



### THE FOLLOWING IS THE LATEST BULLETIN FROM THE E-ACTIVIST NETWORK

"Please contact your member of Congress to ask them to co-sponsor House Resolution 282 which calls on the USPS to 'discontinue the practice of contracting out mail delivery services.' This non-binding 'Sense of

the House' Resolution was introduced March 28 by Rep. Albio Sires (D-NJ). Its passage would build momentum for a binding prohibition now under consideration by Rep. Davis' subcommittee. The NALC will ag-

gressively pursue a legislative solution to the cancer of delivery outsourcing. With your help and commitment, I am convinced that we will prevail. Thank you for your activism on behalf of all letter carriers."

"WITH YOUR  
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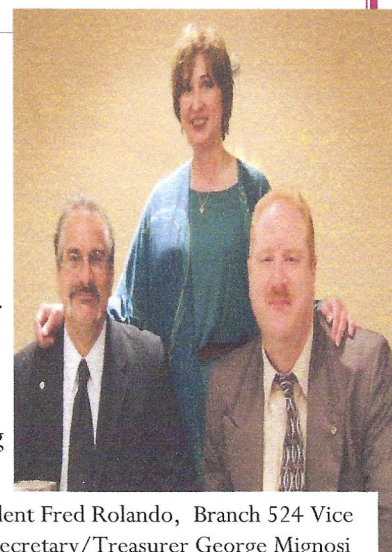
## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE.....JENNY HALL

On May 10, 2007, Don Vineyard, Joan Saunders and I went to the NALC Region 13 Congressional Breakfast in Washington, DC. It was held at the Holiday Inn on the Hill, as it has been in the past. We heard speakers from Maryland, District of Columbia and West Virginia, as well as NALC President Bill Young. All the attendees at this very

important event were there for one purpose: to concentrate our efforts to inform our legislators—Congress and Senate—of the importance of their sponsorship of HR-282. Virgil Goode is a co-sponsor of this bill. The integrity of the Postal Service as we know it is at stake as long as the Postal Board of Governors takes the "low road" to con-

tract out city delivery services. Joan was able to meet with the assistant to Rich Boucher of VA District 9. Bob Goodlatte's office was empty at the time she arrived. I encourage everyone to become an e-activist and to write your legislators about HR-282. Visit [www.nalc.org](http://www.nalc.org) and click on E-Activist today!

Pictured: Executive Vice President Fred Rolando, Branch 524 Vice President Jenny Hall and Asst Secretary/Treasurer George Mignosi



## THE BROTHERHOOD OF LETTER CARRIERS by Noel Ramos

Six years ago, I joined the brotherhood of letter carriers. My first day on the job was 2/24/01; I walked in with a little fear and nervousness. I didn't know anyone at the Melrose Station and didn't know the area, but had been briefed at the carrier academy what to expect.

So I met the station manager and the supervisor. I was then introduced to every carrier, but because of my nervousness and anxiety I believe I remembered only 5 or 6 names.

After the introductions, the station manager along with the supervisor briefly told me what their expectations were. I really felt the pressure then, I really wanted to do a great job and I wanted to be part of the team.

My first two days I was trained by 2 wonderful carriers. Both really taught me how to do the job correctly, the proper procedures, what to do in certain situations, always reminded me to relax and just enjoy the job. Both even gave me their cell phone numbers and said "look when you start delivering out there, if you got any questions give me a call, I'll help you anyway I can".

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, I was on my own. I came in at 9:00am, was given a map of route 1739 and instructed to carry the whole route. Most of the carriers said "Good morning!" to me and offered some encouragement and advice. That 1<sup>st</sup> day on my own I don't remember what happened on the street. What I do remember was I finished the route around after 5:00.

The next day a carrier about to retire gave me his jackets, rain gear, and some shirts. The shop steward invited me to attend the next union meeting. Most of the other carriers gave me encouragement and advice.

My first week as letter carrier has made a lasting impression on me. The veteran carriers were so helpful and encouraging. They were very friendly and welcomed me with open arms. I felt, they wanted me to make it and do well. The brotherhood and camaraderie at the Melrose station really gave me a sense of belonging. It relieved my nervousness and anxiety.



I give thanks to all the veteran carriers that are great role models for carriers like me. Their actions and kind gestures I will adapt and pass on to new carriers that will come along. I am happy and proud to be a part of the wonderful brotherhood of letter carriers.

Noel Ramos

Melrose Assistant Shop Steward

# Star City

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ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS

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## JOHN DEATHEREDGE RETIRES

John Deatheredge, past president of Star City 524, retired at the end of April. John worked as a city letter carrier and retired with 42 years of service to the USPS and the NALC. John has been a tremendous leader for the NALC. In years past, he served on the UMPS team. John also started our local Branch 524 scholarship fund with the Hempstead Resolution in 1984. John was honored recently at work with a surprise retirement party planned by his friend and coworker, William "Wild Bill" Roop. The pictures you see here are from that day. Warren Ray baked a three flavored cake! Don Vineyard presented John with his NALC watch! District Manager Karen Schenck wished him well! Ed Wood presented John with a letter of congratulations! Bill Roop passed along the carriers' well wishes and numerous tokens of esteem!

**GOOD LUCK IN YOUR RETIREMENT!**