



Are your park points safe?

April 28 is recognized as Workers Memorial Day. In the very recent past, letter carriers have experienced two tragic vehicle accidents. In putting my thoughts together for this month's article, I reached out to the NALC's national business agents, asking that they provide me with information, some of which appears below.

On Feb. 28, 2012, letter carrier **Anthony Dunn** of Los Angeles was struck by a commercial vehicle while he stood at the back of his vehicle working the mail. Anthony had served as a letter carrier since 2007. Anthony lost both legs at the time of the accident and passed away the next morning.

On Jan. 14, 2012, 18-year letter carrier **Doug Poole** of Columbus, OH, was struck by an SUV while he stood at the rear of his vehicle working the mail. He was pinned between the vehicles and his legs were crushed. He continues his treatment to this day.

On Sep. 26, 2009, 37-year letter carrier **Roy Rondeno** of New Orleans was struck by a vehicle while working mail at the rear of his vehicle. He lost both legs and passed away a few days later.

On July 24, 2006, letter carrier **Maureen DePrince** of Ventor, NJ, was struck by a drunk driver while she stood at the rear of her vehicle working the mail. She lost both legs and went into a coma. Additionally, she suffered a stroke, lost her sight and the baby she was carrying.

On Oct. 18, 2005, North Hollywood, CA, letter carrier **Wiwatchai (William) Pinjanthuk** was struck by a vehicle while working the mail standing at the rear of his vehicle. William lost both legs.

On Feb. 27, 2003, letter carrier **Luke Naduparambil** of Wayne, NJ, was struck while standing at the rear of his vehicle working the mail. Luke had carried mail for about two years. He passed away following the accident.

On March 9, 1999, St. Clair Shores, MI, letter carrier **John Jones** was struck by a snow plow blade while standing at the rear of his vehicle. Both legs were crushed. He works limited hours.

Very little need be added to conclude that we need to do something.

President Rolando and I, along with all of the officers of the NALC, ask you to set aside a moment of reflection for Anthony, Doug, Roy, Maureen, William, Luke and John and their families.

When you have finished, ask yourself about all of the park points on your route.

Are you parking your vehicle with your back exposed to traffic while working the mail when there is a safer location? If so, approach your managers to request a review of all your park points to find a safer spot to park.

If your manager is not enlightened as to the pain that the above brothers and sister have suffered, share this column with them. If you feel that any of your park points are unsafe and unnecessarily expose you to the hazard of traffic at your back, turn in a Form 1767. If the hazard report is not responded to favorably, take this issue to your union steward or branch officers.

In closing, take an extra few minutes on April 28 to think of all the workers across the United States who are killed in the performance of their duties—16 on average each and every day. ☒

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