

# CARRIER ALERT

## Carrier Alert turns 25, brochure gets new look

**W**ith the Carrier Alert program turning 25 this month, the NALC has prepared an updated brochure to help promote the joint letter carrier-Postal Service program to keep watch over the welfare of customers.

“Carrier Alert works because letter carriers visit every address in the country six days a week. Our members are often the first ones to find a citizen in distress,” said NALC President William H. Young, who recently signed a joint statement with Postmaster General John E. Potter renewing the parties’ commitment to the program.

NALC Director of Retired Members Ernest Kirkland, who oversees the Carrier Alert effort, noted that the success of the all-volunteer program hinges on the cooperation between letter carriers and local postal management.

“The number of ‘Proud to Serve’ stories about letter carriers coming to the rescue and saving lives is all the proof you need that Carrier Alert is a good idea,” Kirkland noted.

Also lending support to the program are local United Ways, American Red Cross chapters and Area Agencies on Aging.

Carrier Alert was established as a national NALC-USPS program in 1982. In simple terms, patrons are able to sign up for special attention from their carriers, who are alerted to watch for signs of trouble by means of stickers affixed to mailboxes.

Carrier Alert was “re-launched” in New York City in April when Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced that New Yorkers who want to participate in the program could enroll using the city’s free 311 telephone hotline, and carriers could report possible trouble through the same system (see *May Postal Record*, page 10).

Branch leaders who want copies of the new brochure or who have questions about Carrier Alert are encouraged to contact Director Kirkland at NALC Headquarters. ✉



### Joint Statement of Support: 25th Anniversary of Carrier Alert

In July 1982, the United States Postal Service and the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) launched **Carrier Alert**, a joint effort to partner with local social service agencies across the country to offer a measure of security for one of the most vulnerable segments of our society—homebound citizens.

During its 25-year history, **Carrier Alert** has leveraged letter carriers’ unique daily presence in America’s communities to keep a watchful eye on elderly, infirm and disabled citizens. The value of the program has been repeatedly demonstrated as alert letter carriers have helped thousands of these citizens receive assistance. In many cases, their actions have literally saved lives. The all-volunteer **Carrier Alert** program is a natural extension of the role letter carriers and the Postal Service play in America’s neighborhoods. Together, the Postal Service and letter carriers are committed to serving the people and communities in ways that go beyond simply delivering the mail. We show how deeply we care for the communities we serve.

As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of **Carrier Alert**, we encourage all NALC branch leaders and local postmasters to recommit themselves to working with local social service agencies to support the program and to extend its reach to those who most need the peace of mind it offers.

/s/ William H. Young, President  
National Association of Letter Carriers

John E. Potter, Postmaster General  
United States Postal Service

Your letter carrier  
wants to help you

The redesigned brochure includes  
the Joint Statement signed by  
NALC President William H. Young  
and Postmaster General John E.  
Potter.