

# Carriers and the mail make news online

**M**ail-centered stories frequently appear on social media and online news sites. The following are a few that have come to NALC's attention recently. If you find a story you'd like us to consider featuring, send it to postalrecord@nalc.org.

## Connecticut carrier retires after 48 years of service

**Dominick Frattaroli**, a Stamford, CT Branch 60 member, had been working as a letter carrier for nearly a half-

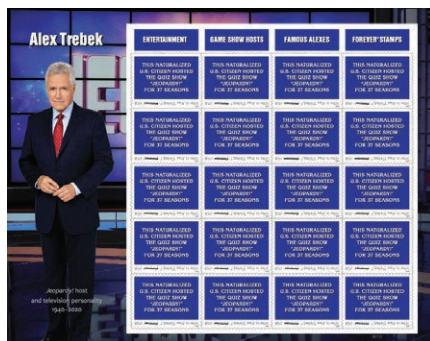


Dominick Frattaroli

century before his retirement on May 31. Throughout his career he had many routes, and on one of them he even met his wife. He was on his most recent route for the past 16 and a half years, so he really got to know the people on his rounds.

When asked what he misses about being a letter carrier, Frattaroli told *The Postal Record*, "The guys that I work with, we used to have a lot of fun. My customers, I loved my customers. I became very good friends with my customers."

Before he retired, he helped his community secure 5,000 pounds of chicken as part of this year's Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. One of his customers, Doug Karp, who always made a sizable donation for the event, wanted to donate about \$5,000 worth of food. Frattaroli found out from the food bank that a grocer in their area had a deal for 99 cents per pound of chicken. So, Karp ended up buying and donating 5,000 pounds of chicken to the community. The grocer was able



to bring all the chicken to the local food bank, so Frattaroli, who had been personally helping Karp transport the food year after year, was able to let the grocer handle it this time.

"I am enjoying retirement," Frattaroli said. "Yeah, right now I'm just taking it easy. My wife says, 'You worked all those years and you need to relax for the summer.'"

## Late 'Jeopardy!' host honored with postage stamp

Alex Trebek, the 37-year "Jeopardy!" host who died in 2020, is being honored with a postage stamp. The stamp came out July 22 and will coincide with the show's 60-year anniversary and what would have been Trebek's 84th birthday.

Trebek won the Daytime Emmy Award for Outstanding Game Show Host eight times and made many appearances playing himself in movies and TV shows. He was originally from Canada and after 14 years of working in the United States, he became a U.S. citizen.

The panel of 20 stamps mimics the television screens that were used in the show. In true "Jeopardy!" fashion, each stamp, in lieu of a photo of Trebek's or other illustrations, merely says, "This naturalized U.S. citizen hosted the quiz show 'Jeopardy!' for 37 seasons,"

with the upside-down answer underneath, "Who is Alex Trebek?" and a "Jeopardy!"-blue background, according to a USPS press release.

## The Philippines breaks record for longest stamp

On June 12, the Philippine Postal Corporation (PHLPost) issued a ₱125 (\$6.85 in U.S. dollars) stamp. It commemorates the 125th anniversary of the First Philippine Republic, the government of the Philippines that is still in place today after the Philippines gained its independence from Spain in 1898.

The stamp illustrates important events that occurred during the course of achieving Philippine independence. The seven events depicted range from 1898 to 1901.

The PHLPost said in a press release that the stamp was created to be "a unique stamp underscoring the Philippines as a beacon of liberty, democracy and republicanism in Asia."

With a length of nearly 8 inches, it is about 0.63 inches longer than the former record holder issued by Kyrgyzstan in 2023. Each souvenir stamp comes in a set of three and is only 1.5 inches away from spanning the entire length of a standard envelope.

## NALC's 2012 National Hero of the Year retires after 38 years

In 2011, a young boy was drifting out to sea on a bodyboard and was caught by a rip current when **Tom Logue**, a Cape Atlantic, NJ Branch 903 member, ran into the water to save the

Photo by Ryan Morrill/The Sandpiper



The new stamp from the Philippines measures about 8 inches wide.



child as the water tried to knock him around. He managed to bring the child to safety and was named the NALC National Hero of the Year in 2012.

On another occasion in 2018, he saved an elderly man who had fallen on the ground, when the carrier noticed that mail was piling up over a few days, by calling for emergency assistance.

Logue was on the same route in Beach Haven, NJ, for 38 years.

“It’s a generational thing,” Logue said. “You see the kids growing up and they get married and become fathers and before you know it, they’re grandfathers. I see the whole cycle on my route.”

He said he will always remember all of the people he has had the opportunity to get to know.

“I miss the people on my mail route because after 38 years, most of those people on my route become family to me,” Logue said, although he said he has enjoyed being retired since the end of May.

### Carrier celebrates 22 years of service to his community

After 15 years on the same route and 22 years as a letter carrier, **Mikey Casey**, a Branch 4102 member, knew everyone—all of the residents of the 250 Scotch Plains, NJ, area homes that he served. His last day on the job at the end of May was made special by his customers, 200 of whom decorated their homes with balloons and signs congratulating him on his retirement.

“I was quite surprised,” Casey told *The Postal Record*. “I was kind of overwhelmed the day they did this.”

Two of his customers came up with the idea and got people on his route involved. He said he misses everyone

on his route, as well as the dogs.

“I knew the dogs’ names; they miss me, too,” Casey said. “I knew all of them [his customers] on a personal level. Yeah, a lot of them. We became friends.”

Casey is enjoying retirement with his wife in their home in the Poconos in Pennsylvania. They spend their days going to a nearby music venue and having quality time with family.

### Story of mail man vs. dog featured in podcast

*Petty Crimes*, a podcast that investigates and evaluates interpersonal “crimes” and judges the behavior of the individuals involved, recently featured a story of letter carrier versus dog in the episode, “Postal Pooch.”

In the dispute, a woman who owned a sickly dog that was known to bark at the letter carrier left her dog in the care of a friend when she went out of town. When the friend wasn’t paying attention, the dog bolted out of the door, biting down hard on the carrier. It was a severe bite and the letter carrier required medical treatment.

Due to her friend’s carelessness, the owner was ordered to pay a fine to the USPS and move the mailbox farther away from the house to the end of the driveway. The owner agreed, moved the box, and paid the fine. However, the manager of the post office was not satisfied. She decided to halt all mail delivery to the woman’s home, so she had to



Mikey Casey

Photo by John Mooney, Taphinoscoch Plains-Fanwood

go to the post office every day to retrieve her mail from a P.O. box. She found it to be a bit of a hassle but complied with the post office’s rules, nonetheless.

About a year later, circumstances changed—the dog’s owner was in her third trimester of pregnancy, the dog continued to be ill, and her husband had a broken ankle and used crutches. It became increasingly difficult for her family to retrieve the mail each day. The only course of action in her mind was to lie to the post office and tell them that the dog was no longer living with them. However, the post office’s manager found out that the dog still lived there and produced photographic evidence, which caused her to stop the mail to the home again.

The fight continued for several months, and the dog owner even tried to get the manager’s supervisor involved, but couldn’t. This angered the dog owner, who drove to the post office to confront the post office manager. After the confrontation played out, the manager agreed to continue delivering mail to the home as long as the dog was not seen again.

The podcasters went through a list wrongdoings they thought were done by each party and agreed that both parties were at fault for their parts in the unpleasantness. **PR**

