

We are one



**James D.
Henry**

I am humbled, grateful and honored to continue to meet the obligation and have the privilege to serve my union brothers and sisters as the NALC vice president.

I began my career as a letter carrier in Pomona, CA, on Feb. 22, 1988, after completing my initial active-duty enlistment in the United States Marine Corps, from which I retired after 22 years as a gunnery sergeant. I've been a proud dues-paying member for more than 36 years. I've been very fortunate to come from a lineage of great leaders, which has only enhanced my natural desire to serve as our brothers and sisters' keeper. I've been

blessed to gain extensive experience and represent carriers in an array of positions throughout my career.

I firmly believe that the very essence of a union is to unify, i.e., join together, become one force. In order to achieve that end, its members must be willing and able to see each other as one in the same cause. This sometimes necessitates validating your convictions by fighting for your rights, and for each other. Theodore Roosevelt once said, "The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again, who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, and spends himself in a worthy cause; who at best, knows the triumph of achievement; and who at worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat."

The NALC as an organization has epitomized being the "keepers of its brothers and sisters." Every negotiated contract, political endorsement and executive decision has been made with the fundamental principle of ensuring that there is a worthwhile job, not only for past and present letter carriers, but for those yet to be born. It's simple, because we have been in the "arena" fighting and standing up for one another; we have known victory. If we expect to have a work environment that is aligned with the philosophy of "one for all and all for one" at our worksites, we as individuals must be in the "arena." I commit to all of you that I will be in the "arena," fighting for you and fighting with you!

I strongly believe that "the best ability is dependability." The profile of a courageous person is doing the right thing because it is right under an unpopular atmosphere or circumstance. It may be difficult to stand up in an adversarial atmosphere between labor and management, but we must be that profile of courage, trustworthy and reliable. We must be able to depend on each other. I commit to you, as your vice president, that you can depend on me to employ my teachings as a Marine of "esprit de corps," to have your backs like vertebrates!

"Our duty to one another is to be of help, stand together, lift one another up and cultivate our camaraderie as letter carriers."

Seemingly, today's work environment is such that we must be vigilant and be willing to give witness to what we observe occurring to one another. The level of hostility exhibited by management, the unreasonable demands placed upon carriers, and management's attitude of indifference toward carriers' safety is unacceptable. It appears that not even an effort is made by management to provide a harmonious and safe work environment for letter carriers. One would think that such a basic and reasonable expectation would be inherently provided, since it's a right and not a privilege.

Our duty to one another is to be of help, stand together, lift one another up and cultivate our camaraderie as letter carriers. We should strive to be so close as union brothers and sisters that one can't fall without the other. This is not wishful thinking. Rather, it is a necessity for our union to remain strong!

My desire is not that of self-aggrandizement, but for the advancement of the NALC agenda and ultimately the membership. My interest is that of service in all sincerity. Notwithstanding the goal of justice for all, this moment for me serves as a clarion call, an opportunity to offer my experience to carriers who may be experiencing challenges and or problems. Therefore, I will faithfully continue the work begun by my predecessors. I look forward to the mission ahead and being in further service to the NALC and the membership.

Remember, we can surmount any difficulty when we act in concert and exhibit the spirit of "One for all, and all for one!"