

Veterans Group

For more information, go to nalc.org/veterans.



Join the NALC Veterans Group today

Veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces comprise almost a quarter of the membership of the National Association of Letter Carriers—active NALC members as well as retired members. As of right now, we have 19,747 members in the Veterans Group; however, there are thousands of members who are veterans and have not signed up.

These veterans traded their military uniforms for letter carrier uniforms, and they continue to serve their communities and this great nation.

The creation of the NALC Veterans Group is intended to be something tangible and useful.

The NALC Veterans Group is designed to provide NALC members who are military veterans access to the information and tools specific to veterans' rights and benefits within the U.S. Postal Service. It also is intended to give veterans a sense of family and more brotherhood/sisterhood. It seeks to provide all NALC members who are also military vet-

erans—active full-time and part-time letter carriers, as well as retired letter carriers—resources, rights information and a sense of camaraderie.

NALC has made it easier for all veterans to sign up for the group. You can fill out the form on the website and mail it in, or you can fill out the form shown below and mail it in.

And you can go to nalc.org/join-veterans, which will generate an email. You then will need to enter the information requested—name, address, branch number, military branch and any affiliated veterans groups. Once the fields are completed, press “send.” You will then be entered in our NALC Veterans Group and you will be sent an NALC Veteran pin.

Don't forget about the Veterans Group memorabilia that is available to purchase if you are a member of



Joining the Veterans Group online is easy. Simply go to nalc.org/join-veterans, click the link to generate an email and send your information to NALC Headquarters.

the Veterans Group. These items would make a great gift from a branch to its veterans; check out nalcstore.org to order. All proceeds go toward future Veterans Group projects.

Veteran profile: Amy Shea

Amy Shea, a Port Angeles, WA Branch 1906 letter carrier, has been carrying mail for a little more than 10 years. Before that, she joined the Navy after high school and served from 2003 to 2007.

“I was one of those kids that didn't have, like, a ‘This is what I want to be when I grow up.’ I just never could figure that out,” she said.

Although she was unsure about her future, when she was 18 years old, she was training to work at a fire department. She remembers being in the middle of training on Sept. 11, 2001, when two jets collided with the

Twin Towers.

“I sat on the floor in front of the TV for hours while [everyone in] the department cried and prayed together for our brothers and sisters,” Shea said. “That was the deciding factor in my enlistment.”

She entered a contract with the Navy for eight years, four years active and four years inactive. She began as



Shea joined the Navy in 2003.

an electrical engineer and was part of a team that hooked up ships to shore power when they docked.

“I didn't really enjoy that too much, so I studied and cross-trained over to weapons,” Shea said. Then, she became a small arms weapons instructor.

She was stationed in Pearl Harbor, HI, on the *USS Hopper*, a guided missile destroyer (DDG 70).

They went on deployment around the world and stopped in places includ-

cluding Hong Kong, Singapore, Australia, the United Arab Emirates and the Seychelles.

She remembers jumping into the middle of the ocean to do swim calls, with divers surrounding them watching for sharks. “We would just dive right in the water, super fun,” Shea said.

“What I really do miss [about the military] is having those people that you wouldn’t know, like, who you wouldn’t have met, but now they’re family for life,” she said.

After leaving the military in 2007, she went to college, had her son, became the assistant to the director at the New Mexico School of Music and worked as a security guard.

Shea’s mother-in-law was a rural letter carrier, so she kept encouraging her to join the Postal Service until Shea eventually decided to apply.

“I really liked the idea of just being on my own and, you know, being out delivering and having that freedom and independence,” Shea said. “When you deliver the mail, you don’t

have anyone looking over your shoulder. ... That’s one of the fun things about working for the post office for the majority of the day—you’re just doing your job, kind of solo, and get to pet dogs and talk to really nice people.”

She has worked as a letter carrier in Washington and New Mexico. Her former branch president, **Craig Golden**, “taught me how to be a steward and went above and beyond in my NALC education,” she said.

“He’s like, ‘Not only am I going to teach you everything, I’m going to push you to be the best person and the best steward you can be.’ He was just an amazing, amazing president,” she said.

She became vice president for her branch and a part of the Joint Statement on Violence and Behavior in the Workplace team for NALC Region 2 in January.

Shea drew comparisons between her mail career, union involvement and military experience. She likened the importance of following orders in the military to the importance of fol-

lowing the contract when it comes to the union.

“Attention to detail is a big part of all three worlds,” she said.



Shea is a member of Port Angeles, WA Branch 1906.

Join the NALC Veterans Group

The NALC Veterans Group is designed to provide NALC members—both active and retired letter carriers—who are also military veterans the ability to connect with fellow NALC veterans and stay informed on issues of importance to letter carrier veterans. It is free to join.

Members receive a pin as a symbol of gratitude for your military service and membership in NALC.

If you are interested in joining the group, complete the sign-up card at right and mail it to the address included. A fillable version is also available at nalc.org/veterans.



You continue to serve your country—
THANK YOU!

NALC Veterans Group

Complete this form and mail it to:
NALC Veterans Group, c/o NALC,
100 Indiana Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20001-2144

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____
NALC BRANCH NUMBER: _____ BRANCH OF SERVICE: _____

I BELONG TO THE FOLLOWING VETERAN GROUP(S):

AMERICAN LEGION DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
 OTHER: _____

Free
to join