



POSTAL NEWS

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LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE DECLARES JUNE 2 'UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE DAY'

Resolutions in state House, Senate cite 'exemplary service' in New Orleans elections

WASHINGTON – Encouraging the citizens of Louisiana to show the U.S. Postal Service “the respect and honor befitting them and their service” to the state, the Louisiana Legislature has declared today as “United States Postal Service Day” in the state.

In separate actions Thursday, the state House and Senate adopted resolutions authored by Speaker of the House Joe Salter and President of the Senate Don Hines, respectively, establishing the day, recognizing the dedication and commitment Postal Service employees have shown since hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated much of the state. The resolutions specifically acknowledge successful efforts in the recent elections in New Orleans.

“The state of Louisiana should honor the United States Postal Service as an outstanding group of individuals in recognizing their exemplary service,” the Senate Resolution states.

The Postal Service worked closely with the Louisiana Secretary of State’s Election Division to make certain that absentee ballots were distributed and received in a timely manner. Postal Service outreach efforts included placing posters in all 38,000 Post Offices publicizing absentee ballot mailing deadlines; lifting the embargo on bulk rate for campaign and political mailings, making it easier for candidates to mail campaign pieces; meeting regularly with Louisiana Secretary of State Al Ater and his staff to support them in the absentee ballot effort; and contacting every candidate with information explaining mailing options, stressing deadlines and explaining available services and options available to them.

Both resolutions acknowledge this collaboration.

“We are very thankful for the special assistance that the U.S. Postal Service provided our

displaced voters during this very critical election cycle,” Secretary Ater said. “It was extremely important that we let our voters know that their requests for ballots, the mailing of their ballots, and receipt of their ballots would be done in a timely manner to insure that they were counted in the elections.”

The resolutions also thank the Postal Service for introducing Confirm®, a mail tracking system used on each of the absentee ballots, recognizing the efforts to “ensure that voters displaced as a result of the hurricanes received their mail.”

About 12,000 absentee ballots were processed with Confirm by the Postal Service for the May 20 New Orleans mayoral run-off election. All but one ballot were turned over to the Secretary of State’s Office by the deadline. That lone ballot arrived the next day. Confirm service provides near real-time tracking information about First-Class Mail®, Periodicals, and Standard Mail. Confirm service takes advantage of existing technologies that provide enhanced mail tracking and visibility. With Confirm, each piece of mail is identified with an additional barcode. As these barcodes are processed, electronic records are created and sent to the Postal Service.

Both resolutions also acknowledge the tireless efforts of Postal Service employees and the Postal Inspection Service involved in the processing and delivery of election-related materials: “All made significant, meaningful contributions to the success of both historic elections in New Orleans.”

“We are honored by this recognition of the work we do every day in cities and towns across the country but are especially thankful for these two resolutions as they acknowledge the partnership with the state of Louisiana that we deeply value,” said Delores Killelte, Vice President and Consumer Advocate.

Since 1775, the Postal Service and its predecessor, the Post Office Department, have connected friends, families, neighbors and businesses by mail. It is an independent federal agency that visits more than 144 million homes and businesses every day and is the only service provider delivering to every address in the nation. The Postal Service receives no taxpayer dollars for routine operations, but derives its operating revenues solely from the sale of postage, products and services. With annual revenues of \$70 billion, it is the world’s leading provider of mailing and delivery services, offering some of the most

affordable postage rates in the world. The U.S. Postal Service delivers more than 46 percent of the world's mail volume—some 212 billion letters, advertisements, periodicals and packages a year—and serves seven million customers each day at its 37,000 retail locations nationwide.

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