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NATIONAL NEWSPAPER AWARD OF EXCELLENCE PRESENTED TO U.S. POSTAL SERVICE EMPLOYEE

WASHINGTON, DC – Marion Narcisse, a retail sales associate at the Denham Springs, LA, Post Office, has been selected as the national winner of the 7th annual Benjamin Franklin Community Newspaper and Postal Service Partnership Award of Excellence.

The award was presented today by Postmaster General John E. Potter and National Newspaper Association Postal Committee Chair Max Heath during the Association's 44th Annual Government Affairs Conference at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

The Benjamin Franklin Award of Excellence is presented to the Postal Service employee who best exemplifies the spirit of Benjamin Franklin.

Franklin, the nation's first postmaster general, was a newspaper publisher and statesman who viewed delivering newspapers through the mail as a critical link in the communication chain that binds the nation together. Narcisse shares this vision and dedication.

"My congratulations to Marion Narcisse for being recognized as this year's winner of the National Newspaper Association Ben Franklin Award." said Postmaster General Jack Potter. "The award honors the postal employee who has done the most to strengthen the partnership between the Postal Service and community newspapers."

"I also thank Jeff David of the *Livingston Parish Newspaper* for nominating Ms. Narcisse," Potter said. "I read Jeff's letter nominating Marion for the many years she has helped the newspaper save money, resolve problems and make sure the newspaper is delivered on time. She is an example of what the Postal Service is accomplishing nationally, providing our customers with superior service every day."

Twenty-one NNA state members nominated local Postal Service employees. Judges selected Narcisse as the national winner from those nominations.



From left: National Newspaper Association Postal Committee Chair Max Heath; Postmaster General John E. Potter; Marion Narcisse, retail sales associate, Denham Springs, LA, Post Office, and Jeff David, Publisher *Livingston Parish (LA) Newspaper*. Photo: USPS

In nominating Narcisse, David said "Our workload, close to 40,000 mail pieces each week, demands more attention than most community papers. Marion goes above and beyond the call of duty. We enjoy working with Marion. Her friendly smile and courteous nature keeps customers satisfied."

Narcisse a 23-year Postal Service veteran, has worked with David and *The Livingston Parish Newspaper* for about nine years. Her career began as a city letter carrier in Denham Springs, LA. She has been a retail sales associate there since 1984. Marion and her husband, Lester, have been married 29 years and have two children.

Active with community organizations, Narcisse works with local schools to improve reading skills and enjoys reading to her two grandchildren. She is a tireless worker for The Knights of Columbus Auxiliary, raising funds to send local young men to ministry school.

"I take pride in what I do and I work hard, but I don't do it by myself," Narcisse said. "I accept this on behalf of my co-workers who have worked hard with me to accomplish this. It takes the entire Postal Service to keep customers satisfied. I am honored to be recognized with the Benjamin Franklin Community Newspaper Award."

USPS State Winner

Nominating Newspaper

Monica Northam / Lake Havasu City, AZ	.....	<i>Today's News-Herald</i>
Vickie Neal / Inverness, FL	.....	<i>Citrus County Chronicle</i>
Michael E. Boswell / Mt. Carmel, IL	.....	<i>Mt. Carmel Daily Republican Register</i>
Connie Harrison / Sharon Springs, KS	.....	<i>The Goodland Star News</i>
Edith Risner / Prestonsburg, KY	.....	<i>Floyd County Times</i>
Allen Kamstra / Willmar, MN	.....	<i>West Central Tribune</i>
Barry Evans / Kansas City, MO	.....	<i>The Daily Record</i>
Ron Casey / Helena, MT	.....	<i>Montana Newspaper Association</i>
Debra Buss / Plainview, NE	.....	<i>Plainview News</i>
Paul McDonough / Bernardsville, NJ	.....	<i>The Bernardsville News</i>
Carole Schuhmann / Ronkonkoma, NY	.....	<i>Long Island Business News</i>
Julian B. Hammer, Jr. / Supply, NC	.....	<i>The Brunswick Beacon</i>
Vernon Kongsli / Towner, ND	.....	<i>Mouse River Journal</i>
Pamela Kennedy / Newberg, OR	.....	<i>The Newberg Graphic</i>
Lu Koepsell / Yankton, SD	.....	<i>Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan Newspaper</i>
Dewain Yarborough / Granbury, TX	.....	<i>Hood County News</i>
Curtis Marsh / Richfield, UT	.....	<i>The Richfield Reaper</i>
Kim Snead / Powhatan, VA	.....	<i>Powhatan Today</i>

Since 1775, the U.S. Postal Service® has connected friends, families, neighbors and businesses by mail. An independent federal agency, the Postal Service makes deliveries to more than 142 million addresses every day and is the only service provider to deliver 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 \$69 billion, it is the world's leading provider of mail and delivery services, offering some of the most affordable postage rates in the world. Moreover, today's postage rates will remain stable until at least 2006. The U.S. Postal Service delivers more than 46 percent of the world's mail volume - some 206 billion letters, advertisements, periodicals and packages a year - and serves seven million customers each day at its 37,000 retail locations nationwide.