



POSTAL NEWS

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

WASHINGTON, DC - William "Jack" Gentry, a dedicated Florida postmaster who has gone beyond the call of duty to personally haul sacks of newspapers to distant offices to ensure timely delivery, is this year's winner of the Benjamin Franklin Community Newspaper and Postal Partnership Award of Excellence. The award was presented today by Postmaster General John E. Potter and National Newspaper Association (NNA) Postal Committee Chair Max Heath during the Association's 45th 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. Gentry shares this vision and dedication.

"My congratulations to Jack Gentry for being recognized as this year's winner," said Potter. "I applaud Jack for taking personal responsibility for making sure the Chiefland Citizen got delivered. He is an example of what the Postal Service is accomplishing nationally, providing our customers with superior service every day."

"I also thank Dale Bowen, Publisher of the Chiefland Citizen, for nominating Mr. Gentry," Potter said. "The award honors the postal employee who has done the most to strengthen the partnership between the Postal Service and community newspapers."

Twenty-one NNA state members nominated local Postal Service employees. Judges selected Gentry as the national winner from those nominations. In nominating Gentry, Bowen said, "Jack goes above and beyond the call of duty to correct any and all problems including personally driving sacks of newspapers to area Post Offices. He suggests processes that make my job easier and save the company money too. Jack is very responsive and pleasant, making him a joy to work with-he keeps customers satisfied."

Gentry a 22-year Postal Service veteran, has worked with Bowen and the Chiefland Citizen for a year and a half. He began his Postal career in Ft. Myers, FL as a clerk and has since seen much of the U.S. by working in various Post Offices. Gentry and his wife, Susan, have been married 36 years and have two children.

Active with community organizations, Gentry works with a local little league baseball team, the Humane Society and is a member of the Harley's Owners Group. Admired by his colleagues, Gentry

enjoys and takes pride in his work. "I'm just a country boy-I've never played football, but what I do know from that sport is when someone drops the ball, you pick it up and run with it," Gentry said. "When you go out of your way, that's when the customer tells you thanks."

USPS State Winner

Nominating Newspaper

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| D. Gary Holmes / Folsom, CA | The Folsom Telegraph |
| Mike Nance / Buena Vista, CO | The Chaffee County Times |
| Claude Sisson / Calhoun, GA | Calhoun Times |
| Larry Lankheit / Du Quoin, IL | The Gazette-Democrat |
| Connie Harrison / Sharon Springs, KS | Goodland Star-News |
| Chris Davis / Baltimore, MD | The Daily Record |
| Doug Starry / Zeeland, MI | Allegan County News |
| Earl Clark / Grenada, MS | The Daily Star |
| Doug Storts / Vandalia, MO | The Vandalia Leader |
| Roger Jacobsen / Geneva, NE | The Nebraska Signal |
| Myrtle Scott /Madison, NJ | The Madison Eagle |
| Peggy Eng Jung / Merrick, NY | Merrick Life |
| John D. Perrigrew, Jr. / Shallotte, NC | The Brunswick Beacon |
| Dianne Herr / Turtle Lake, ND | McLean County Journal |
| Chad Robinson / Enid, OK | Enid News & Eagle |
| Aaron G. Campbell / Newberg, OR | The Newberg Graphic |
| Jeanne Westervelt / Providence, RI | Bristol Phoenix |
| Mike Sparks / Tullahoma, TN | The Tullahoma News & Guardian |
| Michael Jimenez / Buda, TX | The Free Press |
| Ken Kirschner / Richfield, UT | The Richfield Reaper |
| Lisa Andrews / Milwaukee, WI | The Daily Reporter |

Since 1775, the Postal Service and its predecessor, the Post Office Department, has connected friends, families, neighbors and businesses by mail. It is an independent federal agency that visits 144 million homes and businesses every day, six days a week 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 more than \$69 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 Postal Service delivers more than half of the world's mail volume-some 212 billion letters, advertisements, periodicals and packages a year-and serves seven and a half million customers each day at its 37,000 retail locations nationwide. Its website, usps.com, attracts more than 21 million visitors each month.