



POSTAL NEWS

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Award of Excellence presented to U.S. Postal Service Employee from Newspaper Association

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Nominated twice for the award, Postmaster Claude Sisson of Calhoun, Ga. is this year's winner of the Benjamin Franklin Community Newspaper and Postal Partnership Award of Excellence. The award will be presented on March 23 by Postmaster General John E. Potter and National Newspaper Association (NNA) Postal Committee Chair Max Heath during the Association's 46th Annual Government Affairs Conference 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. The nation's first postmaster general, Franklin 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. Sisson shares this vision and dedication.

"I have truly been blessed to have the opportunity to work with some of the most wonderful people in the entire world. The people in the Calhoun Post Office are by far the best the Postal Service has to offer," said Sisson.

Forty NNA state members nominated local Postal Service employees. Judges selected Sisson as the national winner from those nominations. In nominating Sisson, John Willis of *The Calhoun Times* said, "Claude understands that our customers are his customers and thereby contributes greatly to helping keep his community informed. He is constantly working late to assist us with tight deadlines; we are able to get Friday's football results delivered on Saturday. His word is good as gold, his attitude has made him invaluable to *The Calhoun Times*."

Sisson a 37-year Postal Service employee has been Postmaster of Calhoun, Ga., since 1987. His postal career started in 1970 as a clerk/carrier; he was then promoted to superintendent of

postal operations in 1985. Prior to his career with the U.S. Postal Service, Sisson served in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve from 1966 to 1972. He and his wife, Linda, will celebrate their 31st anniversary this year.

Active with community organizations, Sisson has served on the Board of Leadership Calhoun-Gordon County from its inception in 1988. He was then chairman from 1990-1994. He also has served on the board of the Calhoun Winners Club, an agency that helps at-risk children.

Awards will be presented by community newspaper publishers this spring to 24 distinguished employees of the U.S. Postal Service who provided extraordinary service to newspapers in the mail.

<u>USPS State Winner</u>	<u>Nominating Newspaper</u>
Dawn Miller / Idyllwild, CA	<i>Idyllwild Town Crier</i>
Mike Nance / Buena Vista, CO	<i>The Chaffee County Times</i>
Gary Gardetto / Honolulu, HI	<i>Oahu Publications, Inc./ Midweek</i>
Bruce Clubb / Burlington, IA	<i>Daily Democrat</i>
Ralph Parsons / St. Maries, ID	<i>St. Maries Gazette Record</i>
Norman Puckett / Carmi, IL	<i>The navigator & Journal-Register</i>
Kenton Krehbeil / Colby, KS	<i>Goodland Star News</i>
Joanie Price / Cynthiana, KY	<i>Cynthiana Democrat</i>
Steve Ercha / Lawrence, MA	<i>Eagle-Tribune Publishing Co.</i>
Chris Davis / Baltimore, MD	<i>The Daily Record</i>
Sandi Hahn / Bolivar, MO	<i>Community Publishers, Inc.</i>
Earl Clark / Grenada, MS	<i>The Daily Star</i>
Roger Jacobsen / Geneva, NE	<i>Nebraska Signal</i>
Gary Leoncini / Dover, NJ	<i>Randolph Reporter, The Progress</i>
Peggy Jung / Merrick, NY	<i>Merrick Life</i>
Shirley Worrell / Martha, OK	<i>Altus Times</i>
Dawn Hanson / Newberg, OR	<i>The Newberg Graphic</i>
Randy Foreman / Johnstown, PA	<i>The Tribune-Democrat</i>
Debra Nicoll / Providence, RI	<i>East Providence Post</i>
Michelle Feldhacker / Elk Point, SD	<i>Leader-Courier</i>
Mike Sparks / Tullahoma, TN	<i>Tullahoma News</i>
Dewain Yarborough / Granbury, TX	<i>Hood County News</i>
Glen Hovermale / Salt Lake City, UT	<i>Intermountain Commercial Record</i>
Hope Lewitzke / Random Lake, WI	<i>The Sounder</i>

An independent federal agency, the Postal Service is the only delivery service that visits every address in the nation — 146 million homes and businesses — six days a week and also has 37,000 retail locations. It relies on the sale of postage, products and services to pay for operating expenses, not tax dollars. USPS has annual revenues of \$73 billion and delivers more than 46 percent of the world's mail volume.