



# NATIONAL ALLIANCE

**"The Union That Cares About Every Member"**

The Official Magazine of the National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees

Volume 78 No. 4

## AD MORTEM FIDELIS



**WARREN EDMUND POWELL**  
NATIONAL TREASURER/COMPROLLER

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# NATIONAL ALLIANCE

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## OBJECTIVES

To keep the membership informed as to what transpires in the Postal and other branches of the Federal Service, to improve our efficiency for the good of the services; and to prove that all citizens form an integral part of American civilization, and none need any peculiar arrangements set aside for them to hold any certain positions within the Government service; but all are entitled to the same equality of opportunity to play their part in the function of our National Government.

**DEADLINE FOR ALL ARTICLES IS THE TENTH OF THE MONTH**

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# A Note From The President

## Your NAPFE Leadership

Wilbur L. Duncan, National President: [WDuncan@napfe.org](mailto:WDuncan@napfe.org)



Front row l-r: Dorothy P. Bell, Nat'l Auxiliary President, Wilbur L. Duncan, Nat'l President., Laura Rhodan, Nat'l Retiree Chair, Melissa Jeffries-Stewart, Nat'l Scholarship Director, Standing l-r: Ernestine Watts-Taylor, Nat'l Editor, Noel V.S. Murrain, Nat'l Secretary, Steve Toliver Jr., Pres. Dist. One, Linda Wright, Pres. Dist. Two, Harvey G. Orr, Pres. Dist. Three, Felix L. Bell Sr., Pres. Dist. Four, George C. Spencer Sr., Pres. Dist. Five, Pearl E. Thompson, Pres. Dist. Six, Wendy J. Kelly-Carter Pres. Dist. Eight, Zepour Babaian, Pres. Dist. Ten, Derek Kelley, Nat'l Management Div. Chair, Janice F. Robinson, Nat'l 1st Vice President, Gale R. Thames, Nat'l 2nd Vice President. (Eric T. Sprouse, Pres. Dist. Nine and General Counsel George C. Lacy not pictured).

The National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees has an Executive Board, comprising of 18 members from various cities and states. The elected National Executive Board is the policy-making body between NAPFE's National Convention. Six officers of the Board, led by the President, form the National Executive Committee. Every effort is made to ensure adequate and broad union representation on all organizational levels of the Board. District Presidents are elected by the membership to serve as liaison between the Executive Board and the locals within their respective districts. NAPFE recently held the Annual National Executive Board

meeting at the National Office in Washington DC. All reports were professionally submitted in great depth. Board members engaged in sometime "lengthy" discussions and "healthy debate" on a variety of issues concerning the "Union that Cares." The Board was pleased to welcome newly appointed District Two President Linda Wright.



Former District Two President Hattie McNeil retired due to health issues. We thank Hattie for her untiring dedication to this Union and we wish her God's Blessings.

All officers and staff paused in silence while remembering and feeling the recent loss of our fallen officer, Warren Edmund Powell, Treasurer/Comptroller. A vacant chair where Warren last sat, was draped in black and remained vacant in honor of Warren.



Master Sargent Penny R. Bell, daughter of District Four President and Nat'l Auxiliary Pres. Dorothy

P Bell, was a surprise guest and gave greetings to the NEB.





# NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF POSTAL AND FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

## RESOLUTION

### IN REMEMBRANCE OF TREASURER/COMPTROLLER



*WARREN EDMUND POWELL*

**Whereas, *Warren E. Powell*** was born October 7, 1942, in Richmond Virginia; and

**Whereas, *Warren*** served his country as an Honorably Discharged Veteran of the U.S. Marine Corp and the Virginia Air National Guard; and

**Whereas, *Warren*** became employed by the United States Postal Service in September 1971 and worked his way from a craft employee to a Senior Manager in the Mid-Atlantic Area Logistic Office. As Aviation Security Coordinator, he developed major plans and systems to protect the US Postal Service , its employees and the public from disruption and loss of lives until his retirement in 2002; and

**Whereas, *Warren E. Powell*** joined the National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees September 1, 1971, Richmond VA Local 208, and during his service to NAPFE served faithfully as Treasurer of the Management Division from 1991, until he became National Treasurer/Comptroller at Headquarters Washington DC in 2002; and performed his duties and tasks in a very professional manner; and

**Whereas, *Warren*** was Master of Ceremonies “Extraordinaire” at National Conventions and District and Local functions, and prided himself on telling numerous funny jokes; and

**Whereas, Warren E, Powell** was a compassionate and giving person, always willing to give a helping hand. He always brought the Office Staff fresh fruit, which he said was a healthy snack, and the staff considered Mr. Powell to be their “personal banker”; and

**Whereas, “Let’s Get It On”** was the NAPFE Internet talk show hosted by ***Warren*** every Thursday evening, along with his co-host and good friend Gale Thames, National 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President since 2009. He really challenged Postal and Federal officials and politicians who thought they could do their work just without the annoyance of other people looking over their shoulders. ***Warren*** was the omnipresent backseat driver in terms of local issues that needed to be overseen.

***Warren Edmund Powell*** hosted his last radio program on Saturday July 14, 2018; and



Whereas, *Warren E. Powell* was a loving father to Natalie, Stephanie and Christopher Powell, grandfather to 8, devoted friend to Nicolasa Braughtly, an Officer and Gentleman in NAPFE and a friend to many; and

Whereas, *Warren Edmund Powell* was an extraordinary man, who inspired countless others and will always be revered for his many talents and lasting legacy; and

Now, therefore, **Be It Resolved by the National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees:**

**SECTION 1.** The NAPFE bows in humble submission to the celebrated life of *National Treasurer/Comptroller Warren Edmund Powell*, and expresses the appreciation of members and affiliates of the National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees and Staff for his countless contributions.

**SECTION 2.** The National President shall present a copy of this resolution to his family, and a copy will remain in the archives of NAPFE in Washington, DC, Headquarters.

**SECTION 3.** This resolution is effective upon adoption.

This done on the 20th Day of July in the year of our Lord, 2018.

**Ad Mortem Fidelis**

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Gale R. Thames, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
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*Wilbur L. Duncan*  
*President*



*Noel V.S. Murrain*  
*Secretary*





# Remembering Warren Edmund Powell

*Life on earth is a transient affair, just a few brief years in which to prepare  
For a life that is free from pain and tears, where time is not counted by hours or years...  
So death is not sad – it's time for elation, a joyous transition, the soul's emigration  
into a place where the soul's safe and free, to live with God through eternity.  
Warren's mansion has been prepared!*







**DISTRICT EIGHT**  
**NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF POSTAL & FEDERAL EMPLOYEES**  
*Organized in 1925*

***Here speaks the Comforter, tenderly saying, Earth has no sorrows that heaven cannot heal "Come ye Disconsolate"***

To Natalie, Stephanie and Christopher Powell and  
Jordyne, Iliana, Heather, Jelani, Laila, Landon, Jose, and Tatiana:

The Officers and Members of District Eight of the National Alliance of Postal & Federal Employees, bow in humble submission to the will of God at the Home going of your Father and Grandfather, Warren Edmund Powell.

We extend to you and the entire Family our deepest sympathy. We cannot feel exactly what you must be feeling, however many of us have had to sit in the seat where you sit today. We commend you to an ever present Christ who has promised to never leave or forsake you. Therefore, as we mourn with you, we do not mourn as those who have no hope. Our hope is in our Lord Jesus Christ who promises that "weeping may endure for a night but joy comes in the morning."

Please know that our prayers are with you. If there is anything that we can do further to be of assistance to you and your family, please do not fail to let us know, we are here for you.

Yours in Christ,

***Wendy J. Kelly-Carter***

Rev. Wendy J. Kelly-Carter  
District Eight President

# Labor Unions

Ernestine Watts Taylor,  
National Editor,  
etaylor@napfe.org



From the earliest days of the American Colonies, when Apprentice Laborers in Charleston, S.C. went on strike for better pay in the 1700s to the first formal Union of Workers in 1829 who sought to reduce their time on the job to 60 hours a week, our Nation's working People have recognized that joining together is the most effective means of improving their lives on and off the job.

## Because of the Labor Movement:

8-Hour Workday  
Minimum Wage  
Overtime Pay  
Paid Vacation  
Sick Leave  
Family Leave  
Safety Standards  
Health benefits  
Retirement Security  
Unemployment Insurance

## Significant Events In The Labor Movement

- 1866 `National Labor Union-America's First Labor Union
- 1882 First Labor Day Parade in New York City
- 1886 American Federation of Labor Founded
- 1909 The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union strike in New York, Demanding a 20% Pay Raise and a 52-Hour work-week. Within two days, more than 20,000 workers from 500 factories walk off the job.
- 1913 National Alliance First Black Labor Union was founded.**
- 1919 One in every five workers walk out in great strike wave, including National Clothing; Coal and Steel strikes; A general strike in Seattle; and Police strike in Boston.
- 1935 Congress for Industrial organization

formed, Social Security Act & National Labor Relations passed.

- 1938 The Fair Labor Standards Act set a 40-hour workweek with time-and-half for additional hours. It also establishes a National Minimum Wage and puts severe restrictions on Child Labor.
- 1963 The Equal Pay Act prohibits Discrimination in wages on the basis of sex. The result: Women's earnings climb from 62% of Men's.
- 1968 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee , during Sanitation Workers' strike.
- 1970 Occupational Safety and Health Act passed.
- 2009 Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act is a Law enacted by Congress, that reinforces worker protection against pay discrimination.
- 2017 14.8 Million Union members in the United States.

*"The labor movement was the principal force that transformed misery and despair into hope and progress."*

*by Martin Luther King, Jr.*

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## WELCOME BACK

Former NAPFE 1st Vice President  
David A. Cage Returns to the National Office



Former NAPFE National 1st Vice President, David A. Cage has returned to the National Office to take up the mantle of National Treasurer-Comptroller following the untimely death of Warren E. Powell. Mr. Powell died on July 14, 2018. Mr. Cage hails from Jackson, MS and will complete the unfulfilled term of office until the next National Election.



# Senate bill would force Postal Service Retirees onto Medicare

Laura Rhodan,  
Retiree Chairperson



**Retirees receiving an annuity from the U.S. Postal Service would be required to also enroll in Medicare alongside their standard benefits package under a new Senate bill. (David Goldman/AP)**

U.S. Postal Service annuitants would be forced to enroll in Medicare alongside their standard health benefits program if a bipartisan bill introduced last week passes Congress.

The Postal Service Reform Act of 2018, introduced March 23, aims to reverse the net losses USPS has reported in its finances for the past 11 years. But the bill has received mixed reviews from advocates for federal employees who fear other government workers might one day be impacted.

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association president Richard G. Thissen called the bill an attempt to “balance the books of the United States Postal service on the backs of postal retirees.” A retiree may have to pay another \$1,600 or more per year in Medicare premiums, according to Thissen. Sens. Jerry Moran, R-Kan., Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., Tom Carper, D-Del., and Heidi Heitkamp, D-N.D., sponsored the bill.

“Nearly two and a half centuries after its founding, the Postal Service remains an important part of our everyday lives and plays a vital role in our economy,” Carper said in a statement. “But it continues to lose money at a record pace. Our economy still depends on a healthy and robust Postal Service. It’s our duty in Congress to pave

a fiscally sustainable path that will enable this American institution to thrive.” by: Jessie Bur

The USPS defaulted on its multi-billion-dollar retiree health prefunding payments for the fifth time in 2017 and missed the payments it owed to the federal retirement system for the first time. Along with the healthcare changes, the bill also eliminates the existing statutory payment schedule, cancels any outstanding payments and gradually pays off payments over 40 years.

“A Postal Service Medicare eligible annuitant subject to this section may not continue coverage under the Postal Service Health Benefits Program unless the Postal Service Medicare eligible annuitant enrolls in Medicare part A, Medicare part B and Medicare part D,” the bill said.

The bill’s Medicare requirement can be waived in cases of “extreme financial hardship,” though the bill does not specify what such cases would look like.

Should the bill pass, Postal Service employees and annuitants would be notified of the Medicare requirement and provided information on their options 180 days after passage.

The bill would also create a new Postal Service Health Benefits Program within the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program and administered by the Office of Personnel Management. Some postal groups, such as the United Postmasters and Managers of America, have come out in support of the bill.

“UPMA applauds the efforts of Senators Carper, Moran, Heitkamp and McCaskill in introducing bipartisan legislation to further the goal of providing financial relief to the U.S Postal Service, helping safeguard a universal postal system, and encouraging innovation,” said UPMA co-presidents Tony Leonardi and Sean Acord. “UPMA looks forward to continue working with these Senators and other members of Congress to sustain the U.S. Postal Service, a proven national treasure.” Though Thissen, of NARFE, said that the bill “sets a dangerous precedent for all federal retirees” the text claims that postal employees are different enough from other federal employees that its changes to health insurance requirements



would not be applicable anywhere else:

“It is the sense of Congress that nothing in this section or the amendments made by this section is intended to establish a precedent with respect to federal employees at large, given that the Postal Service is a unique entity within the federal government and benefits for employees of the Postal Service are only partially integrated with benefits for federal employees at large.”

In addition to Postal Service healthcare changes, the bill also allows for a rate increase in postage prices, service and accountability reforms, the shipment of alcohol and a resolution to mismatching mailing addresses for some Missouri residents.

A similar version of this bill was introduced in the House in January 2017. by: Carten Cordell



## LOCAL 405 RECEIVES “NANCY B. FOREMAN AWARD”



(Front row: left to right): Alton Crowley, Local 405 President; Willie C. Taylor, Retiree; Margie Carter-James, Local 405 Editor / District IV Financial Secretary, and Katie Course, District IV Management; (Back Row): MSH Director James Chastain and Friends Board President Gale Martin; The National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees (NAPFE) Local 405 received the Nancy B. Foreman Award at the Friends of Mississippi State Hospital, Inc., (MSH) Annual Meeting on August 29, 2018. The Nancy B. Foreman Award, named for one of the founding members of Friends, is given each year to an individual or group who has demonstrated through their service, their commitment to enhancing the quality of life for persons with mental illness. Friends of MSH is a non-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to educating the public about mental illness and improving the lives of those individuals living with mental illnesses. Local 405 began volunteering at the MSH more than 25 years ago. They visit the hospital on the 3rd Sunday in December bringing sandwiches, chips, fruit, cake, drinks and gifts bags to the patients and residents of an assigned building by the MSH. They also celebrate the birth of Jesus through scripture and songs and include the residents to participate through singing. Congratulations to everyone that travels with Local 405 each year for your service.





## **NAPFE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**

**Melissa Jeffries-Stewart**  
**NAPFE Scholarship Coordinator**

### ***Brandon Dawson***

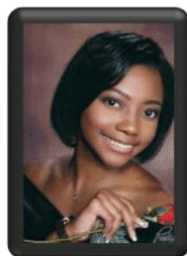
**\$5000.00 Ashby B. Carter Memorial Scholarship**



Brandon is a proud graduate of West Broward High School Class of 2018. Brandon excelled and completed several honors classes while enrolled at West Broward High School. Brandon has also been a leader throughout his community with his volunteer work. He has dedicated hundreds of hours to mentorship programs and various community improvement projects. Brandon is the son of Sharella Spikes, member of Local 322 in Miami under the leadership and assistance of President Dalton W. Nickerson, Jr. Brandon will attend Broward College in Florida and pursue a degree in Criminal Justice and Psychology.

***Victoria K. Ford***  
**\$5000.00**

### **J. Leon Henderson Winner**



Victoria K. Ford is a native of Florence, South Carolina, but graduated from Arundel High School in Gambrills, Maryland. She is an honor student as well as an athlete. She has enjoyed playing volleyball throughout her high school years. Victoria enjoys talking on the phone, spending time with her family and watching movies in her spare time. Victoria has been accepted to North Carolina Agricultural and Technical College in Greensboro, NC where she plans to pursue a career in nursing. She loves helping others and looks forward to obtaining the skill set required to do more to help others and give back to her community. Victoria is the daughter of Mr. Kevin Ford a long time member of Baltimore Local 202, under the leadership of President George Stanley.







# ATLANTA LOCAL 305 HOSTS NAPFE FAMILY AND FRIENDS APPRECIATION DAY

Atlanta Local 305 held its annual Appreciation Day Summer Cookout on the grounds of their new NAPFE home. Members from the surrounding area gathered to enjoy food and good company.

Members from several locals were invited to join the festivities. The potluck style cookout encouraged officers and members to bring their families and a dish to share, especially macaroni & cheese, baked beans, desserts and linguine salad. The membership provided hot dogs, barbequed ribs, chicken, snacks and beverages. Activities were available for children including a bounce house.

The gathering was a great way to wrap up the summer. Local members put this event on each year to get everyone to come out and enjoy their new office building.

Dozens came out to enjoy a meal, play games and spend time with one another, something organizers are hoping to see a lot more of in the future.

Officers in attendance: Harvey Orr, President District 3, Steve Holland, Pres. Local 305, Linda Bennett, Treasurer Local 305/ District 3, Brenda Price, Financial Secretary, Local 305, Felicia Williams, Financial Sec. District 3, Brenda Melton, Member, plus additional members. Visiting: Ernestine Watts-Taylor, National Editor, Jasmine & London Taylor, Pittsburgh Local 510, Youth Division.



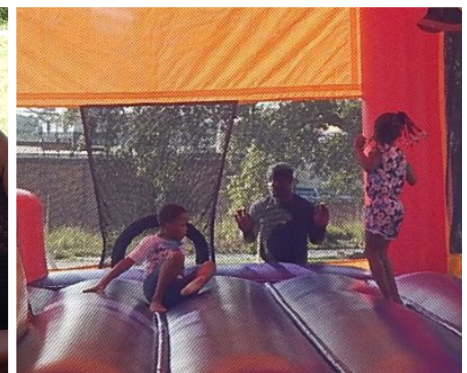
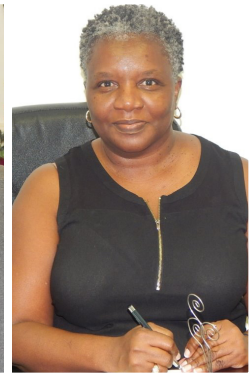




NATIONAL ALLIANCE of POSTAL & FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

LOCAL 305

AD MORTEM FIDELIS





## White House Expected to Keep Postal Task Force Report Secret Until After Midterms

The Trump administration is planning to keep secret until after the mid-term elections a report delivered to the president earlier this month with suggestions for reforming the U.S. Postal Service, according to individuals with knowledge of the plan.

Led by the Treasury Department, the task force delivered its recommendations to the White House earlier in August. The president was at his golf resort in New Jersey at the time, but has since been briefed on the recommendations.

The findings will not be made public until after the November elections, however, according to three sources made aware of the administration's thinking. Trump directed the task force to make the recommendations actionable, either through legislation or regulation, the sources said, but is not planning to start implementation until voters elect a new Congress.

Trump launched the task force through an executive order in April, giving the group of Treasury, Office of Management and Budget, and Office of Personnel Management officials four months to submit a report. The group met that deadline earlier this month, according to Treasury.

The group held meetings over the summer with an array of stakeholders, industry groups and employee representatives. The task force has played its cards close to the vest, with no details of its proposals making their way out to the groups it met with over the last few months. Stakeholders expect only that the report will make some mention of the administration's reorganization plan, which included a proposal to privatize the Postal Service once it regains profitability. That plan was met with rebuks both in Congress and in the mailing community, with criticism that it undermined the diligent work in which the task force appeared to be engaging.

Trump ordered the review after months of heaping criticism on the Postal Service for its contracts with Amazon, which he deemed overly friendly to the online retail giant, and some observers viewed the announcement with skepticism. Initial reviews, however, suggested that the task force representatives engaged in open dialogue and conducted an honest search for solutions. Stakeholders who met with the group said Amazon did not come up in their conversations.

If Trump does direct the task force to develop legislative proposals out of its recommendations, the White House could run into resistance from lawmakers who have worked for years to strike a fragile agreement with key members on both sides of the aisle, major stakeholders and the Postal Service itself. Bills in the House and Senate would eliminate the agency's mandate to pre-fund future retirees' health care benefits—lump sum payments on which the Postal Service has defaulted for the last few years—by shifting retirees to Medicare as their primary care provider and amortizing remaining liabilities over the next 40 years. They would provide a permanent boost to USPS prices, potentially reduce the agency's liability to the Federal Employees Retirement System and allow it to pursue new lines of business.

The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee is set to hold a hearing on the task force's findings once they are released. The hearing was originally scheduled to occur within days of the executive order's Aug. 10 deadline, according to individuals apprised of those plans, but has since been pushed back.

Trump asked the task force to submit both administrative and legislative recommendations that do not shift any costs to taxpayers and "consider the views" of the Postal Service's workforce, customers and competitors. The president directed the group to evaluate the decline of mail volume; the growing role and pricing for package delivery; the agency's impact in rural areas; and the general state of its business model, workforce and operations. Perhaps most controversially, Trump said the task force should examine the definition of its congressionally mandated obligation to provide universal service "in light of changes in technology, e-commerce, marketing practices and customer needs."

In the meantime, Trump is looking for other ways to exert his influence on the struggling mailing agency. The Senate this week approved two of his nominees to serve on the Board of Governors, David Williams and Robert Duncan. Trump this week nominated two additional governor candidates, Ron Bloom, a former Obama administration official who worked on postal issues, and Roman Martinez IV.

The board has been without a quorum for four years, a position in which it remains even after the two new members were confirmed. Currently, only the postmaster general and her deputy serve on a temporary emergency committee that the board authorized before losing its quorum in 2014. If Bloom and Martinez are confirmed, the board would have the six members it requires to cast votes and make decisions.

By Eric Katz



## Press Release

# National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees Denounces Separation of Children from Asylum-Seeking Parents at U.S. Border

June 20, 2018

## For Immediate Release

**Contact:** Ernestine Watts-Taylor, (202) 939-6365, [etaylor@napfe.org](mailto:etaylor@napfe.org)

WASHINGTON – National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees President Wilbur L. Duncan on behalf of the National Executive Board and Staff of the Organization, is outraged upon seeing the sickening images of children cruelly separated from their parents and held in cages as a result of Attorney General Jeff Sessions’ policy of ‘zero-tolerance’ “This is a spectacularly cruel policy, where frightened children are being ripped from their parent’s arms and taken to overflowing detention centers, which are cages. This is nothing short of torture” stated Duncan.

“The Trump administration’s policy of separating mothers and fathers from their children is designed to impose severe mental suffering on these families, in order to deter others from trying to seek safety in the USA. Many of these families come from countries experiencing persecution and targeted violence, including Honduras and El Salvador. This is a flagrant violation of the human rights of these parents and children.”

**If you disagree with the zero tolerance immigration policy and want to contact public leaders I share below what was shared with me. Below are contacts to take ACTION plus a script to voice your outrage.**

**Chief of Staff, John F. Kelly - 202-456-1414**

**Attorney General, Jeff Sessions - 202-353-1555**

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