



John J. Buchanan letter carriers William Bean Jr., Barbara Manning and Gregory Burks pose with district safety manager Doris Brown and their Million Mile Achievement awards...



...while these Mary Alice Henry carriers display their Safe Driver Award pins with pride!

July 1, 2013



Four of the six Million Mile Achievement Award recipients at Harwood Heights – from left, Philip Schmidt, Dale Hall, Ron Kruzel and Paul Rojas.



Flanked by station manager Grailen Johnson, CSOM Loretta Wilkins and NALC Branch 11 president Mack Julion, Southwest Carrier Annex Million Mile Achievement Award recipients Roberto Favela Sr., Song Yol Lee, Peter Skrzypczynski and Gabriel Gamboa.



Here are the safe driving award recipients at Jefferson Park. Richard DeCaro (front row, third from left) is holding his Million Mile Achievement Award.



And here are the award recipients at the VMF, along with OPS manager Don Good and VMF manager Jerry Averhart (at left), and GLA delivery programs support manager Larry Diegel (at right).

## THANK YOU FOR DRIVING SAFELY! DISTRICT-WIDE CELEBRATION RECOGNIZES 3,200 SAFE DRIVERS

There was cheering and applause all across the city Thursday morning – not for the Blackhawks, but another set of champions.

The Chicago District recognized more than 3,000 employees, including letter carriers, tractor-trailer operators, MVS drivers and maintenance employees who drive, for excelling at one important element of their jobs – driving safely and remaining accident-free on the road. Employees at every station and plant were honored with pins noting their years of safe driving – some just a few years, others 20 or more.

And a select group – 230, to be exact – received the prestigious Million Mile Achievement Award, for having driven one million miles (or approximately 25 years) without a preventable accident.

No postal district in the country has ever presented this many safe driving awards at one time.

The awards were conferred in conjunction with The National Safety Council (NSC), a nonprofit organization which partners with businesses, government agencies, elected officials

and the public to save lives by preventing injuries and deaths at work, in homes and communities, and on the road.

“We are delighted to recognize your remarkable records on the road,” wrote NSC president and CEO Janet Froetscher in a letter to the award recipients. “With the amount of time



CCC letter carrier Pete Shagam poses with GLA VP, Area Operations Jakki Krage Strako and his Safe Driver Award. He was one of more than 3,000 employees who drive to receive an award last week, courtesy of the National Safety Council.

you spend behind the wheel on a daily basis, maintaining a significant amount of hours and/or miles without a preventable incident is a commendable accomplishment of which you should feel proud.”

Employees began their Thursday by watching a video featuring Great Lakes Area, district and union leadership explaining the

awards and praising the recipients. Then it was time to hand out the honors, as employees celebrated the achievements of their co-workers.

“You have set the bar for every agency in the country, postal, federal or military,” said GLA Vice President, Area Operations Jakki Krage Strako at CCC’s celebration. “You’re taking care of yourselves, which means you’re taking care of your families, which is huge, and you’re taking care of your customers too.”

So what’s the secret to building and maintaining an impressive record of safe driving? Harwood Heights letter carrier Paul Rojas, one of six Million Mile Achievement award winners at the station, said it’s simply a matter of “staying focused, not being distracted by anything, not talking or eating.

“It’s just something you should be doing all the time, not just on the clock.”

He said the award recipients were feeling “grateful” for the recognition, and hoped the event “encourages people to be safe drivers.”

Last week’s event wasn’t just a one-time thing. The district will have similar celebrations to honor safe drivers every June, which is National Safety Month.

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