



National Postal Mail Handlers Union

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December 31, 2024

To: Local Presidents
Regional Directors/CAD Representatives
National Executive Board

Fr: Eugene Horton
Contract Administration Representative

Re: **USPS to suspend regular mail deliveries, retail services, and administrative activity on January 9, 2025, to honor National Day of Observance**

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Please find enclosed a copy of the above-reference USPS to suspend regular mail deliveries, retail services, and administrative activity on January 9, 2025, to honor National Day of Observance.

According to the Postal Service, a National Day of Observance has been declared to honor the death of former President, Jimmy Carter. The Postal Service will suspend regular mail deliveries, retail services and administrative office activity on Thursday, January 9, 2025. There will be limited package delivery service on January 9th to ensure the organization does not experience any impacts to its package delivery operations that may negatively affect customers or business partners.

All Postal Service facilities—including Headquarters in Washington, DC, and area and district administrative offices—are included in the National Day of Observance. Local managers will advise employees on staffing levels to maintain operations and prepare for the resumption of regular activities Friday, January 10.

Pay and leave administration for the National Day of Observance is governed by section 519.4 of the Employee and Labor Relations Manual (ELM) as well as, the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding between the USPS and NPMHU (enclosed). Mail Handler Assistant (MHAs) will receive pay for actual work hours performed on the National Day of Observance and will not receive Administrative Leave.

USPS facilities are required to fly the flag at half-staff through sunset Wednesday, January 29, to honor President Carter, who died on December 29 at age 100.

Please disseminate this information as you deem appropriate. Should you have any questions contact the Contract Administration Department.

Cc: Paul V. Hogrogian, National President
Kevin Tabarus, National Secretary-Treasurer
Teresa L. Harmon, Manager Contract Administration

ELM 55 - Employee and Labor Relations Manual - March 2024

519.4 National Day of Observance

519.41 General

In the event that the postmaster general or designee determines that the Postal Service will participate in a national day of observance (for example, National Day of Mourning) subsequent to the declaration of a national day of observance by Executive Order of the President of the United States, administrative leave is granted to employees.

The policy shown below applies to executive and administrative schedule (EAS) employees, Postal Career Executive Service (PCES) employees, and other employees not covered by union agreements concerning national days of observance and is consistent with the agreements developed for that purpose. Employees in the following unions should refer to the memorandums of agreement or understanding between the Postal Service and their unions regarding regulations for national days of observance:

- a. American Postal Workers Union, AFL–CIO.
- b. National Association of Letter Carriers, AFL–CIO.
- c. National Postal Mail Handlers Union, AFL–CIO.
- d. National Rural Letter Carriers' Association.
- e. Fraternal Order of Police, National Labor Council, USPS No. 2.

519.42 Leave Granted

519.421 Full-Time Employees

Full-time employees whose basic work week includes the national day of observance are granted administrative leave as follows:

- a. Those with the national day of observance as a scheduled workday:
 1. If *not directed* to report for work, are granted administrative leave for that day.
 2. If *directed* to report for work, are granted a day of administrative leave at a future date, for the number of hours equal to their regular workday.
- b. Those with the national day of observance as a nonscheduled (relief) workday:
 1. If *not directed* to report for work, are granted a day of administrative leave at a future date, for the number of hours equal to their regular workday.
 2. If *directed* to report for work, are granted overtime pay, if eligible, plus a day of administrative leave at a future date, for the number of hours worked, up to the number of hours equal to their regular workday.

519.422 Part-Time Regular Employees

Part-time regular employees whose basic workweek includes the national day of observance are granted administrative leave as follows:

- a. Those with the national day of observance as a scheduled workday:
 1. If *not directed* to report for work, are granted administrative leave for that day, for the number of hours scheduled to work.
 2. If *directed* to report for work, are granted a day of administrative leave at a future date, for the number of hours scheduled to work on the national day of observance.
- b. Those with the national day of observance as a nonscheduled (relief) workday:
 1. If *not directed* to report for work, are granted a day of administrative leave at a future date, equal to the average number of daily paid hours in their schedule for the service week previous to the service week in which the national day of observance occurs, up to 8 hours.
 2. If *directed* to report for work, receive straight time pay (or overtime pay if appropriate), plus administrative leave at a future date for the number of hours worked on the national day of observance, up to 8 hours.

519.423 Part-Time Flexible Employees

Part-time flexible employees are granted administrative leave for the national day of observance as follows:

- a. Those *directed* to report for work are granted a day of administrative leave at a future date, for up to 8 hours.
- b. Those *not directed* to report for work are granted a day of administrative leave at a future date, equal to the average number of daily paid hours during the service week previous to the service week in which the national day of observance occurs, up to 8 hours.

519.424 Transitional Employees

Transitional employees receive pay only for actual workhours performed on the national day of observance. They are not granted administrative leave.

519.425 Employees on Paid Leave

Employees on paid leave on the national day of observance receive administrative leave on that day in lieu of requested leave for up to the number of hours equal to the employee's regular workday. (See [519.423b](#) for part-time flexible employees.)

519.426 Employees on Continuation of Pay, Office of Workers' Compensation Programs Pay, and Leave Without Pay

Employees on continuation of pay (COP) and employees on leave without pay (LWOP) not associated with Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP) on the national day of observance are granted a day of administrative leave for up to 8 hours.

Employees working part days on the national day of observance as a result of an injury on duty (IOD) receive administrative leave equal to the hours normally worked.

Employees not working as a result of an IOD and employees on OWCP pay on the national day of observance are not granted administrative leave.

519.427 Employees Absent Without Leave, Suspended, or Pending Removal

Employees absent without leave (AWOL), suspended, or pending removal on the national day of observance are not granted administrative leave.

Note: An employee returned to duty and made whole for a period of AWOL, suspension, or removal may be eligible for administrative leave for the national day of observance consistent with the rules of the provision of [519.4](#) for that employee's group if the period of suspension or removal for which the employee is considered to have been made whole includes that day.

519.428 Individuals Not Eligible for Administrative Leave

Individuals not eligible for administrative leave include the following:

- a. Postmaster relief employees.
- b. Rural carrier relief employees.
- c. Substitute rural carrier employees and rural carrier associate employees who are not in leave-earning positions.
- d. Temporary employees.
- e. Noncareer officer-in-charge employees.
- f. Contractors.

519.43 Leave Taken at a Future Date

Administrative leave to be taken at a future date:

- a. Must be granted and used within 6 months of the national day of observance or by the end of the fiscal year, whichever is later.

Note: Administrative leave is not granted to an employee who is on extended leave for the entire period between the day of observance and 6 months from that date, or between the day of observance and the end of the fiscal year, whichever is later.

- b. Must be taken all at one time.
- c. May, at the employee's option, be substituted for previously scheduled but not used annual leave.
- d. Should be requested by using the same procedures that govern the request and approval of annual leave consistent with [512.41](#) and [512.42](#).

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

CLARIFICATION OF REGULATIONS FOR NATIONAL DAY OF OBSERVANCE

The parties agree that the following procedures will apply to affected employees if the Postmaster General or designee determines that the Postal Service will participate in a National Day of Observance (e.g., National Day of Mourning), subsequent to the declaration of a National Day of Observance having been made by Executive Order of the President of the United States.

1. Full-time employees whose basic work week includes the National Day of Observance as a scheduled work day but who are not directed to report for work, will be granted administrative leave for that day.
2. Full-time employees whose basic work week includes the National Day of Observance as a scheduled work day, and who perform service, will be granted a day of administrative leave at a future date, not to exceed eight hours.
3. Full-time employees whose basic work week includes the National Day of Observance as a non-scheduled day and are not directed to report for work, will be granted a day of administrative leave at a future date.
4. If the National Day of Observance is a full-time employee's non-scheduled day and the employee is scheduled to work, the employee will receive overtime pay, plus up to eight hours of future administrative leave for the number of hours worked.
5. The same provisions apply to part-time regular employees as apply to full-time employees. The total hours of administrative leave should only equal the scheduled hours for the National Day of Observance, which may be less than eight hours. However, part-time regular employees whose basic work week includes the National Day of Observance as a non-scheduled work day and who are not directed to report for work on the National Day of Observance will be granted a day of administrative leave at a future date equal to the average number of daily paid hours in their schedule for the service week previous to the service week in which the National Day of Observance occurs, which may be less than eight hours.
6. Part-time flexible employees should be scheduled based on operational needs. Part-time flexible employees who work will be granted a day of administrative leave at a later date. The day of administrative leave will be based on the number of hours actually worked on the National Day of Observance, not to exceed eight hours. Part-time flexible employees who are not directed to work on the National Day of Observance will be granted administrative leave at a future date equal to the average number of daily paid hours during the service week previous to the service week in which the National Day of Observance occurs, not to exceed eight hours.
7. MHAs will only receive pay for actual work hours performed on the National Day of Observance. They will not receive administrative leave.
8. If an employee is on leave or Continuation of Pay on the National Day of Observance, the employee will be granted a day of administrative leave at a future date, not to exceed eight hours.
9. An employee on OWCP, AWOL, suspension or pending removal on the National Day of Observance will not be granted administrative leave. If the employee on AWOL, suspension or pending removal is returned to duty and made whole for the period of AWOL or removal, the employee may be eligible for administrative leave for the National Day of Observance if the period of suspension or removal for which the employee is considered to have been made whole includes the National Day of Observance. Such determination will be made by counting back consecutive days from the last day of the suspension or removal to determine if the employee had been made whole for the National Day of Observance.
10. Where provisions in this Memorandum of Agreement provide for a day of administrative leave to be taken at a future date, such leave must be granted and used within six months of the National Day of Observance or by the end of the Fiscal Year, whichever is later. However, administrative leave will not be granted to employees who are on extended leave for the entire period between the Day of Observance and six months from that date, or between the Day of Observance and the end of the Fiscal Year, whichever is later.
11. Administrative leave taken at a future date must be taken at one time.
12. Administrative leave to be taken at a future date may, at the employee's option, be substituted for previously scheduled but not used annual leave.
13. Administrative leave to be taken at a future date should be applied for by using the same procedures which govern the request and approval of annual leave consistent with Local Memoranda of Understanding.