

Benjamin Franklin Award Recipients

The Benjamin Franklin Award, the highest award given by the Postal Service, dates back to 1960, when Postmaster General Summerfield approved the award for presentation to members of special advisory groups, members of Congress, or employees making a contribution not connected with official employment or beyond that recognized in the existing awards program.

In 1962, Postmaster General Day approved the Benjamin Franklin Award for appointed (non-career) postal officials who demonstrated outstanding leadership. The major purpose of the award was to honor officials who could not be considered for the Department's regular awards, which were limited to career postal employees. Since 1971, the non-career requirement has no longer applied, because all postal officials have been career employees. On occasion, the award has been given by the Deputy Postmaster General or the Board of Governors. A list of award recipients, with the name of the Postmaster General who made the award and date of the award, follows.

Recipient Name and Title	Awarded by	Date
Franklin R. Bruns, Jr. Member, Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee	Summerfield	12/31/1960
William H. Buckley Member, Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee	Summerfield	12/31/1960
Arnold J. Copeland Member, Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee	Summerfield	12/31/1960
Bernard Davis Member, Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee	Summerfield	12/31/1960
Robert E. Fellers Member, Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee	Summerfield	12/31/1960
Sol Glass Member, Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee	Summerfield	12/31/1960
Harry Lindquist Member, Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee	Summerfield	12/31/1960
Donald R. McLeod Member, Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee	Summerfield	12/31/1960
Ervine Metzl Member, Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee	Summerfield	12/31/1960
C. Robert Payne Member, Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee	Summerfield	12/31/1960
Robert Sivard Member, Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee	Summerfield	12/31/1960
Abbott Washburn Member, Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee	Summerfield	12/31/1960
L. Rohe Walter Special Assistant to the Postmaster General	Summerfield	12/15/1960
Frederick C. Belen Assistant Postmaster General, Operations	Day	2/25/1963
James F. Kelleher Special Assistant to the Postmaster General for Public Information	Day	8/8/1963
Ralph W. Nicholson Assistant Postmaster General, Finance and Administration	Gronouski	9/17/1964
Ira Kapenstein Special Assistant to the Postmaster General for Public Information	Gronouski	8/27/1965
Richard J. Murphy Assistant Postmaster General, Personnel	O'Brien	11/4/1966
William M. McMillan Assistant Postmaster General, Operations	O'Brien	11/3/1967
Timothy J. May General Counsel	Watson	1/17/1969
Frederick E. Batrus Assistant Postmaster General, Transportation	Watson	1/17/1969
David A. Nelson General Counsel	Blount	7/24/1969
Paul N. Carlin Executive Assistant to the Postmaster General	Blount	9/25/1970

E. T. Klassen Deputy Postmaster General	Blount	11/12/1970
Frank Nunlist Assistant Postmaster General, Operations	Blount	6/4/1971
James W. Hargrove Senior Assistant Postmaster General, Finance	Klassen	3/1/1972
Edward Dorsey Senior Assistant Postmaster General, Operations	Bolger	6/2/1979
James V. P. Conway Deputy Postmaster General	Bolger	7/11/1980
Myron A. Wright Chairman, Board of Governors	Bolger	2/6/1981
Emmett E. Cooper, Jr. Regional Postmaster General, Southern Region	Bolger	1/26/1983
Carl C. Ulsaker Senior Assistant Postmaster General, Special Projects	Bolger	2/4/1983
C. Neil Benson Deputy Postmaster General	Bolger	5/30/1983
Robert L. Hardesty Chairman, Board of Governors	Bolger	9/10/1984
Warren M. Bloomberg MSC Manager/Postmaster, Baltimore, Maryland	Bolger	10/11/1984
William F. Bolger Postmaster General	Carlin	1/4/1985
Joseph F. Morris Senior Assistant Postmaster General, Employee and Labor Relations	Carlin	3/1/1985
Francis X. Biglin Senior Assistant Postmaster General, Administration	Carlin	5/22/1985
Albert V. Casey Postmaster General	Strange (Deputy Postmaster General)	8/7/1986
Jackie A. Strange Deputy Postmaster General	Tisch	12/8/1986
Louis A. Cox General Counsel	Frank	3/6/1990
William Ford, Chairman, House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service	Frank	1/31/1991
Anthony M. Frank Postmaster General	Coughlin (Deputy Postmaster General)	2/27/1992
Marvin Runyon Postmaster General	Board of Governors	5/4/1998
Michael S. Coughlin Deputy Postmaster General	Henderson	5/18/1999
Clarence E. Lewis, Jr. Chief Operating Officer	Henderson	3/20/2000
Richard Porras Chief Financial Officer and Executive Vice President	Henderson	3/20/2000
James F. Van Loozen Manager, Public Policy Communications	Henderson	10/13/2000
Richard J. Strasser, Jr. Chief Financial Officer and Executive Vice President	Potter	11/18/2004
Patrick R. Donahoe Deputy Postmaster General	Potter	10/19/2009
John E. Potter Postmaster General	Board of Governors	11/12/2010
Megan J. Brennan Former Postmaster General	DeJoy	6/15/2020