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Photo by Shawn Jarrard

Lance surrounded by friends and coworkers after having received his award for making the "One Million Mile Club."

Creek area.

He started with the post office on Jan. 1, 1979, as a rural carrier associate, or substitute driver, and he became a regular rural carrier on May 7, 1986, when he took over Route 5.

"For years, there were four routes, and they just had made Route 5 when I went to work as a sub," said Lance. "Now, we've got 18 routes. A long time ago, there were four people who delivered the mail to the whole county. But we've got so many people now and so many houses, it takes 18 (drivers)."

Next year, Lance will celebrate his 40th anniversary working for the post office, and he said he's seen a lot in that time.

"I knew people when they were pretty young, and they've gotten married and had kids. Now, I'm delivering mail to their kids," said Lance. "It's just like a family out there."

Added Lance: "I'd just like to thank all the patrons over the years that I've been able to serve. We've been real close, and I really love them. They've been nice to me, and I've tried to do a good job for them."

Janice Lance, who is county nurse manager at the Union County Health Department, made sure to be there to support her husband



Photo by Shawn Jarrard

Bobby and Janice Lance at the Blairsville Post Office.

that morning.

"I'm proud of him. He's worked hard and deserves it," said Mrs. Lance.

Technically, Lance should have received his award in 2016, on his 30th anniversary of becoming a full-time driver, though the honor was delayed due to the hustle and bustle of busy daily life at the post office.

Fortunately for Lance, he has caring coworkers who decided to organize a March 9 breakfast in recognition of his achievement, complete with a custom cake and "One Million Mile Club" plaque.

"I have the double pleasure of working with Bobby at the post office and also being his customer on Route 5," said Rural Carrier Associate Trudy Smith, who helped plan the breakfast. "He is a joy to work with and an awesome mailman. He gives his best every day and is always dependable and friendly."

The U.S. Postal Service, in concert with the National Safety Council, recognizes carriers who have driven one million miles or accumulated 30 years on the job without a preventable incident.

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