

Bentonville, Ohio
September 27, 2011

Secretary--Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Ave NW
Suite: 200
Washington, DC 20268-0001

Letter of comment concerning the appeal of the closing of the Bentonville, Ohio Post Office--Docket A2011-58 submitted by Donald R. Young Ph.D.

We have recently discovered that the Bentonville, Ohio Post Office is currently facing possible closure by the Postal Service. Along with the anticipated avalanche of public cries against this approaching issue I would like to add my strong criticism of this considered closure.

The Postal Service seems to look through a different set of lenses when it comes to meeting the needs of the rural American communities. For several years American citizens have routinely accepted changes in postal rates with no voice of disapproval considered. We simply rolled with the changes and continued to be faithful to the Postal Service in their decisions regardless of the impact on customers or the financial burden imposed by continued increases in mailing costs.

Further, losing the rural community post offices removes a part of our heritage and ancestral legacies of communication. The local rural community post office is a vital part of the tapestry of this nation. One needs to either experience or learn about the essential centrality of the local post office in the life of the community to appreciate the role it plays in the daily lives of local residents. Here is the place where people communicate, gather, interact, learn and pass on news. Here is where the vitality of a community is reinforced by people relating to people. My guess is that those in the Postal Service who are in favor of doing away with the rural post offices have never experienced the reality of their existence.

I have spent all but two years of my adult life living in small towns. Part of the maturation process from childhood to manhood centered around the early privilege and responsibility of going to the post office and "getting" the mail. In the post office I made new friends, learned the names of friends and neighbors, and learned the responsibility of safely delivering the mail back home to my parents. The local post office was a place of learning. I fear that the Postal Service is taking away a vital experience in the growth of children. If we depersonalize all of society we quickly move toward a world where human beings are robbed of interaction that is needed.

Turning now specifically to the Bentonville, Ohio Post Office. I find it a tragedy that within months of the death of the post master Verna Naylor this tiny community sanctuary is threatened with closure. Verna Naylor was the oldest living postmaster and

oldest postal employee in American history. The fact that this honor was bestowed upon a female is also history in itself. Doesn't this historical fact alone warrant consideration of the importance of this particular post office? If the Postal Service is as important as it wants us to believe why would they want to destroy part of their own history? Have we erased the Pony Express from our memory? Do we no longer recognize the volunteer fireman? I wonder how much more of whom we are, do we allow big brother to dictate.

And what do we do with the memory of Verna Naylor the oldest living post master? The Bible instructs us to "destroy not the ancient landmarks." Does the Postal Service care nothing about her in that they wait for her to die so they can erase the memory of her service to the community as well as her husband before her and her children who follow her in the post office in Bentonville?

By closing the rural community post offices we may as well do away with our museums, our zoos, the family farm, country store, and volunteer fire department.

I fully realize that my argument along with those of the many other saddened faithful customers will probably have no bearing on governmental decisions that totally ignore the wishes of the American citizen. I am fully aware that top line decisions to close these rural post offices were made well in advance of notifying locals of the intent. I am also fully aware that allowing voices of comment is purely a courtesy to make decisions already made, look as if they considered the local resident.

As our freedoms gradually disappear, so goes with them our heritage and the many institutions that helped forge this great nation. Our greatness is escaping reality and few in our nation's capitol have concern.

If the Bentonville, Ohio Post Office is closed by Postal Service dictate along with other community landmarks in the mail delivery system, my respect for our nation's leadership in Washington loses yet another letter grade in the bigger picture.

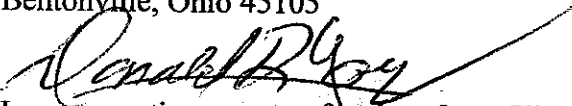
I remain a committed citizen faithful to our heritage, but very concerned with our direction as a free people.

Bentonville, Ohio happens to be the home base of Christians Across America, a national and worldwide humanitarian organization. We also happen to receive our mail in this tiny historical landmark.....The Bentonville Post Office.

Donald R. Young Ph.D
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President: Carolina Christian College

Respectfully submitted,

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I am requesting a grant of waiver from filing on-line due to not being able to file properly on line with a computer for Docket A2011-58. Thank you.