

# imPULSE

A Periodic Newsletter of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission ISSUE 21 • MARCH 2010

## 2008-09 ANNUAL REPORTS RELEASED BY HERO FUND

Annual reports for 2008 and 2009 have been combined into one volume, and it has just been published. The 120-page book highlights the outstanding heroism of the two years' 178 awardees of the Carnegie Medal.

The book is being sent to the years' surviving awardees, the families of the 34 posthumous awardees, and major newspapers throughout the U.S. and Canada, and it is also being made available to the public on request. Call the Hero Fund office at 800-447-8900 (toll free) or contact Myrna Braun by email: [myrna@carnegiehero.org](mailto:myrna@carnegiehero.org).

Publication of the report shifted to a biennial basis with the 2008-09 edition as the result of the recession, which imposed certain cost-cutting measures on the Hero Fund's operations. Otherwise, timely coverage of newly awarded cases has not been affected, as *imPULSE* and the Commission's website ([www.carnegiehero.org](http://www.carnegiehero.org)) remain current.

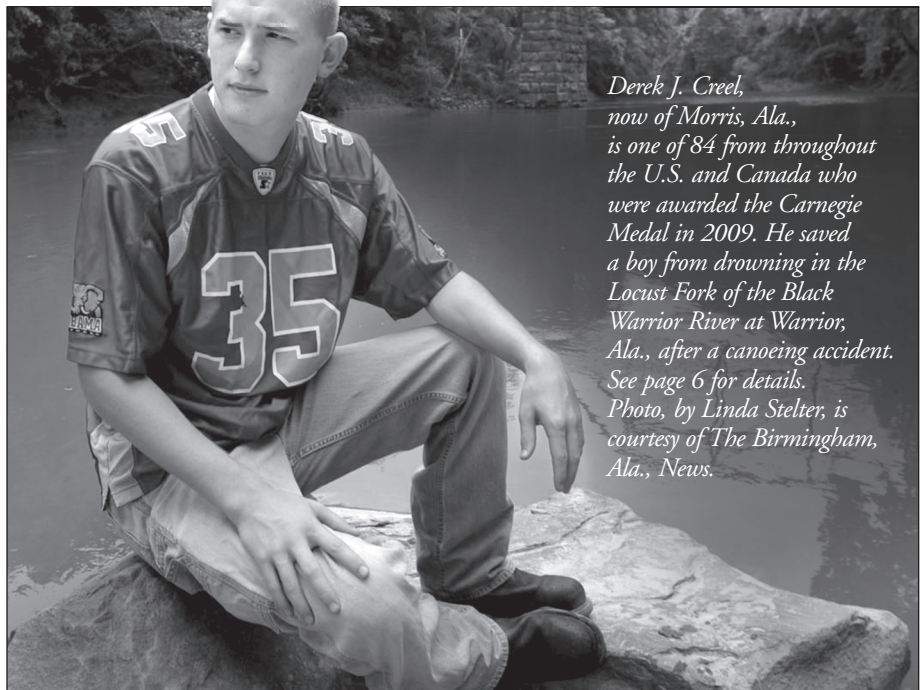
## NORTH CAROLINA WOMAN WAS CARNEGIE HERO AT 11



Carnegie Medal awardee **Dianne Kearney Scott** of Salisbury, N.C., shown here near the time of her 13th birthday, was 11 when she saved a woman from drowning 55 years ago. Only 54 pre-

teenage girls have been awarded the medal over the 106-year life of the Hero Fund.

Scott is now helping people in other ways. See "From the Archives," page 10.



*Derek J. Creel, now of Morris, Ala., is one of 84 from throughout the U.S. and Canada who were awarded the Carnegie Medal in 2009. He saved a boy from drowning in the Locust Fork of the Black Warrior River at Warrior, Ala., after a canoeing accident. See page 6 for details. Photo, by Linda Stelter, is courtesy of The Birmingham, Ala., News.*

## Hero Fund activities in 2009 centered on new awards, scholarships, financial aid

By Sybil P. Veeder • Chair, Executive Committee • Carnegie Hero Fund Commission

Recognizing civilian heroism was the mandate given by Andrew Carnegie to the Hero Fund in 1904, and 2009 saw a continuation of that activity. The recent "Great Recession," which caused a significant drop in our portfolio's value, may have occasioned a few adjustments to our operation, but the economic recovery that started early last year is putting us back on track.

The Carnegie Medal was awarded to 84 persons from throughout the U.S. and Canada during the year, bringing the total to 9,327 awards over the 106-year life of the Hero Fund. The year's 78 U.S. awardees covered a broad geographic scope, with 29 states represented, and the six Canadians honored were from three of the 13 provinces and territories. In the U.S., New York was home to the most awardees, eight, followed by Oregon and Pennsylvania at six each. In Canada, Saskatchewan had three heroes.

By age, the heroes ranged from 12 to 74, with each of those extremes being a posthumous awardee. **Aaron D. Robinson** of Cambridge, Md., died attempting to save his 10-year-old brother from drowning after he fell through the ice on a small pond, and **John Mikel Thanos** of Chesterton, Ind., died along with his 48-year-old son while attempting to save a neighbor boy from drowning in a flooded culvert.

*(continued on page 2)*



### HERO SUGGESTS AWARDEES PRESENT ANY LOCAL MEDALS

By Mark Laskow, President  
Carnegie Hero Fund Commission



Recipients of the Carnegie Medal are known for their selflessness in going to the aid of others, and three of them have recently offered a hand to the Commission to help with its efforts.

#### Kermit R. Kubitz

of San Francisco, Calif. (see "Hero Aids Heroes," page 4), who received the medal in 2008, wrote recently, "Saw you made some more awards to very deserving people in December. I hope the families of the heroes who died trying to make rescue attempts take some solace from the memory of their loved ones being permanently fixed in the annals of the Carnegie Hero Fund. If there is anything I can ever do for those kids of Carnegie Heroes, let me know."

In responding to the Hero Fund after the announcement of his award (see page 5), **Mark C. Moore** of Tallahassee, Fla., informed that he was donating a portion of his monetary grant to the family of one of the posthumous awardees. Dr. Moore made this further offer: "I would like to volunteer my services to the board for 2010 to help search and evaluate future acts of heroism or to assist in any way the Commission sees fit."

The offers dovetail nicely with the suggestion by 2003 awardee **Chris A. Cole** of Lewis Run, Pa. Cole, who was cited for rescuing the driver of a gasoline tank truck after an accident, proposes that past awardees of the medal be used to present it to the new awardees. "I am prior military," Cole wrote, "and when we received a medal, it was always presented to us by someone. It gave the award some importance and acknowledgement. I believe the Carnegie Medal is one of the most respectable awards, and I feel that it should be delivered to the recipient in this manner."

Traditionally, the Hero Fund's efforts and resources have been put primarily into the award itself, both investigating new cases, which requires a staff of four full-time investigators, and making the financial grants. Although its "field" is very large—the entire U.S. and Canada—the Hero Fund has historically participated in medal presentations, organized at the local level, and as a part of its centennial in 2004, a greater emphasis was placed on that activity. The duty fell to the Commission's director of external affairs, Douglas R. Chambers.

(continued on page 3)

## Hero Fund activities

(continued from cover)

Eleven of the heroes were teens; 17 were in their 20s; 18 in their 30s; 26 in their 40s; seven in their 50s, and three in their 60s. Eleven or 13.1% of the year's awardees were female, compared with the historical 8.9%. The types of cases awarded reflected traditional classification: Rescues from burning numbered 36 (vehicles, 21; buildings, 15), followed by drowning rescues (open water, 24; submerged vehicle, four; and ice, three).

Death cases numbered 15 or 17.9% of the total, as compared with the historical 20.8%. Sadly, four of the posthumous awardees were teenagers, including **Timothy B. Haas**, 17, a high school student from Chagrin Falls, Ohio, who died after helping to save his father from a gasoline storage tank that the father was cleaning. **Rolando Campuzano, Sr.**, of Warm Springs, Ore., showed the same devotion to his son by disappearing into the flames of their burning home. **Beth MacDonald** of Franklin, N.H., did the same for her daughters, as did **Rosetta M. Albright** of Sapulpa, Okla., for her husband's granddaughter, and **Robert Ferrell** of Jobstown, N.J., for his mother. **Joseph F. Kelly, Sr.**, of Levittown, Pa., did not know the man he intended to save when he ran onto an interstate highway at night to pull the suicidal man and his wheelchair from the lanes of traffic.

Giving to the Hero Fund's beneficiaries—disabled heroes and the widows and other dependents of posthumous awardees—increased to \$297,335 in 2009, with 71 individuals receiving monthly grants in 2009. One of the beneficiaries, Natalia Lobur Jaguszcak, 84, of Marianna, Pa., died during the year. She was the widow of a food plant employee who died in 1960 while attempting to save a coworker from suffocating in a tank car. Three beneficiaries were added to the roll, a hero disabled by his heroic act of 2004 and the widows of 2005 and 2009 posthumous awardees.

Scholarship giving at \$118,270 saw an increase in 2009. Funds of the type, to help with costs of tuition, book, and fees, are available to all pre-retirement awardees and to the children and other dependents of posthumous awardees. The number of recipients in 2009 increased, undoubtedly the result of the downturn in the economy. One of the recipients was the widow of a posthumous awardee: "Your scholarship... will help in rebuilding my life," she wrote. In funeral-cost reimbursement, three grants were made during the year, and 67 bronze grave markers in the likeness of the medal were distributed on request to families of deceased awardees during that program's third year. To date, the marker has been given to 175 families.

Outreach activities kept Douglas R. Chambers, the Commission's director of external affairs, busy, with on-site medal presentations in Oklahoma, Florida, California, and a half-dozen cities in New York and Pennsylvania. He also appeared at three school assemblies, including two in Illinois for which the audience comprised students with various behavioral disorders. The third assembly, also in Illinois, was associated with the Heartwood Institute's character-education curriculum for middle-school students and was enhanced by one of the year's awardees, **John A. Lloyd**, who was a middle-school teacher himself. (See page 7)

Activities not directly associated with medal awarding included participation in the fifth biennial presentation of the Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy, held in New York City in October. The Hero Fund had good representation at the event, which was attended by Mark Laskow, Linda Hills, Ann McGuinn, Carol Word, Peter Lambrou, and Walter Rutkowski. Of Carnegie's 10 other hero funds, three were represented—U.K., Switzerland, and Sweden—and those delegates joined ours for an informal meeting. Much of the discussion centered on generating participation by the remaining funds, two of which ceased to exist in 2009: The newly re-instituted German Fund filed for bankruptcy early in the year, and news of the demise of the French fund was received a few months ago.

Our board's makeup was strengthened by the election in 2009 of Peter J. Lambrou, who brought an impressive set of credentials. Two board members were honored for their long service, Burr Wishart at 33 years and Tom Hilliard, 30. Our charge may be in excess of a century old, but since its core value remains fresh, it is incumbent on us to execute it with our full attention and excellence.



*Dr. Veeder joined the Commission in 2002 and has served as chair of its Executive Committee since 2002.*



*Woodrow Wilson, Andrew Carnegie, Dean Andrew F. West, and Grover Cleveland at Princeton University. The photo was taken in about 1906, when Wilson was president of the university and Cleveland a trustee. Cleveland was then a former president of the U.S., and Wilson would become president in 1913.*

## Hero Fund scholarship assistance reflects Carnegie's convictions

Thirteen scholarship grants totaling \$36,490 so far in 2010 have been distributed to both awardees of the Carnegie Medal and to the children and dependents of those awardees who were disabled or killed in the performance of their heroic acts. As directed by Andrew Carnegie in establishing the Hero Fund in 1904, "exceptional grants may be made for exceptional education."

That Carnegie made provision for aid of the type is in keeping with his other philanthropic efforts. The effect of his establishing libraries, schools, and foundations dedicated to the advancement of teaching, diffusion of knowledge, and research cannot be overstated and is all the more remarkable for Carnegie's having very little formal education himself.

According to the Carnegie Corporation of New York, Carnegie's conviction that lack of education was at the root of many of society's ills and his belief that "only on popular education can man erect the structure of an enduring civilisation" led him to concentrate his attention on this field.

Six of the scholarship grant recipients are awardees of the Carnegie Medal, including **Jonathan Pinque**, who is in his second year at Center College, Danville, Ky. "This wouldn't be possible without this great organization," says Pinque, who has a double major in Spanish and international studies. Pinque, 20, received the medal for helping to save two teenage boys from drowning after their car sank in a pond near his home in Toney, Ala., in 2005.

**Claude A. Saunders, Jr.**, is taking elementary education and general studies courses at Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Ore. A resident of Lebanon, Ore., Saunders, 45, was awarded the medal for saving a 4-year-old girl from being killed by a falling 200-foot-high fir tree at a campground in Oregon in 1990. Both were hospitalized for treatment of their injuries, which included broken bones.

**Hooman Nourparvar** of Roswell, Ga., saved a 9-year-old boy from drowning in the Gulf of Mexico at Miramar Beach, Fla., in 2006 when he was a high school student. Now a student at the University of Georgia studying exercise and sport science, Nourparvar, 22, says the Hero Fund's assistance is "making it possible for me to continue my education without financial burden."

Two lawyers-in-the-making received grants in January: **McKenzie Anne Perry**, 24, of Mount Pleasant, S.C., is in her second year at Charleston, S.C., School of Law, and **Abraham John Hart**, 30, of Oakland, Calif., is in his final year at University of California Hastings College of Law. Perry helped to save a woman from drowning in the Atlantic Ocean at Sullivan's Island, S.C., in 2006, and Hart helped to rescue a man from his crashed and burning car after an interstate highway accident in 2002.

**Hannah Lynn Goorsky** of Pomona, Calif., rescued a zookeeper from an attack by a 320-pound tiger in 2003 and received the Carnegie Medal the following year. Goorsky, 30, is

*(continued on page 7)*

## TEEN MEDAL AWARDEE TURNS 100, DEVOTED TO CHURCH, THE ELDERLY

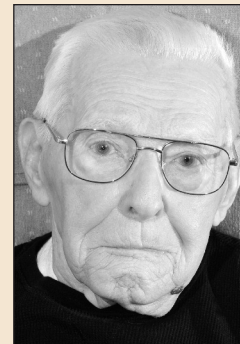
By Lori Van Ingen  
Intelligencer Journal • Lancaster, Pa., New Era

D. Chester Connor, who celebrated his 100th birthday Jan. 14, is a true hero to those who know him. When Connor was just 14, he saved a 25-year-old man from drowning in the Atlantic Ocean at Stone Harbor, N.J. The man had been swimming in high surf for two hours when he realized he had ventured out too far and there was no lifeguard on duty.

Of the 30 or so people on the beach, Connor—who was a member of a YMCA swim team and lifesaving corps—was the only one who headed out to help. He towed the man, who was a good 50 pounds heavier than he was, 100 feet back to wadable water. For his efforts, Connor received the Carnegie Medal.

But saving the man's life isn't the only reason Connor, of Lancaster, Pa., is known as a hero.

"He's my hero. He's such a man of deep faith, patient, kind, and helpful to everybody," his daughter, Judy Weaver, said. Daughter Anita Bowers added he is a good father and is very slow to anger.



*Mr. Connor*

The oldest living member of his church, Connor was actively involved in the life of the congregation. Known as "St. Chester" to some, he was a life vestryman and chairman of the property committee. He supervised the restoration of the church's steeple when the wooden shingles began falling off—the

steeple is now copper-clad. In the 1970s, he started the church's refugee resettlement committee after being deeply moved by a sermon on the plight of Asian "boat people." When the first family arrived in Lancaster after fleeing Vietnam, Connor stayed with them overnight in the basement of the parish house because he thought they might be scared. Since then, he has helped other Vietnamese families, a Ugandan family, and a Bosnian family.

*(continued on page 4)*

## BOARD NOTES

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Cole suggestion's of using local awardees for the presentation has merit. "I as an awardee would be honored to do such a thing," he says, "and I believe others would be too." Any awardees wishing to volunteer their services are asked to contact Chambers by email: [doug@carnegiehero.org](mailto:doug@carnegiehero.org).



## HERO AIDS HEROES

U.S. Army Sgt. Nolan Lovett, on his second tour of duty in Afghanistan, and other troops are the beneficiaries of support—plus socks and hand warmers—from **Kermit R. Kubitz** of San Francisco, Calif., who was awarded the Carnegie Medal in December 2008. Kubitz, a self-described “old soldier,” used part of his

award funds in support of the troops in Afghanistan and Iraq, and he continues to do so. “It makes me feel warm and fuzzy,” he says. “I regard the troops as



real heroes, spending years of their lives protecting this country.” Kubitz’s own heroism was displayed on May 19, 2007, when he stopped a knife assault on a teenager in a bakery in San Francisco. An attorney, he was 60 at the time.

## TEEN MEDAL AWARDEE

*(continued from page 3)*

When he wasn’t helping his church, Connor was volunteering with Meals on Wheels. He was 92 when he quit driving for the organization, his goal having been “to make sure the old people would get their meals.”

The youngest of three children, Connor was a carrier for the *Intelligencer Journal* during his grade-school years. He graduated from Lancaster Boys High School in 1927 and was able to go to college through a scholarship he received from the Hero Fund. He graduated with a degree in electrical engineering from Pennsylvania State University in 1931, his first job as an electrician’s helper earning him 50 cents a day. He then worked for a year as a draftsman at Lancaster Iron Works, where he got a hernia. While he was convalescing from surgery, he met Rosemary T. Ulrich, a student nurse. They dated for a few years and married in 1935 after Rosemary graduated from nursing school. Connor then worked at Hamilton Watch, where he started as an engineer and retired 26 years later after holding supervisory positions in engineering and quality control. Because he was involved in defense work—making fuses for bombs—Connor didn’t serve in the military. He was, however, an air raid warden during World War II.

Connor and his wife had four daughters, 14 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild. After 65 years of marriage, Rosemary died in 2000. Connor lived on his own until age 99, when he moved to Village Vista Nursing Home in Lancaster.

## Hero’s night of ‘following my heart’ inspired others, changed his own life

By Ryan C. Lane • Carnegie Medal Awardee #8821

I was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 2004 for my actions of the previous Aug. 30 on a flooded highway in central Kansas. The award money allowed me to move to Boulder, Colo., and attend graduate school in psychotherapy at Naropa University. I have since graduated and am now an adjunct professor at Naropa.

One of the classes I help teach is *Transitions, Lifestyles, and Career Development*, and part of the class assignment is to give a presentation on the transition to graduate school. The presentation is to use the metaphor of a river, and it can include the further metaphors of rocks, rapids, and peaceful currents within the river. As a teacher, I give a sample presentation, and in my case, a flood is involved.

My transition to graduate school was one of joy and tribulation. Between graduating from the University of Kansas in 2001 and starting graduate studies in 2004, I experienced the ending of a long-term relationship, the shock of September 11, the solidification of my commitment to both martial arts practice and meditation, the death of my mother, as well as the event that led to my receiving the Carnegie Medal. Or, as it is known to my family, friends, and me, The Flood.

The story is one of me trying to drive home in a rainstorm, running into a historically large amount of water on the highway, seeking shelter, and responding to several calls for help. Unfortunately, not everyone made it out of the flooded area before the waters reached deadly force. **Albert A. Larsen**, another motorist who was assisting people to safety, was claimed by the flood, as were the young mother and her four children whom Larsen was attempting to save. Miraculously, the children’s father survived, as did I.



*Ryan C. Lane of Boulder, Colo.: Adjunct professor teaches lasting lessons from his rescue experience*

I tell this story to my students in the context of my life at the time: exciting, open, and full of possibility and experience, but ultimately directionless. As the result of my rescue actions, I experienced what was for me an uncomfortable amount of attention, both from the media as well as from my local community. However, I was moved to the point of tears, time and again, by how much my actions meant to people who were complete strangers. I saw how one

night of choosing to help others could have a dramatic effect not only on the lives of those directly involved but also on those not involved. A night of “following my heart” inspired joy and hope in the people who wrote me letters or shook my hand.

In making a transition into mental health work, I wanted to continue to have this effect on myself and the world. My work has since revolved around healing and growth, within both myself and the individuals with whom I work. I strive to let my students know how much one night changed my life and how it continues to have an effect on the decisions I make. Two of the biggest lessons I learned from the flood are how one act of kindness can have a dramatic and positive ripple effect and how, given the preciousness of life, I really have no choice but to trust myself and follow my dreams with the time I have left. ☒

*(In his 2003 heroic act, Lane, then 24, abandoned his car on the Kansas Turnpike during heavy rain at night and aided other motorists to safety, including a 45-year-old man who had to be removed from his flooded car. After Lane and Larsen took the man to safety, Larsen returned to the flooded area and drowned while attempting to rescue others. He was awarded the Carnegie Medal posthumously.)*

LATEST AWARDEES  
OF THE CARNEGIE MEDAL

SINCE THE LAST ISSUE OF *imPULSE*, THE FOLLOWING 23 INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN AWARDED THE CARNEGIE MEDAL, BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS TO 9,327 SINCE THE HERO FUND'S INCEPTION IN 1904. THE LATEST AWARDS, WHICH WERE ANNOUNCED ON DEC. 22, ARE DETAILED ON THE COMMISSION'S WEBSITE AT WWW.CARNEGIEHERO.ORG. THE NEXT ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARDEES WILL BE MADE ON APRIL 15.

**Seth C. Russell** of Portland, Ore., and **Ryan W. Derry** of Sherwood, Ore., rescued Abilsai Morales-Roblero, 20, from a crashed and burning sport utility vehicle in Portland on Aug. 30, 2008. With flames spreading into the passenger compartment of the vehicle from the rear, Russell, 45, a real estate broker, mounted the wreckage and helped force open the front passenger door. He then extended his upper body into the vehicle and worked to free Morales-Roblero, burning his hand when he attempted to open the victim's safety belt. Derry, 34, a police officer, arrived, leaned through the passenger door, and freed Morales-Roblero. The two rescuers then grasped him by the arms and pulled him from the vehicle shortly before flames grew to engulf it. Two other occupants of the vehicle died at the scene. Russell received hospital treatment for smoke inhalation and minor burns, and Derry sustained a minor burn to a forearm.

**Michael Paul Mizzone** of Orange, Conn., rescued his neighbor, Josef R. Bruckuf, 82, from Bruckuf's burning house on Feb. 12 last year. Bruckuf lay unconscious on his kitchen floor after fire broke out in an adjoining room. Mizzone, 47, carpenter business representative, discovered the fire and ran to the scene, where flames were breaching a front window. Mizzone opened the back door to dense smoke and entered the house. After retreating for air, he crawled into the kitchen, grasped Bruckuf, and dragged him outside. Flames grew quickly to fill that end of the house. Bruckuf died of his burns six days later. Mizzone needed hospital treatment for smoke inhalation.

**Darryl A. Putz** rescued Harold L. Minor, Jr., 46, from the cab of his burning tractor-trailer after a highway accident in Ryan, Iowa, on Dec. 19, 2007. After his rig crashed into two others in heavy fog, Minor was trapped in the tractor, which was leaking diesel fuel. Flames erupted there and entered the cab. Another motorist, Putz, 46, a maintenance worker from Manchester, Iowa, witnessed the accident. He climbed into the cab and removed wreckage that blocked access to Minor. After a struggle, Putz freed Minor, pulled him from the truck, and dragged him to safety moments before flames increased in the cab. Putz sustained a slight burn to one hand. (See photo.)

Virginia State Police Trooper **Kurt James Johnson**, 43, of Bloxom, Va., saved Destineé N. Davis, 3, from a



*When three tractor-trailers collided in dense fog on a state highway in Ryan, Iowa, Harold L. Minor, Jr., one of the drivers, became caught in the wreckage of his truck's burning cab. Darryl A. Putz of Manchester, Iowa, climbed into the cab, freed him, and dragged him to safety. "I can never thank him enough," Minor said. "Because of his actions, I am still alive."*

burning automobile in Pastoria, Va., on Feb. 6 last year. After the car overturned onto its roof and caught fire in a highway accident, Johnson responded to the scene on seeing the flames. He opened the rear passenger-side door and crawled into the car despite leaking gasoline feeding the fire and smoke filling the car's interior. Finding Destineé under the dashboard, he grasped her, maneuvered back to the door, and exited. Flames spread throughout the vehicle. Johnson required hospital treatment for smoke inhalation.

**Elizabeth M. Kelley**, 26, of Peoria, Ill., rescued Karen L. Kinsey, 50, from an assault in Peoria on Dec. 17, 2007. Kinsey was loading the back of her sport utility vehicle, which was in the parking lot of a mall, when a man attacked her. He punched her in the face, taking her to the pavement. Kelley, a social worker, had just left the mall when she heard Kinsey's screams. She ran to the scene as the assailant took Kinsey's keys from her purse and entered the vehicle. Kelley pulled Kinsey from behind the vehicle as the assailant quickly backed it from its space, striking another car forcefully as he did so. Kinsey needed hospital treatment for her injuries.

**Timothy B. Haas**, 17, a high school student from Chagrin Falls, Ohio, died after helping to save his father, Bruce M. Haas, 49, from suffocating in a gasoline storage tank in Chagrin Falls on May 30, 2008, and his brother **Paul Haas**, 19, a laborer from Chagrin Falls, helped attempt to rescue Timothy. Bruce became disoriented by fumes while he was cleaning the inside of the 20,000-gallon, aboveground tank. Atop the tank, Timothy saw Bruce's affected state and without hesitation entered the tank and descended to its floor. He grasped Bruce and aided him up a ladder toward the opening, where another worker helped him leave the tank. Timothy then collapsed in the tank. Paul, who was nearby, entered the tank and attempted to lift Timothy. He then collapsed. Responding rescue personnel

removed them from the tank. Paul survived, with extensive chemical burns, but Timothy died at the scene of asphyxia.

**Michael Allen Hill**, a 44-year-old farmer from Larwill, Ind., and Jason Wayne Spencer, 35, a deputy sheriff from Columbia City, Ind., helped to save Lauren M. Coffee, 18, from a burning automobile after an accident in Columbia City on Feb. 21, 2008. At night, Coffee's vehicle left a snowy highway, went down a steep embankment, and came to rest on its roof in a creek about three feet deep. Flames broke out on the vehicle. Driving by, Hill discovered the accident. He descended to the car and, despite flames issuing from its exposed underside, reached his upper body through a window and pulled Coffee partially out. Spencer arrived about then and assisted in removing Coffee from the car and in carrying her away with others as something on the car exploded. Hill needed hospital treatment for smoke inhalation, and Spencer was given oxygen at the scene.

**Mark C. Moore** and **Dalton Lewand**, both of Tallahassee, Fla., saved Eleanor P. and John D. Cameron from their burning car after an accident in Tallahassee on July 5, 2008. Eleanor, 67, was the passenger in a car driven by her husband John, 73, when it was broad-sided in an intersection. The car's fuel tank ruptured, and the vehicle burst into flame, with flames then spreading through the car's interior. Motorists, including Moore, 48, a physician, witnessed the accident. Moore ran to the car and with another man reached inside, grasped Eleanor, and removed her. Lewand, 34, an assistant chief engineer, responded to the driver's side of the car after he too witnessed the accident. He unfastened John's safety belt and, joined by Moore, grasped John and pulled him from the vehicle. They took him to safety as flames were reaching the front seats.

(continued on page 6)

## LATEST AWARDEES

(continued from page 5)

**Derek C. Merman**, 18, a construction worker from Lake Grove, N.Y., attempted to save Gardy Pierre-Jacques from drowning in the Atlantic Ocean at Hampton Bays, N.Y., on July 25, 2008. While in wadable water at a beach, Pierre-Jacques, 25, was overtaken by a wave and carried farther out by a strong current. On the beach there, Merman was alerted. Although he could not see Pierre-Jacques, Merman entered the water with a short surfboard and paddled out. He found Pierre-Jacques about 300 feet from shore, positioned him on his board, and started to swim in. About halfway back, they became caught in a rip current, which Merman escaped by swimming parallel with the beach. With effort, he reached wadable water, where others took Pierre-Jacques to the beach and unsuccessfully attempted to revive him.

Vacationing firefighter **James P. McCaskey**, 42, of Bartlett, Tenn., helped to save George S. McLain, Sr., 47, and his son, George S., Jr., 17, from drowning in the Gulf of Mexico at Pensacola, Fla., on July 22, 2008. While in wadable water, McLain was carried seaward by a strong current. His son swam to him with a short surfboard, but they were unable to make progress toward shore. On the beach, McCaskey became aware of the situation. Towing a short surfboard, he swam to McLain and his son and placed McLain on it. Making little progress against the current, McCaskey kept McLain's head above water until lifeguards responded. Using rescue aids, the lifeguards and McCaskey struggled to swim from the current, towing McLain and his son. They reached shore safely.

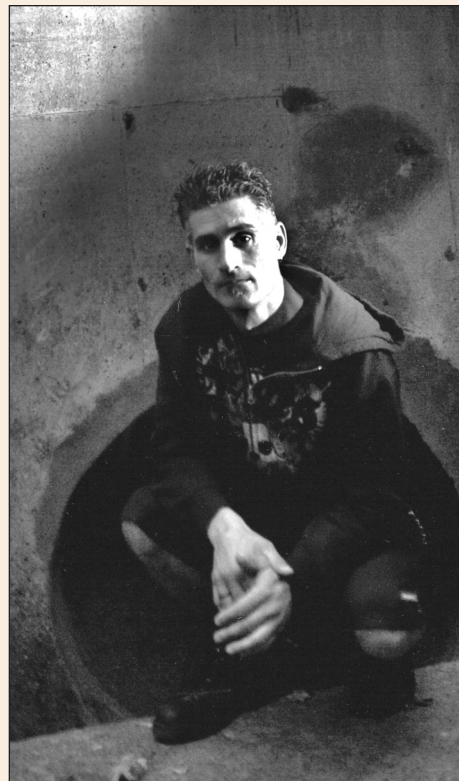
**Richard Shawn Harper**, 38, a sales associate from Fort Worth, Texas, helped to save Brittany L. Williams, 9, from drowning in a drainage ditch in Richland Hills, Texas, on March 13 last year. Brittany, 9, entered the concrete-lined ditch and was swept by swift water into a belowground chamber. Passing by in a vehicle, Harper was alerted. He entered the ditch and braced himself against the chamber wall while holding Brittany to his chest, thereby protecting her from the onrushing, 55-degree water. Responding firefighters removed both from the chamber. They required hospital treatment for hypothermia, and they recovered. (See photo.)

Forest City, N.C., Police Officers **Brandon Rothrock**, 25, of Ellenboro, N.C., and **Joshua A. Bumgarner**, 23, of Bostic, N.C., rescued Mamie T. Gumbs from her burning home in Forest City on March 19, 2009. At night, Gumbs, 80, was in her bedroom after fire erupted in the adjoining living room and grew significantly. Driving by, Rothrock discovered the fire. He heard Gumbs yelling for help, but widespread flames made entry through the structure's front door impossible. Joined by Bumgarner, Rothrock gained access through another door. He crawled to the bedroom doorway and saw Gumbs on the floor, but intolerable conditions forced him out. Bumgarner then entered, but he too was forced out. Entering a second time, Rothrock ran into the bedroom, which was

afire, and pulled Gumbs to the bedroom doorway before retreating again. After Bumgarner re-entered and pulled Gumbs closer to the door, Rothrock joined him in a third entry, and together they pulled Gumbs outside to safety.

**Walter M. Gannon**, 55, a teacher from Belvidere, Ill., rescued fellow-teacher Carolyn E. Gilbert, 50, from a knife assault in her classroom in Elgin, Ill., on Jan. 18, 2008. Gilbert was approached by a 16-year-old student who then put a coat over her head and stabbed her in the eye. He took her to the floor and continued to stab her. In an adjoining classroom, Gannon heard her scream and responded. Entering Gilbert's room, Gannon shouted at the assailant. The assailant stood, dropped the knife, and stepped back. Gannon stood between him and Gilbert as Gilbert regained her footing and fled. Gannon remained in the classroom until the boy was arrested.

**Rolando Campuzano, Sr.**, died attempting to save his son, Rolando, Jr., 4, from the family's burning house in Warm Springs, Ore., on Jan. 14 last year. The boy was with his parents in their bedroom after fire erupted in the living room at night. The parents attempted to extinguish the fire and then fled the structure with four other children. Discovering Rolando's absence, Campuzano, 26, a cook, immediately ran to the house as a responding police officer attempted to restrain him. He entered through the front door into the burning living room and disappeared from view. Firefighters later recovered the



*Richard Shawn Harper of Fort Worth, Texas, helped to save a girl from drowning in this concrete drainage ditch, which contained swift water after heavy rainfall. Photo by Joyce Marshall of the Star Telegram, Fort Worth.*

bodies of the father and son from the house, both victims of smoke inhalation.

**Allen Chadwick Harris**, 24, a musician from Nashville, Tenn., saved a neighbor, Calvin E. Coleman, 3, from a burning house on Jan. 28, 2009. Calvin was in a first-floor bedroom of the house after fire broke out in a nearby room and filled the floor with dense smoke. Harris was returning home and came upon the fire. He approached a bedroom window and with others broke it out. Boosted up to the window, Harris entered the smoke-filled room and searched for Calvin, having to retreat to the window for air repeatedly. On hearing Calvin moan, Harris penetrated the room farther and found him. Momentarily disoriented, Harris crawled back to the window and handed Calvin out to others. He then crawled outside to safety.

**Derek J. Creel** saved Trenton S. Sigafoose from drowning in the Locust Fork of the Black Warrior River at Warrior, Ala., on March 27 last year and attempted to save Trenton's father, Timothy W. Sigafoose. Trenton, 7, and his father, 42, were thrown into the cold and swift-flowing water when their canoe capsized. They held to it as it was swept downstream. Creel, 19, a server assistant from Warrior, was nearby and saw the accident. He entered the water and swam to and intercepted the canoe, but his efforts to tow it to the bank were overcome by the current. A tree protruding from the bank came into view after the canoe traveled nearly a mile downstream. Creel took the canoe to the tree, placed Trenton into it, and then maintained a hold of Sigafoose, who was unresponsive, for as long as he could. Firefighters responding by boat removed Creel and Trenton to safety. Sigafoose's body was found in the river four days after the accident. (Photo on page 1.)

**Krista D. Girvan**, 25, a nursing student from Edmonton, Alta., saved a girl from drowning in the North Saskatchewan River at Edmonton on July 17, 2008. A teenaged girl wading along the bank of the river entered water beyond her depth and was carried downstream by a swift current. Girvan was walking nearby when she heard cries for help and then saw the girl in the river. When the girl had trouble staying afloat, Girvan removed her shoes, entered the river, and swam to her. She grasped her and, despite her training as a lifeguard, struggled against the current as she towed her to the bank, the current taking them several hundred feet downstream.

**Kim R. Grove**, 45, a fusion technician from Pilot Mount, Iowa, saved Breck A. Clark, 58, from drowning in the Des Moines River at Pilot Mount on Feb. 22 last year. Clark was the driver of a car that entered the river near Grove's house, floated briefly, and then sank at a point about 100 feet out. Grove responded to the scene after hearing the accident and, before the car sank, saw that it was occupied. After leaving to report the accident, he returned to the river, which was icy and swift, entered it, and swam toward the car. He then saw Clark's head resurface about 50 feet away. Grove swam to him, secured a hold on him, and kicked toward the bank, where they were aided from the river.

**INSPIRATIONAL GIFT**



Just before their holiday break last December, more than 200 students of the John W. Casey Elementary School in Chicago, Ill., received a gift in the form of an inspirational talk by a recent awardee of the Carnegie Medal. **John A. Lloyd**, 66, of Fernandina Beach, Fla., who was awarded the medal for saving a young boy from drowning in the Atlantic Ocean in 2007, was invited by the Hero Fund to speak to the assembly in conjunction with its joint effort with the Heartwood

Institute, a Pittsburgh-based provider of character education programs.

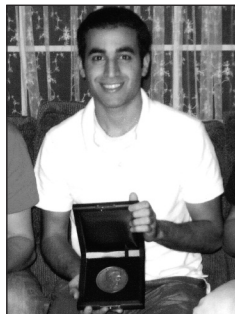
Lloyd was eager to help: He had been a teacher for the same grades and was itching to get back into a school setting. More importantly, he recognized an opportunity to impress upon the students that they could be “heroes” through showing respect and love for their fellow students, teachers, and family members, and he gave them specific examples of how to do so. He said he was forming “John’s Hero Club” and asked the students if they would be willing to join. Every hand in the room shot up. The Commission’s director of external affairs, Douglas R. Chambers, started the assembly by talking about the Hero Fund and recounting a number of heroic acts from its history.

*Hero Fund scholarship assistance*

*(continued from page 3)*

studying veterinary medicine at the College of Veterinary Science, Western University of Health Sciences, Pomona.

The other grant recipients were dependents of awardees. Jan K. Ringeisen of Virginia Beach, Va., lost her husband **Kenneth W. Ringeisen** in 2007 when he attempted to save a friend from drowning while on a fishing trip. She had been employed by her husband’s business and is now taking accounting courses at Tidewater Community College, Virginia Beach. “Your scholarship is meaningful and heartfelt,” she wrote, “as it has come from the Commission and my husband...In this light, I will continue to strive for excellence as I pursue my degree.”




*Mr. Nourparvar*

Jaime Cooper of Alpine, Tenn., also lost her husband in the performance of his heroic act. **Shane Cooper**, 26, died Jan. 23, 2002, while attempting to save a man from a flooded culvert, leaving his wife and young son. While their son will be eligible for scholarship aid when he graduates from high school, Cooper is taking on-line courses in veterinary technology from San Juan College of Farmington, N.M.

John Thanos of Chesterton, Ind., is in his first year at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind., pursuing a degree in secondary education. His father, **Mark John Thanos**, and grandfather, John Mikel Thanos, both died Sept. 14, 2008, while attempting to save a boy from drowning in a flooded culvert.

Tina Heath Musgrave of Jefferson, Ohio, and Tod Heath of McKean, Pa., are the children of **Edward Darwin Heath**, who was awarded the medal for his attempt to save an 11-year-old boy from drowning in the Green River at Palmer, Wash., on June 20, 1982. Tod is a student at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, and Tina is studying nursing at Kent State University, Ashtabula, Ohio.

Working on a degree in biology from Eastfield Community College in Mesquite, Texas, is Aracely Vazquez of Mesquite. She is the daughter of **Tiburcio Vazquez**, who died at age 33 on Aug. 30, 1997, attempting to save a boy from drowning in the Gulf of Mexico at Freeport, Texas.

Christopher G. Campbell is studying music marketing at Berklee College of Music in Boston, Mass. He is the son of **Daniel W. Campbell**, who was awarded the Carnegie Medal for attempting to rescue a neighbor woman from an assault by her boyfriend in 1997. Campbell died of a knife wound inflicted by the assailant. 

**TO THE HERO FUND**

**GRANT DONATED**

I received a copy of *A Century of Heroes* today and was very surprised to find that the Commission determined that what I did with the award was worthy of mention. I thank you for that honor.

Due to great support of the local community and local business, the fire department was able to purchase the thermal imaging glasses. I played a very small part in its overall acquisition but was happy to be able to do so thanks to the award.

I have had a good life both professionally and personally. I have received professional recognition. None is as humbling as this and none am I as proud of. Thank you again.

*Manuel J. Trombley • Warwick, R.I.*

*(Trombley was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 1999 to recognize his rescue of a neighbor from her burning and smoke-filled home in North Providence, R.I., on March 7, 1998. He donated part of the award’s accompanying financial grant to the fire department, and that was referenced in the Hero Fund’s centennial book. Copies of the book are available free of charge by contacting its editor, Douglas R. Chambers at the Hero Fund: doug@carnegiehero.org.)*

**DREAM FULFILLED**

I would like to thank the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission for awarding me the Carnegie Medal for heroism. I am at once honored and humbled by this prestigious accolade and do not feel worthy to be counted among the heroes chosen over the past 100 years of the Commission.

In addition to the great honor you have bestowed on me, you have fulfilled a dream I had 30 years ago. My younger sister was killed by drunk drivers when I was in pharmacy school, and I imagined that if I could have only been at the scene of the accident, I could have resuscitated her. It was the reason I became a doctor. Although as a doctor, I have been ‘helping people and saving lives’ for years (and even saved the lives of two others in a civilian capacity), I have never felt that my wish was fulfilled—until now.

It is certainly one of the most significant events in my lifetime, and I’m sure my children and future grandchildren will be proud.

*Mark C. Moore, M.D. • Tallahassee, Fla.*

*(Dr. Moore was awarded the medal in December for helping to save a couple from their burning car after a highway accident. See page 5 for details of his heroic act.)*

**SOLACE FOUND**

Words cannot express the honor and gratitude I feel for having been selected by your committee, and it is my wish to convey my heartfelt thanks to you all for this award.

In hindsight, I find solace in knowing that my actions meant something on the night of Aug. 30, 2008.

*(continued on page 8)*



## TO THE HERO FUND

(continued from page 7)

Although I found out later that two people died in the car accident that night, I am relieved that I was able to help save one soul with Officer Ryan Derry. It is amazing to me that there was no hesitation or time to reflect on what needed to be done—simple human instinct took over.

I'm often asked about the events of that night and my only comment to most people is that my actions were simply to try to help "buy some time" for those in the car. We often pass by the scene of the accident and do so with vivid memories of what transpired there. I try not to dwell on what could have happened, and I am relieved that I was able to help someone in need.

I often wonder about the young man who survived. Although I did not get the chance to meet him, I will continue to try to reach out to him. My hope is that one day I'll shake his hand and let him know how that night changed my life.

Seth C. Russell • Portland, Ore.

(Russell and Portland Police Officer Ryan W. Derry were awarded the medal in December for saving a man who was trapped in the burning wreckage of a sport utility vehicle. See page 5.)

## Pennsylvania man awarded medal for saving woman from house fire

Just before 11 p.m. on May 23, 2008, **Dwight A. Moore** of Aliquippa, Pa., responded to screams for help from a neighbor woman. A fire had broken out in the first-floor kitchen of the woman's 2.5-story house, across the street, and her daughter, 18, had not escaped from her attic-level bedroom.




Flames spread quickly from the first floor of this 2.5-story house to its attic, where a woman was sleeping.

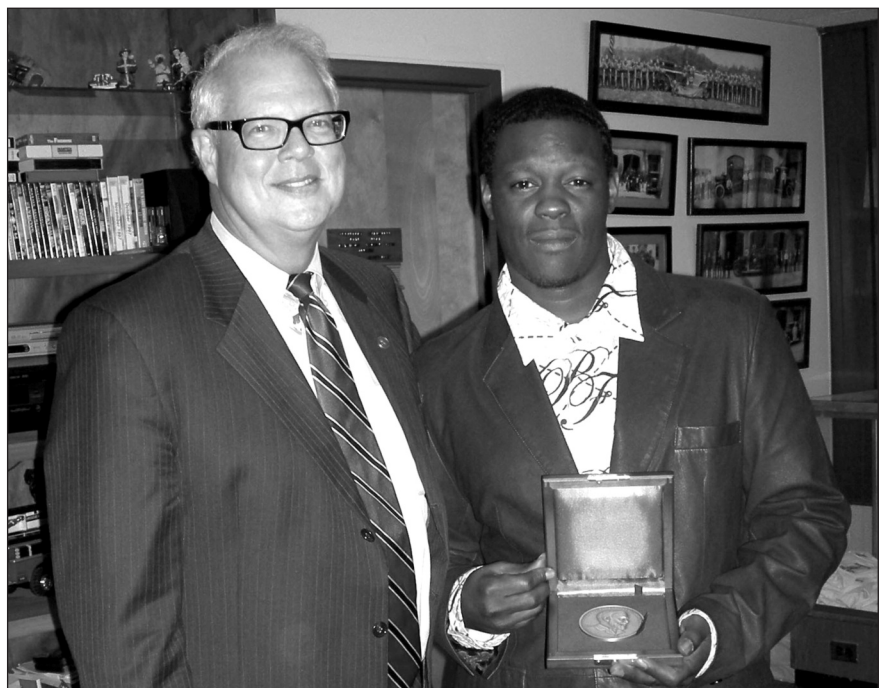
Although he had never been inside the house, Moore immediately entered it and, learning that the daughter was in the attic, went up the stairs to the second floor, where the smoke was dense and the heat intense. With no visibility in the smoke, he proceeded to the attic and entered the daughter's room.

The young woman had just awakened and, unaware of the fire and confused by Moore's presence,

was reluctant to leave. Moore insisted, pushing her to the head of the stairs. She descended to the first floor and exited the house to safety.

Moore followed her, but when he reached the second floor, he was in desperate need of air. Knowing he could breathe in the attic, he went back there, but conditions were worse. He returned to the stairway and, passing by flames that by then had broken into the second floor, fled to the first floor and out the front door. He was treated at the scene for smoke inhalation. Flames spread to the attic, destroying the house.

For his heroism, Moore was selected to receive the Carnegie Medal in June, and in November it was presented to him at a ceremony at the Aliquippa Fire Department that was attended by the fire chief, the mayor, and several firefighters. Representing the Hero Fund were Commission member Dan D. Sandman and Douglas R. Chambers, director of external affairs. 



Dan D. Sandman, left, a member of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission, and Dwight A. Moore, medal awardee, at the Aliquippa, Pa., Fire Dept.

## KING JAMES

The current reigning "King Ullr" of the 51st annual Whitefish, Mont., Winter Carnival is none other than Carnegie Medal awardee **James B. Stack** of

Whitefish. Named after a god who reigned over winter activities in Nordic regions, the new king and his queen—Stack's wife Lisa—were crowned in late January. In real life, the couple own a financial management company, and Stack has been quoted in USA Today, The Wall Street Journal, and Money Magazine and has appeared on CNN, CNBC, The Today

Show and The Nightly Business Report.

One night in 1999, Stack paddled a whitewater kayak 600 feet onto Whitefish Lake near his home in response to calls for help from a couple who had fallen from their boat into the frigid water. He towed one of the victims to the bank and then returned for the other, securing her until two firefighters in dry suits swam out. The first victim survived, but the second did not. Stack received a Carnegie Medal in 2000 for his efforts, and with the award's grant funds and some of his own, he initiated the purchase of a hovercraft for use by the town's rescue personnel. (Photo courtesy of Stillwater Photography, Kalispell, Mont.)





✧ THE QUOTABLE A.C. ✧



*In this world we must learn not to lay up our treasures, but to enjoy them day by day as we travel the path we never return to. If we fail in this, we shall find when we come to the days of leisure that we have lost the taste for and the capacity to enjoy them.*

—From *An American Four-in-Hand in Britain*, 1883

HEROES' GRAVES MARKED

Bronze grave markers in the likeness of the Carnegie Medal are given on request to the families of deceased awardees, and two of the markers were recently installed.

Della Bishop of Lancaster, N.H., placed the marker on its own stone at the grave of her son, **Randall**

**Scott Brewer**. Brewer was 27 when he died April 19, 2008, while helping to save a boy from drowning in the Israel River at Lancaster, and he was awarded the medal posthumously a year later. "There isn't a day go by that I don't think of Randy," Bishop said. "My heart will always hurt for him."

Jack Dawson of Hurricane, W.Va., was close to his grandfather, **Jackson E. Dawson**, who was awarded the medal in 1924 for saving a 10-year-old girl from drowning in the Kanawha River at St. Albans, W.Va., in 1923. Long interested in his grandfather's heroism, Dawson placed the marker and also looked up the girl who was rescued. In 2006 he found her—at age 93—living in Parkersburg, W.Va. Dawson's grandfather, a deputy sheriff, died in 1948 when Dawson was 18. "I know I will see him in heaven," Dawson said.



**GRAVE MARKERS** Bronze grave markers (above), cast in the likeness of the Carnegie Medal, are available at no cost to the families of deceased awardees. They are designed for mounting on stone or bronze memorials. Contact Susan Marcy ([susan@carnegiehero.org](mailto:susan@carnegiehero.org)) or write her at the address given below.

**MEDAL REFINISHING** The Hero Fund will refinish Carnegie Medals at no cost to the owner. The medals are to be sent to the Hero Fund's office by insured, registered mail. Allow a month for the process. The contact is Myrna Braun ([myrna@carnegiehero.org](mailto:myrna@carnegiehero.org)).

**OBITUARIES** Written accounts of the awardee's life, such as contained in an obituary, are sought for addition to the awardee's page on the Commission's website. Contact Doug Chambers ([doug@carnegiehero.org](mailto:doug@carnegiehero.org)).

**ANNUAL REPORTS** Copies of the Hero Fund's most recent annual report (2008-2009) are available, as are those of the centennial report of 2004, which lists the names of all awardees from 1904 through 2004. Contact Gloria Barber ([gloria@carnegiehero.org](mailto:gloria@carnegiehero.org)).

**A CENTURY OF HEROES** The centennial book describing the first 100 years of the Hero Fund is available through the Commission's website ([www.carnegiehero.org](http://www.carnegiehero.org)).

**COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL** A silver medal struck in the likeness of the Carnegie Medal to commemorate the 2004 centennial of the Hero Fund is available for purchase through the Commission's website.

**imPULSE ON LINE?** Should you wish to receive *imPULSE* in PDF rather than in your mailbox, let us know: [impulse@carnegiehero.org](mailto:impulse@carnegiehero.org)

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*imPULSE* is a periodic newsletter of the CARNEGIE HERO FUND COMMISSION, a private operating foundation established in 1904 by Andrew Carnegie. • The Hero Fund awards the CARNEGIE MEDAL to those throughout the United States and Canada who risk their lives to an extraordinary degree while saving or attempting to save the lives of others. • The Commission also provides financial assistance, which may include scholarship aid and continuing grants, to the heroes and to the dependents of those awardees who are disabled or die as the result of their heroic acts.

Further information is available on-line or by contacting the Commission.

**Any ideas?** *imPULSE* welcomes your submissions for publication, and your ideas for consideration. Be in touch!

**Address change?** Please keep us posted!

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### FROM THE ARCHIVES

#### STILL HELPING OTHERS, 55 YEARS LATER



*Dianne Kearney with family nurse Jimmie G. Abrams, mid-1950s*

Fishing a lazy river near her family's home is part of the childhood memories of Dianne K. Scott, 66, of Salisbury, N.C., but one of those outings 55 years ago stands out: She became a hero that day.

On May 26, 1955, Scott—then **Dianne Kearney**, 11—and her twin sisters, 9, had returned from school and were fishing the Tallahatchie River about 350 feet from their home in Money, Miss. The children's nurse, Jimmie G. Abrams, 51, accompanied them. After one of the twins lost her fishing rod to the river, Abrams reached for it but fell into the water herself. She had a history of dizzy spells, and it was assumed that caused her to lose her balance.

A nonswimmer, Abrams lay face down in the water. Fortunately, both wind and current were negligible, but Abrams floated about eight feet from the bank, where the water was about eight feet deep.

One of the twins began to enter the river, but Dianne ordered her not to. She told the twins to run for help, and they did, but she concluded that help would arrive too late to save Abrams. Dianne was a good swimmer but had swum only in pools and never in the river. In fact, the very sight of the river was enough to discourage swimming: It was muddy, with nothing below the surface visible from the bank.



*Dianne Kearney Scott today, with her Carnegie Medal*

From a point about 20 feet upstream from Abrams, Dianne, fully clothed, waded into the water and swam to her. Of slight build, Dianne was less than half the weight of Abrams, and she knew that she would be no match for Abrams if a struggle were to occur. Abrams, however, remained inert as Dianne rolled her onto her back. Holding the woman with one hand, Dianne stroked with the other and kicked her way to the bank. Once there, Dianne had to determine how to get Abrams out of the river. She did her best to push Abrams part way onto the sloping bank.

The twins, meanwhile, had reached Abrams's husband and the family cook, and all four hurried to the scene, where the adults pulled Abrams out of the water.

Abrams regained consciousness within minutes and after two days recovered from nearly drowning. Dianne, although uninjured, was frightened and anxious but would recover by the next day. The following year the Hero Fund awarded her a Carnegie Medal for her heroic act.

Dianne went on to graduate with honors from the University of Mississippi. She worked as an assistant biologist in research, married, and raised triplets. Despite her scientific background, she turned to nonprofit work and for the past 20 years has been the executive director of the Rowan Helping Ministries in Salisbury, which helps those in crisis meet their basic needs through cooperative community action. ☞

—Marlin Ross, Case Investigator