



imPULSE

A Periodic Newsletter of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission ISSUE 24 • DECEMBER 2010

A TIME TO RECEIVE MEDALS AND A TIME TO GIVE MEDALS

With those words, an Episcopal priest eulogized Robert W. Off, who died at age 90 on Sept. 3. The Commission lost a friend in Mr. Off, the Hero Fund's sixth president, whose 22-year tenure from 1979 to 2001 was the second-longest of that office's seven holders.

The Rev. Dr. James S. Simons, rector of St. Michael's of the Valley Church in Ligonier, Pa., was using a familiar passage of Old Testament scripture ("For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven," from Ecclesiastes 3) to pay tribute to Mr. Off for two of the major accomplishments of his life: His heroic military service during World War II and his oversight of a foundation that recognizes civilian heroism.

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Robert W. Off, former president of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission, in a photo taken in 1984.



Officer John M. Krahn of the Elm Grove, Wis., Police Dept. a few months after his heroic act, shown with daughter Kaitlyn, now 9. (Photo, by Peter Zuzga, appeared Aug. 8, 2009, on CNI/Now Online and is © 2010 Journal Sentinel, Inc., reproduced with permission.)

On duty, but well 'above and beyond:' three officers persevere in rescue acts

They may have been on duty, but three police officers recently cited by the Hero Fund acted well above and beyond its call in performing heroic rescue acts last year. Each sustaining significant injury in their efforts, they are among the 19 recipients of the Carnegie Medal announced in September (see pages 7-9):

- * **John M. Krahn** of the Elm Grove, Wis., Police Dept., saved a woman who was stranded in a minivan on a railroad track from being struck by a train and was seriously injured attempting to save her infant son when the vehicle was struck by the train;
- * **Douglas L. Hipple** of the Warren, Ohio, Police Dept. was overcome by smoke on the second floor of a burning house while attempting to save three of its residents during a nighttime fire, and
- * **Nathan R. Simpson** of the Medina, Ohio, Police Dept. required hospital treatment for burns and smoke inhalation sustained when he entered a burning house to remove a 7-year-old boy.

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CAPT. SULLY ON HEROISM: CROSSING THE THRESHOLD

By Mark Laskow, President
Carnegie Hero Fund Commission



US Airways Capt. Chesley—“Sully”—Sullenberger is quite a pilot. Who can fail to admire his fine water landing in the Hudson River in January, 2009? With that effort, he had made as many successful Airbus 320 water landings as any

pilot in history! He is so widely admired for this that airline pilots everywhere take pains that they never personally threaten his record.

As if this accomplishment weren't enough, I was pleased to learn recently that Capt. Sullenberger is also very thoughtful on the subject of heroism.

The Carnegie Hero Fund has spent more than a century thinking about and working with the concept of heroism, yet there are parts of our formal definition that remain difficult for us. In a recent interview in *Smithsonian* magazine, Capt. Sullenberger zeroed in on one of the most problematic issues. Our rules require that a rescuer “leave a point of safety” to expose herself or himself to new danger to make a rescue. This rules out an award for what might be an exciting rescue, and, as you can imagine, the result leaves us uncomfortable at times. Nevertheless, as Capt. Sullenberger realized, this requirement is fundamental to our concept of heroism.

Smithsonian interviewer Megan Gambino asked Sullenberger, “What is your definition of a hero?” His reply, with a little help from Mrs. Sullenberger:

My wife actually looked it up in the dictionary. We decided between ourselves that it describes someone who chooses to put himself at risk to save another. That didn't quite fit my situation, which was thrust upon me suddenly. Certainly, my crew and I were up to the task. But I'm not sure it quite crosses the threshold of heroism. I think the idea of a hero is important. But sometimes in our culture we overuse the word, and by overusing it we diminish it.

When the engines stopped on US Airways Flight 1549, Capt. Sullenberger was not in a place of safety. On the contrary, he was in the same peril as the passengers whose lives he saved with his piloting skill. He did not have the opportunity to make a moral choice to take on the risk—it “was

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On duty, but above and beyond

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Recognizing officers on duty is not unusual for the Hero Fund, as precedence is based on its awarding requirements. Since its inception in 1904, the Carnegie Medal has been reserved for civilians, per instruction by Hero Fund Founder Andrew Carnegie, with the Commission interpreting “civilian” to mean non-military. The rationale has been to consider the medal as civilian society's counterpart to the military's means of decoration for heroism.

The medal is further reserved for those whose vocations do not obligate them to act in a heroic manner. Since certain vocations imply a degree of risk in assuring the safety of the public, the Hero Fund does not recognize lifesaving acts performed in the routine execution of duty. Firefighters performing burning-building rescues, lifeguards saving drowning victims, and police officers responding to disputes all fall within the scope of obligation, even if the responder is acting as a volunteer. The Commission's decision to refuse such acts of lifesaving can be a painful one, especially if the rescuer dies while performing what is regularly considered his or her duty.

There are, however, limits to expectations of risk assumption in the above fields as implied by the phrase, “above and beyond,” and the Hero Fund accepts those limitations by considering cases where the rescue act is found to be clearly beyond the call of duty. Absent a universal standard to determine that threshold, the Commission makes its decision on the basis of both local interpretation and its own century-plus of tradition.

“Local interpretation” means that the Hero Fund is sensitive to how the nominee's department, most often through his or her superior, assesses whether the heroic act is within the department's expectations of its members. The Hero Fund asks what the job obligations are under the figuring circumstances and whether or not those obligations were exceeded by the nominee's actions. In its own tradition, the Commission seeks to learn if the rescuer was on duty, if the rescuer acted within the department's geographical jurisdiction, whether or not the rescuer was trained or equipped or clothed to face the figuring threat, what backup was available at the time of the rescue, and whether the rescuer acted within the department's discipline.

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Miraculously, the child that Officer John M. Krahn was attempting to rescue from this vehicle was unharmed after the vehicle, Krahn, and another rescuer were struck by a train. (Photo courtesy of the Elm Grove Police Dept. and used with permission.)

On duty, but above and beyond

(continued from page 2)

Exceeding any oath

In the case of Officer Krahn, how the Elm Grove Police Dept. regarded his rescue act was evident by its awarding him the department's Medal of Valor, given to members who perform a courageous act of personal bravery despite hazardous conditions that could be life-threatening. "There's a reason why they call it 'above and beyond the call of duty,'" Chief James P. Gage said. "It happens when a person exceeds expectations defined by any job description or oath."

Krahn's duty on May 25, 2009, was to direct Memorial Day parade traffic and pedestrian movement at an intersection in Elm Grove. Not far away, a minivan stopped on the tracks of a railroad crossing and became lodged there when the driver attempted to remove the vehicle as a train approached. Her attempt was futile in the advance of the 94-car freight train, which was traveling at 43 m.p.h. Krahn, then 41, ran to the vehicle, opened its driver's door to allow for the woman's escape, and then worked feverishly to gain access through another door to reach her 23-month-old son, who was strapped inside. Joining him was the woman's husband, who had been driving another vehicle nearby.

As the men worked, the train approached at undiminished speed. "I saw the train coming," Krahn said. "I was going to get the boy out or get hit by the train, whichever came first."

The train came first. It struck the vehicle and knocked it, Krahn, and the boy's father into a grassy area adjacent to the tracks. Miraculously, the child had remained in his seat and was unhurt. Krahn and the boy's father, however, sustained serious and extensive injuries, Krahn's including fractures to his pelvis, left leg, and ribs. He required lengthy hospitalization for numerous surgeries and, 19 months later, remains unable to return to work in the foreseeable future. Recent advances have been a lessening of chronic pain and graduating from a wheelchair to crutches.

National honors

Last December, Krahn was named "Officer of the Month" by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund of Washington, D.C.

A national honor was also given to Officer Hipple, who was named one of 26 "Top Cops" in the U.S. by the National Association of Police Organizations, of Alexandria, Va. The award was given by President Obama at a Rose Garden ceremony at the White House last May.

Hipple was on duty with the Warren, Ohio, Police Dept. in the wee hours of April 28, 2009, when he was alerted to a fire at a nearby 2.5-story group home. Responding, Hipple, then 38, learned from a caretaker at the home that three middle-aged female residents remained on the second floor. A fire, later found to be arson, was growing at the front of the structure, but that did not deter Hipple from entering the building and proceeding upstairs, where smoke was already heavy.



Officer Douglas L. Hipple, center, of the Warren, Ohio, Police Dept. and his wife Jessica are shown at a White House presentation last May with Rep. Tim Ryan. The Hipple's children are, from left, Megan, 5; Jessica Lynn, 12; and James, 3.

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BOARD NOTES

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thrust upon" him. I have no doubt that if he *did* have such a choice, he would not have hesitated to place himself in danger to save his passengers. That just wasn't the actual situation in which he found himself.

In addition to his fine piloting and philosophical skills, Capt. Sullenberger is admirably modest and self-aware. In the midst of continuing, well-earned acclaim for his cool competency, he took the measure of his act and demurred from the title "hero." Andrew Carnegie himself would have admired the words Capt. Sullenberger used: *I think the idea of a hero is important. But sometimes in our culture we overuse the word, and by overusing it we diminish it.*

(For trivia fans, two members of the Commission hold Airline Transport Pilot licenses. Capt. Peter Lambrou, M.D., flies for US Airways and practices medicine. Mark Laskow carries the license around in his pocket as he writes columns for *imPULSE*.)

HERO, MENTOR, POET

The late **Garrett T. Townsend, Jr.**, was recognized as a Carnegie hero in September for his sacrifice in helping to rescue a child from a flooded excavation pit in his Detroit neighborhood last year (see page 7). But he will also be remembered for his dedication to young people, especially those who faced exceptional social and economic hurdles.



Mr. Townsend

It was natural and perhaps inevitable that Townsend's ardent concern for youth would lead him to mentor young people. His work as a financial planner with the Detroit Public Schools facilitated his contacts with them.

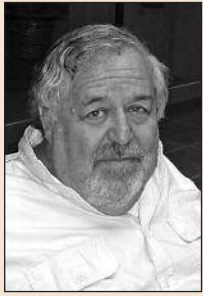
He was also a poet, and his book, "Kids Are Really Our Destiny," (1994) reflects that passion. One of the poems from his book follows, reprinted with permission of his widow, Shirley Conerly.

Have a Goal...hmm

*I'm searching, I'm reaching, I can't grab a hold
I'm told it's because I have no goal
Over and over and over again
They say I'll be able to reel it in
If I will focus, on what I want
Hone in on it, and stay my course
The message, I think, I'm beginning to get
Is that if, I just don't quit
And not let the obstacles, sidetrack me
I can be, whatever I want to be*



FRENCH MEDAL RE-ISSUED



The Hero Fund was pleased to play a role in securing a replacement medal for an American citizen from its sister hero fund in France, the *Fondation Carnegie*. Allan Thaler, 77 (pictured), of West Haven, Conn., made the request for a replacement in February 2009,

noting that his original medal had been lost over the years. Thaler was cited by the French fund for rescuing a man from drowning in the Seine River in Paris in 1962, when he was visiting as a tourist. The *Fondation* agreed to the replacement, but the trans-



action was delayed by circumstances pertaining to its demise: After a century of activity, the foundation, which was established by Andrew Carnegie in 1909, ceased operations, and remaining funds were transferred to the Franco-American Commission for Educational Exchange, Paris. The request for Thaler's duplicate medal was not lost in the process, however, and the medal was sent by the Franco-American Commission to



the Hero Fund in Pittsburgh in late October. Thaler, unfortunately, will not see the replacement, as he died two months after making his request. The medal was forwarded to his widow. *Fondation Carnegie* was one of 10 hero funds established in Western Europe after the initial success of the Pittsburgh-based Commission. Those remaining active are in the United Kingdom, Sweden, Switzerland, Italy, Denmark, Norway, Belgium, and the Netherlands.

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On duty, but above and beyond

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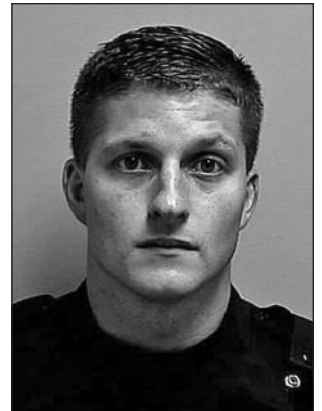
Capt. Janice Gilmore of the detective division of Hipple's department informed the Hero Fund that it was her opinion and that of the chief that Hipple had an obligation to alert the residents of the structure but by entering it he went "above and beyond." Hipple had no fire rescue training or appropriate equipment, and backup in the form of other officers or firefighters had not then arrived.

Conditions deteriorated swiftly as Hipple gathered the women. They became trapped by smoke and flames and were felled in second-floor bedrooms. Hipple's last radio transmission: "We can't get out."

Although firefighters arrived within minutes and removed the four victims, each suffered significant fire injuries and required hospitalization. One of the women died of her injuries 10 weeks later, and the other two required skin-graft surgery for burns. Hipple sustained serious smoke inhalation injury and third-degree burns to 20 percent of his body. He was hospitalized for more than a month and then required physical and vocational rehabilitation. Twenty months after his heroic act, he remains unable to work, but his goal is to be back on the job, despite a degree of permanent disability.

Tested by fire

Officer Simpson, a sergeant with the Medina, Ohio, Police Dept. and six-year veteran of the force, was likewise tested by fire, when he responded to a report of a burning duplex just after midnight on Oct. 26, 2009. A 7-year-old boy who was a member of the family living in the second-floor unit of the two-story frame building was unaccounted for, despite desperate attempts by family members, passersby, and other officers to get to him: One of the unit's two entrances was blocked by flames and the other by smoke and heat.



Sgt. Nathan R. Simpson of the Medina, Ohio, Police Dept.

Simpson, then 34, ascertained the location of the boy's bedroom from his mother and then mounted a neighbor's ladder that was placed against the building there. He broke out the window but even then had not committed to entering the room until he heard the boy's mother: "Please get my baby." Simpson climbed into the room, which was adjacent to the hall closet in which the fire started. Smoke blinded him and the heated carpet burned his knees as he crawled across the room to the boy's bed. Simpson grabbed him, pulled him to the floor, and returned to the window, where others took the boy to the ground.

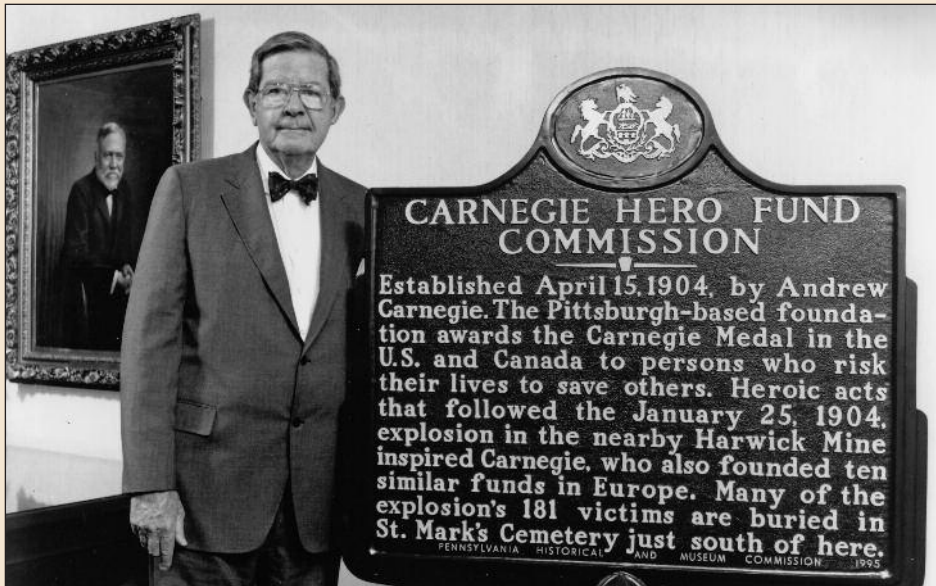
"People were yelling for me to jump," Simpson said. "The last thing I remember is laying on the ground and people ripping open my uniform"—one of the officers reported smoke issuing from Simpson's body. Taken to the hospital, Simpson was treated for smoke inhalation, second-degree burns to his hands, and cuts that required sutures. He missed two weeks of work and recovered. The boy, badly burned, died of smoke inhalation.

Medina Police Chief Patrick J. Berarducci told the Hero Fund, "I have been in law enforcement for 37 years at the federal and local levels and have never witnessed a more heroic act by a police officer. It takes a very special kind of hero to go into... a darkened room filled with almost certain death from flame and toxic smoke in an attempt to save another. His actions go well beyond the courage needed to face down even an armed assailant who can be seen."

"I am so very proud of all of our officers for their efforts at the fire," the chief said, "but especially of Sgt. Simpson."

A TIME TO RECEIVE MEDALS

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Late Commission President Robert W. Off in 1995, with roadside historical marker commemorating the establishment of the Carnegie Hero Fund.

Mr. Off joined the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission as a board member in 1973 while he was employed by the former Mellon Bank of Pittsburgh as a vice president in commercial lending. The following year he was named treasurer of the Hero Fund, and, five years later, at the Commission's 75th annual meeting, he was elected president. Only five others had assumed that role since the organization's founding by Andrew Carnegie, and only one of them served longer than Mr. Off would.

On starting the Fund in 1904, Carnegie repeated a favorite quote: "The gods send thread for a web begun." He was referring to the first managers of his newest philanthropy, but he could have been speaking of Mr. Off, whose skill set dovetailed with the needs of the organization. The economy of the 1970s, with its deep recession and high inflation, was rough on the Hero Fund, which saw its portfolio suffer a downturn. Historically, the Fund has relied not on contributions or grants but on the returns generated by its assets, as seeded at \$5 million by Carnegie.

Thus retired from Mellon, Mr. Off joined the staff of the Hero Fund, and within a few years, the organization began to benefit from his touch. The portfolio recovered from levels under \$9 million to over \$30 million by the turn of the century. Board and staff makeup saw the infusion of younger and more diverse members, and computerization of records and procedures was implemented. Case investigations and report writing were streamlined by taking advantage of modern technologies, and charitable giving exceeded \$10 million during his era. Carnegie Medals numbering 2,208 were issued under Mr. Off's purview, and grants accompanying each medal were made uniform and increased regularly, even as administrative costs were



Mr. Off was a skilled amateur photographer (the photo of him on page 1 is a self-portrait), and a set of his early color works was recently acquired by the Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, for its permanent collection. In this photo, a part of the collection, Mr. Off's wife Polly is shown in 1948 driving a Ditchburn boat on Lake Muskoka at Beaumaris, Ont. Linda Benedict Jones, the museum's curator of photography, said that the photos "are remarkable in the way they evoke an era, and a way of living, that was rarely captured in color photography" and that they present "a delightful and uncanny freshness while they are simultaneously layered with nostalgia."

checked. Mr. Off forfeited participation in the Hero Fund's retirement plan, even though he was a full-time employee, and for the second half of his tenure he served without compensation.

"As well-suited as Bob was for the various disciplines of management," Mark Laskow, the current president of the Commission and Mr. Off's successor, said, "his greatest asset was his devotion to the ideals of this mission. His hallmarks were integrity, loyalty, and affability—certainly worthy to the task of honoring those who selflessly serve others.

"We hold him in high esteem," Laskow said. "His passing is a great loss."

Mr. Off, a long-time resident of Pittsburgh and then of Ligonier, was born in Winnetka, Ill. He was a graduate of The Hun School of Princeton, N.J., and studied geology at the University of Virginia. He interrupted his schooling in 1942 to serve in the air force branch of the U.S. Army, which later became the U.S. Air Force, and was discharged in 1945 as a captain. Mr. Off piloted a B24 Liberator, a heavy bomber, and completed 29 combat missions in the European Theater. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross for his role in the destruction of an oil refinery, having to return on one engine after losing three to ground fire. He received also two Presidential Citations, three Air Medals, and four campaign-ribbon battle stars, including for action in the D-Day Invasion. Modest and private by nature, Mr. Off rarely spoke of his war experiences.

A return to civilian life saw Mr. Off settle in Pittsburgh with his bride, Augusta Bickel. The couple had three children, Robert B., now of Cincinnati, Ohio; Augusta Moravec, Bethesda, Md.; and Helen Arnold, Dedham, Mass. In her eulogy, Ms. Moravec spoke of the devotion her father gave the family, notably when Mrs. Off was stricken by polio in the early 1950s and became confined to a wheelchair. He cared for her until her death in 1990. Quoting one of her father's assessments of character, Ms. Moravec said "He was a peach of a guy."

PRESIDENTS OF THE CARNEGIE HERO FUND

- Charles L. Taylor1904-1922
- W. J. Holland1923-1932
- Thomas S. Arbuthnot1933-1956
- Charles A. McClintock1957-1967
- Stewart McClintic1968-1978
- Robert W. Off1979-2001
- Mark Laskow2001-



TO THE HERO FUND

BETTER HEROES

I want to share the stories from A Century of Heroes with my 10-year-old son, Deacon. He loves to read and I believe these stories of true heroes will inspire him, as well as help provide better examples of heroes than the celebrities the media continue to glorify.

Todd Bratcher, Council Bluffs, Iowa

The Hero Fund's centennial book, A Century of Heroes, is available by contacting carnegiehero@carnegiehero.org.

PROUD VET

This medal means more to us than the World War II ones. We are so proud of it and the Hero Fund Mr. Carnegie founded.

William F. Bauman, Dallas, Texas

Bauman was awarded the Carnegie Medal for saving a boy from drowning in the Brazos River at Whitney, Texas, in 1951. He is a U.S. Navy veteran, having served in Okinawa.

DID SOMETHING FAST

The September imPULSE about the first Carnegie Medal given, for a farm pond rescue in 1904, brought chills to me when I read it, as I was in the same position when I pulled a lady out of her sport utility vehicle, which entered a river on a cold December morning. I was wondering what was going through his mind when he was pulling the boy out of the water. I know I was thinking I better do something fast or it won't happen at all.

I was looking at my hero medal that you had sent me. Never really thanked you. It is a wonderful thing you do. You should be proud of it, and I'm thankful for being part of it.

Wayne R. Christiansen, Toms River, N.J.

Christiansen was awarded the medal in 2004 for his rescue of Dec. 13 a year earlier. "I feel happy there are people like you in the world," the rescued woman wrote to Christiansen. "You will never be forgotten and will always be in my prayers."

HUMBLED BY RECOGNITION

I would like to thank you for what you do. It is truly a great honor to have been recognized by the Commission. It was quite a surprise when I found out that I was nominated for the medal. After the events of May 16, 2009, I was satisfied knowing that I had been able to help the young woman but never anticipated receiving an award. I have been humbled by your generosity and recognition. The medal is stunning and I will display it proudly in my home. The grant was extremely generous and greatly appreciated. I saved it to return to school to pursue a degree in fire science. I have been reading A Century of Heroes and have enjoyed learning more about Andrew Carnegie and all of the folks and their inspiring stories.

Cameron T. Anderson, Fairfax, Calif.

Anderson was awarded the medal in June for helping to save a 16-year-old girl from drowning in the Pacific Ocean at Stinson Beach, Calif.

TRIBUTE BY GRANDSON

August Kauzlarich of Cincinnati, Iowa, died 92 years ago at the age of 41 while attempting to save a boy from suffocating in an airshaft of an abandoned coal mine. This year his grandson, Fred Polich of Coal Valley, Ill., marked his Centerville, Iowa, grave as that of a hero by installing one of the Hero Fund's bronze medallions on the headstone. Kauzlarich left a widow and seven dependent children on his July 4, 1918, death and was awarded the Carnegie Medal posthumously in 1921. His family was given financial assistance by the Commission until the widow's remarriage four years later. Kauzlarich's daughter Victoria, who was Polich's mother, was the last surviving of the Kauzlarich children. She died in February.



VANCOUVER HERO 'DID NOT DIE IN VAIN'



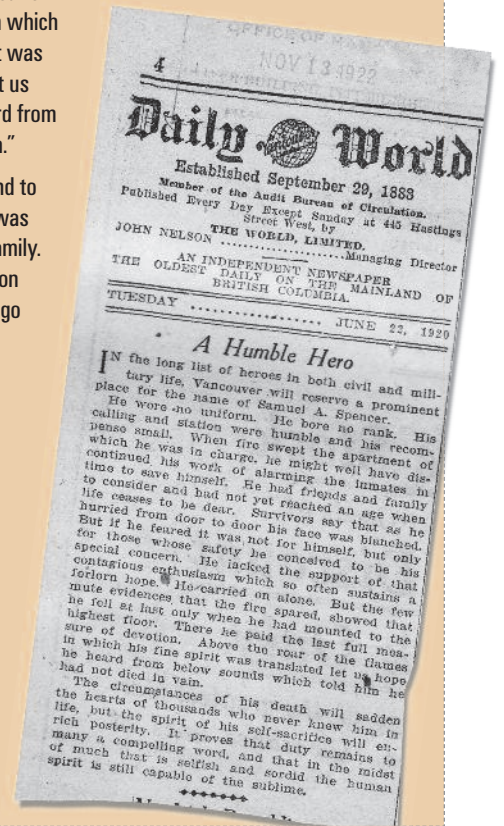
The aggressive manager of the municipally owned Mountain View Cemetery in Vancouver, B.C., gets credit for making sure the grave of Samuel A. Spencer was marked to indicate that he was posthumously awarded the Carnegie Medal. The English-born Spencer, 60, was the janitor of a six-story brick apartment building in Vancouver who lost his life on June 20, 1920, alerting residents throughout the structure of an advancing fire, which had started in the basement.

Spencer was awarded a silver medal in 1923. An editorial two days after his death lauded his heroic actions: "Above the roar of the flames in which his fine spirit was translated let us hope he heard from below sounds which told him he had not died in vain."

Glen Hodges, cemetery manager, asked the Hero Fund to provide one of its grave markers, informing that he was unaware of any surviving members of the Spencer family. The Hero Fund happened to have its 90-year-old file on the case and in fact had been in touch a few years ago with one of Spencer's great-grandchildren, Lorraine Thompson, at the other end of the continent, in Dartmouth, N.S. The two were put in touch, and Thompson gave permission for Hodges to install the marker. "It would be a great honour," she said.

Thompson informed Hodges that her mother, Spencer's youngest grandchild, was still alive at 91 and had a "childhood memory of her grandfather, sitting on his lap and playing with his moustache, so he is definitely not forgotten."

At its own expense, the cemetery placed a grey granite stone at the base of the existing marker and engraved a description of Spencer's heroic act on it. The Hero Fund's bronze medallion was mounted in a lower corner.



LATEST AWARDEES
OF THE CARNEGIE MEDAL

SINCE THE LAST ISSUE OF *imPULSE*, THE FOLLOWING 19 INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN AWARDED THE CARNEGIE MEDAL, BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS TO 9,391 SINCE THE HERO FUND'S INCEPTION IN 1904. THE LATEST AWARDS, WHICH WERE ANNOUNCED ON SEPT. 23, ARE DETAILED ON THE COMMISSION'S WEBSITE AT WWW.CARNEGIEHERO.ORG. THE NEXT ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARDEES WILL BE MADE ON DEC. 22.

Off duty, a trooper with the New Jersey State Police, **Jeffrey R. Heimbach**, saved Carlos E. Salinas from a burning sport utility vehicle after a highway accident in Roxbury Township, N.J., on Sept. 23, 2008. Salinas, 18, lay unconscious on the front seat of the vehicle, his legs trapped in the wreckage. Witnessing the accident, Heimbach, 29, of Denville, N.J., crawled through the rear door on the passenger side of the vehicle, completely entering it. He pulled Salinas partially into the back seat and then worked to free his legs as flames entered the vehicle. Grasping Salinas by the shoulders, Heimbach pulled him outside the vehicle to safety.

Garrett T. Townsend, Jr., 58, a financial planner from Detroit, Mich., died helping to save a 7-year-old boy from drowning in an excavated construction pit in Detroit on May 24 last year. The boy entered the pit, which contained murky water as deep as 10 feet, and could not get back out. Alerted, Townsend responded to the scene from his nearby home. Despite having limited swimming



Tina Maryann Moores on her 2005 graduation from Lawrence College, Brockville, Ont., where she received a degree in registered nursing. "If she saw someone in need, she was there to lend a helping hand"—Scott Simms, Member of the Canadian Parliament.



Michael Earl Gay, Sr., reunited with the woman he rescued, Jodi K. Oakes, at the scene of her automobile accident in Alturas, Fla. (Photo, by Steve Steiner, is courtesy of the Polk County, Fla., Democrat.)

ability, he entered the pit, made his way to the boy, and held him up before submerging. Another man entered the pit and took the boy to safety. When Townsend was removed from the pit, he could not be revived, as he had drowned.

Catharina Rowley, 33, a notary from Paso Robles, Calif., saved a girl from drowning in the Pacific Ocean at Cambria, Calif., on June 28, 2008. A 12-year-old girl was jumping large waves when she was carried farther out. A man swam to her but was unable to return her to shore. On the beach, Rowley became aware of the situation. She entered the 55-degree water and swam to the victims, who were at a point about 150 feet out. Both the man and girl grasped Rowley and struggled against her, submerging her repeatedly. Rowley freed herself and then began a laborious swim back to shore, towing the girl, the man behind them. (See photo.)

Alexander J. Whitney, 17, a high school student from Grand Haven, Mich., saved a boy from drowning in Lake Michigan at Grand Haven on Aug. 3 last year. The boy, 16, was pulled from wadable water near shore by a very strong current. He clung to a buoy about 120 feet out, buffeted by high waves. From another party on the beach, Alexander took a life ring and swam out to the boy. He attempted to return him to shore, but they were carried farther out. Towing the boy, Alexander swam parallel with the beach to get out of the current. He then pulled the boy to wadable water, where others aided him from the lake.

Stanley C. Romberg, 68, a retired livestock worker from Ocala, Fla., rescued Upasana Pathak from an assault in a convenience store in Ocala on March 19, 2009. Pathak, 21, was working behind the counter at night when a masked man armed with a gun jumped the counter and approached her. Her friend, Romberg, immediately ran into the counter space from the other end of the store and pushed the assailant away from Pathak. As they struggled, a second masked gunman approached. The first assailant left Romberg and started toward the door, Romberg following, but then turned and fired at Romberg, striking him in the left arm. Both assailants fled. Romberg required hospital treatment for his wound. (See page 9.)

While on vacation, **Corey Saladin**, 14, a student from Reed City, Mich., saved Maxime L. Miville, 9, and Jennifer J. Crown, 8, from drowning in the Gulf of Mexico at Sanibel, Fla., on Aug. 20 last year. The girls were carried out into the gulf by a strong tidal current flowing through a coastal pass. On the beach, Corey became aware of their situation. He found a short surfboard nearby, entered the water, and swam to the girls, reaching them at a point about 800 feet out. He placed Jennifer on the board and with Maxime held to it as they and Jennifer kicked their way back to safety, Corey tiring in his efforts to keep his head above water. On shore, he collapsed from fatigue.

Eric L. Fullerton, 59, a truck driver from Salt Lake City, Utah, rescued a man from an armed assault in

(continued on page 8)

LATEST AWARDEES*(continued from page 7)*

Salt Lake City on June 25, 2007. The man was working at a fast-food restaurant when an escaped prisoner entered and threatened the patrons and staff with a handgun. He fired a shot and struck the employee on the head repeatedly with the butt of the gun. Fullerton, a customer at the counter, engaged the assailant in a hold, freeing the employee to flee. As they struggled, the assailant struck Fullerton repeatedly with his fist and then cut him on the neck with a knife as Fullerton pried the assailant's fingers from the gun. Gun in hand, Fullerton left the restaurant. Police who had arrived apprehended the assailant. Fullerton's neck wound required suturing.

Police officer **John M. Krahn**, 41, of Muskego, Wis., saved **Monica L. Ensley-Partenfelder**, 40, and helped attempt to save her son, **Mackale**, 1, from being struck by a train in Elm Grove, Wis., on May 25, 2009. Ensley-Partenfelder and her son were occupants of a minivan that got caught on a rail at a crossing as a freight train approached at about 43 m.p.h. From nearby, Krahn ran to the vehicle and opened its driver's door, allowing egress for Ensley-Partenfelder. After pushing her away, he worked to unlock the vehicle's rear door for access to Mackale as the train bore down at undiminished speed. The train struck the minivan and knocked it into an adjacent grassy area. Still inside it, Mackale was uninjured. Also struck, Krahn was thrown to the grassy area. He required hospitalization for severe injuries, including numerous broken bones, that disabled him for more than a year. (See page 1.)

Scott Hecht, 45, a social worker from Hauppauge, N.Y., saved a girl from drowning in the Atlantic Ocean at Mastic Beach, N.Y., on July 30, 2009. A teenage girl struggled to stay afloat after being swept away from the beach by a strong current. Hecht, in a camping area nearby, was alerted. Despite having decided earlier not to swim that day because of rough surf conditions, he entered the water with a short surfboard and swam to the girl, who was then about 200 feet out. He held her wrists over the board and started toward shore. Waves overtook them as they proceeded, and a lateral current swept them along the shoreline. Others aided the girl from wadable water.

James Callahan, 48, a car dealer from Flower Mound, Texas, saved five children from a runaway van in Watauga, Texas, on June 16 last year. The children, ranging in age from 2 to 10, were secured to their seats in a minivan that was left running in front of a store. The vehicle began to roll backward toward a busy, six-lane highway. From inside the store, Callahan immediately ran to the minivan. He opened its driver's door and placed his right leg inside to apply the brake, but he became caught by



Catharina Rowley, with sons, from left, Nathan, Christian, and D.J., shown after Rowley's heroic act at the scene, a Pacific Ocean Beach at Cambria, Calif.

the vehicle's front left tire. He was taken to the pavement as the vehicle turned away from the highway. The vehicle ran over Callahan's left leg and arm before it stopped. Callahan was hospitalized for treatment of a fracture to his left leg and cuts and abrasions.

Keith Sampson, 13, a student from Flint, Mich., and his neighbor **Kristine Kelly Keaton**, 37, an attorney, helped to rescue **Brooklyn Gibson**, 3, and other children from an attacking dog in Flint on Oct. 18, 2009. Brooklyn was in the backyard of her family's home when an adult male pit bull approached, clamped its jaws on her head, and began to shake her. From nearby, Keith ran to the dog, pulled it away from her, and struggled to restrain it in a chokehold while his half brother took Brooklyn to safety. Keaton responded to the yard on hearing the children screaming. She ran to aid the half brother as he was getting another child to safety. The dog ran from Keith and attacked Keaton, biting her severely on an arm. Others responded and beat the dog away from her. Both Brooklyn and Keaton were hospitalized for serious bite wounds, Keaton requiring surgery.

Michael Earl Gay, Sr., of Bartow, Fla., pulled **Jodi K. Oakes**, 28, from a burning car after an accident in Alturas, Fla., on Nov. 11 last year. Oakes was the driver of a car that, at night, left the roadway and struck a tree. Flames broke out on the vehicle. Driving nearby, Gay, 43, survey technician, stopped at the scene on seeing the flames. He went to the

passenger side of the car and leaned head first into it through a window, despite flames inside the vehicle. He grasped Oakes, who was aflame, and, backing from the car, pulled her through the window. After patting out the flames on her, he dragged her farther from the car, which became engulfed by flames. Both Oakes and Gay required hospital treatment for burns. (See photo.)

Brothers **John** and **Joel P. Rechlitz**, both firefighters for Milwaukee, Wis., rescued **David J. Harper**, 4, from his family's sport utility vehicle after it overturned and caught fire near John's house on July 19 last year. Flames fueled by leaking gasoline burned on the street, covered the rear of the vehicle, and entered its interior. John, 45, and Joel, 29, both off duty, responded to the scene on learning of the accident. John helped in partially removing the vehicle's windshield, after which Joel stepped inside. He was unable to free David before fire conditions forced him out, and John likewise was unsuccessful in a rescue attempt, as flames were spreading toward the front of the vehicle's interior. The brothers alternated entering the vehicle before John was able to cut David's safety belt. He then took the boy through the windshield to safety. John and Joel required hospital treatment for second-degree burns.

Nathan R. Simpson, 34, of Medina, Ohio, attempted to rescue **Tashawn R. Okoye**, 7, from his family's burning apartment in Medina on Oct. 26, 2009.

(continued on page 9)



LATEST AWARDEES

(continued from page 8)

Tashawn was in his second-floor bedroom at night after fire broke out in a hall closet adjoining that room. Flames and smoke spread rapidly, blocking the apartment's exits. Simpson, a responding police officer, climbed a ladder that was placed at Tashawn's bedroom window and broke out the glass. He climbed inside and crawled through blistering heat toward Tashawn's bed. He then pulled Tashawn to the floor and dragged him to the window, where he handed him outside to another man. Tashawn died of smoke inhalation, and Simpson required hospital treatment for burns to his hands and other injuries. (See page 1.)

Tina Maryann Moores of Grand Falls-Windsor, N.L., died helping to save Emily B. Ivany from drowning in Red Indian Lake at Buchans, N.L., on Aug. 15 last year. While playing along the bank of the lake, Emily, 9, was carried into deeper water by an offshore current. Members of her party, including Moores, 35, a nurse, and Moores's sister, were alerted. Moores entered the lake and swam about 130 feet out to Emily. She grasped the girl and held her head above water but then became distressed herself and called for help. Her sister swam out and relieved her of Emily. Others responding returned all three to the bank by boat. Moores drowned. (See photo, page 7.)

Allen Lee Heck, 20, of Longview, Wash., died helping to save a girl from drowning in the Cowlitz River at Kelso, Wash., on July 17, 2009. A 9-year-old girl was wading in the river off a sandbar near the bank when she stepped into deeper water. Heck, who was in another party nearby, immediately entered the deeper water and swam to the girl. Grasping her, he held her above the surface of the water but then called for help himself. A teenage girl swam to Heck, took the girl from him, and returned her uninjured to safety. Heck submerged and drowned, rescuers recovering him from the river the next day.

A Warren, Ohio, police officer, **Douglas L. Hipple**, 38, attempted to save Donna Cassidy, Sheree J. Egry, and Melissa S. Watson from a burning house in Warren on April 28 last year. Before dawn, Cassidy and Egry, both 52, and Watson, 44, were in bedrooms on the second floor of a two-story group home after fire erupted on the structure's front porch. Hipple responded to the scene, climbed to the second floor, and yelled to the women, gathering them at the top of the stairs. With rapidly deteriorating conditions proving too formidable, Hipple decided to attempt their escape through a window, but all four were overcome by smoke on the second floor. They were removed by firefighters. Watson later succumbed to her injuries, and Cassidy, Egry, and Hipple survived smoke inhalation and burns up to third-degree. Hipple was disabled for more than a year. (See page 1.)

Celebrating a hero: 'Rombo' cool under fire

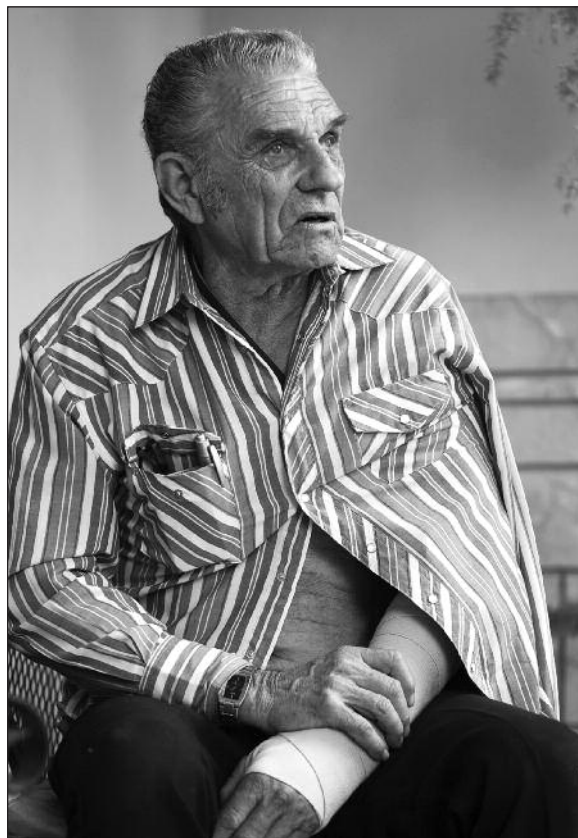
By Tom McNiff, Managing Editor
Ocala, Fla., Star-Banner

If the Star-Banner were a tabloid, we would have already conferred a proper nickname on Stan Romberg, the 68-year-old hero who thwarted an invasion of gun-wielding robbers at a local Texaco Thursday night (March 19, 2009) and almost paid for it with his life.

In massive black letters as tall as a fishing tale and as thick as Rush Limbaugh, we would have dubbed him Ice-Berg for his cool actions under fire. Literally, under fire. Or better yet, he would be ROMBO.

Of course, if we were a tabloid, we would come back several days later and try to destroy the man by dragging out some embarrassing skeleton from his closet.

If that were possible. The truth is, Stan Romberg deserves all the platitudes you can throw his way. He is a true blue hero, a man prepared to trade his life for the life of a young woman who was little more than a casual acquaintance.



Stanley C. Romberg of Ocala, Fla., Carnegie Medal awardee at age 68. Photo by Alan Youngblood of the Ocala Star-Banner and used with permission.

The incident, which was captured on the Texaco station's security cameras, occurred about 10:30 at night when two men in dark clothing burst through the front door. One of the men headed straight for the counter, vaulted it, and stuck the barrel of a pistol against the head of clerk Upasana Pathak. Before he had a chance to rob or, perhaps, shoot her, Romberg lunged at him from behind and threw himself on the man. His momentum carried him past the gunman and he tumbled to the floor, but the message was delivered: You're not getting her without a fight.

The startled thief began a hasty retreat, scurrying out from behind the counter and down the aisle toward the door, with Romberg in pursuit. As the security camera rolled, the gunman realized he—the predator—had become the prey. He whirled and fired a shot,

striking Romberg in the left arm. But Romberg kept coming.

Both robbers sprinted for the door, throwing down a display case behind them to block Romberg, whose pursuit was not slowed by his wound. And that was it. Thirteen seconds after they burst through the door, the men were gone. And the 21-year-old Pathak got to go home alive.

The next afternoon, his arm bandaged, Stan Romberg downplayed his achievement, calling it instinct. "I just knew in my own mind that he wasn't going to get that girl without getting me," he said. "I think it shocked him maybe as much as it did us because he wasn't planning on somebody going after him."

No, he wasn't, Stan. Some may call Stan Romberg foolhardy for jumping an armed man. Some may say he should have let events run their course. Perhaps Upasana would have escaped injury anyway and the only real damage would have been to Texaco's night deposits, which would have been light a couple of hundred dollars.

(continued on page 12)

Arthur M. Scully, Jr., 46-year member of Carnegie Hero Fund Commission board



Arthur M. Scully, Jr., of Ligonier, Pa., who was a member of the board of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission for 46 years, died Oct. 28 at age 82. Mr. Scully was an active participant in Hero Fund activities, serving on its Executive, Finance, and Audit committees, and most recently he attended a Commission business meeting in July.

Mr. Scully

At Mr. Scully's memorial service on Nov. 1, the officiating minister, the Rev. Dr. James S. Simons, made reference to his work with the Hero Fund as something that was both enjoyable and important to him. Noting that the service was taking place on All Saints Day, Dr. Simons made the distinction between a hero and a saint: A hero is cited for one brave act, whereas a saint lives a lifetime of goodness. "Arthur was a saint," the pastor said, alluding to his paramount virtue of decency that was reflected in his family life and civic involvements.

"He was a pillar of integrity," said James M. Walton, a life-long friend of Mr. Scully and himself a 42-year member of the Hero Fund board. Another long-time friend and board member, Frank Brooks Robinson, said of Mr. Scully, "I followed him along because I admired the man. I admired his honesty, his forthrightness, his sense of humor."

A native of Pittsburgh, Mr. Scully was a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh and a veteran of the U.S. Naval Reserve. His early career was with the former Mellon Bank of Pittsburgh, and from 1970 to 1994 he was chief operating officer of Rolling Rock Club, Ligonier.

In addition to serving on the Hero Fund board, Mr. Scully was a trustee of the Richard King Mellon Foundation, Allegheny Cemetery, Magee Women's Hospital Board, Western Pennsylvania School for the Blind, and Shadyside Presbyterian Church, all of Pittsburgh, and he was a life trustee of the Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh. "I've always looked to Arthur as the perfect model of the civic leader," Mark Laskow, Commission president, said. "He was a fine man."

Malcolm Lewis Danner, 76, of James Island, S.C., died Aug. 30. At age 16 in 1950, Danner and a friend, 17, saved a woman from drowning in the Atlantic Ocean at Folly Beach, S.C., and each was awarded the Carnegie Medal. Mr. Danner used an accompanying grant to attend the College of Charleston, S.C., where he graduated in 1956. He served in the U.S. Navy as well as in the Naval Reserve, retiring as a lieutenant commander, and for 30 years he worked as a lab technician for Exxon Corporation. Danner had a passion for the outdoors and was a proponent of maintaining a healthy ecosystem so that plant and animal life may flourish.

James R. McCarron, 74, of Bluffton, S.C., who was Pennsylvania Dept. of Transportation spokesman for 15 years under three governors, died Oct. 23. In 1966, he was employed by the Hero Fund as a case investigator, and then he went on to work for *The Pittsburgh Press*. While at *The Press*, he got to know U.S. Attorney Richard Thornburgh, who offered him a job in the state capital when

(continued on page 13)



GRANDPA CHENEY'S 'CARNEGIE MEDAL'

To date, there have been 9,391 awardees of the Carnegie Medal. The late George M. Cheney is not one of them, although someone somewhere along the line apparently thought that he deserved the honor and fashioned something of a knockoff. The "faux medal," pictured here, was called to the attention of the Hero Fund earlier this year by Cheney's grandson, Michael Long of Mission Viejo, Calif.



Mr. Cheney

Long, a firefighter and paramedic with the Orange County, Calif., Fire Department, provided details of his grandfather's short, albeit colorful, life, but the family knows nothing about the circumstances for which the medal was given.

Cheney was born in North Adams, Mass., in 1887, and after graduating from Williams College and then the Colorado School of Mines in 1917, he set off for a career in mining in Mexico, Ecuador, Peru, and Chile. He met his wife, a U.S. embassy worker, in Peru, and the couple were married in 1924. In 1932, Cheney, who was a general foreman, and five other workers were killed in a mining blast in Chile. His widow and two daughters, including Elena, Long's mother, relocated to the U.S.

Long says the medal has been in his family for years, but "we've never understood if it had any significance." The Hero Fund could only confirm that the medal was an imitation of the original, which Long says represents "the best expression of humanity I have ever come across."

❁ OVERHEARD ❁

Now and again someone does something amazing in life and in doing so gives up their own. That's a hero.—Mark Nelson, Sheriff, Cowlitz County, Wash., referring to **Allen Lee Heck**, Carnegie Medal Awardee #9390, who was cited posthumously.

In a situation like that, there is no other thing to do than to take action. There are no alternatives, no decisions to be made, only motions to make.—Andrew R. Whitney of Bethel, Maine, Carnegie Medal Nominee #83370

Congrats to Carnegie heroes; now, ban pit bulls before the next attack.—Headline on an editorial in *The Flint Journal*, Flint, Mich. The paper carried news coverage of the actions of **Keith Sampson** and **Kristine Kelly Keaton**, Carnegie Medal Awardees #9383 and #9384, who rescued neighborhood children from an attacking pit bull.

Altruism is possible and altruism is real, although in healthy people it intertwines subtly with the well-being of the agent who does good. And this is crucial for seeing how to increase the amount of altruism in the world. Aristotle had it right: We have to raise people from their "very youth" and educate them "so as both to delight in and to be pained by the things that we ought."—Judith Lichtenberg, professor of philosophy at Georgetown University, in "Is Pure Altruism Possible?" as appearing in *The New York Times*, Oct. 19, 2010.

Keep on giving civilians people to emulate in their selflessness to help others.—Anonymous Carnegie Medal awardee.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to bring to the attention of my colleagues the heroism of a constituent, **Derek J. Creel** of Warrior, Ala. Guided by his faith, Derek put his own life at risk to save the life of a young child during a tragic outing on raging waters.—Rep. Spencer Bachus of Alabama, on the floor of the U.S. House, March 25, 2010. Creel is Carnegie Medal Awardee #9325.

SWISS MEDAL REDESIGNED

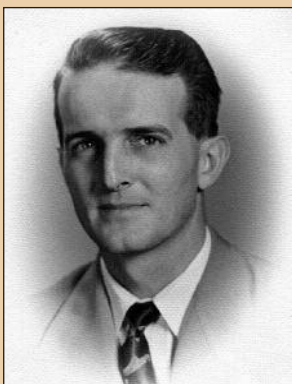
A new look for its medal has been given by the Carnegie Rescuers Foundation of Switzerland. The fund's executive director, Hans-Ruedi Hübscher, said the medal was redesigned to give it a contemporary appearance. The engraving is in Latin and on the front gives founder

Andrew Carnegie's name with the date of foundation's inception, March 22, 1911. "We



live in a heroic age," Carnegie wrote in establishing the foundation with a grant of \$130,000. "Industrialization molds the heroes of peacetime. Hardly a day passes that a courageous deed is not communicated to one or another existing Hero Trust Funds." The foundation recognizes those who, on Swiss territory, risk their lives in peaceful endeavors to save the lives of their fellows. Awardees receive a certificate, and engraved bronze, silver, and gold medals are also awarded, as are wristwatches and monetary grants. Young heroes receive a voucher for a hot-air balloon ride or a helicopter flight. Since the establishment of the foundation, more than 8,300 people have been recognized, and more than three million Swiss francs in subsidies have been paid to rescuers and their families. The awards are announced annually.

HEROIC ACT OF A YOUNG FATHER



The Wooster, Ohio, grave of Carnegie Medal awardee **William Franklin Miller, Sr.** (pictured), was marked with a bronze medallion to signify the act of heroism on Nov. 30, 1954, that claimed his life. Then 35, Miller was at work as general superintendent at a loading dock of a slag company when a 24-year-old coworker became caught by the collapse of tons of slag in a pit. Miller and another coworker quickly advanced to the man, but they too became caught in the collapsing slag, which completely buried Miller. Other workers and firefighters removed the three men. Miller's coworkers survived, but he could not be revived. He left a widow and three children, one of whom, Marilyn Miller Davison of

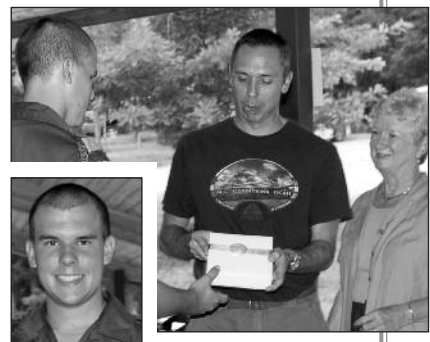


Clarksville, Tenn., secured the marker from the Hero Fund. "My brothers and I have always felt grateful to the Commission for the recognition given to our father for his very heroic act," Davison wrote. "The grave marker program is another way to honor his memory."

PRESENTATION UNITES AWARDEES

Elijah Jarred Wittum, left and inset, receives his Carnegie Medal from medal awardees **David C. Parker, Jr.** and **Dianne Kearney Scott** at an informal

presentation at Riverpark in Cooleeme, N.C., in August. It was at the park on May 30, 2009, that Elijah, then 16, saved a



15-year-old boy from drowning in the swollen, rushing, and muddied waters of a channel of the South Yadkin River. Parker, of Davidson, N.C., was also 16 when he saved a drowning victim, in the Gulf of Mexico at Fort Walton Beach, Fla., in 1986. Scott, of Salisbury, N.C., also saved someone from drowning, in the Tallahatchie River at Money, Miss., in 1955 when she was 11. She said that memories of the rescue came flooding back when she read of Elijah's heroic act. An Eagle Scout, Elijah received also the Boy Scout Medal of Honor with Crossed Palms. Photos by and courtesy of Sarah Campbell of the *Salisbury Post*.



✧ THE QUOTABLE A.C. ✧

COOL UNDER FIRE

(continued from page 9)

Those people miss the bigger point: Stan Romberg confronted evil and beat it back. He refused to let two thugs determine another's fate. He took the fight to them and, in all likelihood, prevented the loss of a precious, promising life.

And what if the gunman's aim had been better? What if the bullet pierced Romberg's heart instead of his arm? Would it still have been worth it? Romberg seemed prepared to make that sacrifice. Because, as the Bible says, there is no greater love than that a man should lay down his life for another.

(Reprinted with permission from the March 22, 2009, issue of the Ocala Star-Banner. "The community is very proud of Mr. Romberg—a humble man who was willing to trade his life for another," McNiff said.

"In this business, you see a lot of do-gooders, but you don't often glimpse an act that is so utterly selfless." Romberg was awarded the Carnegie Medal in September. See page 7.)



Concentrate your mind and effort upon one pursuit. It does not matter much what that pursuit is, so that it be useful and honorable, and be the first authority in that.

—From Wealth and Its Uses, an address at Union College

Portrait from about 1878

**RESCUER FACED
'FATAL INTENTIONS'**

To All Involved with the Carnegie Commission:

Age has a strange way of changing one's outlook on routines pertaining to his or her life. I have scolded many for even the thought of "hero" when discussing a bizarre experience the night of March 19, 2009, but your valued award has had a very positive effect on my thinking. In a sense, it has made me "wake up and smell the roses."

I am proud that Miss Pathak is alive and well, as we both believe those intruders had more fatal intentions in mind than just robbing the store. I have thanked you for recognizing that my intentions were genuine and from the heart. Miss Pathak and I know we are truly blessed. The experience, my close-knit supportive family, and your award have turned an almost-tragedy into optimistic days that could have been spent very dejected.

I am retired, and assisting my 96-year-old parents (married 76 years) is my priority now, so I can assure you the gracious monetary gift will be used sensibly.

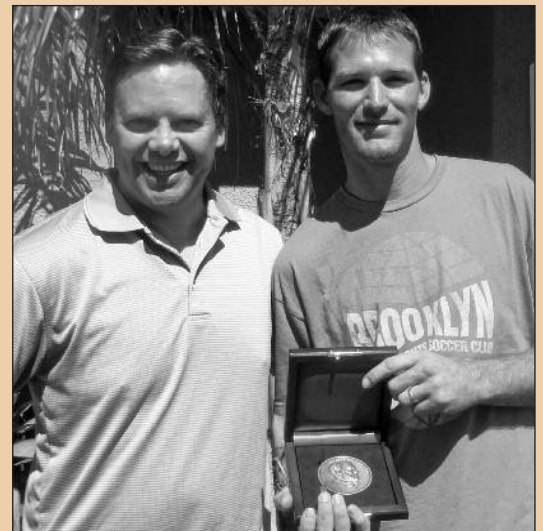
I'm hoping that everyone connected to the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission can imagine how your awards can revitalize and propel so many. I can't put into words how proud I am to be a recipient of an award from your foundation. It has to be so gratifying to all of you to work knowing optimism and charity are your main goal. I'm envious!

Again, "forever thanks." This award has influenced me like I could never have imagined.

—Stanley C. Romberg, Ocala, Fla.

HERO PRESENTS MEDAL

One of Florida's newest heroes, **Timothy Lucas Gibson**, right, of Cape Coral was presented his Carnegie Medal in October by past awardee **Roger J. Blair** of Seminole, Fla. Gibson, 31, was cited by the Hero Fund in June for his Feb. 15, 2009, rescue of a small girl from her family's burning house in Cape Coral. To effect the rescue, he climbed through a bedroom window and in blinding smoke searched the room on his hands and knees until he located the year-old child. They both left the house to safety through the window but required hospital treatment for inhaling smoke. Blair, who was awarded the medal in 1995, was 26 and living in Pleasant Hill, Calif., when he went to the aid of a woman who was being stabbed in his neighborhood. Alerted by the woman's children, Blair rushed to the scene, pulled the assailant off the woman, and tended to her wounds until police arrived. Blair found that presenting Gibson his medal was meaningful: "We exchanged stories about our acts of heroism and the various ways in which they affected our lives," he said. "We both felt honored and proud to be recognized by the Hero Fund."



FRIENDS REMEMBERED

(continued from page 10)

Thornburgh was elected governor in 1978. "He said he needed professionals, not politicians, to help him," McCarron said in an interview at the time of his 1996 retirement.

Alfred M. Lee, 85, of Anchorage, Alaska, died Aug. 26. Lee was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 1997 for saving three men from drowning in Tazlina Lake on Sept. 10, 1995, when he was 70. The men were stranded atop a floatplane that overturned while attempting to take off. Despite steady winds of 30 m.p.h. and rough seas to four feet, Mr. Lee, who operated a guide service and air taxi business, landed his own floatplane on the lake and held it into the wind as his passenger, who also was awarded the medal, helped the three stranded men inside. When all of the men were aboard, Mr. Lee taxied two miles to safety. ☒



Carnegie Medal awardee Alfred M. Lee with his floatplane, a de Havilland Beaver, at the time of his heroic act

FROM THE ARCHIVES

RUNNING ON EMPTY

Hurricane Connie spawned strong winds, high waves—and heroes—when it struck in 1955. Formed in the South Atlantic, the storm hit the North Carolina coast on Aug. 12 and roared northwest into Chesapeake Bay.

A converted schooner, the *Levin J. Marvel*, was sailing the Chesapeake on a tourist voyage that week. On the morning of the 12th, the captain of the *Marvel* attempted to reach the relative safety of Herring Bay, near the resort town of North Beach, Md., on the bay's western shore. But when the ship was about 1.5 miles east of the town, it capsized, and the captain, three-man crew, and 23 passengers entered the water. Six of the victims, wearing lifejackets, reached a duck blind about 1,000 feet from shore.

Residents of the town learned of the boat's misadventure. Two of them, **William K. MacWilliams, Sr.**, 31, and his best friend, **George L. Kellam, Jr.**, 28, were on the beach when Kellam spotted one of the victims waving from the blind. On the spot the men decided to attempt a rescue. They borrowed a 12-foot boat with 15-horsepower

(continued on page 14)

CONTINUUM



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 Rizza (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).

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).

ANNUAL REPORTS Copies of the Hero Fund's most recent annual reports (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).

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).

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.

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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

RUNNING ON EMPTY (continued from page 13)

William K. MacWilliams, Sr., holding citation at left, and George L. Kellam, Jr., right, received several awards, including the Carnegie Medal, for their rescue of six survivors of a capsized boat on Chesapeake Bay when Hurricane Connie struck in 1955.

Because water near shore was shallow, they waded and pulled the boat about 100 feet out before starting its engine. MacWilliams piloted the boat while Kellam bailed the rainwater. As large waves—on average, three a minute—threatened the craft, MacWilliams took the boat in a zigzag course, which doubled the distance to the blind. They reached it in seven minutes.

outboard motor, but the boat's tank was empty. Siphoning gasoline from an automobile, they came up with only about a cup of fuel.

More precious time passed as the men had to prime and test the boat's motor before attaching it to the vessel.

When the men left shore, they did not know how many people were in the blind. They estimated that the available fuel would allow at least one, and possibly two, round trips, with at most two victims on each trip. They then found that there were six victims.

The boat did make the three trips necessary, depositing the victims close enough to shore that they could be left in wadable water. Others from shore waded out to help them reach the beach. The entire rescue took about 40 minutes, and about 15 minutes after the blind was evacuated, it collapsed under the pressure of 48 m.p.h. winds. The rescued victims were taken to the hospital for treatment of shock and exposure. Five others reached shore safely. The remaining 14 drowned.

MacWilliams and Kellam received several awards for their bravery. In 1956 they were each awarded the Carnegie Medal and a monetary grant. MacWilliams's daughter, Ginny Mae Lusby of Spring Hill, Fla., recalls how modest her father was about his actions and the awards, almost to the point of appearing indifferent. After his death in 1977, the medal was given to his youngest son, Rick, who was born 11 years after the rescue—his siblings wanted him to know about their father's heroism. Kellam died in 1985.

Because of its destructive impact, the name "Connie" was retired, not to be used again in naming an Atlantic hurricane. ☒

—Marlin Ross, Case Investigator