



imPULSE

A periodic newsletter of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission ISSUE 55 • FALL 2018



On temporary display in the lobby of the Koppers Building in downtown Pittsburgh, the first few pages of what will become the Roll of Heroes and Heroines, a listing of Carnegie heroes, for permanent display in Commission offices.

NEW CALLIGRAPHY DISPLAYED IN PITTSBURGH'S KOPPERS BUILDING

As part of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission's recent milestone of recognizing 10,000 civilian heroes, two pieces of historic art were unveiled at the Power of One event held in June 2018 in Pittsburgh.

Tenured letter artist, calligrapher, and designer John Stevens completed two pieces of calligraphy — an artful rendition of founder Andrew Carnegie's original deed of trust for the organization and the first few pages of the Roll of Heroes and Heroines, which will eventually be incorporated into a bound book.

The two framed items will be displayed in the Hero Fund's Pittsburgh office. The roll of honor fulfills the last line of the Commission's deed of trust, which requires that "A finely executed roll of the heroes and heroines shall be kept displayed in the office at Pittsburgh." ► **p.6**



*Folks line up for free hot dogs, hamburgers, and other goodies at the 15th annual Cruise-In and Car Show organized by Carnegie hero **James Raymond Garvey, Sr.**, in central Pennsylvania.*

Carnegie hero organizes community Cruise-In and Car Show year after year

James Raymond Garvey, Sr., became a Carnegie hero for pulling a man 50 years his junior from a crashed and burning sport-utility vehicle in November 2016.

But the 78-year-old retiree, better known as "Bud" to his friends and family, had already made a name for himself in his hometown of Osceola Mills, Pa., as the "Bud" in [Bud's Vintage Race Car Museum](#), the shrine to his life-long passion.

"He should run for president," said Ryan Hindinger, who was 26 when Garvey pulled him from his wrecked vehicle along Interstate 99. "This guy is so beloved by this community. He's been able to bring so many people together based on one interest, and he's held it together." ►



One of the hotter rods on display — A '49 Mercury coupe.



BOARD NOTES

MEMORIES OF HEROIC ACTS MOST VIVID WITH RESCUERS

By Mark Laskow, Chair
Carnegie Hero Fund Commission



Mark Laskow

Once the Carnegie Hero Fund has identified, investigated, and awarded the Carnegie Medal for a heroic act, it works in many ways to preserve the memory of what was so nobly done.

From the beautiful calligraphy of the great roll of heroes

to [cloud-based databases](#) to [social media](#), we work every day to preserve the stories of our heroes and introduce those stories to the widest audience possible.

Yet ours is not the only memory of the heroic events, nor is it the most important. The most important and least understood memories of these heroic acts might be the memories held by the heroes themselves.

The Hero Fund is just beginning to understand the power and significance of the heroes' own memories of their own heroic acts.

This process began at our 2004 centennial celebration, when we gathered as many Carnegie Medal awardees as we could to participate in the event. We arranged for them to be distributed among the dinner tables so that Hero Fund Commission members and our invited guests (civic and governmental leaders) had the chance to meet one or two real, live Carnegie heroes personally.

After dinner members of the Commission and staff talked and reviewed the evening. It emerged that a number of us had heard very similar conversations between the heroes themselves about the strength and persistence of their personal memories of the rescue in which each had been involved. This sometimes manifested itself in references to "the dreams," recurring, emotionally powerful dreams about their rescues. Since then, when circumstances have permitted, we have casually asked heroes about this, and it seems to be common but not universal.

What do we make of this?

First, to the extent these memories of the rescue stress or discomfort our heroes, we

► p.3



Ken Lowery, 62, and his father, Bob Lowery, 82, peer inside one of Garvey's prized vintage race cars, a 1934 Nash LaFayette. Bob Lowery traveled from Cumberland, Md., with his son, a former co-worker of Garvey's.

Carnegie hero's Cruise-In and Car Show

The museum is in its 19th year. Hindinger spoke with *imPULSE* at Garvey's 15th annual Cruise-In and Car Show, a picnic and hot rod show Garvey hosts on the dead-end, gravel road that is home to his museum smack dab in the center of rural Pennsylvania.

'57 Chevys, '49 Mercurys, and various other iconic rides — most tricked out with flames or other flashy paint jobs, and more than a few sporting fuzzy dice hanging from rear view mirrors — revved and roared over a car-friendly Americana soundtrack pumped over a PA system, including John Mellencamp's "Small Town," Bobby Day's "Rockin' Robin" and Bachman-Turner Overdrive's "Roll On Down The Highway."

Garvey raced cars on dirt and smaller tracks throughout Pennsylvania, and spent decades befriending fellow drivers and enthusiasts, whose stories reverberate in the mementos, photos, memorabilia, and 35 race cars displayed in and around his museum. Decades before he was a Carnegie hero, Garvey was known for pulling at least one race car driver from a burning vehicle.

This year's edition of the Cruise-In on July 28 drew more than 500 hot rods and enough fans to easily triple the town's population of roughly 1,100.

Garvey was born in a brick home about 400 yards from his museum. When he was 18, he bought a modest ranch home (which he's since sold), before eventually opening his race car museum next door.

"I'm the kind of guy, I just like to see the people," said Garvey, beaming amidst the crowd. "I bet you thought I was (kidding) you," he added, gesturing to the crowd it drew.

The party, like the museum, is self-funded. Guests were invited to drop money in a donation box as they stood in line for free hamburgers, hot dogs, and other treats. And "every penny" will be used to fund next year's party, which Garvey said costs several thousand dollars annually.

The half-mile-long dead-end where Garvey's museum sits is also home to a half-dozen or so homes, all of whose owners cooperate with the party. Some homeowners are classic car owners, or have friends who are, and open their

►



Garvey, left, outside his vintage race car museum with Ryan Hindinger, the man Garvey pulled from a burning, crashed SUV along a Pennsylvania interstate in November 2016. Hindinger is holding his daughter, Laiken, 2, and standing with his son, Aiden, 8.

porches and yards to vehicles and visitors.

Lorrie Coble, 55, moved onto the street six years ago. She met Garvey when he came to her yard sale, and gladly opens her yard to the traffic and festivities for a few hours each year.

"It's fun. You meet people you haven't seen in a long time," she said.

Cody Fye, 29, has known Bud since he was 4 years old, and has been attending the Cruise-In for six or seven years. This year's, helped by bright sunshine, was the biggest yet and, "it's better and better each year," Fye said.

"Bud doesn't care what your profession is, where you come from," Fye said, "Bud will take time out of his day to teach you something, to make you laugh. Bud's the most stand-up person there is."

"Bud taught me everything there is to know about cars," said Fye, who's not alone in that experience. "Whether you're his own or not, he treats you as his own."

Ken Lowery, 62, used to work with Garvey at a mine owned by PBS Coals. He brought his father, 82-year-old Bob Lowery, up from Cumberland, Md., to see the cars including a green 1934 Nash LaFayette race car, nicknamed the 308 Hornet, one of the most unique in Garvey's collection.

"I've got my own cars and used to race dirt track a few years ago," Ken Lowery said. His father raced on a half-mile banked blacktop track at the Beltsville (Md.) Speedway, which closed 40 years ago.

Ryan Hindinger, the man Garvey saved, wasn't able to attend last year's Cruise-In, which was hampered by rain. He was still recovering from his crash injuries, which required speech and physical therapy, but was happy to bring his children, Aiden, 8, and Laiken 2, with him to this year's festivities.

Hindinger lost his manufacturing job due to his injuries, but he's since found another job, and still shakes his head at the bits and pieces he remembers of Garvey working feverishly to pull him from through the driver's side window of his burning SUV.

Hindinger, who weighed about 300 pounds then — about 50 more than he does now — still marvels at Garvey's feat.

"In my head, he seemed younger and in much better shape," Hindinger said. "It's like one of those 'mom lifts a car off a baby' scenarios."

"It took a while, but I made a full recovery," Hindinger said. "My car insurance went up, but that's about it."

— Joe Mandak, case investigator

BOARD NOTES

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BOARD NOTES

The most important and least understood memories of these heroic acts might be the memories held by the heroes themselves.

should recognize this as part of the peril of their acts, a possible consequence of the rescue that is just as real as the physical harm that they risk and often suffer.

Second, these reactions to the rescues give us insight into the reality of the risks the heroes face in their rescues.

The level of risk is an important factor in the Carnegie Medal award criteria, and it is a subjective factor that the Commission members must struggle with in almost every case. The staff is adept at gathering and verifying evidence of what happened, and I think we Commissioners do a good and conscientious job, but none of us were on scene to see the rescue.

But the heroes were, of course, and their vivid memories confirm the reality of the risks they faced.

Finally, there are conclusions we should not draw from all this. Our impressions of this phenomenon are just that, impressions, not any kind of scientific study. We don't know the prevalence of this reaction to rescues, and we don't know the exact nature of the reaction. Certainly, none of us would characterize it as a pathology, since the heroes I've met seem to be living normal and productive lives. Some great scientific research on other aspects of heroism is underway with the cooperation of a group of our awardees. This topic might be ripe for research as well.

One question lingers with me after I talk with Carnegie Medal awardees about all this. Are they reacting to the danger they themselves faced? Or, are they reacting empathetically to the danger faced by those they rescued? Or both? I'm not sure. I do believe, though, that the rescues themselves shape the subsequent lives of our heroes more than the plaudits they receive. This is just one more reason to admire these men and women and to tell and retell their remarkable stories.



TO THE HERO FUND

HERO FEELS THAT ACT SAVED HIM TOO

On July 18, 2016, I observed a multiple-vehicle traffic collision on a busy highway that resulted in two vehicles becoming engulfed in flames. Shortly after the collision occurred I was lucky enough to be able to extract one of the drivers, Ms. Kaarisa Karley, whose car was becoming more engulfed with flames

On that day in July I was suffering from an illness. This illness forced me to work on limited duty status that had me completely stressed out about losing my position of employment. I was going through a divorce that I didn't want, which contributed to my finance problems as well. I had gone from a completely healthy, happy, and positive man to someone I barely knew. That said, when I drove away from the scene of the collision that evening, I knew I still had a purpose in the world. This was something I hadn't felt in some years ...

Today, I'm back to full duty status with my job and I'm in much better shape, both mentally and physically ... I want to forward to all of you involved in nominating me my sincere gratitude. The Carnegie Medal I received will always tell a story of not just saving the life of one, but possibly two.

John David Smith, Issaquah, Wash.

Smith was awarded the Carnegie Medal in June 2017 for saving Karley from the burning vehicle in Snoqualmie Pass, Wash.

HERO BECOMES VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTER

I would like to thank you for awarding me the Carnegie Medal and the monetary grant. I am truly humbled and honored to receive this award.

I am conflicted on accepting the monetary portion as I feel I did not earn it, I just acted out of kindness and was able to help someone in need. However given my financial situation your generosity and kindness is most appreciated.

Since the event I have been a volunteer fire fighter in our community for just over a year now. I hope to become a full-time fire fighter so I can continue to serve those in need ...

All of you who contribute to the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission do truly great things. Again, I am honored, thankful and humbled for your attention and generosity.

James Edward Giles, Terrace, B.C.

Giles was awarded the Carnegie Medal in December 2017 after rescuing two young children from a burning house Oct. 18, 2016 in Terrace.

▶ p.5



*Carnegie Hero **Jacob Scott Jones** and his family camp in the background with the Spider Disc Games set up in the foreground. Jones and his wife, Amanda, dream of rebuilding their toy company, AJ Play.*

Carnegie Hero rebuilds toy company

Jacob Scott Jones's dream was interrupted by life.

But when his new routine was violently interrupted, Jones was inspired to resurrect his dream: Building his own toy company.

Jones, 39, was awarded the Carnegie Medal in June 2016 after he rescued an elderly neighbor from another neighbor who pulled a gun during a March 27, 2015, argument in the street in the usually calm environs of St. Helens, Oregon.

The victim, 75-year-old Albert Schneider, was shot in the abdomen before he wrestled the gun away from the assailant at which point Jones rushed to help. Seeing the assailant grabbing another weapon – a pistol – from the trunk of his car, Jones disarmed the man and subdued him until police arrived.

Though he saved Schneider's life, Jones' dream – a company known as AJ Play – had been on hiatus for about four years when the shooting occurred.

"That gave me more of a realization, 'You never know when your time's up,'" Jones said. "If I'm not living my life to the fullest ... I don't want to just get by."

Jones launched **AJ Play** in 2009, a year after he patented its first product – UberDart – a foam rubber toy that can be tossed like a javelin, but safely caught by another person.

After UberDart drew attention at the annual American International Toy Fair in New York City, Jones eventually sold thousands of UberDarts through about 300 retail stores, including U.S. Toy Company, a nationwide chain, and developed a spin-off product called UberBall.

Things were cruising right along when life intervened in 2011.

Jones's wife, Amanda Jones, lost her job as a paralegal, then discovered she was pregnant with the couple's second child, Lillian, now 8. The financial realities of growing the company also hit home. Jacob Jones, a carpenter by trade, had relied on business loans to capitalize AJ Play, but the country's worsening economy put the squeeze on some of that financing and a looming deal with retail giant Toys R Us became a bridge too far for Jacobs.

"They were actually going to sell an UberDart, under their (brand) line, but cost-wise, it just didn't make sense for us," Jones said. "The volume they needed was a large financial commitment, but the cost of what they wanted to buy it (from AJ Play) was less than I wanted."

"We were growing, too, but we also ran into that same problem, where we didn't have enough inventory, and we kept having to wait for the new shipment to arrive," Jones said.

Confronted by his growing family – Amanda, now 39, would give birth to a third child, Addison, now 6 – Jones decided to focus on carpentry and to avoid the ▶

financial risk that came with trying to grow AJ Play.

Until his neighbor was attacked.

"As cliché as it seems, you realize life is short, things can happen in a minute that absolutely can change your life," Amanda said. "You have to take the risk. You can't go back and change things."

That doesn't mean the Joneses plan to gamble their life savings on the venture – but they are committed to trying to once again grow AJ Play into a national distributor of UberDarts, UberBalls, and a new product – Spider Disc Games.

Spider Disc Games uses flying plastic discs that have two spidery Velcro "legs" protruding from them that can connect to a colored scoring pole if players throw the discs close enough to the target. Players keep score similar to horseshoes in a game that mimics some aspects of disc golf.

The couple tried to fund the Spider Disc Games startup with an online Kickstarter campaign that didn't generate enough capital last year. So, now, they're banking on reintroducing UberDart, a known product into the market through online sales, and hope to use those profits to fund Spider Disc Games and grow the company that way.

The couple didn't just decide to resurrect and grow their toy company after Jones' heroic deed. They've added a fourth child – 1-year-old Jackson – and are hoping their newfound focus will launch AJ Play into a venture capable of supporting the family now and into the future.

"That is kind of our end goal: That this would become our full-time job and we kind of fantasize that our children will run the business when they're old enough," Amanda said.

Their oldest child, Ethan is 11.

Schneider, their neighbor, is rooting for the couple.

"I'm hopeful he'll be successful," Schneider said.

AJ Play has 4,600 UberDarts ordered and hopes to sell through that stock quickly so they can grow that revenue into more UberDart sales and, eventually, a full-fledged production of Spider Disc Games.

"I told my wife, 'This time around, we're going to take a little more risk,'" Jones said.

For more information visit ajplayllc.com.

— **Joe Mandak, case investigator**



The Jones family poses for a family portrait. Pictured, from left, are Jacob Jones holding son Jackson, with son Ethan over his shoulder, and Amanda Jones with one arm around daughter Lillian and daughter Addison in her lap.

TO THE HERO FUND

▶ from p.4

RECOGNITION PROVIDES CLOSURE, POSITIVITY DESPITE LIVES LOST

I would like to thank you all for the recognition and financial grant that you gave me for a lifesaving act that I was part of in November 2016.

For the past two years, I have focused so much on the two people who died in the crash that I have forgotten about the lives that were saved. Your recognition of me has really enabled me to move past that and remember those precious two young lives were saved.

I think of the family every day as I drive past the site on my way to work. My thoughts now lead me to a place where I can see two little girls growing up. Thank you.

I am honored to be recognized by you.

Karen Marie Mallon, Beulah, Mich.

*Mallon saved a 13-day-old infant from burning in a vehicle that caught fire after an accident. **Zachary J. Corey**, who was also awarded the Carnegie Medal, rescued the baby's 6-year-old sister from the car. Their mother and sister did not survive.*

APPRECIATIVE MESSAGE LEFT ON HERO FUND'S VOICEMAIL

I'm just a regular guy who lives in Albuquerque, N.M., and I just wanted to tell you how much the Carnegie Hero award – just knowing that it is there and following it – means to me. I feel like we live in a very cynical generation ... how good [is it] to see people do such exceptional things – things that I hope I am the sort of person who would do.

I think ... the Carnegie Hero award, it really does something that very few things do in our day in inspiring and encouraging us about what can be done by people.

I thought you should know that because I'm sure there's a great mass of us out there who feel that way who would never take the time to call, so I'm going to represent them and say thank you for what you do and thank you for telling us the stories of the heroes that we as a people need to hear so we can know there is good in the world,

Chip Groover Albuquerque, N.M.



William E. Ramirez

HERO BECOMES U.S. CITIZEN

Carnegie Hero **William E. Ramirez**, 49, of Pembroke Pines, Fla., was among 100 people who became U.S. citizens at an Aug. 17 ceremony at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services office in Hialeah, Fla.

"I belong to America," he said during an interview through an interpreter. "I love this country."

Ramirez was set apart from the other new citizens as he had risked his life to save a police officer in life-threatening danger about two years earlier. Ramirez said that a woman speaking at the ceremony made note of his act of heroism as he received his citizenship.

On the morning of April 14, 2015, Miami police officer Rosny Obas, then 28, initiated a traffic stop. The suspect exited his vehicle and fired a semi-automatic pistol at Obas as Obas was getting out of his police car. Obas took cover behind the car and returned fire as the assailant continued to shoot. Ramirez witnessed the assault. As Obas ran from his car to search for cover, Ramirez drove toward him, opened the sliding door on the driver's side of his van, and called for Obas to get in. Obas safely entered the vehicle, and Ramirez then sped from the scene amid sounds of more gunfire.

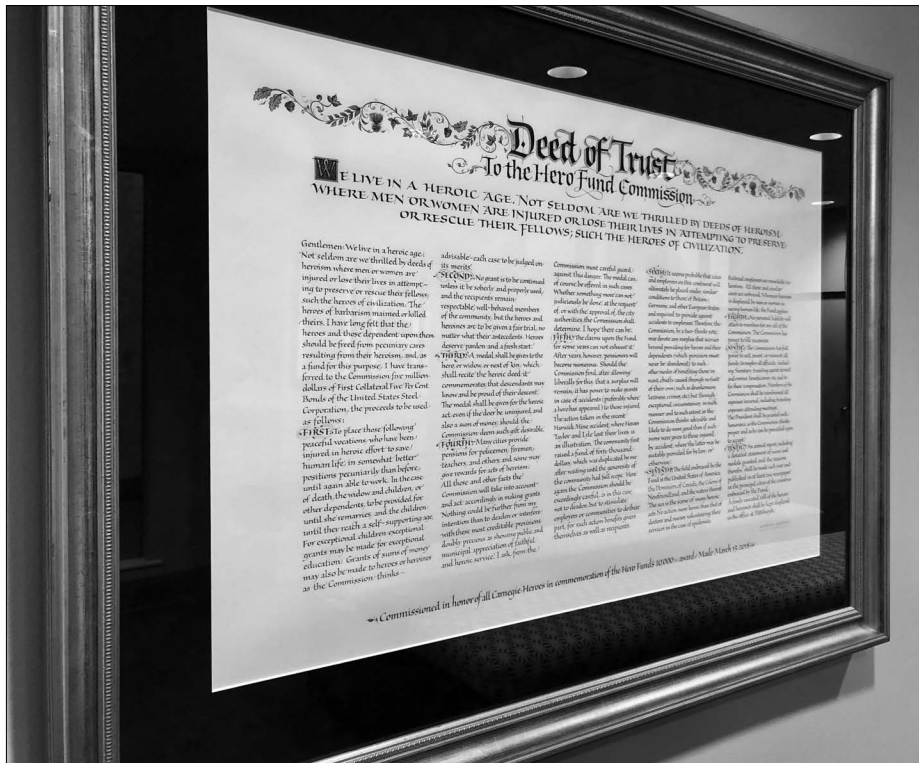
Ramirez said there was no reason not to come to the officer's aid.

"I saw what was happening and (the assailant) kept shooting. Why wouldn't I help?" Ramirez said.

For his actions, Ramirez was awarded a Carnegie Medal and \$5,000 grant in December 2016, joining 20 other heroes who also became Carnegie Medal awardees that day.

Ramirez is self-employed and works on boats for a living. His wife of 20 years, Elizabeth Lopez, and their children, Yesenia Lopez, 27, and Daniel Ramirez, 18, were citizens already.

— **Melissa A. McLaughlin, case investigator**



The Deed of Trust designed, lettered, and drawn by renowned calligrapher John Stevens of Winston-Salem, N.C. The Deed of Trust was commissioned in honor of all Carnegie heroes in commemoration of the Hero Fund's 10,000th award made in March.

► from p.1

Commissioned calligraphy

In his initial talk with Commission President Eric Zahren, Stevens said he sensed "a good social purpose" to the project.

"It's the kind of project that is becoming rarer. I could see it was a worthy project. I liked how interested [the staff was] in the project—artists appreciate an audience," said Stevens, who works out of his home in Winston-Salem, N.C.

Zahren said Stevens was uniquely qualified to complete the project.

"From the very beginning it seemed that John took a sincere interest in the Carnegie Hero Fund, especially the courage and sacrifice of our awardees," Zahren said. "Our only request was that he reflect these core ideals in his work."

The Deed of Trust and Roll of Honor took nearly six months for Stevens to complete; it was what he called an "ambitious" project.

"A calligrapher is an illuminator and a scribe," he said. "It was a challenge. It's not natural to sit down for hours and work by hand. The process is long, and every job is different. You must be self-directed and mindful of the deadline even though this is not a job you can rush. It is very methodical."

Because this was a text-heavy piece, Stevens said he was adamant about striking a perfect balance between text and decoration.

In addition to the text, Stevens applied gold leaf, vibrant colors, and a floral design, all qualities of illuminated manuscripts and traditional calligraphy. The floral work that flank the title of the Deed of Trust is the same flora—oak, ivy, thistle, and laurel—that is found on the back of the Carnegie Medal.

Stevens will continue his work with the Carnegie Hero Fund, incorporating the names of future heroes and heroines into the roll of honor.

Zahren described the Deed of Trust and Roll of Heroes and Heroines as a "visible link to the work we do and the reasons we do it."

"It remains our guiding light as we go about our daily work. To have it displayed, along with the names of heroes we have recognized and continue ►

3-YEAR-OLD SHARES GREAT-GRANDFATHER'S 'BIG PENNY' WITH CLASSMATES



Grace Helen Hodges Chamberlin poses with her great-grandfather's Carnegie Medal. Carnegie Hero **Francis Traill Hodges** was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 1932 after he saved a 23-year-old man and attempted to save a 14-year-old boy from suffocating in a 35-foot-deep, dry well in New Castle, Ind. Although he was warned that it would be suicidal for him to enter the well and after two others had entered and failed at rescue attempts of the boy, Hodges, then 24, of New Castle, insisted on entering without a smoke mask. He was lowered to the bottom of the well, and with an end of a rope that was attached to a windlass rope, he tied the second rescuer to himself and others hoisted them to the surface. Hodges took a few breaths and then was lowered again to the bottom of the well, where, in the same manner, he recovered the boy, who had died.

Grace, 3, brought Hodges's medal to Central Nurse School in San Jose, Calif., for show and tell, reported her grandfather, Ed Hodges, of San Jose.

Her teacher "told me that the kids loved the 'big penny,'" Ed Hodges said.

► from p.6

Commissioned calligraphy

to honor, should inspire all of us," he added.

Before the two pieces return to their permanent home in the Commission's offices on the 11th floor of the historic Koppers building in downtown Pittsburgh, they will remain on temporary display in the lobby of the Koppers building.

On Oct. 6 and 7, the building was opened to the public as part of Doors Open Pittsburgh 2018, an event that invited visitors to tour the historic buildings of downtown Pittsburgh and surrounding neighborhoods.

In addition to experiencing the opulent marble detailing and decorative bronze work of the art deco building, for which the Koppers building is known, guests viewed Stevens' calligraphy work and learned about the values dear to the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission.

Koppers Building Manager Karen Besser said last year more than 1,000 people walked through the lobby of the building.

To see videos of Stevens' artistry and the unveiling of the pieces, visit carnegiehero.org/calligraphy



Ida Lewis in a rowboat near a rocky coastline, circa 1900. From the Collection of the Newport Historical Society.

SEPARATE FROM HERO FUND, CARNEGIE PENSIONED FAMED HEROINE

Once celebrated as the "bravest woman in America," Ida Lewis, the famed lighthouse keeper, earned a multitude of prestigious honors for a series of water rescues in Newport, R.I.

And though the civil servant downplayed potential candidacy for a Carnegie Medal—shrugging off a 1906 rescue of a woman who had fallen from a boat as "a small matter"—Lewis became of the most-notable beneficiaries of an Andrew Carnegie-funded pension for heroism.

Lewis was 65 and long-separated from her husband in 1907 when Carnegie—independent of the Hero Fund—added the heroine to his private pension list in appreciation of life-saving deeds dating to 1858. That year, Lewis, just 16, rowed out in a boat to save four teenage boys from drowning.

Carnegie committed \$30 a month to Lewis upon a request from Lewis's friend, Cornelia Chadwick, according to *The Lighthouse Keeper's Daughter: The Remarkable True Story of American Heroine Ida Lewis*, a book by Lenore Skomal. Chadwick's husband, Navy officer French Chadwick, had presented Lewis with the federal government's Gold Life Saving Medal of the First Class for the 1881 rescue of two men.

After Lewis's death in October 1911, Chadwick circulated a letter that Carnegie wrote in response to her.

"Your kind note gives me one source of satisfaction. A happy and favoured man am I to be enabled to help such heroines as Ida Lewis, who has passed away. She had no future to fear, having made the best of this life. Fortunate she was in having you as a friend. Let us try to emulate her in the service of our fellows."

Reacting in 1907 to news of the pension, The Philadelphia Inquirer editorialized: "Posterity will probably say that the American Nation ought to be very much ashamed of itself for letting Ida Lewis Wilson depend on Andrew Carnegie's charity in her old age, after all she has done in saving life."

Over the years, Lewis's pension frequently has been credited—erroneously—to the Hero ► p.8



► from p.7
FAMED HEROINE



Ida Lewis, From Wikimedia Commons.

Fund. Despite her prolific résumé of rescues — Lewis deemed the sum to have been 18 — she was not a Carnegie Medal recipient. Partly, that's because the Commission only reviewed rescues that happened after its founding in April 1904.

So, what happened with that 1906 rescue of a woman who fell from a boat near the lighthouse? When an advocate pushed that it merited a Carnegie Medal, newspapers cited Lewis as saying she didn't even count it among her volume of rescues.

"Mrs. Brown said the woman would have drowned if I had not helped her, but I could not for the life of me see how it could be called a rescue, and I simply would not listen to an offer of a medal for doing that," the New York Herald quoted Lewis for a story published Oct. 21, 1907.

That modesty was a lifelong trait, and it likely contributed to Lewis's diminished stature by the time Skomal began her research. Before 2002, when Skomal's book first was published as *The Keeper of Lime Rock*, there was no definitive biography of Lewis, only scattered chapters in other works.

Noting that Lewis's legacy had a Paul Bunyan-like quality because of the amount of misinformation that had been published about her, Skomal said she was fastidious in chronicling her life. This summer, Skomal, of New York City, revisited Newport for research related to a planned film adaption of her book by Los Angeles-based Amfran Entertainment and director Nico Raineau.

"She's been a companion for 20 years, and I feel like she will be for the rest of my life," Skomal said. "I feel like she's my ancestor."

— **Chris Foreman, case investigator**

Tenets of Hero Fund seeded in Andrew Carnegie's presentation to 'boy soprano'

Earl Gulick is absent from the roll of Carnegie Heroes, but his bravery as a 14-year-old in a 1902 water rescue once led to the mistaken, widespread belief that he was the first recipient of the Carnegie Medal.

To be fair, that's largely attributable to the fact that Andrew Carnegie indeed presented Gulick, a popular singer celebrated as the "boy soprano," with a medal for helping to save a 30-year-old man from drowning in a canal in the Long Island area of New York. During a YMCA ceremony at Carnegie Hall on Jan. 20, 1903, Carnegie bestowed Gulick with the gold medal of the United States Volunteer Life Saving Corps.

Although the Pittsburgh-area mine disaster that ultimately inspired him to create the Hero Fund would not happen until the following January, that night Carnegie seized the opportunity to promote the tenets of just such a national organization to support the families of fallen heroes.

His comments built upon his own contribution to a monument honoring a 17-year-old boy, William Hunter, who drowned in a rescue attempt in his native Scotland in 1886. Not only did Carnegie call Gulick a "hero of civilization," recalling part of the inscription on Hunter's monument, Carnegie quoted the John 15:13 Bible verse that appears on Carnegie Medals as well.

"The family of no hero who loses his life while trying to rescue a fellow man should ever suffer want, nor should the hero himself, if injured," Carnegie said, according to an excerpt published in the corps' annual report. "He deserves a pension, with the thanks of the community, as well as a gold medal to be worn and afterward handed down to his family as a badge of true nobility."

Besides instant newspaper coverage of the medal presentation, Carnegie's words were repeated in a column, entitled "Everyday Heroes," that ran in multiple papers the following spring.

Gulick's connection to Carnegie and the medal remained forefront in some minds as the years went on, although it was another teen, Louis A. Baumann, Jr., who was awarded the first Carnegie Medal for his July 1904 water rescue in the Pittsburgh area.



Program cover for January 1903
YMCA event at Carnegie Hall.
Courtesy of [Carnegie Hall Archives](#).



Earl Gulick, from Documents of the
Assembly of the State of New York,
One Hundred and Twenty-Seventh
Session, 1904.

In a November 1913 story about Gulick traveling to Italy for voice training, the New-York Tribune stated that he "carries the first medal ever issued by Carnegie." It also credited Gulick's rescue as the impetus causing Carnegie "to establish the medal fund."

That misconception returned upon Gulick's death in December 1945 at the age of 57 after a career as an advertising executive. Among the news reports, The Brooklyn (N.Y.) Daily Eagle published an obituary stating that Gulick "was the first person to receive a Carnegie Medal for heroism."

And, perhaps, with an asterisk — or a lowercase "m," anyway — that is true.

— **Chris Foreman, case investigator**

LATEST AWARDEES OF THE CARNEGIE MEDAL

Since the last issue of *imPULSE*, the following 16 individuals have been awarded the Carnegie Medal, bringing the total number of recipients to 10,044 since the Hero Fund's inception in 1904. The latest awards, which were [announced on Sept. 20](#), are detailed on the Commission's website at [carnegiehero.org](#). The next announcement of awardees will be in December.

Receptionist **Ana Maria Ramirez**, 47, of Turlock, Calif., rescued a 12-year-old boy from attacking dogs on April 18, 2017, in Turlock. The boy was walking his family's dog on a leash in a suburban neighborhood when two, 65-pound pit bulls, a male and female, approached and attacked his dog, biting the boy and his dog. The boy was unable to release his grip on his dog's leash. Ramirez was driving by and witnessed the attack. She stopped at the scene and, concerned that the boy would be pulled to the ground in the struggle to control and protect his dog, Ramirez blew the car's horn. She exited the car, approached, and shouted at the pit bulls. The female pit bull moved away, but the male continued its attack on the boy and his dog. Ramirez returned to her car and, retrieving part of a child's booster seat, approached the male pit bull, and struck it. The dog bit her wrist and forearm and held on. Ramirez struck the dog again with the booster seat, and the dog released her. Both pit bulls fled the scene.

Liam Bernard, a 37-year-old welder of Chapel Island, N.S., on Sept. 16, 2016, helped save the 68-year-old driver of a pickup truck that, following a rural highway accident, came to rest in a ditch at an angle in Melford, N.S. The driver's legs were pinned as smoke issued from the truck's engine compartment. After fire broke out in the truck's engine compartment, Bernard opened its front, passenger door and climbed fully inside the cab while a bystander held the door ajar.

Bernard released the driver's seat belt and removed part of the dashboard in an effort to free him but was unsuccessful. Bernard exited the cab briefly and moved away from the truck as smoke and fire intensified, but hearing the man call for help, Bernard returned to the truck and, despite advancing flames, fully reentered the truck's cab. Bernard grasped the man's upper body, and as others held onto him and tugged, Bernard pulled him into the passenger seat and toward the door where others helped remove him.

Kalkaska, Mich., officers **Blake Keith Huff**, 23, police sergeant, and **Benjamin M. Hawkins**, 35, deputy sheriff rescued a 50-year-old, paraplegic woman from her burning home Feb. 22, 2017, in



Scott Tester, left, hugs his mother Grace Tester outside their home in Kalkaska, Mich., on Feb. 22, 2017. A fire that broke out that morning left much of their home gutted. Scott Tester's wife, Mary Jo Tester, was rescued from the flames by **Blake Keith Huff** and **Benjamin M. Hawkins**, but she did not survive her injuries. Photo courtesy of Tessa Lighty/[Traverse City Record-Eagle](#).

Kalkaska. The woman was in her home's living room when fire broke out and began to spread in that room. Huff and Hawkins responded to the home, and seeing flames through the living room window and black smoke issuing from the eaves, Huff and Hawkins entered the home. Huff crawled on his belly about 15 feet across the living room toward the woman, who was on the floor with flames nearby. Along the way he moved a recliner, which was on fire, from his path. Hawkins crawled inside behind Huff. Reaching the woman on the far side of the room amid nearby flames, Huff grasped her by the ankles and crawled backward, dragging her. Hawkins grasped Huff's pant leg and pulled and guided Huff, the woman in tow, to the door. Huff and Hawkins lifted her and carried her from the home. The woman, who suffered smoke inhalation and severe burns, died five days later.

Delbert G. Blare, 65, of Melbourne, Fla., died attempting to save a 61-year-old man from drowning on Oct. 14, 2017, in Melbourne Beach, Fla. Blare, a retired gas company employee, was on the beach with his family when he heard the man call for help. As others made unsuccessful efforts to aid the man, Blare removed his shirt, shoes, and glasses, and ran a few steps into the ocean. Despite rough water conditions, Blare dived through the waves and swam toward the man, who was about 200 feet from shore. During the rescue effort, Blare submerged and was not seen for several minutes. The man ultimately reached wadable water where he was assisted by others to shore. Shortly, Blare was observed floating facedown in the ocean and was recovered from the water by a sheriff's deputy. Efforts were made to revive Blare, who was unresponsive, and he was taken to a hospital for treatment. Blare died the following day; his death due to drowning. ►



The aftermath of the fire that gutted the home of Tester in Kalkaska, Mich. Carnegie heroes Huff and Hawkins entered the burning home and crawled to Tester, dragging her from the burning house, but she succumbed to her injuries later. Photo courtesy of Michael Jenkinson/[Elite Investigation Group](#).



*An overturned sedan burns in a wooded area after Carnegie Hero **Michael Eugene Chestnut** removed three teens from the wreckage that occurred Aug. 24, 2017, in Foster, Ky.*

LATEST AWARDEES

Retired tractor-trailer driver **Michael Eugene Chestnut**, 59 of Foster, Ky., saved three 16-year-olds who were trapped inside an overturned and burning sedan after an Aug. 24, 2017, collision on a narrow, country road in Foster. Coming upon the scene, Chestnut stopped and ran to the sedan with a knife and a fire extinguisher. Chestnut crawled through the driver's window and cut part of the seat belt that restrained one teen, who was upside-down in the driver's seat. Chestnut grasped the driver, who had fallen from his seat, and dragged him from the vehicle. Chestnut then discharged the extinguisher to suppress flames burning on the underside of the engine compartment and issuing from the floorboard. Crawling into the sedan through another window, Chestnut cut one of the passenger's seat belts and dragged the teen, who was nearly 100 pounds heavier and more than a foot taller than Chestnut, to safety. As the fire intensified, Chestnut returned to the sedan again, pulling the third teen to safety. They were not burned.

Massachusetts state police troopers **John Hazelrigg** and **Russell D. Phippen** rescued a 24-year-old man from drowning Jan. 3, 2018, in the Merrimack River near Lowell, Mass. At night, the man clung to a rock in the river and called for help. Authorities, including police and fire departments, arrived shortly but initial efforts to rescue the man were unsuccessful. Hazelrigg, 52, was piloting a police helicopter equipped with a searchlight that was dispatched solely to illuminate the dark river, which flowed swiftly and contained ice. The helicopter was not designed or equipped for rescue operations. Arriving at the scene, Hazelrigg and Phippen,

43, observed the man, who had been partially submerged in sub-freezing temperatures for more than 20 minutes, to be lethargic and determined that he required immediate assistance. Hazelrigg descended to water level near the man as Phippen, attached to the helicopter by a strap at an open door, positioned himself outside the cabin on a skid. With the man beyond Phippen's reach, Hazelrigg maneuvered the helicopter closer to him as Phippen moved to the other side of the cabin, opened another door, and again positioned himself on a skid. With the helicopter skimming the surface of the water, Phippen handed the man a life vest, grasped his arm, and pulled his upper body into the cabin. Unable to pull his entire body inside, Phippen held to the man and, with the helicopter's rear doors open, Hazelrigg flew to a nearby hospital.

On May 29, 2017, **Sean Zacharey Thayne**, a 30-year-old programmer of Sandy, Utah, died attempting to save a 4-year-old girl and her mother, 34, from drowning in the Provo River near Provo, Utah. Thayne was with his family on a recreational trail at a county park when he heard the mother screaming as the powerful current of the river swept she and her daughter downstream. Thayne ran about 500 feet on the trail along the bank, then entered the water, where he was seen a short distance from the mother. The river carried the mother and Thayne to a dam about 3 miles downstream, where they were removed from the water in critical condition. They were taken to a hospital, where both later died of drowning. Searchers located the girl's body the following morning, more than 1 mile from the scene; she had drowned.

Seventeen-year-old **Jay Agli**, of Meriden, Conn.,



***Jay Agli** with sister **Kishana M. Rivera** whom he attempted to rescue from drowning in the Connecticut River on June 11, 2017. Jay, 17, did not know how to swim, but, responding to his sister's calls for help, entered deep water anyway. Rivera was swept downstream and rescued by boaters. Jay submerged and drowned.*

died June 11, 2017, attempting to save his sister from drowning in the Connecticut River at a state park in Haddam, Conn. The sister, 19, and a friend were struggling to swim back to a submerged sandbar in cold, swift current. The woman's family, including her brother Jay were in knee-high water on the sandbar. While she called for help, the other girl's stepfather swam to the girl and, with difficulty, took her to safety. Although Jay could not swim, he left the sandbar and began to move toward his sister, attempting to reach her, but upon entering deeper water he submerged. Others, too, entered the river in an attempt to reach the sister, who floated downstream to a point where those on a boat removed her from the water. Authorities employed boats and divers to search the scene and located Jay's body two days later in 25-foot-deep water in the vicinity of where he was last seen. He had drowned.

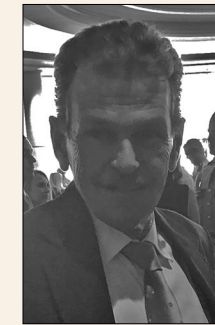
John E. Meffert, a 47-year-old fire captain of Ranch Santa Margarita, Calif., saved a 62-year-old pilot from burning in his twin-engine plane after an engine problem caused the plane to malfunction and crash on a multi-lane expressway on June 30, 2017, in Irvine, Calif. Meffert, who was off-duty and out of his jurisdiction, had been driving on the expressway when the front of his vehicle was ►



Ana Maria Ramirez



Benjamin M. Hawkins



Michael Eugene Chestnut



Sean Zacharey Thayne



John E. Meffert



Philip Russell Orzech

struck by the plane as it flew past and crashed nearby. Meffert stopped and ran to the plane where he climbed onto the wing and aided the pilot's wife, who was a passenger in the plane, away from the wreckage. Despite flames several feet high on the wings, Meffert returned to the plane, stepped onto the wing again, and extended his upper body through the door to free the pilot's foot from the wreckage. Meffert grasped the man under the arms and pulled him from the plane. He then dragged him to safety as the plane continued to burn. The pilot was not burned.

On Aug. 19, 2017, **Jason A. Sigelow**, a 39-year-old caterer of Rochester, N.Y., and **Philip Russell Orzech**, a 56-year-old sales executive of West Hartford, Conn., helped save a 9-year-old boy from drowning in Lake Ontario near Irondequoit, N.Y., Sigelow drowning as a result of his actions. The boy was swimming with his brother, 10, when a current carried them into deep, rough water adjacent a jetty, and they called for help. Sigelow, who was on the beach, entered the water and swam to the boy, grasping him. The boy's brother swam back to shore. Sigelow and the boy submerged at least once and became separated as the boy floundered and yelled in distress. Observing the boy's plight from atop the jetty, Orzech entered the water and swam about 150 feet to the boy, where he calmed him and towed him toward the jetty. A woman who arrived in a boat assisted with getting the boy to the jetty. A man who accompanied her recovered Sigelow, who was unconscious, from the water. First responders were unable to revive Sigelow, who had drowned.

Deputy sheriff **Ronald W. Manning**, 68, of Bogalusa, La., saved two women, ages 34 and 30, from an overturned, burning car on July 14, 2017, in Bogalusa. Manning saw smoke and responded to the accident scene, where the women remained in the front seats of the sedan. He emptied a fire extinguisher on flames issuing from the car's engine compartment. Unable to extinguish the fire, Manning retrieved a hammer from his vehicle and broke out an opening in the sedan's rear windshield. Inside the car, one woman had crawled to the rear windshield. Manning, partially entering the vehicle despite the front-end flames, grasped her arms and

pulled her through the opening. Manning then fully entered the vehicle through the opening and knelt on the rear, passenger-side door. He extended his arms, grasped the other woman's arms, and backed toward the rear windshield, exiting through the opening as he removed her from the vehicle. Flames grew to engulf the front passenger compartment.

A 37-year-old veterinarian of St. Louis, **Jennifer E. Emo** rescued a 2-year-old girl from a burning vehicle Aug. 26, 2017, in O'Fallon, Mo. Emo was travelling on an interstate highway when she saw a sedan on fire and stopped at the scene. Others in the girl's car had made efforts to remove her amid rapidly spreading flames, but had been unsuccessful. Emo ran to the car and approached the door nearest the girl, which was open.

As flames began to engulf the car, Emo extended her right arm inside, and despite blistering heat and flames, grasped the girl's wrist and pulled her outside. Emo lifted her and took her to a grassy area adjacent to the shoulder and rolled her in the grass to put out flames on her clothing. An off-duty officer arrived and, with Emo, tended to the girl until the arrival of emergency responders. The toddler was airlifted to the hospital for treatment of extensive burns but later succumbed to her injuries. Emo suffered burns to her hands and left arm.

Andrew William Miller rescued a 62-year-old man from assault May 12, 2017 in Washington,

D.C. Miller, 23, law student of Frisco, Texas, saw two 17-year-old boys attacking the man in a subway station. The assailants forced the man onto a subway platform and kicked and punched him in the face and head. Then they pushed him toward a train accelerating out of the station, and he struck it, then fell back onto the platform, where he was kicked. Miller moved toward the group, shouting at them to stop their attack on the man, who was lying on the platform. One of the assailants stumbled over the man and toward Miller, and the two struggled. The assailant punched Miller twice, and Miller fell to the platform. The assailants fled the scene, to be later apprehended. Miller sustained a head injury and an abrasion to his face. ☒



*The inside of the burned-out sedan that Carnegie Hero **Ronald W. Manning** fully entered on July 14, 2017, to remove two women who were inside the car after a collision in Bogalusa, La. Photo courtesy of [Washington Parish Sheriff's Office](#).*



PRESENTING

Pima County (Ariz.) Sheriff Mark Napier, right, presents the Carnegie Medal to Carnegie Hero [Brian Kunze](#), a sergeant, at an Aug. 7 Pima County Board of Supervisors meeting.

Kunze was awarded the Carnegie Medal in June after the rescue of a bed-ridden, 82-year-old woman from a burning home in Tucson, Ariz. In the early morning of June 18, 2016, the woman was in a one-story house when her adult daughter was assaulted by her grandson who possessed gasoline-filled bottles and a sword. The daughter fled the house. Responding Pima County Sheriff's deputies, including Kunze, then 49, smelled natural gas inside the house and, concluding that the woman was in danger, Kunze broke open her bedroom window. As another deputy began to enter the room, a sudden explosion inside the house blew him and Kunze, who was standing outside, back. Flames briefly filled the room, then receded to a hallway. Kunze climbed into the bedroom, and moved to the woman's bed. Kunze lifted the woman, carried her to the window, and passed her outside to deputies.

Photo courtesy of [Pima County Sheriff's Department](#).



Volunteer presenter [Ralph Cash Kaschai](#), left, presented [Thomas Julius Sais Jr.](#), center, the Carnegie Medal during a private presentation held July 5 in Melbourne, Fla. Sais's wife Donna, right, is pictured with the men.

Sais, of Palm Bay, Fla., was awarded the medal in March 2018 after helping remove a 60-year-old man from a burning sport-utility vehicle that had left a highway, descended a steep embankment and overturned in an area with dense vegetation.

Sais, then 62, descended the embankment, broke out glass from the car's rear windshield and climbed fully inside. He released the driver from his seat belt and, with difficulty, began to pull the man toward the rear windshield. A police sergeant arrived to help and together they removed him from the rear of the vehicle as flames spread in the interior of the passenger compartment.

Kaschai, who was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 1978, after he helped to rescue two men from a burning sedan in Orlando, said that both Sais and his wife are "great people and an asset to the Carnegie (Hero) family."



Carnegie Hero Fund Case Investigator Susan M. Rizza and President Eric P. Zahren, center, traveled to King of Prussia, Pa., in August to present the Carnegie Medal to [Louis Marano](#), left, and [Thomas W. Brown](#), right, who saved two men from drowning in North Wildwood, N.J., two years earlier.

Marano and Brown, both of Philadelphia, were on an Atlantic Ocean beach when they became aware that two men in their 20s were struggling to stay afloat. Despite diminished visibility and large waves, Marano and Brown retrieved boogie boards, entered the water and paddled and kicked to the young men, who were approximately 400 feet from shore. Marano grasped the arm of one of the men, who was bobbing up and down in the water, and told him to climb on his back. Marano held the board and started to kick toward shore. Brown had the other man hold to his boogie board. With difficulty in the waves and current, Marano and Brown moved toward shore with the men.

"Your case was a little unique, I think, in that you never got that word of thanks from the people you rescued for whatever reason," Zahren said during the presentation. "But whether or not you are thanked by the people you rescue, the Hero Fund is here to not only recognize you but thank you for what you did. You saved lives that day."

To see a video of the presentation, visit carnegiehero.org/cmp-marano-brown

PRESENTING



From left, Carnegie Hero Fund President Eric P. Zahren, Carnegie heroes [Zachary J. Corey](#) and [Karen Marie Mallon](#), and Taylor Blackmore, from Rep. Jack Bergman's office, pose after Zahren presented the Carnegie Medal to Corey and Mallon on June 30 at the Platte River Inn in Honor, Mich.

Corey and Mallon, both of Beulah, Mich., were named Carnegie heroes in March for rescuing a 6-year-old girl and newborn from a burning vehicle on Nov. 1, 2016, in Benzonia, Mich.

The children were in a vehicle with their mother and older sister, when it struck Corey's tow truck head-on, traveled off the road, and came to rest in a shallow ditch where it caught fire.

Corey, then 27, ran to the passenger side of the vehicle where he saw the 6-year-old in the front, passenger seat. Unable to open the door, Corey grasped the window frame and pulled on it, forcing the door open slightly. He extended his upper body inside the vehicle and removed the girl's seat belt, then pulled her out.

Mallon, then 51, entered through the open, rear, passenger-side door, knelt on the seat and, with difficulty, freed the 13-day-old girl from her car seat. Mallon picked her up and exited the vehicle with her, taking her to safety.

The vehicle was shortly engulfed by flames. The girls' mother and sister did not survive the accident.

Mallon said the presentation provided her some closure.

"Now when I pass by the site, I think about the lives that were saved," she said. (See her letter to the Commission on page 5.)

Bergman represents Michigan's first district.



From left, Milford (Conn.) Mayor Ben Blake stands with Diane O'Rourke and husband, Carnegie Hero [John Gerard O'Rourke](#) after presenting the Carnegie Medal to O'Rourke for his rescue of a boy from an icy pond on Feb. 5, 2017.

The presentation was held at Milford's Kick Off to Summer fireworks event held June 30 in downtown Milford.

Mayor Blake recounted the Milford resident's actions for the crowd of hundreds: As O'Rourke, then 61, was walking near a frozen pond, he saw a boy, 10, break through ice while playing with friends. O'Rourke grabbed a large tree branch and moved on his belly to reach the boy, who was about 75 feet from shore, when he also broke through the ice.

"I thought I was going to die," O'Rourke said at the medal presentation, according to a July 1 Milford Mirror article.

O'Rourke, who was fully clothed, grasped the boy, held him above water, and attempted to break a path toward shore. As he became nearly exhausted, O'Rourke heaved the boy onto the surrounding ice, which held, then instructed the boy to shimmy across the ice to shore. O'Rourke was unable to hoist himself out of the water even after he moved closer to shore where the water was chest-deep. Police pulled him from the water. O'Rourke and the boy were both treated for exposure to cold water; both recovered.

"On instinct, he rushed in to get this child. Ladies and gentlemen, that's a hero," Blake said at the presentation, according to news reports.

Photo courtesy of Blake.

Carnegie Hero [Joshua K. Watt](#), center, was presented the Carnegie Medal on June 22 at the Edmonson County (Ky.) Courthouse. With Watt, from left, are Brownsville (Ky.) police Chief Jeff Jewell and Edmonson County Sheriff Shane Doyle, who presented the award.

One year earlier, Watt pulled two people from an overturned and burning pickup after an accident in Brownsville in which the truck came to rest with its passenger side against a guide rail. Watt, then 26 of Bowling Green, Ky., ran to the burning pickup. Flames and damage to the truck's cab prevented Watt from seeing the victims from the driver's side. Moving to the passenger side, Watt crawled under the guide rail, where he saw a 16-year-old girl. Watt reached into the cab and cut her seat belt with a pocketknife, then pulled her through the window under the guide rail and dragged her to safety. Returning to the passenger side, Watt saw the 51-year-old driver, whose shorts, socks, and legs were burning. Watt extended his arms and upper torso into the truck and, despite burning gasoline dripping into the cab and onto Watt's clothes, he pulled the man through the window to safety.

Photo courtesy of Moriah Peterson/EdmonsonVoice.com



PRESENTING



Colorado Springs (Colo.) Mayor John Suthers, left, presented the Carnegie Medal to Carnegie Hero [Ross A. Johnson](#) at a June 26 city council meeting.

Johnson, of Colorado Springs, received the Carnegie Medal in March 2018 after rescuing a woman from assault in March 2016. In Colorado Springs, a 65-year-old woman was in the driver's seat of a car that was parked at a self-service car wash when her estranged husband in the front, passenger seat suddenly punched her in the face and stabbed her in the abdomen with a pocket knife. As the woman cried out for help and struggled with the assailant, Johnson, then 52, heard her cries and approached the car.

At the open, front passenger door, Johnson shouted forcefully for the assailant to stop, prompting him to cease his attack and exit the vehicle. As the wounded woman began to exit the car through the open door, the assailant, who had remained at the door, grabbed her and stabbed her three more times before Johnson, several feet away, could intervene. After the woman collapsed outside the vehicle, Johnson pushed away the assailant, who had placed the knife down nearby. Johnson knelt beside her, putting himself between her and the assailant to prevent further injury to her.

Johnson comforted the injured woman until police arrived shortly. Police arrested the assailant without incident. The woman spent eight weeks hospitalized and in rehabilitation, and suffered partial paralysis from her wounds.

In a June 28 Facebook post about the presentation, Suthers thanked Johnson for his "courage, quick thinking, and compassion."



[Robert Lee Thornton, Jr.](#), holds the Carnegie Medal on June 28 after a presentation at Center Line (Mich.) City Hall. Presenting the award, from left, were Center Line police officer Andrew Percha, police Director Paul Myszenski, and Carnegie Hero Fund President Eric P. Zahren.

In November 2016, Thornton, of Warren, Mich., rescued a 77-year-old woman from a pickup truck that had collided with a power pole carrying high-voltage lines, rolled onto its passenger side and caught fire in Center Line.

Thornton stopped at the scene where downed power lines near the front end of the truck arced. Seeing a man inside the truck and quickly surmising that it was not energized, Thornton climbed atop its driver's side and moved to the driver's window. As the man pushed the female passenger up to the window, Thornton extended his upper body inside, grasped her, pulled her through the opening, and handed her down to two police officers. Despite spreading flames, Thornton again reached inside the opening to briefly grasp the man, but the man disengaged as flames entered the truck's cab. As a transformer on the power pole exploded, Thornton retreated to safety and flames soon engulfed the truck.



Rockwall (Texas) Mayor Jim Pruitt, left, and U.S. Rep. John Ratcliffe, right, presented Carnegie Hero [Frank B. Conselman](#), center, the Carnegie Medal at a ceremony held at a Rotary Club of Rockwall meeting Aug. 30.

Conselman is a member of the Rotary, and after he saved two men from drowning while on vacation in June 26, 2015, in Pensacola Beach, Fla., he was named a Carnegie hero in December 2017.

A Rockwall business owner, Conselman, then 45, became aware that two men who had entered the water to assist a woman and two children were struggling in a rip current that was carrying them away from shore. Conselman put on a flotation belt and obtained a kickboard and swam more than 200 feet to one of the men, by then barely above the surface of the water. Conselman gave the kickboard to the man and then swam another 45 feet to the second man. Hampered by waves and strong winds, Conselman towed him to wadable water, where others assisted the man. A lifeguard swam out to the first man and took him back to the beach. Conselman swallowed water and was nearly exhausted after the rescue; he recovered in two days.

Ratcliffe, who represents the fourth district of Texas, posted a picture of the presentation on his Facebook page.

"His heroic actions should be an inspiration to us all," he stated.

PRESENTING



Sequim (Wash.) Mayor Dennis Smith, right, presented the Carnegie Medal to Carnegie Hero [Jason Alan Doig](#), left, at a city council meeting held June 25 in Sequim.

Doig, a cabinet shop owner of Sequim, was awarded the Carnegie Medal in March for saving a woman from falling one year earlier.

Doig, then 44, was in a vehicle traveling on a bridge that spanned the Hood Canal when he saw a distraught woman seemingly attempting to commit suicide as she stood atop a railing of the bridge, about 30 feet above a concrete structure and the canal below. Doig exited the vehicle and quickly crossed to the opposite side of the bridge, remaining out of the woman's view. As another man approached the woman, distracting her, Doig ran a short distance to her and grasped her body as she struck him in the face and leapt backward from the railing. Doig maintained his hold on the woman as she dangled above the structure and struggled with him. The other man also grasped the woman and with the help of a third man, they were able to lift the woman over the railing and back to the deck of the bridge.

Doig told the Sequim Gazette that while he appreciates the notoriety, it's a hard thing for him to accept.

"I think I did what a lot of people in this room would have done. It was more of a reaction than a thought-process," he said at the presentation.

Photo courtesy of Barbara Hanna.

FRIENDS REMEMBERED

[George E. Phillips](#), 82, of Vermilion, Ohio, died Sunday, June 11, 2017, at his home after a brief illness. He was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 1970 for helping save a 48-year-old woman from drowning after she suffered a debilitating back injury while trying to navigate floodwaters in the 1969 Vermilion River flood. Phillips, with two others, piloted a 15-foot racing boat around much debris to the woman's drifting cruiser. While the other men lifted the woman into their boat, Phillips used his boat to control the cruiser. As both boats moved to within 1,200 feet of a lower bridge, which only had 1 foot of clearance above the water, Phillips disengaged from the cruiser and maneuvered the boat, with all four people aboard it, to a location where the woman could be taken to the hospital for treatment of her injury. The woman's cruiser hit the bridge, capsized, and sank. Phillips was born in 1935 in Lorraine, Ohio, and was a lifelong Vermilion resident. A veteran of the Army, Phillips built the Valley Harbor Marina, which he owned and operated for more than 50 years. He is survived by his wife, Dolores Phillips, a brother, three sons, two stepchildren, two granddaughters, and two great-grandchildren.

► p. 16

CARNEGIE HERO MUSES 'BLIND LUCK OR DIVINE INTERVENTION'?

Editor's Note: Carnegie Hero [Phillip DeEvans Bretz](#) was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 1993 for the rescue of Frederick A. Garbutt, 28, whom he pulled from a burning vehicle Aug. 14, 1992, in Anza, Calif. He submitted this essay to imPULSE anonymously, but as it is against policy to publish anonymous works, he reluctantly agreed to identify himself. His essay has been edited for grammar, style, length, and clarification.



Phillip DeEvans Bretz

In my almost 72 years on this planet, I have come to realize certain things about the human experience. One of these is that whenever a person is awarded the Carnegie Medal, it becomes a personal, life-changing event. When I was awarded the medal in 1993, four people out of the 20 were awarded it posthumously. I felt like I should have given the medal back as I hadn't done enough.

In my caring for people throughout my medical career, I was fortunate enough to meet and care for Medal of Honor awardee Mitchell Paige and his family. Meeting Col. Paige was something very special. You just sensed the importance of this man, that somehow this encounter was very different. That is, this man was ready to lay down his life acting to protect his fellow soldiers. We've all heard the quote, "no greater love has a man than to lay down his life for another." But when time comes to actually live up to that, how many people are actually prepared and understand the potential consequences (meaning death to yourself)? How many would actually do it? It's the whole ballgame, everything is over for you if you don't make it. It's over for you, your family, your friends, your work, aspirations, and hopes are all gone in a heartbeat.

By the time you've reached my age, you have buried a lot of people, and you know the finality of death. Everything the deceased was working on comes to a halt and remains forever incomplete. I wonder at times how rare Carnegie awardees are in a world where many people can't commit to a full day's work let alone their lives ending just to help another who you might not even know. The character showed by Carnegie awardees is the very definition of character, courage, and commitment.

In my career as a surgeon, I had reached a level where I thought I had tasted rarefied air, but I had no idea what rarefied air was until that fateful day when we looked evil in the eye, and evil lost, Aug. 14, 1992. That was the day I did not allow Fred to die in a fiery crash. Throughout the years I have often wished I could go back to those precious moments where ► p. 16



► from p.15

BLIND LUCK OR DIVINE INTERVENTION

I was caught up in saving Fred. While he sustained third-degree burns, I, right next to him, was allowed to move, in slow motion it seemed, around that fire. It was just like the movie *Backdraft* (1991) when the fireman had the fire come up and seemingly talk to him. Without a doubt it was the most exhilarating moment in my life, looking eternity in the face.

My father was killed in a work-related accident when I was 12, and Fred's father had died in the same kind of crash. With my family watching a few feet away, if both Fred and I hadn't made it out, it wouldn't have been good. We were "all in," as the saying goes. When they hear the story, many people have said that I acted without knowing what I was doing. No, not at all, as a surgeon I knew exactly what I was doing. If I hadn't have acted in the manner I did, my dad would have turned over in his grave.

Just before I entered the burning vehicle from the rear window, as I took a deep breath (I was a swimmer in high school and college), I had the sense that not only was Jesus not going to let me die that day, but, perhaps, I was the chosen one to be there at that very spot at that moment in time. While not a trained rescue member, such as a firefighter, a surgeon is confronted daily for decades with life and death scenarios in the operating room, which involve split-second decisions that no one else can make. So maybe I had the edge on the fire.

My wife said that this piece must have been difficult to write since I call these awardees such special people, and I apparently am one. It's like being between a rock and a hard place. The word needs to get out (since we are inundated daily with horrific events), but no one can adequately express what occurred except for the actual heroes themselves. Like all these awardees we don't walk around with our chests stuck out. The experience is carried inside. If someone wants to know about it, fine, otherwise boasting in any respect just isn't on the agenda. It's hallowed ground. But I have often thought there should be an annual meeting where we can just share our feelings among ourselves. I want to know their personal thoughts. Perhaps in the future we can.

If you are ever fortunate enough to meet a Medal of Honor or Carnegie (Medal) awardee, you know all there is to know. That is, when the chips are down their true character came through in an instant overshadowing everything so evil loses. It reminds me of my favorite movie, *The Magnificent Seven* (1960). There is a scene I have run over in my mind countless times that I wish I had the guts to pull off. That scene is where the star, Yul Brynner, (who plays Chris Larabee Adams) is listening to a discussion between the town's mortician and the town's people about how he can't bury Indian Joe because no one will drive the horse-drawn hearse. Their town was reluctant to let Joe be buried on Boot Hill since he was a Native American. Brynner, listening to this, says, "Oh hell, if that's

► p.17

FRIENDS REMEMBERED

► from p.15



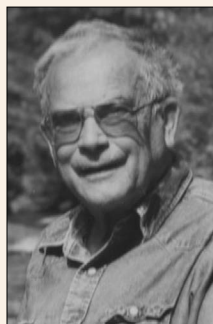
Edsel G. Lorenzen



Connelly Phelps Parker, Jr.



Curtis Ray New



John M. Greig

Edsel G. Lorenzen, 88, of Radcliffe, Iowa, died Nov. 16, 2017, at Mary Greeley Medical Center in Ames, Iowa. Lorenzen received the Carnegie Medal in 2006 after, at the age of 75, he removed a 21-year-old man from a burning vehicle in Radcliffe. Lorenzen suffered minor burns to his face and hands, but removed the man, who was not burned. Lorenzen, born in 1929, in State Center, Iowa, married his wife, Donna Mae Elwick, in 1952. Lorenzen was a farmer for more than 50 years, restored antique tractors, and was an active church member, including participating in jail ministry as a member of Gideon's International for more than 20 years. Lorenzen is survived by his wife, a brother, four children, five grandchildren, and three step grandchildren.

Connelly Phelps Parker, Jr., 59, of North Myrtle Beach, S.C., died Sunday, Dec. 10, 2017, after a 20-month battle with Glioblastoma. He was awarded the Carnegie Medal for an Aug. 14, 2010, act of heroism in which he helped save a 59-year-old man from drowning in North Myrtle Beach. Despite operating a fiberglass skiff that was inadequate for use in rough surf, he piloted to the man who had been swept into the Atlantic Ocean by a strong tidal current. Waves swamped his boat, and it capsized, but Parker supported the unconscious man with one arm and grasped the overturned boat with the other until others assisted in getting them both to shore. Both men survived. Parker, born in 1958, in Burlington, N.C., loved work, running, boating, a good drink, and his family, according to his obituary. He is survived by his wife, Tami Ewart Parker, three daughters, and two grandchildren.

Curtis Ray New, 91, of Anderson, Ind., died Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2018. He was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 1977 after rescuing a 50-year-old woman from her burning home in Anderson. The woman returned to the house after flames had broken out and was heard moaning inside. New crawled into the smoke-filled kitchen, passed under an archway that was engulfed in flames, and crawled to a utility room, despite dense and smoke. He then dragged the woman to safety. New was born in 1926 in Somerset, Ky., and served in the U.S. Navy before his 1948 marriage to Bonnie Jean Clyde, who preceded him in death. He worked as a toolmaker until retiring in 1988, and enjoyed motorcycling and traveling throughout the U.S. in a motorhome with his wife and dog, Benji. He is survived by two daughters, one grandson, and one great-grandson.

John M. Greig, 83, of Estherville, Iowa, died Saturday, Feb. 24, 2018 at the Mayo Clinic Hospital Methodist Campus in Rochester, Minn. A Carnegie hero, on Jan. 26, 1966, Greig attempted to save a well driller, 45, who had entered a 7-foot-deep well in Estherville to save another man who had passed out from a lack of oxygen inside. The well driller lifted the first man to the top of ladder where Greig and others removed him from the well, but then lost consciousness and fell from the ladder. Greig took a deep breath and descended into the well to loop a rope around the man's leg and then exited the well, while coughing on fumes. Using a tractor, the men hoisted the well driller from the well, but he had died. Greig was born in 1934 in Estherville, earning a bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota in 1956 and a master's degree in agriculture from Iowa State College University in 1960. He married Connie Kint in 1958, and served in the U.S. Army and in the Iowa state legislature. He founded North Star Bank in Estherville, and was a member of the founding board of the Iowa Cattlemen's Association, later being inducted into the Cattlemen's Hall of Fame. He is survived by his wife, two sons, and four grandchildren. ►



Gerald W. Quigley

Protection for 29 years, retiring in 1955. He married his high school sweetheart, Marsha Sides. He is survived by his wife, three children, nine grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.



Graham W. Fath

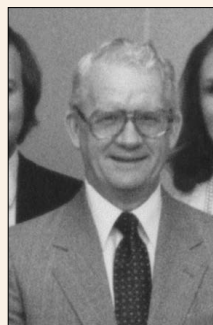
Gerald W. Quigley, 73, of Grenada, Calif., died Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2018. He was awarded the Carnegie Medal 46 years earlier after helping save a firefighter from suffocation in a gold mine, 132 feet below the ground, in Foresthill, Calif. The firefighter had entered the mine with breathing equipment to help retrieve a man who had become unconscious from lack of oxygen at a point about 2,700 feet from the mine's entrance. The firefighter and others reached the man and carried him 30 feet toward the mine's entrance, when the firefighter lost consciousness. Quigley, a forest fire apparatus engineer at the time, then entered the mine with breathing equipment, and, upon reaching the firefighter, revived him, and shared his breathing equipment with him while aiding him back to a safe area. Born in 1944 in Portland, Ore., he served the state of California's Department of Forestry and Fire

Graham W. Fath, 16, of Schaumburg, Ill., died Sunday, March 11, 2018. He, with his brother and two friends, was awarded the Carnegie Medal for, at the age 11, for saving a 45-year-old father and his 10-year-old son from drowning in the Vermilion River near Oglesby, Ill. The father and son were rafting on the river, when the raft became caught in a rolling boil at the base of a low-head dam. Despite seeing the danger, the boys maneuvered their raft to the dam and took the boy from the father, when their raft also became stuck. Others assisted the boys away from the boil. Graham was a member of the Conant High School band and French club. He participated in a local police explorer program and is survived by his parents, Holly and Dennis Fath; and two older brothers.



Alejandro J. Muñoz

Alejandro J. Muñoz, 45, of Fontana, Calif., died Wednesday, May 2, 2018. In 2004, he helped rescue a 46-year-old woman from a burning sport utility vehicle in San Lucas, Calif. As flames reached the vehicle's dashboard, Muñoz and another man entered the back of the car, pulled the woman from the front, passenger seat to the backseat area, and removed her from the vehicle through a rear door. Flames shortly engulfed the interior of the vehicle. Muñoz was born in 1972 in Los Angeles, and worked for the Union Pacific Railroad. He enjoyed spending time with his children, riding quads, mini-trucking, and watching sports, including the Lakers, 49ers, and Dodgers. He is survived by his mother, Maria Muñoz; fiancée, Pauline Copas; and four children.



Lawrence Wm. Haywiser

Lawrence Wm. Haywiser, 89, of Baldwin Borough, Pa., died Monday, May 21, 2018. Haywiser worked for 42 years for the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission until his retirement. He was hired at the age of 27 as chief clerk, and was named assistant treasurer of the organization in 1970, a title he retained for 27 years. In the minutes of the Executive Committee from the month of his retirement in 1997, the Commission noted, "The soundness of the Commission's financial recordkeeping was due in no small part to his meticulousness of control that was equaled by his devotion to his employer and its goals. Chief among his accomplishments was his oversight of the Fund's beneficiaries, whose well-being received his sure defense." Investigations Manager Jeffrey A. Dooley said Haywiser was reliable, honest, polite. "He was a gentleman," Dooley said. Haywiser also volunteered for many years as a Eucharistic Minister for Jefferson Hospital and enjoyed gardening and traveling with St. Elizabeth seniors. He is survived by his wife, Florence (Bayer) Haywiser, six children, 18 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

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BLIND LUCK OR DIVINE INTERVENTION



*The wreckage of the burned sport utility vehicle from which **Phillip DeEvans Bretz** freed its driver, who was trapped in the driver's seat after an accident in which the car overturned and flames breeched the passenger compartment. With the driver's seat aflame, Bretz entered the vehicle, used a knife to cut the driver's seat belt, and then dragged him to a rear window where others helped remove him from the car.*

all that's stopping it, I'll drive the rig." Brynner saw the problem and acted with utter confidence against unknown odds. It took guts, but he had it in him and did what was right. I don't know where supreme confidence comes from but it resides in these medal awardees' souls, and it permeates every aspect of their lives. That's the difference between those who act while everyone else stands by or turns their back. It's doing what's right at that moment in time because you know in your heart there is something overwhelmingly profound to which we, as humans, aspire that's bigger than any individual.

They don't have to read in the paper about a heroic act and ask, "Could I pull that off?" It brings you into true rarified air that few have had the privilege to breathe.

In the movie *Ladder 49* (2004) there is a scene where John Travolta (who plays station Capt. Mike Kennedy) is giving a eulogy for a fallen firefighter and he asks, "Why is it that firemen run into a burning building when others run from it?" He answers, "It was your courage, Jack." And to each awardee, it's your courage. If all of mankind behaved in like terms the world would be a better place.

Of all the awards and certificates on the wall of my accomplishments though, I've missed the one for which I would give them all up: my dad having his arm around me saying, "You did ok!" I'll never have a chance to meet all the Carnegie awardees but I say to all of you, "You did ok!" and as they said of Richard Burton in the movie *Where Eagles Dare* (1968), "All sins forgiven."

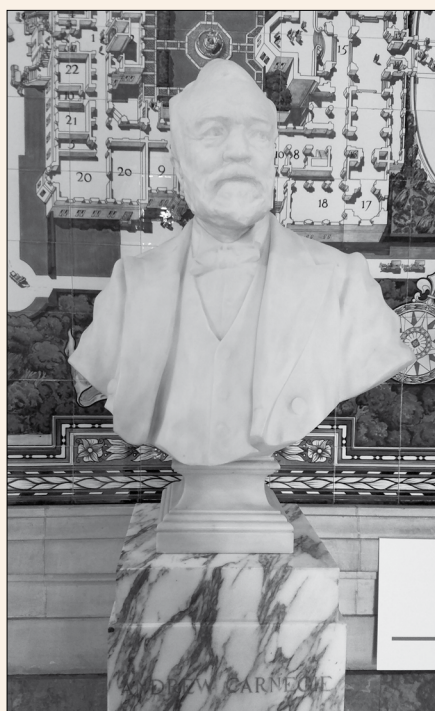
God speed Carnegie Medal awardees.

— Phillip DeEvans Bretz, 1993 Carnegie Medal awardee

Carnegie heroes interested in interacting with other Carnegie Medal awardees are welcome to join the Commission's private Facebook group for Carnegie Heroes at [facebook.com/groups/1819432511633460/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1819432511633460/)



WORLD HERO FUND COMMITTEE MEETS AT PEACE PALACE IN THE HAGUE



A bust of Andrew Carnegie at the Peace Palace in The Hague. Carnegie contributed \$1.5 million to construct the Peace Palace, which opened in August 1913. It houses the International Court of Justice (the judiciary body of the United Nations), the Permanent Court of Arbitration, the Hague Academy of International Law, and the Peace Palace Library.



Members of the Hero Funds World Committee met during a three-day program, "Carnegie Peace-building Conversations," held at the Peace Palace. Discussion at the meeting centered around continued collaboration between all of Carnegie's hero funds, and each organization shared its accomplishments and the challenges it faces into the future.



Great-granddaughter Diana Holliman Ross affixes the Carnegie Hero gravemarker on **S. Flonnie Holliman's** head stone, more than 100 years after Holliman saved a 5-year-old boy from drowning in a well. (Editor's note: Carnegie Hero Fund records and Holliman family records confirm that Holliman's first name is spelled Sarah, with an "h." Ross did not know why Holliman's headstone was missing the "h" from her first name.)

Gravemarker memorializes Sarah Flonnie Holliman's heroic act a century later

The family of **S. Flonnie Holliman** recently honored the Carnegie hero by affixing a grave marker to her headstone, more than 50 years after her death and more than 100 years after her heroic deed.

In 1914, Holliman's failing eyesight and lack of swimming ability didn't stop her from jumping into a deep, water-filled well to rescue 5-year-old Thomas J. Caudle.

Quoting Andrew Carnegie, great-granddaughter Diana Holliman Ross said she was proud to provide tangible recognition of Holliman's heroism by marking her headstone with the Hero Fund's symbol.

"As Mr. Carnegie said many years ago, 'Bravery seldom happens, but when a person risks his or her own life to save another, it should always be acknowledged,'" she said at an April 29 ceremony where family members unveiled the grave marker on Holliman's headstone.

According to the Commission's records on the case, on Oct. 21, 1914, Thomas was playing near the well with Holliman's 5-year-old son Shelton. The top of the well was partially covered by wooden planks while work was being done on it. Thomas fell into the well, and Shelton ran to tell Holliman.

Holliman, 39, then the mother of five children, went to the well and saw Thomas's hat on top of the water. She jumped into the well fully clothed and found Thomas below the surface of the 8-foot-deep water.

The 5'2" Holliman summoned the strength to grasp Thomas and then pushed off the earthen bottom of the 10-foot-deep well. She held to the rocky sides of the well and lifted Thomas high enough so that he could reach a plank, enabling him to hoist himself out.

Holliman's husband, Hiram, who had been seriously injured the day before the rescue after falling down an elevator shaft, went to the well and was able to assist his wife from it, despite his condition. Neither Holliman nor Thomas were injured that day.

Two years later, Holliman's received the Carnegie Medal and \$1,000, which she used to buy her family a house in Marshville, N.C.

Nearly 23 years after the rescue, while Holliman was visiting her son in Charlotte, N.C., Thomas, now nearly 30 years old, visited her. They reminisced about her heroic act.

According to news accounts of the visit, Thomas remembered asking ►



A 1915 photo of Carnegie Hero Sarah Flonnie Holliman, middle of back row, and her family. This photo was taken a year after Holliman's heroic rescue act in which she saved a 5-year-old boy from drowning in a well.

Holliman to jump back into the well to retrieve his hat, frightened that he would get into trouble if he returned home without it.

Holliman lost her sight completely around the age of 64 and died at age 91, still able to crochet and write letters, recounted her family. Holliman had been widowed for nearly 30 years by then and was survived by six children.

Ross, of Anderson, Ind., organized the unveiling ceremony after the bronze grave marker was placed on Holliman's grave in Forest Lawn Cemetery West in Charlotte.

Attending the ceremony were three generations of Holliman's family. Jackson Moon, great-great-great-grandson, had the honor of unveiling the marker. A great-nephew of Thomas' was invited to the event but was unable to attend.

"As we unveil this symbol of heroism placed on her marker, we are forever reminded of the heritage left to us by Flonnie's act of giving herself for another with no thought to her own safety," Ross said at the ceremony. "Our family is very grateful to have this symbol of our great-grandmother's heroic effort. What a historic legacy for those who came before and for future generations."

In addition, once believed to be lost, Holliman's Carnegie Medal was discovered to be in possession of great-great grandson Brian Holliman. At a large family reunion last fall its possession was traced through three generations.

The medal is in its original box and still in good condition, said Ross. ☒

— **Susan M. Rizza**, case investigator

“Our family is very grateful to have this symbol of our great-grandmother's heroic effort. What a historic legacy for those who came before and for future generations.”

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT RETIRES AFTER 16 YEARS



Gloria Barber

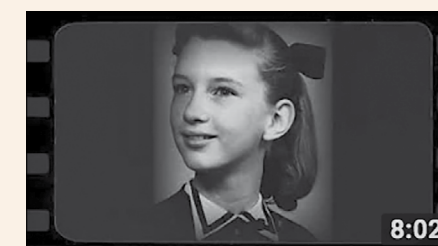
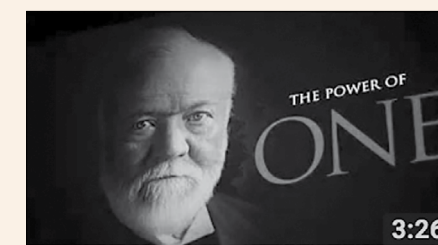
On July 31, 2018, Gloria Barber, administrative assistant with the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission retired after nearly two decades of service to the organization.

"My 16 years with the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission have been very

rewarding, knowing I was a part of fulfilling Mr. Carnegie's mission," Barber said. "I was fortunate enough to assist in the preparation of the Centennial and Power of One events, both commemorating milestones in the Commission's history."

She said she plans to continue to volunteer with her church, relax, and spend time with family and friends in her newfound free time.

"My best wishes are extended to the Fund's Commission members and employees as they continue in the work of awarding those who make the decision to save or attempt to save the life of others," she said. ☒



TWO NEW VIDEOS ON HERO FUND'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Two new videos were recently posted on the Carnegie Hero Fund's YouTube channel — one showing highlights from June's [Power of One event](#) and a second, [The Heroic Age](#), that gives an updated history on the Hero Fund, including its 10,000th and 10,001st awardees, **Vickie Tillman** and **Jimmy Rhodes**. View at [youtube.com/channel/UCkn5RyajrozjcmIEMuqW-Tw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkn5RyajrozjcmIEMuqW-Tw).



OVERHEARD

I said, "We gotta go," grabbed her arm, and we dashed off. — [John Paul Hollyfield](#), Carnegie Medal awardee #9962, who saved a 6-year-old girl from being crushed by a falling tree limb.

The distinction evident in this nomination is that John had a choice to save [my son] that day. He wasn't bound to an oath. He wasn't forced to place his life in danger. He wasn't even asked to do so ... Solely out of the content of his character, John sprang into action, taking every possible measure to save a child from dying. — Mother of 10-year-old boy saved from drowning by [John Gerard O'Rourke](#), Carnegie Medal awardee #9993.

I can't tell you how much courage, how much bravery that took, for you to get out of your car. — Police chief to [Vickie Tillman](#), Carnegie Medal awardee #10000, who rescued a police officer from assault.

We were in the right place at the right time to do the right thing. We are all blessed. — [Deanne M. Kilian](#), Carnegie Medal awardee #10021.

That's not his job, but he just reacted. And the way he reacted was spectacular. — Man saved from assault by [Richard R. Krul](#), Carnegie Medal awardee #10023.

It's weird getting a pat on the back from police instead of a pat-down. — [Ron Allen Elko](#), Carnegie Medal awardee #10016.

In a way, my cancer was a blessing, because it put me in that situation. If I didn't have cancer, and I didn't survive, I would have never been there that night. — [Noah Hill King](#), Carnegie Medal awardee #9980, who was returning home from speaking at a Relay for Life event when he came across a burning vehicle.

I'm not a fire fighter or a hero. I just did what I would do for anyone. — [Andrew L. Melhado](#), Carnegie Hero #9998.

None of us in this room except for one knows how we would react in this type of situation, in the type of danger. We know that Robin made that decision. We're proud of the decision that Robin made that day. — Police chief about [Robin Ireland](#), Carnegie Medal awardee #9972.

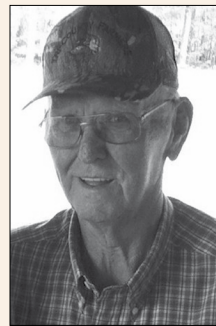
I wasn't thinking anything at all. He needed help, and I wanted to help him. — [Karen Marie Mallon](#), Carnegie Medal awardee #9997, referring to assisting [Zachary J. Corey](#), Carnegie Medal awardee #9996, in removing two children from a burning car.

When she started going under, at that point I had to jump in, and it was cold. She told me she loved me, and I said, "I love you too or I wouldn't be in here with you." — [Brian R. Gadwell](#), Carnegie Medal awardee #10010, recounting his act where he saved a woman he did not know from drowning.

FRIENDS REMEMBERED

► from p.17

Christina York, 81, of Presque Isle, Maine, died Thursday, April 12, 2018. York was the widow of [Herbert Daniel York](#), who died in 1977 attempting to save a 14-year-old boy from drowning in the Aroostook River near Presque Isle. In keeping with Commission founder Andrew Carnegie's wish that those financially dependent upon heroes "should not suffer pecuniarily," York was given a continuing monthly grant for 40 years, lasting until the time of her death. In 2016, York wrote to the Commission thanking it for their assistance. "It's as though Herb is helping out the family as he did when he was right here with us," she wrote. York was born in 1937 and earned an associate's degree in office assistance from Northern Maine Technical College in 1993. She enjoyed knitting, playing dice, playing cards, and puzzles. She is survived by five children, Robert Lee York, Herbert Allen York, Bruce Wayne York, "Chee Chee" Levasseur, and Deborah Ann Beckwith; three sisters, 15 grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren.



V.E. Kilpatrick, Jr.

[V.E. Kilpatrick, Jr.](#), 74, of Brinkley, Ark., died Wednesday, May 23, 2018, in Little Rock, Ark. He was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 1969 after he saved a boy from being struck by a fast freight train in 1968 in Weiner, Ark. After seeing a mother and her two children inside a pickup truck stalled on train tracks with a train approaching, Kilpatrick and another man attempted to push it off the tracks. Unable to move it, the other man, opened the driver's door and removed a woman and her daughter. With the train only 500 feet away from striking the truck, Kilpatrick then entered the truck, pulled the boy to his chest and dived from the train's path. The train demolished the truck and came to a stop about a half-mile past the point of impact. Kilpatrick was born in 1943 in Orange, Texas, and worked as a brakeman and conductor for the railroad for 38 years. He enjoyed mechanical work, and, according

to his obituary, one of his proudest moments was getting his old tractor running again. Kilpatrick was survived by his wife, Joan Kilpatrick; four siblings, four children, nine grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.




Evelyn M. Larsen

Evelyn M. Larsen, 71, of Minden, Nev., died Thursday, June 21, 2018 at her home. On Dec. 31, 1964, at the age of 17, she saved four children from their burning home in Glendale, Mo. After discovering a fire in the home where she was babysitting, she ascended the stairs three times to remove the children, ages 1, 2, 4, and 5, from the home, having trouble locating the 2-year-old boy amid dense smoke filling the brick home. After he responded to her calls and she found him, Larsen (then [Evelyn M. Neining](#)) ran down the stairs a final time, carrying the 1- and 2-year-olds, losing her footing and sliding down the last few steps. She was within 2 feet of flames when she exited the home, the inside of which erupted in flames immediately. She received the Carnegie Medal one year later. Larsen was born in 1947 in St. Louis. She graduated from the University of Missouri in 1969 with a degree in teaching. According to her obituary, after becoming a grandmother in 2005, she became a fixture at her grandchildren's school. She is survived by her husband, Jim Larsen; three siblings, two children, and two grandchildren.

[Edmund L. Zernach](#), 81, of Peachtree City, Ga., died Saturday, July 28, 2018. More than 60 years earlier, he helped save a 14-year-old boy from falling off the edge of a drop-off 150 feet high. Attempting to reach the boy, Gordon fell on the steep slope above the drop-off, and securing a tree at its base to the ground, bent it toward the boy, who used it to guide himself to a safer position on the slope. Unable to ascend the slope, they then were rescued by others. Zernach was awarded the Carnegie Medal a year later, along with other accolades including the Young American Medal for Bravery from President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Zernach was born in 1937 in Milan, Ind. He graduated from Purdue University in 1959 with a degree in forest management, and married Jane Anderson in 1962. A U.S. Army veteran, Zernach enjoyed the outdoors, golfing, traveling, and sports. He was a member of the Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Knights of Columbus, and St. Vincent de Paul, and he also delivered food to those in need. He is survived by his wife, three children, five grandchildren, and one great-grandson. ► p.21




Associate professor of psychology speaks on 'The Altruistic Brain' at Hero Fund lunch

Abigail Marsh, an associate professor of psychology and neuroscience at Georgetown University, finishes a presentation on "The Altruistic Brain" at a special luncheon held June 12 at the Allegheny HYP Club in downtown Pittsburgh as part of the celebration of 10,000 Carnegie heroes. Marsh authored [The Fear Factor](#), which explores the extremes of human nature ranging from extraordinary altruism to psychopathy. 



114th annual meeting held in June

Members of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission in attendance at the 2018 annual meeting held in June. From left are Ann M. McGuinn, Nathalie Lemieux, Nancy L. Rackoff, Christopher R. McCrady, Frank Brooks Robinson, Dan D. Sandman, Susanne C. Wean, A. H. "Peter" Burchfield III, special guest William Thomson, President Eric P. Zahren, David McL. Hillman, Robert J. Cindrich, Linda T. Hills, Chair Mark Laskow, Thomas L. Wentling, Jr., Michael A. Thompson, Priscilla J. McCrady, and Evan S. Frazier. Not pictured are Sybil P. Veeder, Peter J. Lambrou, Arthur M. Scully III, and Joseph C. Walton. 

FRIENDS REMEMBERED

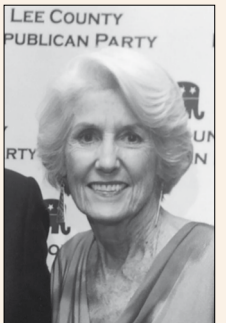
► from p.20



David J. Gretkowski


[David J. Gretkowski](#), 54, of Burlington, Vt., died Sunday, Aug. 5, 2018, of glioblastoma. He was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 1989 after he saved a 15-year-old girl from drowning in Lake Champlain near Plattsburgh, N.Y. The girl was trapped in an air pocket beneath a sailboat that had capsized. Wearing a

life jacket, he swam under the boat to the girl, and assisted her in reaching safety, but his life jacket snagged on a line as he was escaping, barely allowing his head to surface. A woman from another boat swam to him and freed him from the life jacket. Gretkowski was born in 1964, and after graduating from Rice High School and Saint Michael's College with a degree in business management, he moved to Florida to work at the PGA National Golf Club. He then entered a career in the pharmaceutical industry. According to his obituary, Gretkowski was known for his humility, playfulness, and humor. He is survived by his wife, Stefanie Gretkowski; his parents, Henry and Elizabeth Gretkowski; and three brothers.



Mary Austill Samford

Mary Austill Samford, 88, of Opelika, Ala., died Sunday, Sept. 9, 2018, of Alzheimer's. She was awarded the Carnegie Medal at the age of 9, when she rescued another 9-year-old girl from drowning in the deep end of a swimming pool in 1939 in Spring Hill, Ala. As Samford (then [Mary Austill](#)) reached her, the girl was

frantic and grabbed her and wrapped her legs around her, submerging her several times before a man aided them to the shallower end. Samford was born in 1929 in Mobile, Ala., and attended the University of Alabama and was a member of Kappa Delta sorority. She married Yetta G. Samford, Jr., who preceded her in death. Samford was a member of the National Society of Colonial Dames and a lifelong active member of First Baptist Church. According to her obituary, she was known for her wonderful culinary skills and artistic projects, and will be remembered for her warm and generous hospitality. She is survived by daughters, Austill Samford Lott, Katie Samford Alfor, five grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. One son preceded her in death. 



Boy Scouts of America official Gregory Motta speaks about boy scout Robert W. Eicher at a ceremony held July 5, 2018, in Jeannette, Pa. Robert died at age 15 while attempting to save a girl from drowning in August 1917. He was posthumously awarded the Carnegie Medal in 1918 and received the Gold Honor Award from the Boy Scouts. Motta and other Boy Scouts leaders credit Eicher's death and others with a total program revision of the aquatics program within the organization.

From the archives: 'Boy hero' receives Carnegie Medal grave marker

After months of searching—which included two newspaper articles, several interviews, and hours of genealogical research — Boy Scouts of America official Gregory Motta could not solve the mystery of who was leaving bouquets of flowers at the Jeannette, Pa., grave of Carnegie Hero **Robert W. Eicher**.

Despite his extensive efforts, Motta, who works as a History and Archives committee member and volunteer researcher for the national organization, along with other Boy Scout officials, on July 5 honored Robert, who died at age 15, with a graveside ceremony that included the placement of a Carnegie Medal grave marker on Eicher's headstone.

Robert's original headstone bears the engraved epitaph set by his father, Robert Wilson Eicher. It reads: A Boy Hero Who Gave His Life For Another.

Robert, of Jeannette, Pa., died attempting to help save a girl from drowning in Long Bridge, Pa., in August 1917.

According to Hero Fund records, Robert knew the Loyalhanna Creek was dangerous, but still entered the creek fully-clothed and swam toward the girl.

Robert sank when he was about 3 feet from her. They both drowned.

During the Hero Fund's research of Robert's final act, case investigator A.M. Rowley concluded that Robert was industrious.

He was in his second year of high school and had plans to attend college.

He also had saved \$75 from doing odd jobs, which would amount to approximately \$1,800 today.

During the memorial graveside ceremony, a scout historian was on site to answer questions regarding Eicher's death and also illustrate the influence his actions had on scouting as an evolving movement.

Motta spoke of the influence Eicher's story had on his son and on the Boy Scouts of America as a whole.

"The authors of the 2016 book *Running Toward Danger: Real Life Scouting Action Stories of Heroism, Valor and Guts*, make the argument, the death of (Eicher and others) had such an impact upon Boy Scouts headquarters that it launched a total program

review and revision of all aquatics and lifesaving practices that included a partnership with the American Red Cross," he said.

Commission President Eric P. Zahren attended the ceremony.

"It's never, ever too late to honor a hero—a hero is something that lasts forever," he said.

Leading up to the service, efforts to find relatives of Robert determined that direct descendants of his family are deceased, but that distant cousins of his father and grandfather are thought to be living near Scottsdale, Pa.

Still, the lasting and wide-ranging impact of Eicher's efforts are alive.

A century later, his story continues to benefit others, said Motta, most tangibly in the water safety practices and training for members of the Boy Scouts of America and the Robert W. Eicher Memorial Life Ring Buoy Stand located on the north side of the Rappahannock River in Virginia.


The site near Falmouth, Va., and Fredericksburg, Va., has been the location of more than 90 drownings since 1972.

After learning of the high number of drownings, Eagle Scout Benjamin Ryan Motta, Motta's son, developed a plan to build two stands that each hold a life ring, buoy, a throw rope, and instructions on completing a water rescue.

A third stand holds about 40 life jackets, free to river visitors.

[Benjamin named one of the stands after Robert](#), who also received the Gold Honor Award from the Boy Scouts.

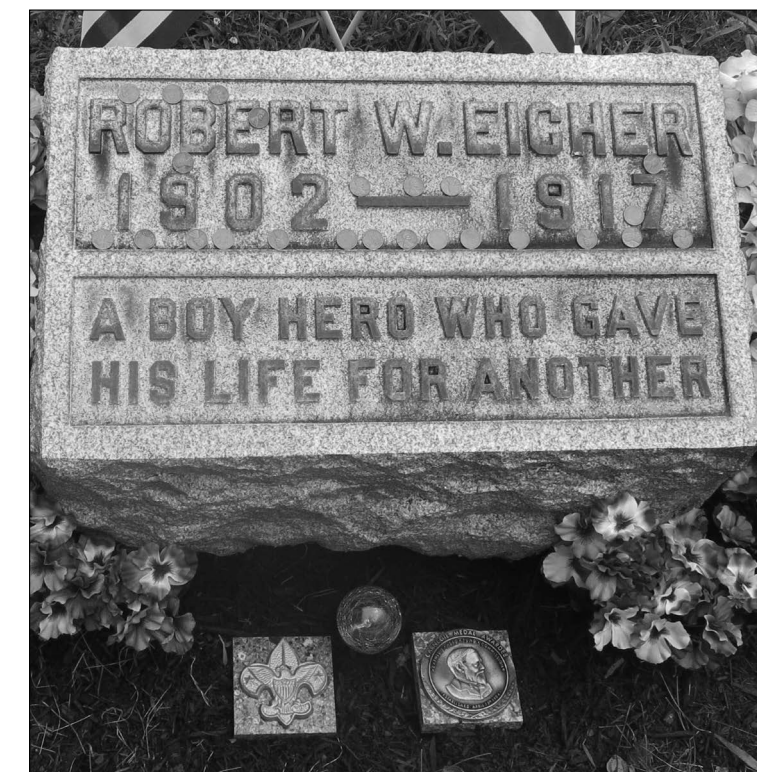
Although the individual who continues to leave flowers on Robert's grave remains unknown, the reignited interest and extensive research done by members of Boy Scouts of America and other volunteers to properly honor a young hero's bravery is proof of the enduring significance of an instantaneous decision to act selflessly in the interest of others.

Bronze medallions cast in the likeness of the Carnegie Medal are available to families of deceased awardees (see back cover). 



The headstone of Carnegie Hero Robert W. Eicher, who was posthumously awarded the Carnegie Medal in 1918 after attempting to rescue a 15-year-old girl from drowning. Left photo: The headstone is draped with a Boy Scouts of America curtain for the unveiling of the Carnegie hero grave marker at a ceremony held July 5 in Jeannette, Pa.

Bottom photo: Boy scouts who attended the July 5 event held in Jeannette, Pa., left pennies to show their respect.



Benjamin Ryan Motta standing in front of one of the completed life ring buoy stands he completed in August 2016 for his Eagle Scout project. The structure stands on the bank of the Rappahannock River near Falmouth, Va.

**Carnegie Hero Fund Commission**

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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 includes 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 online 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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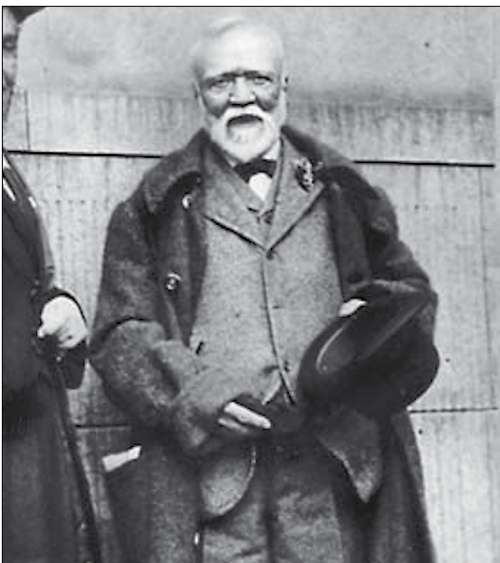
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There are a few great souls who can rise to the height of alleviating others to do for them what they would like to do for others. Are you one of those?

— From a private letter written in 1895

CONTINUUM

GRAVE MARKERS Bronze grave markers (below), 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).

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 Jo Braun (jo@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 Chris Foreman (chris@carnegiehero.org).

ANNUAL REPORTS Copies of the Hero Fund's most recent annual reports (2015–2016) are available online or by contacting Jo Braun (jo@carnegiehero.org).

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