

imPULSE

A periodic newsletter of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission ISSUE 56 • WINTER 2019



Carnegie heroes **William F. Bayless** and his granddaughter, **Deanne M. Kilian**.

HEROISM DEEPLY ROOTED IN KANSAS FAMILY

It took about 109 years to fully recognize, but heroism runs in [Deanne M. Kilian's](#) family.

Kilian, now 64, a pediatric nurse practitioner at Munson Army Health Center in Fort Leavenworth, Kan., received her Carnegie Hero medal in a ceremony Oct. 26 for rescuing a nurse who was attacked by a disgruntled civilian employee.

That man is serving 20 years in prison for dousing the nurse, then-First Lt. Katie Blanchard, with gasoline and setting her afire before also attacking her with scissors and a razor in September 2016.

The first time Kilian realized she was nominated for a Carnegie Hero medal is when the FBI agent investigating the attack mentioned it.

Immediately, Kilian remembered that her grandfather, [William F. Bayless](#), a farmer from the Dodge City area in Kansas, had won the medal in 1909, five years after industrialist and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie created the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission.

"Wow, wouldn't it be neat if I got one, too?" Kilian said of her first thought upon learning she'd been nominated.

Her grandfather's medal was awarded after Bayless, then just 23, allowed himself to be lowered ▶ [p.2](#)



The sisters of Carnegie Hero **Raymond J. Grundler**: From left, **Cyrilla Grosjean**, **Grace Jesteadt**, and **Helen Bruggeman** pose next to a photo of their brother, who was recently inducted into the Pittsburgh-based North Catholic High School's Hall of Fame.

Pittsburgh-area high school's Hall of Fame inducts Carnegie hero

Last Fall, a nephew's years-long effort to get his uncle, Carnegie Medal awardee [Raymond J. Grundler](#), inducted into the hall of fame of their alma mater paid off.

Along with four others, Grundler's name and photograph was added to [North Catholic High School's Hall of Fame](#) on Sept. 16, 2018, at an induction ceremony held at the school's new location in Cranberry, Pa., just 20 miles north of Pittsburgh, where industrialist-philanthropist Andrew Carnegie established the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission.

Born in 1939, Grundler spent his childhood in Pittsburgh, attending North Catholic High School — then located in the Troy Hill section of Pittsburgh's North Side neighborhood — until he graduated in 1957 and enlisted in the U.S. Army. After a short stint of service, Grundler went to work as a gas service man for Equitable Gas Company — one the region's largest natural gas producers.

On Nov. 17, 1971, three men were working in a gas-line manhole in an underground vault at the corner of Lowrie and Gardner Steet, just outside the halls of North ▶ [p.8](#)



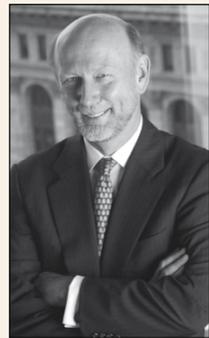
Raymond J. Grundler



BOARD NOTES

TREE OF LIFE MASS SHOOTING INTERSECTS WITH HERO FUND WORK

By Mark Laskow, Chair
Carnegie Hero Fund Commission



Mark Laskow

The Carnegie Hero Fund works across a broad geography, recognizing heroic acts in the United States and Canada, and collaborating with Carnegie hero funds in Europe. Yet, like its founder Andrew Carnegie, the Hero Fund has its roots deep in the Pittsburgh community.

You will not be surprised to learn that the staff and members of the Hero Fund were deeply shaken and saddened by the attacks on the Tree of Life Congregation in Pittsburgh's Squirrel Hill neighborhood.

Many of the victims were people we knew and worked with, and all of them were part of our shared community. The attack on them was an attack on all of us. The bullets that shattered their bodies, broke our hearts.

This terrible event intersects with the work of the Hero Fund at many levels. The first is personal. As I say, many of us knew one or more of the victims personally, and Tree of Life.

Historically and today, many members of the Hero Fund Commission have lived in Squirrel Hill. My wife Lisa and I raised our children just four blocks from the synagogue, and generations of her family have lived in the immediate neighborhood. Generations of my family are buried in a cemetery equally close by.

While Squirrel Hill is Pittsburgh's main Jewish neighborhood, the city's non-Jewish leadership tends to live in the neighborhood as well. House-by-house, block-by-block, we live our lives together as neighbors, friends, and civic partners. What happens to any of us affects all of us.

At another level, the attack was a philosophical affront to the ideals Andrew Carnegie was promoting when he created his Hero Fund. As I have written in these pages before, at the heart of heroism lies the rescuer's recognition of a common humanity shared with the victim in peril.

The Tree of Life shooting was a hideous repudiation of this common humanity. The **▶ p.3**



Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Johnson presents the Carnegie Hero medal to Deanne M. Kilian at a ceremony held in her honor Oct. 26 at the Munson Army Health Center in Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

▶ from p.1

Heroism deeply rooted in Kansas family

into a 45-foot well to save a fellow farmer who was overcome by gas fumes.

By the time Bayless arrived at the scene, Clarence M. Thompson had arrived and initiated a rescue attempt, sliding down a rope and tying it to two other farmers that had collapsed at the well's bottom.

Those two men were raised up, but by the time the rope was lowered down to Thompson, he had lost consciousness.

After being lowered down, Bayless untied the rope from his body and fastened it to Thompson who was hoisted to safety and revived.

The rope was lowered again and Bayless was drawn up, weak and dazed.

Family lore has it that Bayless made the rescue despite a case of whooping cough, and that word of his heroic deed may have played a part in wooing a bride: Bayless was married less than a year later and went on to father eight children before he retired and, eventually, died in 1962.

Bayless's medal "was a really wonderful honor and if I could be honored in this way for doing this, it would be very, very meaningful to me," Kilian said.

"When you stop and think of what you did just because you knew it was the thing to do and you were in the right place at the right time and that with God's help I was able to do those things," Kilian said, "To make a difference in someone's life, it's really humbling."

Blanchard, since promoted to captain, has been transferred to Joint Base Lewis-McChord near Tacoma, Washington, as part of the Army's Wounded Warrior Battalion.

Though not wounded in combat, Blanchard, a 29-year-old married mother of three boys (Arthur, 8; Finn, 4; and Canaan, 2) is participating **▶**

“It’s one thing to be a hero to one person, but it’s another to be distinguished and to have a community come around you and say, ‘That’s what bravery looks like.’”

▶ from p.2

in the same vocational and rehabilitative programs designed to help combat veterans overcome their injuries so they can live and work normally again.

"I feel like I'm doing well considering the circumstances and how it could have ended up," Blanchard said.

Blanchard, who expected to be discharged from active duty in December, is hoping to work as a nurse again in the private sector.

Blanchard flew to Kilian's medal presentation ceremony. She said she "found it really touching that she was honored in that way. It's one thing to be a hero to one person, but it's another to be distinguished and to have a community come around you and say, 'That's what bravery looks like.'"

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Johnson, U.S. Army Regional Health Command-Central commanding general, presented the medal to Killian at the Munson Army Health Center.

More than two years earlier, Kilian heard Blanchard's cries for help and rushed into Blanchard's nearby office to find her afire from mid-torso up.

Unable to smother the flames with her bare arms, Kilian got a blanket and lab coat with the help of a doctor on the same floor and put out the fire.

Kilian then laid across Blanchard and fended off her attacker as he lunged at and slashed Blanchard who was laying, her clothes still smoky, in the medical clinic's hallway.

Kilian broke her leg in the effort and suffered burns to her arms and hands; Blanchard lost her right ear and has had more than 60 surgeries and skin grafts to correct other injuries to her face, shoulder, and right arm.

Kilian's older sister, Marsha Bayless, is the family's historian of sorts. She had researched their grandfather's exploits for an *imPULSE* story marking that award's 100th anniversary in 2009.

William Bayless's Carnegie Hero medal was passed down to his daughter Marie, an aunt of Deanne and Marsha. Before Marie died she, in turn, passed on the medal to Marsha and Deanne's younger brother, Duane.

Having celebrated her grandfather's Carnegie Hero legacy, Marsha Bayless – chair of the Business Communication and Legal Studies Department at Stephen F. Austin State University in Texas – was "thrilled" to learn her sister also won the medal.

"To think that a person wins it and, 109 years later, the granddaughter wins it, that's pretty impressive," Bayless said.

Blanchard said she was happy – but not surprised – to learn of Kilian's family legacy.

"She was obviously predisposed to be that way and to do things for others," Blanchard said. "It's not surprising knowing that she had family members that would do the same thing."

— Joe Mandak, case investigator



The Carnegie Medal of William F. Bayless. Bayless's granddaughter, Deanne M. Kilian was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 2018.



People leave flowers and take a moment to remember the 11 men and women killed at an Oct. 28 mass shooting that occurred at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh. Photo courtesy of Triblive.com.

▶ from p.2

TREE OF LIFE MASS SHOOTING INTERSECTS WITH HERO FUND WORK

attacker denied the common bond of humanity he shared with his victims, whether he liked it or not. This man was the anti-hero if anyone ever was. What a tragic contrast with his fellow citizens who have won the Carnegie Hero Medal.

At the practical level, our work goes on. I am pleased that one of our members will serve on a committee that will coordinate relief efforts for those involved in the attack. She is a wonderful person of great heart and wisdom, and we are proud that she will be participating in this important work.

The Hero Fund itself will monitor the investigation of the attack, just as it does for all similar events, to identify potential Carnegie Hero Medal candidates. Clearly some remarkable people did remarkable things in the response to the attacks, and it is possible (but not certain) that we might develop a case.

Mass shootings are often complex and confusing events, and it can be difficult to develop proof of acts that meet our [criteria](#) for the Carnegie Medal.

But, we have [an established procedure](#) to follow that has led to awards in other such cases. We will wait patiently for the results of the investigation, then do our job and apply our criteria as always.

Finally, we will continue to find and recognize heroic acts across Canada and the United States. These selfless acts of the Carnegie heroes are the ultimate answer to what happened at Tree of Life. We are confident that heroes will continue to rise among us, and you may be confident that we will be there to tell their stories.



TO THE HERO FUND

VOLUNTEER PRESENTER SENDS HOLIDAY GREETINGS

I always think about the hospitality given to our family and the great work all of you do for the fund. Thanks for keeping Andrew Carnegie's dream alive! Wishing you and everyone at the fund a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

Donald E. Thompson, West Hills, Calif.

Thompson was awarded the Carnegie Medal in December 2014 for saving a 70-year-old man from a burning car in Los Angeles. He continues to work with the Hero Fund as a volunteer presenter of the Carnegie Medal for newly awarded heroes.

PARENTS OF POSTHUMOUS AWARDEE SHARE GRATITUDE AND GRACE

Thank you for awarding our son, **Justin William Schroepfer**, the Carnegie Hero Medal. It is an honor to have him recognized for his heroism and to be a member of such an honorable group of people. Although we know Justin did not jump into the water and try to save the two young ladies for the attention he has since received, we do know he would have been both humbled and honored to receive the Carnegie Hero award. Justin would have also been pleased to have been the inspiration to improve lifesaving devices and equipment in Marquette, MI. It is amazing to see how people came together and accomplished something so positive for the community out of something so tragic.

The Marquette community has shown great love and it is an inspiration. Thank you also for the gift of money. We great appreciate the funds. It will go into Justin's memorial fund. To name just a few, in the past we have donated to the Marquette First Responders to help responders and to help improve equipment. We are also in the process of setting up a scholarship in Justin's name. We will try to be good stewards of the money.

In closing, we would like to share with you a Bible verse. We have taken this verse to heart and try as hard as humanly possible to live our lives accordingly. A friend of ours shared this with us after Jesus took Justin's hand and led him to heaven.

1 John 3:18: "Dear children, let us stop just saying we love each other; let us really show it by our actions." (3:18 is the presumed time Jesus led Justin to heaven.)

Thank you again for giving Justin this great honor. Thank you for showing your great love to others.

Connie and Kevin Schroepfer, Aniwa, Wis.

Justin William Schroepfer was posthumously awarded the Carnegie Medal in December 2017 after he died June 11, 2016, attempting to save two 22-year-old girls from drowning in Lake Superior.

15:13

Family honors 1926 Carnegie hero

Carnegie Medal awardee **Henry W. Meyers** died in 1925 attempting to rescue a 14-year-old girl from drowning, and his extended family is making certain his memory is kept alive.

In August, during a family reunion in Roundup, Mont., Meyers was honored for his heroic deed.

The Meyers family affixed a Carnegie Hero grave marker to his headstone in Roundup City Cemetery and installed an aluminum plaque next to the grave, which has the words that appear on the cartouche of Meyers's Carnegie Medal — "Henry W. Meyers died attempting to save Harriet Serre from drowning, Roundup, Montana, June 26, 1925."

Meyers's medal, a second plaque, newspaper articles, and photos are currently on display at the Musselshell Valley Historical Museum in Roundup.

The reunion allowed members of the family to see the medal, a majority of them for the first time. According to Meyers's great-granddaughter, Mari Hoiland, most relatives knew Meyers had drowned at age 44, but did not know the full story, and only three of the 61 family reunion attendees had seen the medal.

At the gathering they were able to examine the medal, which had been "tucked away in a closet and seen by a handful over the years," according to an article in a family newsletter prepared by Hoiland.

Hoiland's uncle David Lloyd, son of Meyers's daughter Verna, ►



Carnegie Hero Henry W. Meyers, right, with his wife Florence J. Meyers. Meyers left behind Florence and 12 children when he died in 1925. He entered the Musselshell River in Roundup, Mont., after responding to a 14-year-old girl's screams as she struggled in the water. Despite not knowing how to swim, Meyers stood in the water and extended a fishing pole to the girl. She grasped it, and then Meyers was knocked off his feet and pulled underneath the surface of the water. The girl was able to exit the water to safety, but Meyers drowned.



The Meyers' headstone with the new additions of the Carnegie Medal grave marker and the aluminum stand that details Meyers's act.

► from p.4

Family honors 1926 Carnegie hero

received the medal in the last decade from distant relatives in South Dakota. Lloyd then loaned it to the museum. Meyers's medal had been on display at least once before, in a storefront window in Roundup in 1926, the year Meyers was awarded.

The family organized a luncheon at the Masonic Hall in Roundup the weekend of the reunion. Hoiland said when she walked into the hall, there was a photograph of Arthur Dye, a Mason and the man who had nominated her great-grandfather for the Carnegie Medal. Dye, who had also served as Roundup's mayor, had never made public the fact that he had been the one to nominate Meyers, and the family discovered this fact before their reunion.

Meyers's last day of his life began as a presumably normal one. He went to work as a laborer, making concrete blocks with another man near the Musselshell River in Roundup. Meyers heard screams coming from the river, and he and the other man ran to the water, where he saw the girl struggling and shouting for help.

Meyers, who could not swim, entered the water with a fishing pole and extended it to the girl, who grasped it. Meyers was knocked off of his feet and pulled underneath the surface of the water. The girl was able to get out of the water, but Meyers died; his body was recovered three days later.

According to an article in the *Roundup Record-Tribune* in 2006, the location of the drowning was close to a pavilion near the river, and many of the blocks in the original portion of the pavilion were made by Meyers.

Meyers was also a farmer and worked part-time for the city of Roundup.

Meyers left a behind a wife and 12 children, the youngest child a 1-year-old daughter. Meyers's widow, Florence, received a monthly grant from the commission beginning in 1926 and continuing until her death in 1963.

According to Hoiland, Florence never complained about her circumstances, and had help from her older children, neighbors, and members of her church.

Due to the concerns that someone else might drown in the river, the community, including members of the Meyers family, raised some of the funds needed to have a community pool built in Roundup. ☒

— Susan M. Rizza, case investigator



GRAVEMARKERS AVAILABLE TO FAMILIES OF DECEASED AWARDEES

To further honor those who have been awarded the Carnegie Medal, the Hero Fund is pleased to offer at no cost a bronze [grave marker](#) to the families of deceased awardees. The size of the medallion is 3.75 inches in diameter and is designed to replicate the look of the Carnegie Medal. It can be displayed on an awardee's stone or bronze headstone or on a flat-faced urn. The medallion will be sent with a packet containing supplies to affix it and directions for application. To order the medallion, email us at carnegiehero@carnegiehero.org, or call Susan M. Rizza at 1-800-447-8900.



File photo

IMPULSE COLUMN HONORS POSTHUMOUS CARNEGIE AWARDEES

15:13 calls to mind those in the Hero Fund Commission's more than 115-year history whose lives were sacrificed in the performance of their heroic acts.

The name identifies the Bible chapter and verse of the Gospel of John that appears on every medal: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

Of the 10,062 Carnegie Medal awardees to date, 2,118, or 21 percent of the total, were recognized posthumously.

They are not forgotten.



FRIENDS REMEMBERED



Douglas R. Chambers, 75, of Oakmont, Pa., died Thursday, Dec. 27, 2018.

Chambers was hired by the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission in 2002 as acting managing director and immediately assumed oversight of preparations for the Commission's centennial observance in 2004.

Douglas R. Chambers

It was no small task, as it included editing a [book on the history of the Hero Fund](#) and producing its accompanying video; orchestrating a dinner and ceremony, which featured noted historian David G. McCullough as speaker; putting together a display of medals from all of Carnegie's hero funds for debut at an American Numismatic Association Convention; and coordinating the production and distribution of a limited-edition medallion, made in the likeness of the Carnegie Medal, to circulate as a cultural artifact.

After the centennial, Chambers centered on outreach activities, including coordinating personal presentations of the medal both by himself and by a volunteer cadre of past awardees. Chambers made his last medal presentation in June 2016 before retiring.

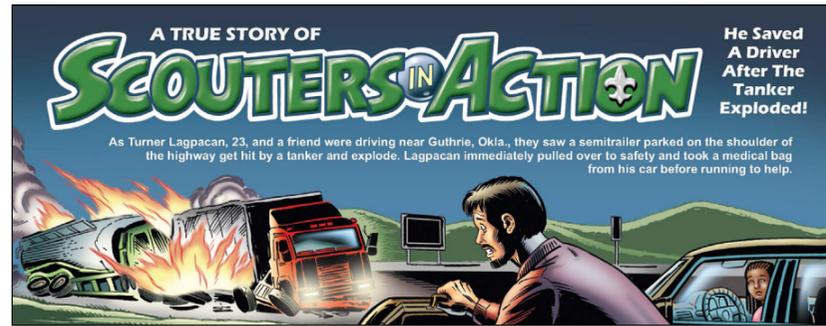
The book that Chambers edited, *A Century of Heroes*, received an award of excellence in 2005 from Communication Arts, and it, with its accompanying video, remain a part of the awarding materials given to each Carnegie hero.

Chambers, born in 1943 in Johnstown, Pa., married his surviving wife, Christine, in 1964. He was a 1962 graduate of Johnstown High School and a 1966 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh. An accomplished athlete throughout his life, Chambers signed on as catcher for the St. Louis Cardinals, but an early season injury ended his baseball career. His sports passion then became golf, which he played for 37 years at Longue Vue Club, Verona, Pa.

Professionally, Chambers started a career in 1966 in marketing. According to his obituary, Chambers considered the 14 years he spent at the Hero Fund as the pinnacle of his career.

Chambers's efforts with the Commission were carried out with "competence and grace," according to Commission Chair Mark Laskow, "but we remember him for so much more than that. He was a wonderful man who holds a special place in the institutional memory of the Hero Fund and in the hearts of all of us who knew him."

Chambers is survived by his beloved wife of 44 years, three brothers, four children, and grandchildren. ▶ p.7



Title frame of Scouting magazine's comic series featuring Carnegie Hero **Turner Lagpacan**. By permission of Scouting magazine, May-June 2018, published by Boy Scouts of America.

Carnegie Hero featured in popular Boy Scouts comic series 'Scouters in Action'

Turner Lagpacan

said he was grateful for his near-decade of involvement in the Boy Scouts when in April 2015, he encountered a fiery highway crash in Mulhall, Okla.

Lagpacan, who received a Carnegie Medal in 2016 for his heroic act, was featured in "Scouters in Action," a comic series featuring

adult heroes in *Scouting* magazine, a publication of the Boy Scouts of America. The issue featuring the Derby, Kan., resident appeared in the magazine's May-June 2018 issue.

It details the actions of Lagpacan, then 23, as he responded to a tractor-trailer hauling a cargo tank containing residual fuel and fumes that was involved in an interstate highway accident and caught fire. Despite growing flames and heavy smoke, Lagpacan reached the wreckage.

He ran to a nearby truck and asked its driver for a fire extinguisher. As that driver grabbed two extinguishers and ran with Lagpacan back towards the truck, the cargo tank exploded, blowing them 20 feet away. Flames grew to engulf the truck, killing its 62-year-old driver.

Lagpacan said he couldn't believe his eyes when he discovered that he was featured in the comic series.

"I've been reading the magazine since fifth or sixth grade," he said. "I was speechless, with a small amount of shock."

Lagpacan said his scouting experience definitely aided him through the rescue.

"The motto is to always be prepared," Lagpacan said.

Lagpacan wasn't able to aid the driver, but he did help the other rescuer, who had suffered a deep wound to his leg from flying debris. Lagpacan tended to his injuries, using a tourniquet on the wound and staying with the man until help arrived.

In addition to the Carnegie Medal, Lagpacan also received an Honor Medal with Crossed Palms through the Boy Scouts of America. That award is scouting's highest award for bravery, Lagpacan said. ▶



Turner Lagpacan holds his Carnegie Medal citation that details his April 3, 2015, heroic act in which he helped attempt to rescue the 62-year-old driver of a tractor trailer involved in an interstate highway accident. Photo by Jaime Green/The Wichita Eagle.

▶ from p.6

Boys' Life magazine, also through the Boy Scouts of America, has run a comic series focused on youth scouts, "Scouts in Action," since the 1940s. Staff at



To see the full comic of Lagpacan's story, visit carnegiehero.org/scouters

Scouting magazine decided to create the adult series given the *Boys' Life* series's success, said Aaron Derr, a senior writer with *Scouting*.

"Year in and year out, this is one of the most popular sections of the magazine," he said. Lagpacan is the only Carnegie hero featured in "Scouters in Action," but other awardees have appeared in "Scouts in Action." Those published within the last decade include:



Thomas Eugene Foust

• **Thomas Eugene Foust** saved an 83-year-old woman from being struck by a train on Sept. 8, 2007, in Glenview, Ill. The woman mistakenly drove her car onto a railroad track at a crossing, and the car became stuck as a passenger train approached on that track at high speed. Thomas, then a 17-year-old student, and others immediately ran to the car as the crossing's gates and bell were activated, indicating that the train was about 30 seconds away. Thomas and his friends urged the woman to exit her car, and as the train bore down, he opened the driver's door, unfastened her seat belt, and pulled the woman from the car, taking her 10 feet away and shielding her with his body as the train struck the car. The woman was shaken but uninjured.



Elijah Jarred Wittum

• In May 2009, **Elijah Jarred Wittum** saved a 15-year-old boy from drowning in the South Yadkin River near Cooleemee, N.C. The boy shouted for help as he was swept downstream by a very swift current. Elijah, a 16-year-old high school student, was in wadable water near the bank and immediately entered the deeper water and swam downstream after the boy reaching him at a point about 30 feet out. Both boys then submerged, but Elijah broke free and surfaced. He went under the water, found the boy, and returned him to the surface. Holding to him, Elijah swam toward the bank as the current carried them downstream. They reached a tree that extended from the bank over the water, and Elijah grasped it. Men who were fishing nearby took the boy to safety, Elijah following.



Connor Farland Stotts

• High school student **Connor Farland Stotts**, then 17, saved two teens from drowning in the Pacific Ocean on July 31, 2011, near Oceanside, Calif. The teens were carried away from the beach by a rip current and struggled to return to shore. Connor had also been carried out by the current, but he was able to swim against it to wadable water, en route taking one of the girls in the party with him. Seeing that the others remained stranded about 200 feet from the beach, Connor returned to them, finding that one person had taken in water and was having difficulty staying afloat. With that person holding to him, Connor swam a side stroke against the current toward shore, tiring and also swallowing water en route. At wadable water, the victim waded to safety. Connor again turned and swam out to the others. Another person by then was semiconscious and trying to stay afloat. Connor positioned himself under her and attempted to swim to shore, but he made no progress against the current. He then helped her secure a hold of his neck and in that fashion returned toward the beach, towing her, the remaining victims following. Nearly exhausted, Connor carried the girl from the water.

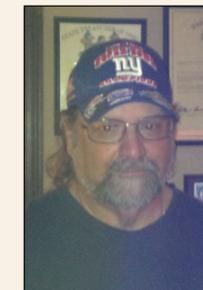
For more information on the "Scouters in Action" series, visit scoutingmagazine.org/category/magazine/scouters-in-action. Information on the "Scouts in Action" series can be found at boyslife.org/contact-us/about-scouts-in-action.

— Melissa A. McLaughlin, case investigator

FRIENDS REMEMBERED

▶ from p.6

FRIENDS REMEMBERED



Vincent Santaniello

Vincent Santaniello, 58, of Dover, Ohio, died Thursday, Dec. 27, 2018, in his home following a year-long, hard-fought illness.

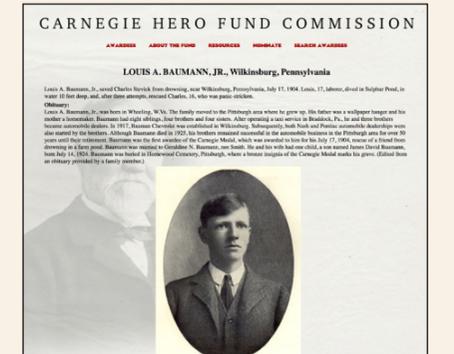
He was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 2017, for one year earlier, helping to save a 32-year-old woman from a burning pickup truck after a highway accident. With a neighbor they freed

the trapped driver before flames grew to engulf the truck. While the driver was hospitalized for minor injuries, she was not burned.

Santaniello was born in 1960 in Brooklyn, N.Y. He graduated from Thomas Edison High School in Jamaica, N.Y., and then spent 30 years in his rig as a truck driver.

Santaniello was an avid Giants fan and was seldom without his Islanders ball cap. He was proud of his Italian heritage and revered *The Godfather* movies.

He is survived by his wife, Karen, two siblings, two children, and seven grandchildren. ▶



OBITUARIES SOUGHT TO COMPLETE HERO FUND'S HISTORICAL RECORD OF AWARDEES

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. Please send to Case Investigator Chris Foreman at chris@carnegiehero.org.



OVERHEARD

People were awed by what he did. His story really stuck with people. There were gasps when his story was read. — Local Red Cross director Hilary Greene describing actions of [Robin Ireland](#), Carnegie Medal awardee #9972

Davis is the ultimate friend. Davis sacrificed his life to help my son, Joey Hopkins. Thursday night, Joey donated his organs to extend the lives of four others. Joey and Davis will live on through the lives of these four others. — Jim and Gail Hopkins in internet condolences on obituary of Carnegie Medal awardee #9978 [Davis Ian Zinsenheim](#), who died attempting to save Joseph H. Hopkins from falling

I very quickly made the decision. I cannot let this happen. — [James O. Vernon](#), Carnegie Medal awardee #9971

I never felt nothing like that in my life. I thought I was going to die. I thought I was going to float down the river. — [Brian R. Gadwell](#), Carnegie Medal awardee #10010

I couldn't live with myself if I sat and watched the guy drown knowing I had the ability to do something about it. — [Kristian F. Falkenstein](#), Carnegie Medal awardee #10020

Rich Krul chose to charge into the fray that day, and because of his actions I'm here. — Man saved by [Richard R. Krul](#), Carnegie Medal awardee #10023

I don't feel like a hero, but I am honored and humbled to now be in the company of other Carnegie Medal recipients. It reminds me that there is still a lot of good in this world. — [M. Ross Klun](#), Carnegie Medal awardee #10027

I couldn't see. I couldn't breathe. I just went in. — [Brent Rudy Edwards](#), Carnegie Medal awardee #10045, who rescued his nephew from a burning house

Frank Williams was everything you could ask for in a human being. He was funny, kind, and generous. — Manager of restaurant that employed [Frank Williams, Jr.](#), Carnegie Medal awardee #10050, who died rescuing the passenger of submerging car
His large stature matched perfectly with his large heart. — Coworker of [Frank Williams, Jr.](#), Carnegie Medal awardee #10050

I don't think that anyone could have seen the terror in his eyes and not gone in there. I'm not anything special. I just happened to be here at the time. — [John Gerard O'Rourke](#), Carnegie Medal awardee #9993

You never know how you will respond when faced with adversity, however with having two children of my own not trying did not seem like an option — [Thomas W. Brown](#), Carnegie Medal awardee #9995



Etched glass Hall of Fame award and [Raymond J. Grundler's](#) Carnegie Medal.

Hall of Fame inducts Carnegie Hero

Catholic High School, when one of them, 30-year-old John J. Ladasky, Jr., was overcome by escaping gas and collapsed.

The two other men in the manhole, [Donald R. DeVine](#), 56, head regulator man, and [Monroe J. Coleman](#), a 35-year-old laborer, acted quickly and rushed Ladasky to a ladder and thrust him up toward ground level.

Grundler entered the manhole via the ladder, grasped Ladasky, and pushed him up the ladder toward others, who were able to remove him and allowed Grundler to escape.

DeVine and Coleman, still at the base of the ladder, had by then collapsed. Two others, [William Henry Letzkus](#), a 38-year-old regulator helper, and 52-year-old truck driver [Albert R. Zeleny](#) then entered the manhole in an attempt to remove DeVine and Coleman to safety, but they too collapsed.

Grundler re-entered the manhole in an attempt to give aid to the four men who were suffocating, but was almost immediately overcome.

Firefighters arrived and removed the five men; none could be revived. Ladasky, however, recovered after hospital treatment.

Grundler's nephew, Jim Grosjean, first wrote to the North Catholic Hall of Fame committee in March 2016, requesting his uncle be considered for induction.

Two years later in February, he made a second attempt, this time detailing the award and Carnegie Medal posthumously awarded to his uncle. This got the committee's attention for which Grosjean hoped. In July, he received a letter from Amber Nicotra Morrison, director of alumni and development for North Catholic, informing him that his uncle would be a 2018 inductee into the Hall of Fame.

Grosjean accepted the Hall of Fame award on behalf of his uncle and their family in front of an audience of more than 100 people including three of Grundler's sisters, Cyrilla Grosjean, Grace Jesteadt, and Helen Bruggeman.

At the ceremony, Jim Grosjean presented information about the last hours of Grundler's life, the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission investigation that followed, and a history of the Carnegie Medal because "not many people, including Pittsburghers, know about the award," he said. Grosjean then unveiled Grundler's Carnegie Medal, which "brought a hearty applause from the audience," he said.

— *Jo Braun, office manager and 1984 North Catholic High School graduate*

LATEST AWARDEES OF THE CARNEGIE MEDAL

Since the last issue of imPULSE, the following 18 individuals have each been awarded the Carnegie Medal, bringing the total number of recipients to 10,062 since the Hero Fund's inception in 1904. The latest awards, which were announced on Dec. 18, are detailed on the Commission's website at [carnegiehero.org](#). The next announcement of awardees will be made in March.

Seventeen-year-old [Brent Rudy Edwards](#) rescued his toddler nephew, Bryce Noel, from their burning home May 27, 2017, in Philadelphia. After fire broke out in a row house, adults inside evacuated four young children from the home. His mother roused Brent from sleep, and he followed his family outside, where his mother realized that Bryce, 23 months, was still inside. Despite thick, black smoke that had filled the first floor, Brent re-entered the house to search for his nephew. Hearing the toddler cough, Brent crawled inside the house 12 feet to him, clutched him to his chest, and ran toward the light at the front door. Once outside, he handed Bryce to his mother and collapsed, losing consciousness. Arriving paramedics revived him, and he and Bryce were taken to the hospital for treatment of smoke inhalation. They recovered. Bryce was not burned.

Seventeen-year-old [Marcus L. Eliason](#), of Flagstaff, Ariz., saved his friend, Jonathan M. Woolverton, 17, from a burning vehicle Dec. 15, 2017 in Flagstaff. Jonathan was driving an SUV that traveled off a road, struck a tree, and caught fire with him trapped in the driver's seat. Jonathan's passenger crawled from the vehicle and called their friend, Marcus who was nearby. When Marcus could not fully open the driver's door to reach Jonathan, he pulled the window frame down toward the ground and then climbed to the burning car's roof and used his hands and



What's left of a Philadelphia row home after a May 27, 2017, fire. Carnegie Hero [Brent Rudy Edwards](#) exited the home safely, but then re-entered it after realizing his toddler nephew was not with the rest of the children outside. He crawled 12 feet to find his nephew and then exited the house, collapsing and losing consciousness just outside.

feet to break the driver's window and push the window frame farther toward the ground, opening the door a little farther. Returning to the ground, he extended his upper body through the small opening, amid intense heat and thick smoke. Marcus grasped Jonathan, and after several tugs, pulled him from the vehicle, which flames shortly engulfed. Jonathan was hospitalized for a broken leg, but was not burned. Marcus sustained minor burns to his arm and recovered.

[Bruce Maynor, Jr.](#), died April 30, 2017, while attempting to save 10-year-old Jaylen Walden from drowning in Eastpoint, Fla. Jaylen was playing in the Gulf of Mexico when a wave carried him away from shore to deeper water. He called for help. An adult with Jaylen at the beach, Maynor, 29, furniture delivery driver of Thomasville, Ga., swam 75 feet to Jaylen. Reaching Jaylen, the two appeared to struggle and were carried farther from shore. Two others entered the water with a boogie board. Maynor pushed Jaylen toward shore, and one of the others grasped him and towed

him to shore. The other man swam to Maynor and positioned him on the board, but the rough surf broke the board and separated the two. Maynor drowned.

[Donald Michael Boles](#) died Oct. 7, 2017, while attempting to rescue Zachary K. Crumb, 29, and Zoe A. Crumb, 7, from drowning in Carolina Beach, N.C. Crumb and his daughter Zoe were swimming in the Atlantic Ocean when a rip current carried them farther from the beach. Crumb called for help. Crumb's father-in-law, Boles, 60, code inspector of Eagle Springs, N.C., swam toward the two, despite the strong current. Boles grasped his granddaughter and attempted to return her to shore, but they became separated, and the current carried Boles to a point about 500 feet from the beach. Rescue personnel removed Crumb and Zoe from the water, and others took Boles, who was floating unconscious in the water, aboard a boat; he could not be revived. Zoe was nearly exhausted and had swallowed water; she was taken to the hospital where she was treated overnight and recovered.



[Brent Rudy Edwards](#)



[Marcus L. Eliason](#)



[Bruce Maynor, Jr.](#)



[Donald Michael Boles](#)



[John Thomas Prokop](#)

Duncan, B.C., resident [John Thomas Prokop](#) helped to rescue a police officer from a July 8, 2016, assault in Duncan, B.C. Along a city street, a police officer struggled to detain a man who violently resisted arrest ▶



LATEST AWARDEES

and was reaching for the officer's duty belt which held a holstered handgun. Eventually the struggle continued on a church's front porch, where the assailant put the officer in a headlock. The nearly exhausted officer later stated that he had difficulty breathing. The operator of a nearby billiard hall, Prokop, 49, ran to the pair and grasped the assailant, allowing the officer to escape the headlock. They all fell to the church steps, and the officer held the assailant in a headlock while Prokop pinned the assailant's legs until backup officers arrived. The officer recovered from soreness to his throat and neck. Prokop scraped his arm and face but did not require medical attention.

Frank Williams, Jr., died Dec. 5, 2017, helping to rescue Honorio Lopez, 25, from drowning in New Orleans. Lopez was the front passenger in a car that entered a 10-foot-deep canal, floating to a point about 30 feet from a dock. One man entered the water and pried open the front, passenger door, before returning to the dock. As the car sank, Williams, 50, restaurant cook, of New Orleans, dove into the canal and swam to the car. He grasped Lopez who was by then outside the car and moved with him toward the dock, but he struggled keeping Lopez afloat and ultimately submerged. Others removed Lopez from the water. Williams drowned.

Sixty-five-year-old welder **Eugene Stamsta** helped to save neighbor Anne M. Nerenhausen, 75, from drowning on July 18, 2017, in the Oconto River near Oconto, Wis. While attempting to jump onto an inner tube at a river bank near her home, Nerenhausen fell into the



*A grainy picture of a police officer struggling to detain an assailant on the porch of a church. Carnegie Hero **John Thomas Prokop** intervened, grasping the assailant and allowing the officer to escape a headlock.*



Frank Williams, Jr.



David Duncan

river and struggled to swim in swift current, which carried her downstream. Her fiancé yelled for help, alerting neighbors including Stamsta, who, wearing a tool belt, ran to a rocky embankment and entered the water. As Nerenhausen began to submerge, Stamsta swam to her. He told investigators that she was limp as he towed her to the bank. He secured his hold to a rock at the bank and kept her head above water, but he could not remove her from the water. Firefighters removed her with a board and ropes and Stamsta exited on his own. Nerenhausen was hospitalized and treated for hypothermia; she recovered.

Security employee **David Duncan**, 41, of Hyannis, Mass., saved police officer James M. Melia, 61, from an Aug. 24, 2017, assault in Hyannis. Officer Melia was attempting to take a man into custody when the man fought with him and they fell to a sidewalk. Duncan, stood nearby as the two men struggled. When another man, armed with a knife approached the scuffle, Duncan told the man to drop the knife, and then blocked the man's path to



*The site where Carnegie Hero **Frank Williams, Jr.**, entered a canal and helped to rescue the passenger of a submerging car. Williams died as a result of his rescue act. Photo courtesy of [New Orleans Fire Department](#).*



*Carnegie Hero **Eugene Stamsta**, left, poses with the woman he saved and her fiancé. Photo by Kent Tempus/[USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin](#).*

Melia. Using both hands, he grasped the man's hand and wrist, and they struggled. Duncan disarmed the man and threw the knife away from them. Other officers arrived shortly and arrested the assailants. Melia suffered a cut to his left hand and recovered; Duncan was not injured.

Cregg Jerri, a 58-year-old sales manager of Fresno, Calif., saved a woman from a July 20, 2017, assault at a coffeehouse in Fresno. A barista was working the counter, when a masked man armed with a hunting knife and replica handgun approached and demanded money. Although he was closer to an exit, Jerri, the lone remaining customer, lifted a chair and struck the assailant, who turned and began to fight with Jerri. A violent struggle ensued, with the assailant swinging the knife at Jerri, and Jerri punching the assailant, bringing him to the floor. During the struggle, the assailant stabbed Jerri in the neck. Jerri then pushed the assailant down, leaned over him, and seized the knife, stabbing the assailant several times before they separated and the assailant ►



Cregg Jerri



Jennifer Lynn Dixon



Aaron Andrew Young

fled. Jerri required staples and stitches to stop arterial bleeding from his wound, but he recovered. Police later arrested the assailant.

Jennifer Lynn Dixon and **Aaron Andrew Young** rescued teens Joseph Lewis Keating and Scott T. Shaffer from a burning car on Nov. 25, 2016 in Middletown, Pa. Keating, 18, and Shaffer, 19, were trapped in their overturned and burning car after a nighttime accident on a rural road. Dixon 27, distribution process worker of Middletown, Pa., was driving nearby and stopped at the scene. Running to the car, Dixon burned her hand attempting to pry open the front, passenger door. After hearing Keating call for help, she kicked and shattered the window of the rear, passenger-side door. Crawling beneath flames coming from the car's interior, she partially entered the car. Dixon grasped Keating, who had moved between the burning seats, and dragged most of his body from the car. Joined by her mother, they removed him fully from the car and patted out flames on his pants. Meanwhile, Young, 39, bank credit officer, also of Middletown, responded to the scene from



*A screenshot of surveillance video of Carnegie Hero **Cregg Jerri** subduing a man who had threatened a barista at a coffee shop.*

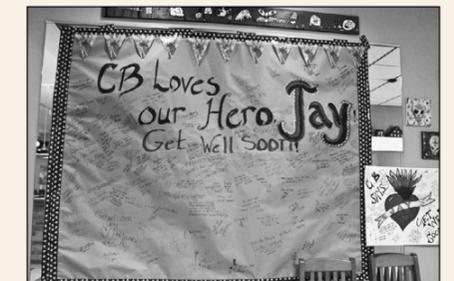
his nearby home. He went to the driver's door, extended his arms through the shattered window, grasped Shaffer, who was burning, and pulled him to safety. Young patted out the flames on Shaffer's pants with a sweatshirt until a police officer arrived with a fire extinguisher and assisted. Keating and Shaffer were hospitalized for several weeks for treatment of burns and other injuries, but recovered. Dixon was hospitalized for treatment of smoke inhalation, shortness of breath and burns to her hand, but she also recovered.

On April 24, 2016, **Joshua Stewart Wright** saved 2-year-old Jacquelyn D. Andrews, and **Jay Ross Muxworthy** attempted to rescue 13-month-old James C. Andrews III from a burning SUV in Wilmington, N.C. After a crash in which the SUV's transmission breached the

passenger compartment, siblings Jacquelyn and James remained in the middle row. Flames broke out in its engine area. Wright, 35, electrician of Dahlonega, Ga., and Muxworthy, 48, restaurant operator of Carolina Beach, N.C., went to the scene. Unable to open the car's doors, Wright climbed through an opening at the rear windshield, advanced to the middle of the SUV, and grasped Jacquelyn, passing her outside to a bystander. As conditions worsened inside, he exited. Multiple people helped pry open the rear, driver's-side door, and as flames spread toward James' safety seat, Muxworthy entered the SUV to his waist and attempted to free James amid blistering heat. Overcome by the conditions, he was forced to withdraw. Flames rapidly engulfed the vehicle, and James did not survive. Jacquelyn was hospitalized for minor injuries, but she was not burned. Wright declined medical attention at the scene, and Muxworthy was hospitalized for nine days ►



*Carnegie Hero **Samantha Barnhouse** talks with news reporters after she saved a neighbor from his burning apartment. Photo courtesy of [Bay Area News Group](#).*



*A giant poster and card were set up on a wall in the waiting area of Flaming Amy's Burrito Barn in Carolina Beach after Carnegie Hero **Jay Muxworthy's** rescue act in 2016. Muxworthy owns the restaurant with his wife, Amy Muxworthy. Photo courtesy of [Port City Daily](#).*



LATEST AWARDEES

for treatment of his burns. He underwent additional treatment for several months following the accident.

Thirty-year-old **Samantha Olive Barnhouse** saved Lobis Burton, 78, from a burning house on Feb. 17, 2018, in Antioch, Calif. Alerted to the fire, Barnhouse, who lived across the street from Burton's apartment building, entered Burton's apartment. She moved past the burning kitchen to reach Burton, who was sitting in a wheeled desk chair in a bedroom, unable to move due to an injured hip. Barnhouse pulled the desk chair through the bedroom and into the hall, and as flames and smoke intensified, she moved the chair past the kitchen and to the front door. The chair became stuck, and Barnhouse pulled on it, freeing it and causing her and Burton to fall outside beneath flames issuing overhead through the doorway. Within a minute, the apartment's windows shattered due to the heat. Burton was hospitalized for smoke inhalation and a broken hip, but he was not burned. Barnhouse was treated at the hospital for smoke inhalation; she recovered.

Svetlana S. Reut rescued 9-year-old Cameron Wagstaff from three attacking dogs on Jan. 24, 2018, in Loganville, Ga. Cameron was playing outside when three pit bull dogs, all weighing about 70 pounds, knocked him to the ground and bit him. Cameron screamed for help, and Reut, 29, medical lab technician, responded. When she reached Cameron, the



Joshua Stewart Wright



Jay Ross Muxworthy



Samantha Olive Barnhouse



Svetlana S. Reut

dogs were gnawing and clawing his face. She grasped Cameron by the hand and pulled him to his feet. They ran to a nearby yard and became separated. The dogs then attacked Reut, knocking her to the ground and biting her face and arm. The dogs' owner responded and took one of the dogs back to his yard. Cameron, who had remained nearby, and Reut retreated to her house, and the other two dogs ultimately left the vicinity. Cameron was treated for his injuries. Reut was taken to the hospital for treatment of her injuries, which included bite wounds to her mouth and arm.

Mark Oscar Tuura, on Oct. 18, 2015, saved an unidentified man from drowning in the Fraser River near New Westminster, B.C. A man floundered and called for help in the 50-degree water about 50 feet from a pier. Tuura, 57, stevedore of New Westminster, was atop the pier when a witness alerted him to the man's plight. Fully clothed and wearing steel-toed work boots, Tuura grabbed a coil of rope from his truck, climbed down a 15-foot-

long chain to a boat anchored in the river, and searched for a flotation device. Unable to find one, Tuura climbed back up the chain and ran along the pier to keep pace with the man who was being carried downstream. Tuura then climbed down another chain onto a boom log and dove into the river. Grasping the man with one arm, Tuura side-stroked back to the boom log, where he supported the man, who was by then unconscious. Tuura assisted arriving firefighters by tying ropes around the man's arms and belt and lifting him to the deck of the pier. He was taken to the hospital. Tuura declined treatment at the scene and was not injured.

On June 26, 2017, whitewater rafting guides **Eric Martin** and **Patrick Nolan McCarty**, both of Ohiopyle, Pa., saved Arnetta D. Johnson, 55, from drowning in the Youghiogheny River near Ohiopyle. McCarty also saved Raecyne W. Bechtold, 45. Friends Johnson and Bechtold were whitewater rafting when their raft overturned, flowed past the take-out point, and became stuck at a bridge pier in the middle of the swift-flowing and swollen river. Partially submerged, Johnson clutched the raft as Bechtold lay on top of it. Martin, 47, whitewater rafting business operator, and McCarty, 29, whitewater rafting business executive director, each obtained single-person kayaks and launched them without safety gear. As Martin arrived at the pier, Johnson grasped onto his kayak, and the raft dislodged and floated free with Bechtold, toward a 20-foot-high waterfall. While Martin towed Johnson downstream toward the nearest bank, McCarty paddled downstream ahead of the raft and used his kayak to steer and slow the raft, guiding it to the bank where Bechtold reached safety. Meanwhile, Martin and Johnson were stuck on an exposed rock ledge. McCarty paddled there and secured Johnson with a rope. The three of them then waded toward the bank, where others helped remove Johnson from the water. 



Carnegie heroes Eric Martin and Patrick Nolan McCarty borrowed kayaks and launched them into the Youghiogheny River without safety equipment to save two women from drowning on June 26, 2017, near Ohiopyle, Pa.

PRESENTING



Left: U.S. Rep. Elizabeth Esty, left, hugs Jessica Vega, mother of the late **Jay Agli**, during the Nov. 19 presentation of Jay's posthumously awarded Carnegie Medal in a ceremony at the city hall in Meriden, Conn.

Jay, 17, of Meriden, died attempting to save his sister, Kishana M. Rivera, from drowning in the Connecticut River at a state park in Haddam, Conn., on June 11, 2017. After Rivera was in the water and struggling to return to a sandbar, Jay entered the river despite not knowing how to swim. He submerged and drowned; boaters removed Rivera from the water downstream. The ceremony was timed to what would have been Jay's 19th birthday.

"This will help all of us remember how he impacted our lives," Esty said. "You have to ask in a moment of crisis, what would you do? Would you risk your life to save a life? Jay didn't hesitate."

At the time of the presentation, Esty represented Connecticut's fifth district. Meriden Mayor Kevin Scarpati also presented a citation from the city to Vega.



After an Oct. 22 medal presentation, from left, Atlantic Beach (N.C.) Fire Chief Adam Snyder; Paula Jordan, sister of the late Carnegie Hero **Scott Derrick Whitford**; and Atlantic Beach Mayor Trace Cooper pose for photos. Cooper and Snyder presented the medal to Jordan on behalf of her brother, who died trying to save a 15-year-old girl caught in a rip current on June 17, 2017.

Whitford, 56, of New Bern, N.C., entered the Atlantic Ocean, and despite rough conditions, swam to the girl and grasped her. She clung to him, and he submerged several times. Ultimately they separated, and emergency responders brought the girl to safety. Whitford had drowned.

The medal was presented to Jordan at an Atlantic Beach Town Council meeting.



U.S. Rep. Mark Meadows, left, presented the Carnegie Medal to Carnegie Hero **David Scot Love** Oct. 23 at his Henderson, N.C., district office. Love, 41, of Flat Rock, N.C., ran to the scene of a burning car, where the semi-conscious driver was trapped inside. Love opened the front, passenger door and attempted to pull her free, but the 22-year-old's legs were trapped near the burning engine compartment. Love briefly stepped from the car, still holding the woman's hand, got a breath of air, and re-entered. By then the woman had freed her legs, and Love pulled her to safety.

"People may call it a religious experience, spiritual experience," Love told newspaper reporters after the award announcement. "It's something that just came out of me."

Meadows represents North Carolina's 11th congressional district.

PRESENTING

Below: Media gather as Carnegie Hero **Connor N. Devine**, center, accepts the Carnegie Medal presented to him by Warwick (R.I.) Mayor Joseph Solomon at a Sept. 14 ceremony held in the mayor's office. In March 2017, Devine, 19, of Warwick, rescued his 18-year-old co-worker from assault. A 41-year-old man entered a drugstore where Devine worked as a shift supervisor, and stabbed the woman with a butcher knife multiple times. Devine shouted at the assailant to stop and threw a crate at the assailant's head, but it did not deter the man who continued to stab the woman. Devine then retrieved a utility cart and forcefully rammed the cart into the assailant multiple times, knocking him away from the woman and disarming him. A customer at the store pinned the man to the floor until police arrived, while Devine and others tended to the woman, who was badly injured.



Right: Carnegie Hero **Liam Bernard**, center, was honored Dec. 6 at Mi'kmawey School in St. Peter's, N.S. Potolek First Nation Chief Wilbert Marshall, left, and Carnegie Hero Fund Commission board member Nathalie Lemieux presented the Carnegie Medal to Bernard, who is a member of the Potolek First Nation. In 2016 Bernard, 37, of Chapel Hill, N.S., responded to the scene of an accident, where a pickup truck had come to rest in a ditch. As fire broke out in the truck's engine compartment, Bernard fully entered the truck's cab, and attempted to free the driver, but was unsuccessful. As smoke and fire intensified, Bernard moved away from the truck, but hearing the driver call for help, he returned and fully entered the cab again. He grasped the man, and others grasped him, all tugging the pair into the passenger seat, where others helped remove the driver, who was not burned.

About 200 community members attended the December ceremony, which included a play performed by elementary school students. Bernard presented Lemieux with a braided sweet grass he made with eagle feathers.

Above: Elementary-aged children perform the play, "The Legend of Maple Syrup" as part of Bernard's Carnegie Medal presentation.



PRESENTING

Below: From left, U.S. Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, Carnegie Hero **Kristian F. Falkenstein**, and Hero Fund President Eric P. Zahren examine the Carnegie Medal presented to Falkenstein at an Oct. 16 ceremony held in Langhorne, Pa. In September 2017, Falkenstein, then 39, of Newtown, Pa., helped save a man, 32, from drowning in the ocean in Belmar, N.J. Falkenstein swam 300 feet to the man and, despite turbulent ocean conditions and a strong current, persisted in efforts to keep him afloat. A police officer and two lifeguards, all with flotation devices, responded to the pair, but they could not swim out of the current. All five men were removed from the water by a Coast Guard boat that had responded. Fitzpatrick represents Pennsylvania's eighth district.



Above: Carnegie Hero **David Moen** poses with the woman he saved, Kymberly A. Dominguez, after he was presented the Carnegie Medal by Orion Township (Mich.) Supervisor Chris Barnett at the township's board meeting on Oct. 1 at the township hall.

On June 28, 2017, Moen, 64, of Lake Orion, Mich., rescued neighbor Dominguez, 29, after an explosion occurred on the first floor of her home and caused portions of the house to collapse. Moen stepped through a second-floor window that had fallen to ground level and entered the unstable, burning home calling for Dominguez. About 10 feet from the window, Moen met Dominguez and carried hero outside to safety over broken glass and other debris.

Aware that Dominguez's parents remained inside, Moen made efforts to re-enter the home, but the instability of the structure and intensity of the fire thwarted his attempt to rescue them. Dominguez's parents did not survive, and Dominguez was treated for bruises and scrapes, but she was not burned.

In a [Facebook post](#), Orion Township congratulated Moen:

"The Carnegie Medal is given throughout the United States and Canada to those who risk their lives to an extraordinary degree while saving or attempting to save the lives of others. Mr. Moen displayed that extraordinary degree when he rescued Kymberly Dominguez from a house explosion last year. Thank you Mr. Moen for your heroic act!"



Above: Carnegie heroes **Brian R. Gadwell**, left, and **Steven A. Rauser**, right, hold the Carnegie Medal while standing with Detroit Police Chief James Craig. The two Detroit police officers were presented with the Carnegie Medal Nov. 29 at Detroit Public Safety Foundation's Above and Beyond Award Celebration, an annual dinner that honors police, fire, and medic personnel who go above and beyond the call of duty. The event was held at the Marriott at the Renaissance Center in downtown Detroit.

In April 2017, Gadwell, 39, and Rauser, 37, both entered the frigid Detroit River to help keep afloat a 34-year-old woman who had fallen into the river from an area that had no easy egress. The panicked woman was passed from Gadwell to Rauser, who submerged several times before the woman disengaged from him. A nearby boat responded and removed the woman from the water. Emergency personnel lifted the officers from the water.

PRESENTING



Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh, left, presents Carnegie Hero [Catherine Kinyua](#) with the Carnegie Medal on Nov. 19 in Walsh's office. Kinyua helped save a 32-year-old man from drowning in the Charles River in Cambridge, Mass., on Oct. 30, 2016. Following another rescuer, Kinyua, then 24, climbed over a highway railing to a ledge and jumped into the river, where the man had been floating face down. With the other rescuer, Kinyua helped to hold the man against a bulkhead while treading water until police arrived in a boat.

Constables [Stephanie L. Pelley](#), left, and [Charley Torres](#), right, received the Carnegie Medal from Royal Newfoundland Constabulary Chief Joseph A. Boland, center, on Oct. 3 in St. John's, N.F. Boland presented the medals during a symposium organized by the Association of Workers' Compensation Boards of Canada.

Three years earlier, the two officers entered the Atlantic Ocean off of Flatrock, N.F., after a distressed woman intentionally leapt from a remote, rocky shoreline into frigid, deep water. Torres swam to the woman, grasped her from behind, and towed her toward the shoreline. Pelley also grasped her, and as waves broke over them at the shore's edge, the woman resisted them there. Ultimately Pelley and Torres pulled the woman onto the shore and away from the water.

Photo courtesy of the [Royal Newfoundland Constabulary](#).



PRESENTING



Brevard County (Fla.) Commissioner Kristine Isnardi, left, holds a resolution in recognition of posthumous Carnegie Medal awardee [Delbert G. Blare](#). Next to her, from left, is Carnegie Hero Fund volunteer presenter [Ralph Cash Kaschai](#) holding the Carnegie Medal; Blare's widow, Debra Blare, holding her husband's Purple Heart from the Space Coast Public Safety Award and Hall of Fame and Brevard County Sheriff's Department; and Brevard County Sheriff's deputy Kent Guttebo, holding a photo of Blare with a tassel that represents the Posthumous Doctorate Degree of Divinity awarded to Blare by the Light of Faith Christian Ministries, where he graduated with a doctorate. Debra Blare was presented the Carnegie Medal Nov. 13 at a Brevard County Commissioners meeting at the government center in Viera, Fla.

One year earlier, Blare, 61, of Melbourne, Fla., entered water off of Melbourne Beach, Fla., and swam toward a man, 61, calling for help about 200 feet from the beach. During the rescue effort, Blare submerged. The man ultimately reached wadable water where he assisted to shore by others. Blare drowned.

Kaschai is a 1978 recipient of the Carnegie Medal for helping to rescue two men from a burning car on Dec. 10, 1976, in Orlando, Fla.



Mount Clemens (Mich.) Mayor Barb Dempsey, far left, holds up the Carnegie Medal during a Sept. 17 ceremony in which Carnegie heroes [Joshua Aaron Traylor](#) and [Ron Allen Elko](#), right, were presented with the award at a Mount Clemens City Commissioners meeting. Anthony Traylor, center, the brother of posthumous awardee Joshua Aaron Traylor, accepted the award on behalf of his late brother.

According to news reports, Dempsey's voice cracked as she presented Anthony Traylor with his brother's medal. "I'm sorry he lost his life," she said.

Commissioners and audience members gave both heroes a standing ovation.

In April, 2017, Clinton Township (Mich.) residents Joshua Aaron Traylor, 24, and Elko, 36, entered the Clinton River after a 3-year-old boy fell into the 45-degree water. Traylor attempted to reach the boy, but shortly began to struggle and submerged. Seeing the boy also submerge, Elko jumped into the water, grasped the boy's shirt, pulled him to the surface, and brought him to a boardwalk where others secured him. Traylor drowned. Photo by Mike Vereeke.



Airport Director Craig A. Williams, left, presents the Carnegie Medal to Carnegie Hero [Richard B. Krul](#) at the Bishop International Airport's authority board meeting Sept. 25 held at the airport in Flint, Mich.

In June, 2017, an on-duty airport police lieutenant, 55, was walking with Krul, 60, of Grand Blanc, Mich., when an assailant armed with a knife attacked the lieutenant from behind, stabbing him in the neck and shoulder. Seeing him about to stab the lieutenant again, Krul blocked the assailant's motion. A struggle ensued, in which Krul took the assailant to the floor and others responded, helping to subdue and disarm the assailant.

PRESENTING

Below: Missouri state Trooper Joshua Hughes, St. Charles County (Mo.) Ambulance District paramedic Michael Buechner, Carnegie Hero [Jennifer E. Emo](#), Hero Fund volunteer presenter Mark Petzel, St. Charles County Ambulance District paramedic Amy Jennings, and state Trooper Eric Graslie pose after Emo received her Carnegie Medal at a presentation held Dec. 12 at the Missouri Highway Patrol Troop C headquarters in Weldon Spring, Mo. A 37-year-old veterinarian of St. Louis, Emo was driving on an interstate highway when she saw a burning sedan on the shoulder. She stopped at the scene and, amid rapidly spreading flames in the interior, backseat area of the vehicle, reached into the rear of the car and removed a 2-year-old girl who was burning. She lifted the girl out of the car and rolled her in grass to smother the flames on her clothing. The girl was airlifted to the hospital for treatment of severe burns but later succumbed to her injuries. Emo suffered burns to her hands and left arm during the rescue effort. O'Fallon, Mo., resident Petzel, who presented the Medal to Emo, is the great-grandson of Carnegie Hero [Herman J. Petzel](#), who died in 1905 attempting to save an 18-year-old man from drowning in Sutter Station, Mo.



Right: Carnegie Hero [Michael Eugene Chestnut](#), left, receiving the Carnegie Medal from Bracken County (Ky.) Judge-Executive Earl Bush at the county's board meeting on Nov. 28 at the Old Courthouse in Brooksville, Ky. Chestnut, then 59, of Foster, Ky., rescued three teens from a burning, overturned vehicle after it crashed head-on into a van on a rural road in Foster in August, 2017. Chestnut crawled into the overturned car twice and removed all three teens to safety, including one teen who was nearly 100 pounds heavier and 1 foot taller than Chestnut.

Photo by Christy Hooks, [The Ledger Independent](#).



PRESENTING



Left: Carnegie Hero [James Williams](#), center, received the Carnegie Medal from Green Bay (Wis.) Mayor James J. Schmitt during a council meeting on Oct. 16.

Williams told Schmitt that "still breaks my heart" to think about his act, in which he helped rescue a 17-month-old boy from attacking dogs outside Williams's city home on June 20, 2016.

One of the dogs, an adult pit bull, dragged the boy from his stroller and bit onto his head. Williams, then 47, punched that dog to free the boy from it, then restrained a dog that had bitten the boy's mother.

"That is awesome," Schmitt said after Williams's heroism was described. "You saved this kid's life. We're very proud of you."

Pictured with Williams are others that Schmitt recognized that evening for their contributions to the Green Bay community.



Left: Carnegie Hero [Michael E. Surrell, Jr.](#), left, was presented the Carnegie Medal by Commission President Eric P. Zahren at a private ceremony held Oct. 17 at Union & Finch Restaurant in Allentown, Pa.

Surrell, 64, of Allentown, saved his 8-year-old neighbor from burning on May 4, 2017. He responded to the burning home, and learning that the girl was still inside, he entered the house through the front door and began to climb the stairs to the second floor. Dense smoke and heat forced him to retreat outside, but, undeterred he re-entered the house, climbed the stairs, and went to his hands and knees. Hearing the girl moan, he crawled toward the sound, and found her. He carried her outside, where he gave her rescue breaths until she was revived.

**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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THE QUOTABLE A.C.

Some critics thot[sic] I proposed to stimulate heroism, but now nothing I've done is so popular. It was time the Heroes of Peace had recognition.

— From a private letter written in 1908

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).

imPULSE ONLINE? Should you wish to receive *imPULSE* in PDF rather than in your mailbox, let us know: impulse@carnegiehero.org

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