



# Impulse

A periodic newsletter of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission

ISSUE 79 • FALL 2024

## FRIENDS REMEMBERED

*Friends Remembered* is a collection of tributes to Carnegie heroes, beneficiaries, and others we have lost since the last edition of *Impulse*. They are listed chronologically by date of passing.

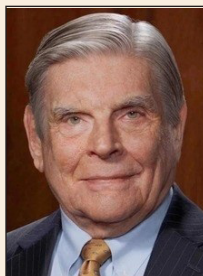
In addition to the tribute appearing here, it is also added to the Medal recipient's hero page on the Hero Fund's website.

This edition includes Carnegie heroes **Robert Ernest Linck, Calvin L. Markwardt, Sr., Weldon C. Mosher, Andrew Joseph Frick, Roger Gary Spangenberg, Michael B. Nelson, and William D. Bradshaw.**

### ROBERT ERNEST LINCK

Carnegie Hero **Robert Ernest Linck** died Aug. 1, 2024. He was 92.

Linck was awarded the Carnegie Medal after a Jan. 26, 1992 rescue of a man from assault in Philadelphia.



Robert Ernest Linck

The man was walking home from work at night when he was accosted by two men who took him at knifepoint to a parking area behind a row of townhouses. Linck, then 60 years old, was on his way home when he drove into the parking area and saw the assault. He approached the assailants in his car and flashed his lights and beeped his horn at them, but the assailants were not deterred. Linck left his car and approached the assailants on foot, shouting at them. One of the assailants turned on him and a scuffle ensued. He was stabbed repeatedly. Both assailants then fled. Linck managed ► p. 4



New *Heroic Comics* No. 44 was the first of 97 issues to feature a Carnegie hero: **Thelma Marguerite Skillin**, who, on Nov. 15, 1946, saved two boys from drowning in the Kennebec River in Bath, Maine.

## 'Atomic Age' comic books tell the stories of Carnegie heroes of the '40s and '50s

Wham! Pow! Crack! What started as a 1940 comic book series that told true-ish stories of World War II military heroes turned toward civilian heroes in 1946 with Issue No. 35 of The Eastern Color Printing Company's *Heroic Comics* (previously *Reg'lar Fellers Heroic Comics*). In that issue, between the ad for a glow-in-the-dark tie guaranteed to "surprise and thrill every girl you meet," and a four-page educational spread dedicated to teaching readers everything they need to know about "atomic energy," there were stories about a switchboard operator who called the police after hearing a nearby murder and a fire fighter who saved a man from a Park Avenue, New York, office building fire.

It was another year before a Carnegie hero was featured among the Good Samaritans. **Thelma Marguerite Skillin** was the first Carnegie hero to appear in what Eastern Color eventually renamed *New Heroic Comics*.

"Diving fully clad into the chilly and treacherous Kennebec River to save one ► p. 2



BOARD NOTES

SING A SONG OF HEROES

By Mark Laskow, Chair Emeritus Carnegie Hero Fund Commission

I have the odd habit of paying attention to the lyrics of hymns. While the congregation is singing, immersed in the music and the sound, I'm thinking about the lyrics, figuring out whether I like the poetry of the words and agree with their approach to faith.



Mark Laskow

The congregation's approach is doubtless better than mine, but this has had some nice benefits for me. I will even browse the hymnal during the service, looking for lyrics that stand out. I find hymns whose themes and lyrics I really like, some I find so meaningful that I memorize them.

Recently I came back to an old favorite that had a lot to say about our Carnegie heroes and what they mean to each of us and to our society as a whole.

"I Sing a Song of the Saints of God" is a 1929 British children's hymn which became much more popular in the United States.

Author Lesbia Scott emphasizes the ordinariness of those who turn out to be saints:

I sing a song of the saints of God,
patient and brave and true,
who toiled and fought and lived and died
for the God they loved and knew.

I think her purpose in telling children about saints was very much the same as the Hero Fund's mission to tell the world about the Carnegie heroes and their valiant acts.

We are both telling the stories of extraordinary people, yet people not so different from us, people we each might be. Is the main purpose to make each of us a hero? Perhaps. That would be nice, but not so realistic. But stories of saints and heroes can illuminate our ordinary lives, making them better for ourselves and those around us. Beyond that, tales of saints and heroes illuminate our entire culture, lifting our

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'Atomic Age' comics feature Carnegie heroes

struggling boy, Mrs. Thelma M. Skillin, Phippsburg, Maine, housewife, towed two youths to safety," the first panel stated.

On Nov. 15, 1946, a 14-year-old boy had fallen from a wharf into the river, his feet sticking in silt, 1.5 feet deep. His 18-year-old brother entered the water and freed him, but the panicking boy attempted to climb his brother, causing him to then get stuck in the silt.



A panel from Carnegie Hero Thelma Marguerite Skillin's rescue featured in Issue No. 44 of New Heroic Comics published September 1947 by Eastern Color.

Skillin, then 32, housewife, jumped from the wharf and swam to the boys. She

took hold of the younger boy under the chin with one hand and towed him 12 feet to a timber projection of the wharf. As the brother tired and began to sink and while still supporting the first boy with the crook of her arm, Skillin grasped the brother by the hair and pulled him to the surface. Others helped them return to the wharf.

Although Skillin's Carnegie hero paper file has been lost to time, electronic records indicate that she wasn't nominated until 1948, nearly two years after the act and six months after her story was published in the comic book.

"There's no way for us to know how Mrs. Skillin was nominated all those years ago, but it's great to see that other people appreciated her bravery and heroism and the tale of her rescue spread far and wide," said Jewels Phraner, director of outreach and communications for the Hero Fund.

The average distribution of a single issue of a comic published in 1947 was 379,000, according to data collected by the Audit Board of Circulation.

The 1940s are largely considered the Golden Age of comics, which historians chart from the first appearance of Superman in 1938 to 1953, when the U.S. Senate questioned whether comics were responsible for an uptick in juvenile delinquency. Some historians further divide the golden era, calling its latter years the Atomic Age because comic books showed a notable shift from superheroes to other genres: war, westerns, science fiction, horror, and, as New Heroic Comics suggests, non-fiction.

Although comic books were becoming widely popular, with the number of publishers doubling from the decade earlier, readers wanted more realistic stories, according to Matthew Morrison, public services librarian for the Trinity Rivers Library in Fort Worth, Texas.

"Walt Disney Comics were still the highest selling comic of all time during the Golden Age ... but we started seeing more things like True Comics, real stories about soldiers, pirates, more military, more true crime, more historical work," Morrison said.

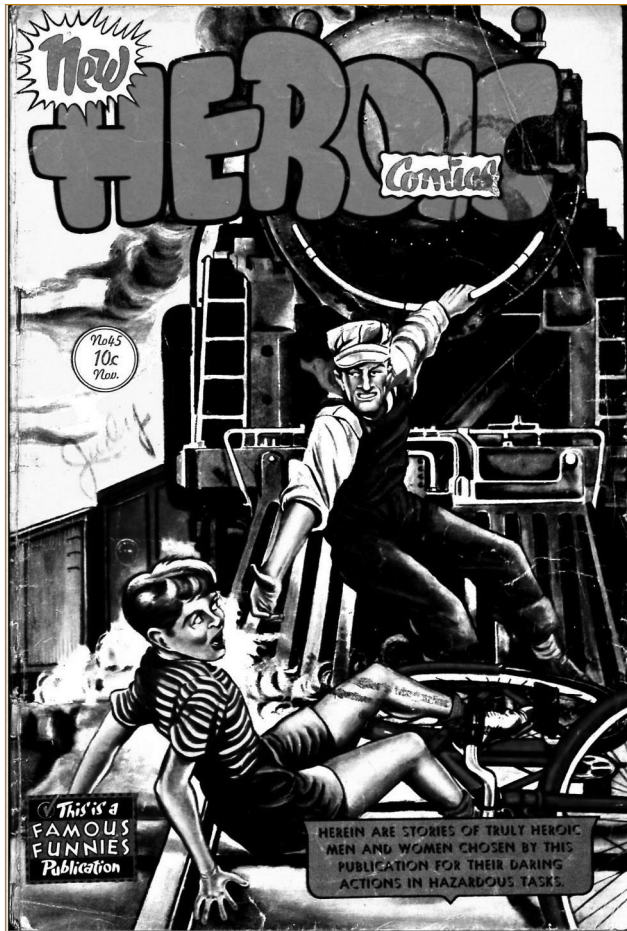
Eleven other Carnegie heroes were featured in New Heroic Comics from 1947 to 1952.

E. Carver Tettermer — whose story was featured on the cover of Issue No. 45 — saved a 9-year-old boy from being hit by a train in Trenton, New Jersey, after he

fell from his tricycle onto the tracks on May 8, 1941.

"Would you jump in front of a train to save another's life?" starts the two-page spread .

*New Heroic Comics* Issue No. 49 features two Carnegie heroes. First was **Phil O. Garrett's** Jan. 19, 1944, rescue of a man from a fiery plane crash on his Gates, Tennessee, farm. Curiously the story does not mention Garrett's co-rescuer, Carnegie Hero **Robert W. Turner, Sr.** It is also the first mention of the Hero Fund, its last panel stating "for his heroic action, Garrett was awarded a bronze medal and a sum of money from a national organization."



*The cover of New Heroic Comics Issue No. 45, which depicts Carnegie Hero **E. Carver Tettemer**, who hurled a boy from the path of a moving train in Trenton, New Jersey, in 1941.*

That edition also included a May 27, 1947, technical rescue in which **Stanley J. Marcinkowski** used a torch to burn an opening in the 1-inch-thick metal hull of a double bottom freighter ship dry-docked in Brooklyn, New York to save a man who had been overcome with smoke at the bottom of the hull. Although the comic mentioned a watch given to him by his employer for a job well done, it fails to mention the Carnegie Medal Marcinkowski received months before the comic's printing.

The November 1949 edition brings to life the heroism of **Robert F. Ramirez**. On Oct. 25, 1948, Ramirez dove 40 feet off San Diego's Sunset Cliffs to recover a 3-year-old boy who had fallen from the cliffs into the Pacific Ocean below. The boy could not be revived. The comic left the ending ambiguous with Ramirez stating "I hope the kid revives ..."

Two Carnegie heroes were mentioned in Issue No. 60, published in May 1950. **Daniel M. Long** is named a "heroic mailman" for jumping into the Charles River in Boston to save a man who had fallen in. In the water the men struggled until Long grabbed the man by the throat and kept him calm. "I'm sorry I have to do this," Long said in one of the comic's panels.

Long's story is notable because it is the first time *New Heroic Comics* mentions the Hero Fund by name: "For the rescue of a drowning man in the icy waters of the Charles River, mailman Daniel M. Long, of Charleston, Mass., received the Carnegie Medal and award ..."

Later in the edition, the Aug. 11, 1949, death of Carnegie Hero **June Sickler** ▶ p. 16

▶ from p.2  
**BOARD NOTES**

horizons and aspirations.

*And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,  
and one was a shepherdess on the green:  
they were all of them saints of God, and I mean,  
God helping, to be one too.*

When we hear the stories of the Carnegie heroes, we all wonder if we would have their courage if called upon. To this I always reply, first, hope that you are never so called upon. It is a fearsome test that our Carnegie heroes have met. Deal with it if it comes to you, but you need not seek it out. Second, live your everyday life as if you might have to meet such a challenge. Do the small, hard things life sends us every day. Make a habit of it, and that will help you if you need it.

Scott's last verse shares my optimism that, as much as we wonder where our saints and heroes come from, they will be there when we most need them. Every word of this works as well for a Carnegie hero as for a saint.

*They lived not only in ages past;  
there are hundreds of thousands still;  
the world is bright with the joyous saints  
who love to do Jesus' will.  
You can meet them in school, or in lanes,  
or at sea,  
in church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea;  
for the saints of God are just folk like me,  
and I mean to be one too.*

\* \* \* \* \*

(The tune by Rev. John H. Hopkins, Jr., is sprightly and engaging for children, and I love it. There are many renditions on YouTube, but you might enjoy this one by children: ["I Sing A Song of the Saints of God" - The Junior Choir at PCPC - Nov. 6, 2022](#)) ☼



*A panel from "Heroic Mailman," a two-page spread depicting the story of Carnegie Hero **Daniel M. Long**, who entered the Charles River in Boston to save a drowning man.*



OVERHEARD

It was the most heroic thing I've ever seen. Sometimes, people call us heroes. And in this instance, in no way were we the hero. Mikala deserves all the credit.

- Fire lieutenant who responded to the scene of a burning apartment after the rescue of three of her children by **Mikala Vish**, Carnegie Medal recipient #10325

All I can say is this guy was supposed to live. I'm a man of faith, and I've learned to listen to your gut and the prompting you get. The Lord wanted him alive. Things could have gone different a million different directions, but things worked out on his behalf. That's my conclusion. Whether it was me or someone else, he was supposed to live.

- **Brandon Bair**, Carnegie Medal recipient #10307

Everyone can be a hero every single day. You never really know what's going to happen to you.

- Eyewitness to actions of **Jose M. Pichardo**, Carnegie Medal recipient #10354

I'm not surprised, but very proud to see a citizen help out another citizen. It's nice to see people still willing to help each other out.

- Police officer who responded to scene where **Jordan B. Kurtzer**, Carnegie Medal recipient #10377, removed an unconscious driver from a submerging pickup truck

There was no way I was gonna leave that boy in that truck, no way, not an option. If it calls for my life, so be it. I wasn't gonna leave him.

- **Joseph D. Donnell**, Carnegie Medal recipient #10380

Anybody who knows anything about Tony, it's surprising that he passed away, but when you hear the story about how he passed away, I don't think it's really surprising to anyone.

- Friend of **Anthony Diehl**, Carnegie Medal recipient #10383

Their act of heroism is truly a reflection of their character. They loved their family so much.

- Widow of **Christopher Novacosky**, Carnegie Hero #10426, who, with Carnegie Medal recipient #10427 **Joseph Novacosky**, drowned attempting to save their two nieces

I had front row seats to a miracle.

- **Stephen D. Rhodes**, Carnegie Medal recipient #10385

"As cops, we're not trained to run into fire. Technically we weren't supposed to be there. But we had to try. There was someone in there.

- **Stephen Harder**, Carnegie Medal recipient #10414

▶ from p.1

ROBERT ERNEST LINCK

to return to his car and drive himself and the man to the hospital. While the man was uninjured, Linck required emergency abdominal surgery and was hospitalized for nine days. He recovered.

Prior to the rescue, Linck received a degree in civil engineering from Lehigh University. He fulfilled his ROTC commitment by flying in the Strategic Air Command of the U.S. Air Force, retiring at the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Linck returned to Philadelphia in 1965 and joined his family business. He settled in Society Hill with his young family. He served as president of the Philadelphia Fountain Society and Philadelphia Athenaeum, as well as a member of numerous other boards and ad-hoc committees until his passing.

Linck is survived by his wife of 65 years, Annette Linck; son, Robert; daughter, Vanessa; and five grandchildren.



CALVIN L. MARKWARDT, SR.

Carnegie Hero **Calvin L. Markwardt Sr.**, died on Friday, Aug. 2, 2024. He was 87.

Markwardt was born in Palacios, Texas, on May 2, 1937, to Herbert Carl and Amandie (Piel) Markwardt.

Markwardt was awarded the Carnegie Medal after he helped to save a mother, father, and their four children, along with 21 others, during the July 24, 1959, Hurricane Debra storm in Freeport, Texas. Rising waters trapped the family and others at a beach settlement on San Luis Island between the Gulf of Mexico and a connecting canal.

Markwardt, then 22, and Frederick A. Palmer, Sr., then 61, volunteered to go to their aid in a 20-foot outboard motorboat as the winds increased to more than 100 m.p.h. Over eight hours, the rescuers made several trips back and forth from San Luis Island to a marina 4.5 miles away in heavy rain and rough seas, the boat carrying as many as 15 people at a time and often taking on water. At one point, Palmer stayed on the island to allow others to take his place on the boat. On the last trip to the island, wind conditions then were such that Markwardt could proceed only slowly, and three times the craft was blown backward. Finally making it to the beach, Markwardt and Palmer left with the last two people. Unable by that time to sight any landmarks, they missed the channel of the canal and proceeded over flooded land for about a mile until they got their bearings. At one time the boat tilted precariously and shipped much water. With difficulty they reached the marina.

Markwardt was an employee and part owner of Palmer's Sporting Goods until 1979. At this time, he opened Calvin's Marine, Inc. in Clute, Texas, where he continued in the marine business for another 30 years.

Markwardt was described as having a heart of gold. He was steadfast to his family and faith, never turning his back on others. Markwardt was involved in many organizations throughout his life in the Brazosport community.

Markwardt enjoyed fishing and hunting trips with family and friends. He worked in his garden and tended to his cows. His passion for boating, fishing, and maritime recreation never ceased.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 63 years, Joanne Wilson; and sons, Calvin Louis Markwardt, Jr. and Barry Joe Markwardt.

Markwardt is survived by brother, Herbert Markwardt; sisters Shirley Veach, Norma Goodson, and Joyce Markwardt; children, David Markwardt and Karen McGehee; five grandchildren, Deana, Devan, Jamison, Shayne, and Amber; and five great grandchildren. ▶



Calvin L. Markwardt, Sr.

**WELDON C. MOSHER**

Carnegie Hero **Weldon C. Mosher** died Sunday, Aug. 18, 2024. He was 92.

Mosher was born Dec. 31, 1931 to Cameron and Hazel (Bond) Mosher in Musquodoboit Harbour, Nova Scotia.

Mosher was awarded the Carnegie Medal after he saved a 10-month old girl from burning in Head of Jeddore, Nova Scotia, on July 22, 1975. The girl was strapped in a baby carrier in the rear seat of an automobile involved in an accident in which gasoline from a punctured fuel tank ignited. Flames rose 5 feet at the rear of the automobile. The girl's mother exited the vehicle and screamed for help. Mosher, then 43, ran to the vehicle and entered in the front seat area as flames continued to spread along the side of the automobile. He reached into the rear compartment and unbuckled a strap that held the child. He lifted her from the carrier and emerged from the automobile, which was soon engulfed in flames.

Mosher was a lifetime member of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 161 Gaetz Brook from where he received his 50-year pin. He served with the Royal Canadian Air Force from 1951 to 1965. Following his time in the military, he went on to a career with O.P. Mosher and Sons where he was employed as a maintenance foreman looking after the heavy equipment. While living in Upper Musquodoboit, Nova Scotia, he served as a member of the volunteer fire department and Musquodoboit Valley Lions Club.

Mosher enjoyed camping, jam sessions, family gatherings, going to the local dances, playing snooker, and pool.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Maxine; sons, Brian and Anthony; and his siblings.

Mosher is survived by his children, Laurie, Darlene, and Darrell; eight grandchildren; 11 great grandchildren; and others.



*Weldon C. Mosher*



**GRAVE MARKERS AVAILABLE TO FAMILIES OF DECEASED HEROES**

The Hero Fund is pleased to offer at no cost a bronze grave marker to the next of kin of any recipient who has died. The 3.75-inch medallion is designed to replicate the look of the Carnegie Medal, and can be displayed on a recipient's stone or bronze headstone or on a flat-faced urn. For information, e-mail us at [carnegiehero@carnegiehero.org](mailto:carnegiehero@carnegiehero.org).

**ANDEW JOSEPH FRICK**

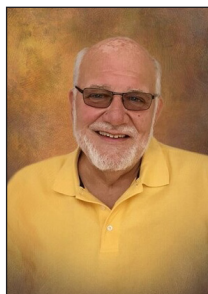
Carnegie Hero **Andrew Joseph Frick** died Tuesday, Aug. 27, 2024. He was 77.

Frick was born April 4, 1947, to Carl Leighton and Alice Bauer Frick in Louisville, Kentucky.

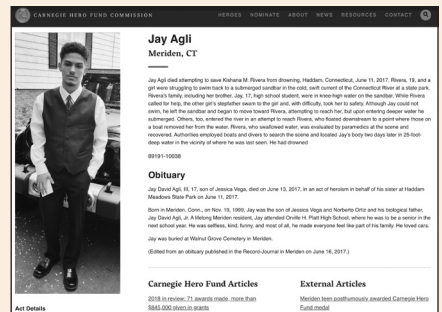
Frick was awarded the Carnegie Medal after he helped rescue a man from burning in Lawrence, Kansas, on April 21, 1970. An accident forced a tractor-trailer off the highway and onto grass-covered terrain, where the detached cab of the rig came to rest upright on the ground alongside the trailer. Escaping fuel caught fire and flames burned on the trailer and one side of the cab. Frick, then 23, ran to the other side of the cab where another man tried to open the door without success. Flames intensified as the two men managed to lower the window. Frick reached into the cab while the flames spread, grasped the man inside, and pulled him partially through the opening. The other man and Frick grabbed hold of the man to completely remove him from the cab. Within a minute later a fuel tank exploded and flames spread. The man in the truck and Frick sustained burns but recovered.

Frick graduated from Purdue University with a bachelor's degree in a program of study combining engineering and management. He was the owner of a Carrier air conditioning business in Kansas City and later relocated to the metro New York City area where he started Frick & Frick, Inc. with his wife, Patricia Venditto Frick.

Frick is survived by his wife; daughter Daniela Mitu; three grandchildren, Nick, Angela, and Raysa; and others. ▶



*Andrew Joseph Frick*



**OBITUARIES SOUGHT TO COMPLETE HERO FUND'S HISTORICAL RECORD OF MEDAL RECIPIENTS**

Written accounts of the recipient's life, such as contained in an obituary, are sought for addition to the Medal recipient's page on the Commission's website. Please send to the Hero Fund at [carnegiehero@carnegiehero.org](mailto:carnegiehero@carnegiehero.org).



### 'HEROES FOR HEROES' PEER NETWORK

The Hero Fund has initiated a peer support network for Carnegie heroes to speak with each other about their common experience in taking on great risk to save another person, often a stranger.



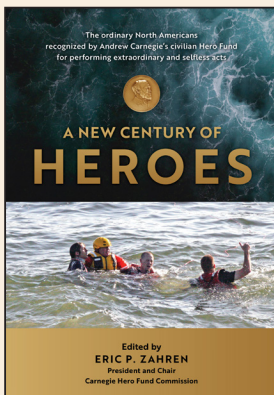
Participants will be paired with one of a handful of volunteer coaches to discuss after-rescue issues and challenges where there is need for supportive communication.

Beyond the initial connection, the conversations will remain confidential from the Hero Fund, in case that, too, is an obstacle for some heroes.

To participate, e-mail [carnegiehero@carnegiehero.org](mailto:carnegiehero@carnegiehero.org).

### 'A NEW CENTURY OF HEROES' NOW AVAILABLE

A New Century of Heroes (2023, Lyons Press) was recently released. The book is the updated and expanded edition of A Century of Heroes (2004, University of Pittsburgh Press). Edited by Hero Fund President Eric Zahren, the book tells the stories of over 200 rescues from the Hero Fund archives dating back to 1904.



New sections include a chapter on the Hero Fund's response to disasters including the more recent Covid-19 pandemic.

In addition, several pages are dedicated to the Fund's 2018 celebration of 10,000 heroes.

Orders are being accepted at your favorite book retailers, including Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Books-A-Million, Bookshop, and Target.

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### ROGER GARY SPANGENBERG

Carnegie Hero **Roger Gary Spangenberg** died Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2024, in Jacksonville, Illinois. He was 81.

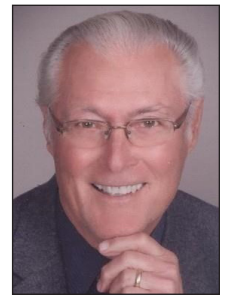
Spangenberg was born to Jack and Jane Spangenberg on Jan. 21, 1943, in Pittsfield, Illinois. He married Nancy Heaton on Oct. 21, 1962, in Woodson, Illinois.

Spangenberg was awarded the Carnegie Medal after a July 19, 1963, attempted rescue of a man from suffocation in Pittsfield. The 59-year-old man was working in a well 29-feet-deep when he was overcome by carbon monoxide gas. He fell from a ladder at the side of the well into water 17 feet deep. The shouting of the man attracted a survey party working nearby, which included then-20-year-old Spangenberg. After a short run, Spangenberg reached the well and called to **James W. Routson**, who had descended into the well. Breathing hard, Spangenberg also descended the ladder of the well and found that Routson had lost consciousness and slumped atop the first victim. Spangenberg knew that gas was present and took hold of Routson. As he started to ascend the ladder, he was overcome by the gas. He, too, fell into the water. Another member of the surveyors, **John Paul Leming**, then entered the well and removed Spangenberg, who was the only one of the three unconscious men to survive.

Spangenberg graduated from Western Illinois University in 1965 and received his master's degree in athletic administration from Indiana State University in 1968. He taught physical education, health, and driver's education. He coached varsity football, basketball, and varsity baseball.

Spangenberg enjoyed playing golf with friends and was described as an outdoorsman, taking fishing trip in Alaska, Canada, and the Great Lakes. He owned a private pilot license and enjoyed flying his Cessna plane. He was a member of the Jacksonville Elks Lodge.

Spangenberg is survived by three daughters, Sheryl Roberts, Sonya Stevens, and Shelly Black; seven grandchildren, Nolan, Allison, Melissa, Justin, Sean, Finley, and Dash; three siblings, Greg Spangenberg, Jaclyn Farmer, and Jill Parker; a great grandchild; and several nieces and nephews.



*Roger Gary Spangenberg*

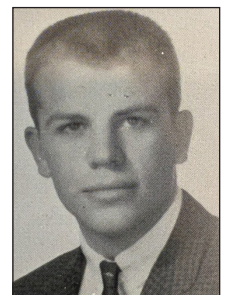
### MICHAEL B. NELSON

Carnegie Hero **Michael B. Nelson** died Monday, Sept. 23, 2024, in Milltown, Montana, surrounded by friends and family. He was 80.

Nelson was born on June 16, 1944, to Thomas and Gerda Nelson in Missoula, Montana.

Nelson was awarded the Carnegie Medal after he saved two schoolboys, ages 11 and 13, from drowning in Milltown on June 11, 1959. The boys played on a raft caught by the swift current in the rain-swollen Blackfoot River and they were carried rapidly downstream. The raft became lodged against accumulated debris atop a submerged pier when the 13-year-old fell from the raft and drifted downstream. Nelson, then 15, ran 300 feet to the water's edge, jumped into the cold water and swam to the boy, who intermittently submerged. Nelson submerged and located the boy and brought him to the water's surface. With effort Nelson towed the boy across the current to the bank and then ran 300 feet to a dwelling where he obtained a rope. He returned to the river and tossed the rope to the 11-year-old, who tied it to the raft. While others held onto the rope, Nelson ran upstream to a where a rowboat was tied. He used a board for an oar and moved downstream where he eventually struck the debris atop the pier. Nelson pushed the rowboat free and swung it alongside the raft. After he helped the 11-year-old aboard, he pulled the boat along the rope extending from the raft to the bank.

He married July 2, 1966, to Linda Shults. Nelson attended Western Montana College and the University of Montana in Missoula. He worked around 30 years for



*Michael B. Nelson*

► p.16

PRESENTING



Florissant, Missouri, Mayor Tim Lowery, right, and Councilman Robert Parson, Jr., left, presented the Carnegie Medal to Florissant resident **Robyn Handley** on Sept. 9 at the Florissant City Hall.

Handley was awarded the medal in March 2024 after she rescued two women from attacking dogs in their Florissant neighborhood on Dec. 22, 2020.

"First of all, congratulations on your award," Lowery said during the ceremony at a Florissant City Council meeting. "But more importantly, thank you for what you did."

A 72-year-old woman was out for a walk when four pit bull dogs attacked her on a sidewalk, knocked her to the ground, and mauled her, biting different parts of her body and tearing off part of her scalp. As the dogs continued their assault, Handley, 64, who suffered from arthritis, heard the woman's screams from her house and ran barefoot about 150 feet down the street to help. Handley shouted and waved her arms at the dogs, putting herself between the woman and the dogs, shielding her. As the dogs retreated but did not flee the scene, she stood guard over the woman and shouted for help. A 67-year-old woman approached the scene from the opposite direction and the dogs attacked her. They knocked her to the ground and bit her legs. Handley then moved to protect the second woman and, again, waved her arms and shouted to drive the dogs away.

Following the attack, another neighbor loaded the badly injured first woman into his car to await police while the dogs ran off and attacked others in a nearby neighborhood. The first woman suffered extensive wounds to her scalp, severe damage to her eye and face, and a deep leg wound. She underwent multiple surgeries and continued to recover. The second woman was also treated for bite wounds to her legs. Handley was not injured.

Handley wiped away tears as she accepted the award.

"You showed extreme courage," Councilman Robert Parson, Jr., said. "Sometimes showing courage means moving forward and trying to stop an event even though you may be afraid." ❁

Carnegie Hero Fund President Eric Zahren, left, presented the Carnegie Medal to **Michael Louis Lesan** on Aug. 17 at The Carnegie Center of Columbia Tusculum in Cincinnati.

The father of two daughters received the honor after he saved a teenage girl from drowning in the Atlantic Ocean off of Edisto Beach, South Carolina on June 22, 2023.

Lesan, then 41, was vacationing with his family when he spotted the teenage girl struggling to swim. Winds up to 28 m.p.h., 6-foot waves, and choppy water created hazardous conditions for the girl, and she was carried from shore. Lesan responded, entering the water and swimming 120 feet to her. Holding to her arm, he swam toward shore as waves crashed over them. Both of them were pushed and pulled; the strength of the water caused the girl to submerge with Lesan twice. They began to tire. Once both reached wadable water, the girl walked out of the water on her own. Lesan walked and then crawled a few feet as he exited the water. The girl vomited water on the beach; Lesan was nearly exhausted; both recovered.

At the presentation, Zahren expanded upon the mission of the Hero Fund and its goal to recognize individuals, such as Lesan, who risk their own lives for others.

"(Through its work) the Hero Fund does not provide the honor, but preserves it, and makes sure that it lasts for all time," Zahren said. "By telling the stories of heroes, we hope to change the hearts and minds of many - and that is the true and lasting power of the hero."

The private presentation that was attended by about 25 of Lesan's family and friends was held at The Carnegie Center, a historic building that was built in 1906 as a gift for the people of Cincinnati by Andrew Carnegie. It was originally a public library.

The Center posted on Facebook that it was "proud" to host the ceremony for Lesan. ❁





PRESENTING

Major Aaron Bolinger of the Cole County Sheriff's Office presented two Missouri men with the Carnegie Medal at an Aug. 5 ceremony held at the sheriff's office in Jefferson City, Missouri.

**Jeffrey A. Hilke** and **Scott E. Duncan** stopped a gunman who was intending to shoot a woman at a funeral.

After hearing screams at the April 21, 2021, private service in the chapel of an Eldon, Missouri, funeral home, funeral director Hilke, then 47, responded. He saw a tall, large man, 55, brandishing a handgun. The man had entered the service and attempted to force outside a woman, 51, who was attending the service with her three children. Hilke ran to the assailant, pushed him against a wall, and grasped the weapon. Duncan, then 51, who was attending the service, also responded, running to the assailant, who outweighed him. He also grasped the gun. The three men struggled for control of the weapon, while others, including the woman, fled the building. The men fell to the floor, with Hilke at the bottom of the pile-up, gasping for air. The gun fired, and the bullet hit the floor. The gun's magazine fell out of the gun, but the assailant reached for a fully loaded magazine in his pocket to reload. Duncan pushed the assailant's arm to the ground and held it there to prevent him from reloading. Police responded and still the assailant would not release the gun. A responding officer stepped on the assailant's hand and sprayed pepper spray at him, until he released the weapon. The assailant was taken into custody, convicted, and sentenced to 34 years in prison. Hilke suffered a broken sternum and bruised ribs from the incident. The woman, Duncan, and others in the room were not injured.



Hilke is retired from the Cole County Sheriff's reserves, where he served for 28 years.

"During my training over the last 28 years with the sheriff's department, we've learned if you stop and think about what you're doing, it's probably too late. I didn't have time, I just did what I did," said Hilke during an earlier ceremony with the Missouri State Police, according to an Oct. 22, 2021, News Tribune article. ☼



Bentonville, Arkansas, Mayor Stephanie Orman, left, presents the Carnegie Medal to **Craig Hinton**, the husband of posthumously awarded Carnegie Hero Tawny Hinton, during an Aug. 27 city council meeting.

Tawny Hinton was awarded the medal in March 2024 after she attempted to rescue a young boy from drowning in Bentonville on Aug. 29, 2022. Both Hinton and the boy drowned in the accident.

Two 11-year-old boys were playing near a retention pond when one of them slipped into the water and was pulled through a concrete drainage pipe. The boy's brother entered the water and reached out to grasp him before the current caused him to lose his footing. He returned to the bank and ran for help. Hinton, 47, was with the boys' mother at their apartment when the brother told them what happened.

Hinton and the mother ran to the pond and entered the water. Hinton swam in murky water to a fast-moving area near the pipe entrance close to where the boy was last seen. She then submerged to search for the boy before she, ultimately, did not resurface. The mother of the boys attempted to reach Hinton, but was forced to exit the pond due to the strength of the current. Emergency personnel located the boy in a drainage ditch about 500 yards away. He was taken to the hospital, where he was later pronounced dead from drowning. Hinton was located unresponsive 50 feet away from the pond in a storm drain beneath a manhole. She was taken to a hospital, but never regained consciousness before life support was withdrawn five days later. Hinton died of cardiac arrest and complications from drowning.

Although the family has since returned to Craig Hinton's home country of Canada, they traveled back to Bentonville for the ceremony.

"She's the type of person who would help anybody," Craig said in a Sept. 5, 2022, report on the accident.

At the presentation, he was met with a standing ovation from council members and attendees. ☼



PRESENTING



Millcreek, Utah, Mayor Jeff Silvestrini, right, presented the Carnegie Medal to constituent **River Barry**, at an Aug. 12 council meeting held at city hall.

Barry was preparing for a bike ride in Moab, Utah, on Nov. 26, 2022, when she encountered an emergency situation that left a man dangling by his parachute from a parapet on a cliff face, about 70 feet above the ground.

The man was participating in a BASE-jumping festival when he jumped from a 400-foot cliff, but his parachute deployed in the wrong direction and caused him to slam into the cliff face. His parachute was caught on an outcropping, leaving him dangling, while he sustained severe injuries from the impact. Thirty-year-old River Barry was flagged down by the man's friend, asking if anyone had climbing gear. Barry, a mental health therapist of Millcreek, went to the scene and used her own climbing gear and recreational experience to ascend a crack that ran up the side of the cliff directly below the injured man. No one had climbed the crack before and locals referred to the sandstone on the cliff as "slick rock" for its slippery conditions. With the help of the man's friend belaying her from the ground, Barry climbed to a point above the man and clipped her harness to his. She cut away his parachute and descended to the ground, bearing the man's weight, to waiting rescuers. The man suffered a compound fracture of his leg and underwent extensive physical therapy. Barry was not injured.

Barry was joined by friends and family at the presentation. A video about the history of the Hero Fund and its mission was played before Mayor Silvestrini detailed the events of Barry's rescue to the council.

He praised her for the extraordinary actions she took to save a life.

"(We're) super proud for your humanity and your heroism. That took something to actually be willing to climb up an unknown territory, on a rock crack that hadn't been climbed before. That's courage and care for your fellow man," he said. ☼

Four women responsible for saving their friend from an attacking cougar were presented the Carnegie Medal at an Oct. 10 ceremony held in Seattle's City Hall. Presenting the medal were U.S. Rep. Pramila Jayapal, Jim Schmidt, and Dean Annette E. Clark from the Seattle University School of Law.

Pictured from left are Jayapal, Carnegie heroes **Erica Wolf**, **Annie Bilotta**, **Tisch Schmidt-Williams**, and **Aune Tietz**, and cougar attack victim Keri Bergere.

The women were riding their bikes on Feb. 17 on a remote trail near Fall City, Washington, when a cougar lunged at Bergere, jumped on her back, and pushed her off her bicycle into a ditch. The juvenile, 75-pound male cougar bit into Bergere's jaw and clawed her neck and shoulders.

Retired gardener Bilotta, real estate broker Tietz, attorney Wolf, and salesperson Schmidt-Williams immediately responded. Bilotta jumped on the animal while Tietz was able to pull the cougar's hind legs off Bergere. Schmidt-Williams ran over with a rock and a few sticks to fight the animal. Wolf called 911, but the call dropped in the remote area. Wolf discarded her phone and bicycle, retrieved a stick, and also began to fight the cougar. Bilotta pulled one of the animal's paws off of Bergere and stuck her hand into its mouth, hoping to pry open its jaw to release her friend. The four women battled the cougar for 15 minutes.

As the cougar readjusted its bite, Bergere moved away as Tietz pulled the animal's head back. Wolf picked up her bicycle and the four women



worked together to pin the cougar to the ground with it. The women then stood on the bicycle for another 30 minutes. Two other cyclists arrived and helped hold the cougar down. They stood on top of the bicycle until a fish and wildlife officer arrived and dispatched the cougar. Bergere was taken to a hospital for multiple jaw fractures, facial nerve damage, and lacerations on her face, ears, neck, shoulders, arms, and back. Each of the four women sustained minor cuts or bruises but were otherwise uninjured and recovered.

Bergere spoke at the presentation to honor the women who saved her life.

"I spent nearly fifteen excruciating, exhausting, fearful minutes in that fight. Never giving up. And I know they weren't going to either."

Representative Jayapal posted on Instagram to express her admiration for the four heroes.

"It was an honor to present the Carnegie Hero Award to four brave women who saved their friend from a cougar attack. Their strength, resilience, and heroism is an inspiration." ☼



LATEST RECIPIENTS OF THE CARNEGIE MEDAL

Since the last edition of Impulse, the following 18 individuals have been awarded the Carnegie Medal for Heroism, bringing the total number of recipients to 10,458 since the Hero Fund's inception in 1904. The latest awards were made in September. The next announcement will be made in December.

Dwight M. Weise, 85, was disoriented and trapped in his truck after it went over a retaining wall and entered Fountain Lake in Albert Lea, Minnesota, on Sept. 20, 2023. At a point 60 feet from shore, the truck began to sink in 7 feet of water. Construction administrator Dalton Grose, 25, from Waterville, Minnesota, was working on a boat nearby with his coworker when they witnessed the accident. Grose piloted the boat close to the truck and, fully clothed, jumped into the cold water, where he swam to the driver's door. By then, water inside the truck had reached Weise's chin and the truck continued to sink. Grose attempted to open the door, which was damaged in the accident, and could only open it a crack before water pressure forced it shut. He was undeterred and, using his feet against the body of the truck as leverage, he pulled hard and successfully opened the door. Grose cradled Weise, pulling him from the vehicle. With his legs, Grose pushed away from the truck and then pushed off the bottom of the lakebed to resurface. After taking three bounding steps while still cradling Weise, submerging and resurfacing, Grose reached wadable water. He carried Weise to a ladder attached to the dock. Weise exited the water with help from a bystander before he was delivered to emergency personnel. Grose swam back to his boat and piloted it to shore. Weise was disoriented but suffered no injuries. Grose, also, suffered no injuries.

On Nov. 13, 2020, Jeremy Retsky was swimming just after sunset in the bay off of Anahola, Hawaii, when the 18-year-old was swept by a rip current farther from shore into water over his head. Retsky was on a student travel trip with two of his friends, including John Pearson III, 18, from Acton, Massachusetts. As darkness fell, Pearson waded and swam into water, 6 feet deep, to reach Retsky, who panicked and grabbed onto his friend. Pearson was forced under the water repeatedly and had to separate himself from Retsky. As the waves crashed down on them, Pearson told Retsky to stay calm and tread water or they would both drown. He attempted to pull Retsky's arm and drag him in, but the waves prevented any progress toward shore. At that point, Pearson thought their best chance was to conserve their energy as the current carried them farther out and parallel to shore. Pearson periodically submerged himself to allow Retsky to grab his shoulders and keep his head above water to catch his breath. After 10 minutes in

the water, the current swept Pearson onto a sandbar where he could barely touch bottom, while Retsky remained slightly farther out. Pearson swam out to Retsky and grabbed him by the arm to swim back to the sandbar. There, Pearson dragged Retsky into shallow water and then walked him onto the beach. Retsky was exhausted and could barely stand. Pearson was tired and treated for scratches on his back and chest inflicted by Retsky, but was not injured. Neither required further treatment.

After an Oct. 10 accident in which their car left the road and entered the San Joaquin River in Tracy, California, Melanie Caligiuri, 46, and her 5-year-old daughter exited the car and

struggled to swim amid the cold, fast-moving water that was 11 feet deep. Dairy worker Eddie Gerardo Cervantes Lora, 41, of Tracy, was driving nearby when he saw the mother and daughter struggling to swim. Cervantes exited the vehicle, ran down an embankment to the water's edge, removed his boots, and entered the water. Cervantes swam about 50 feet to Caligiuri and her daughter, where he managed to move them about 5 feet closer to the bank before he submerged. Around this time, laborer Stanley Becerra III, 23, from Lathrop, California, was driving nearby when he saw Cervantes run down the embankment. He and his coworkers exited the vehicle and ran to the water's edge, where ▶

Photo by Jennifer O'Riley  
Carnegie Hero Mark Pembleton approaching the undercarriage of the tractor trailer after a Sept. 18, 2023, accident in Sterling, Virginia, caused the truck to overturn, flames breaking out in the cab and front half of the trailer. Pembleton found the driver severely burned near the burning cab, and, amid intense heat, grasped his hands and dragged him from the burning wreckage.



Photo by Alex Guerrero/Albert Lea Tribune  
A truck sinking in Fountain Lake in Albert Lea, Minnesota, after Carnegie Hero Dalton Grose removed its 85-year-old driver on Sept. 20, 2023. Grose jumped into the cold water, opened the driver's door with difficulty, and removed the driver, submerging several times before reaching wadable water.



*Dalton Grose*



*John Pearson III*



*Eddie Gerardo Cervantes Lora*



*Stanley Becerra III*



*Hao Nguyen*



*Mark Pembleton*

Becerra removed his clothes and entered the water. Becerra swam about 45 feet to Caligiuri and her daughter where he attempted to move them back to the bank. Their combined weight forced him to release Caligiuri and swim the daughter back alone. A bystander helped carry the daughter to safety. Shaken and out of breath, Becerra gathered himself while his coworkers continued to scan the river for Caligiuri, who had by then submerged. Caligiuri was spotted closer to the bank downstream. Becerra ran 25 feet around a patch of trees and brush to reenter the water, where he waded about 15 feet to Caligiuri before he reached her and pulled her to the bank. Others helped pull the unresponsive Caligiuri from the water and begin CPR. Emergency personnel arrived and assumed first aid before Caligiuri was taken to a nearby hospital, where she died six days later. Caligiuri's daughter and Becerra were not injured. Cervantes' body was recovered by police a day later.

A 31-year-old man stood on a snowbank piled next to a safety wall on the roof of a parking garage in St. Paul, Minnesota, on Feb. 13, 2023. He peered over the side to the street

70 feet below. A woman in a nearby office building saw him and alerted state prosecutor **Hao Nguyen**, 40, of St. Paul, in an office down the hall. Nguyen ran across the street to the parking garage and took the elevator to the roof. Seeing the man next to the wall, he talked to the man. "How are you doing? What are you doing?" he asked. Speaking in both Vietnamese and English and attempting to establish a rapport with the man, Nguyen asked the man to leave the roof with him. The man grew increasingly agitated and ran to jump. Nguyen intercepted the man, and they grappled. The man demanded Nguyen let go of him, but Nguyen refused. As they struggled, the man, who was bigger than Nguyen, pushed Nguyen against the wall. Nguyen pushed off the wall for leverage and forced the man back. He bear-hugged the man from behind, wrapped his legs around his waist, and took him to the ground. The man had an arm free and elbowed Nguyen repeatedly, but Nguyen was able to turn his head enough to make the strikes glancing blows and continue to hold the man down. Nguyen eventually pinned him with a hold he learned from his experience

with jiu jitsu until a sheriff's deputy arrived. Nguyen suffered slight abrasions to his face from the elbows, but was otherwise uninjured.

A Sept. 18, 2023, accident left Cesar Yepez, 33, laying injured and burning just outside of a tractor trailer that overturned and crashed into a guide rail along the shoulder of a Sterling, Virginia, highway. A fire immediately broke out at the cab and front half of the trailer. The flames rose at least 15 feet above the trailer and smoke climbed about 40 feet high. **Mark Pembleton**, a 43-year-old business owner from Burke, Virginia, was driving nearby and witnessed the crash. Pembleton found Yepez severely burned and screaming for help on the ground near the burning cab. Yepez had been partially ejected just beyond the open windshield area and had managed to crawl out of the engulfed cab. Pembleton grasped Yepez by his outstretched hands amid the intense heat and lunged backward. He struggled to move a heavier Yepez and would lose his grip, falling over. Pembleton was forced to retreat from the inferno. He returned and resumed pulling Yepez a short distance as he called for ▶



Carnegie Hero **Stanley Becerra** towing a 5-year-old girl back to the banks of the San Joaquin River in Tracy, California, on Oct. 10, 2023. The 5-year-old girl was with her mother when their car entered the river. Although they exited the car, they struggled to swim in the fast-moving water. Carnegie Hero Eddie Gerardo Cervantes Lora responded first, swimming to them and moving them closer to the bank before submerging. Then, Becerra entered the water, and while he initially was towing both the mother and daughter back to the bank, their combined weight forced Becerra to release the mother and continue only with the daughter. By the time he searched the water for the mother, she had drowned along with Cervantes Lora. Photo courtesy of Becerra.



## LATEST RECIPIENTS

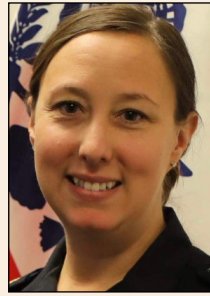
help. Another man, whose car was struck in the accident, joined Pembleton and the two men each grabbed an arm. They advanced Yepez away from the truck until the intense heat required brief reprieves. They returned to resume the rescue where they were able to pull Yepez 20 feet from the truck. The man that helped Pembleton patted out the flames on Yepez's lower body and suffered minor burns to his hands. Others helped pull Yepez farther away. Ultimately, Yepez had suffered third-degree burns to nearly his entire body and died two weeks later. Pembleton drove himself to a hospital and was treated for second- and third-degree burns to his arms. He was hospitalized for a month and required nine months of follow up laser surgery to his left arm.

At a municipal park in Germantown, Tennessee, on Aug. 9, 2022, a 9-year-old boy fell into a 2-foot-deep concrete drainage ditch that was overflowing with murky stormwater. After a sudden storm, the water surged into a narrow culvert beneath a road. The flooded area extended beyond the width of the ditch and made the water rushing into the culvert about 3 feet deep. Nearby coaching practice for his son's flag football team, was 37-year-old account manager **Horace William Drennan III** from Memphis. Drennan did not know the boy or his family. Regardless, he left his son's side and moved into the ditch to help the boy, who had been sucked through the culvert and carried out through the other end into a creek that ran through a heavily wooded area. The boy's father and others did not immediately know the 9-year-old's location. They responded to the ditch and struggled to pull Drennan from the rushing water, who was submerged all the way except for a forearm. The strength of the water caused Drennan and the father to be swept through the culvert, where the father found his frightened son. The two of them exited the creek safely and the boy was taken to a hospital for scrapes and scratches. Firefighters and police officers searched the scene and found Drennan's submerged body in the creek about 70 feet past the culvert. He had drowned.

After awakening to smoke detectors, on Jan. 13, 2023, and exiting their burning Hazlet, New Jersey, home with their 8-year-old daughter, **Jacqueline Montanaro**, a 40-year-old supervisory customs and border patrol officer, and her husband realized that their 6-year-old, Madelyn, was still inside. The husband re-entered the home, but was forced back outside due to the intensifying flames and thick, black smoke. With no visibility inside, Montanaro then entered the house and ascended the stairs toward her daughter's room.



*Horace William Drennan III*



*Jacqueline Montanaro*



*Jaclyn Rogé*



*Kennedy Armstrong*

Firefighters later found Montanaro unresponsive at the top of the stairs and Madelyn unresponsive in her bedroom. They were taken by ambulance to the hospital but died the following day of smoke inhalation and burns.

Madison Schemitz, 17, had just left a Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, restaurant on June 3, 2023, when her ex-boyfriend, wielding a 4-inch pocket knife, ran up from behind and stabbed her. After knocking her to the ground he continued to stab her repeatedly in the back. Madison had been in the restaurant with her mother, **Jaclyn Rogé**, a 43-year-old waitress from Ponte Vedra Beach. Rogé was about 50 feet behind her daughter. The assailant had run past Rogé to attack Madison, and Rogé immediately ran over to

intervene. She engaged the assailant and pulled him off Madison, but he turned to Rogé and stabbed her in the forehead, hand, and leg. As they struggled, 22-year-old Ponte Vedra Beach restaurant manager **Kennedy Armstrong** and a friend pulled into the parking lot. Hearing screams, Armstrong immediately sprinted across the parking lot and tackled the assailant to the ground. When the assailant tried to get back up, Armstrong jumped on his chest and pinned his arms down. Lying on his back, the assailant began to cut his own throat while Armstrong glanced over at the victims. Bystanders jumped onto the assailant and wrested the knife from him. Armstrong had sustained a cut to his right hand that severed an artery. First-responders then arrived and rendered first aid to all, including the ▶



Photo by WMC-TV

*The drainage ditch that flooded during a sudden storm on Aug. 9, 2022, in Germantown, Tennessee. A 9-year-old boy was swept into the culvert, and Carnegie Hero **Horace William Drennan III** responded to pull him from the water. Drennan and the boy's father were also swept through the culvert, where he found his frightened son. Drennan drowned.*



**Richard M. Fierro**



**Majiah Washington**



**Ta'Ron Lee Briggs**



**Jacob Ross**

assailant. He was later prosecuted and pleaded guilty to attempted murder and aggravated battery. Madison had been stabbed 17 times in the chest, arms, and back. She was partially paralyzed. Rogé spent four days in the hospital recovering from her stab wounds. Armstrong lost blood from the severed artery and suffered nerve damage to his hand. He underwent surgery, and physical therapy. At the time of the investigation he was continuing to recover.

Just before midnight on Nov. 19, 2022, a man wearing body armor brandished an assault rifle equipped with a 60-round drum magazine and opened fire inside a nightclub in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The 6'4", 280-pound man immediately shot and killed an employee and three others in the bar area. He proceeded onto the dance floor while continuing to open fire. Among the 60 people in the club was Colorado Springs defense contractor **Richard M. Fierro**, 45, who was with his wife and

daughter among other friends. Immediately recognizing the sound of gunfire, Fierro dove to the floor against a wall as the assailant proceeded past him while firing. As the assailant moved through the club, a Navy sailor hit him with a bucket. The sailor attempted to wrestle the rifle away from the gunman. The assailant brandished a pistol and shot the sailor in the abdomen. Fierro stood and ran at the assailant, who was still fighting with the sailor on the floor, though Fierro didn't initially see the sailor. As Fierro approached, the assailant pointed the pistol at him and pulled the trigger, but the gun did not fire. Fierro then grabbed the pistol, wrapped his arm around the assailant's head from behind and held him face down on the

floor. With the pistol, Fierro struck the back of the assailant's head repeatedly while the sailor and at least one other person kicked the assailant. They held him there until police arrived. Fierro sustained no injuries from the incident. Five people, including the partner of Fierro's daughter, were killed in the shooting and 19 were injured. The assailant was prosecuted in state court and received life in state prison. In a parallel federal hate crimes case, the assailant pleaded guilty and was sentenced to life in federal prison.

After freezing rain in Portland, Oregon, coated the city's roads and trees with ice on Jan. 17, 2024, Tajaliyah Briggs, 21; her partner DeVonte Nash, 30; and their 9-month-old son had parked on the street when a large tree branch snapped and pulled a power line down onto their SUV and the street. Having seen a flash through her apartment window, 18-year-old assistant daycare teacher **Majiah Washington** went outside to see the downed power line and a small fire at the SUV that quickly extinguished. Briggs' parents were in a vehicle nearby outside of an apartment complex with a sloped, ice-covered driveway. Nash was carrying his son away from the SUV and up the driveway as the downed power line sparked. He fell, feet-first, down the driveway and slid toward the line at the base of the street. Nash came into contact with an electrical current and was electrocuted, while the boy rested on the chest of his unresponsive father. A pregnant Briggs had attempted to reach toward Nash as he slid, but she fell next to her partner and was also electrocuted. By that time, Washington had called 911 and reported what happened. From the nearby apartment, Briggs' brother, 15-year-old Happy Valley, Oregon, high school student **Ta'Ron Lee Briggs**, quickly moved past Washington and approached his sister despite his father's pleas to stay away. He slipped, fell beside his sister, and was electrocuted. The dispatcher advised Washington that first-responders were coming, and that others should stay away from the line so as to not endanger themselves to reach the boy. Still on the 911 call, Washington got into a crouching position and slid down the driveway toward Nash. She put her hands on him to brace herself and did not feel an electrical shock. Washington then lifted the boy from his father's chest and carried him back up the driveway to safety before first-responders arrived. She was not injured. Although the boy was taken to the hospital as a precaution, he was not injured. His parents and uncle died at the scene.

A woman in her early 30s struggled to swim in the fast-moving water of Perdido Pass channel near Orange Beach, Alabama, on May 13, 2023. At the time, she was about 90-feet from shore. College student **Jacob Ross**, ►



Photo by Keith Morrison

*A Jan. 13, 2023, fire that gutted the Montanaro home in Hazlet, New Jersey. Carnegie Hero Jacqueline Montanaro re-entered the home after realizing her 6-year-old daughter was still inside. They both died from smoke inhalation and burns.*



## LATEST RECIPIENTS

19, from Satsuma, Alabama, was with his partner when he heard a bystander call out that someone needed help in the water. Ross ran about 35 feet to the water's edge and took long running steps before he waded about 15 feet. He swam 75 feet to the woman and instructed her to wrap herself around him. With the woman hanging onto the right side of his body and bracing her with his right arm, Ross swam 45 feet parallel to the beach using his left arm and both legs toward calmer water. He swam 75 feet back toward shore to wadable water and then cradled the woman, where he carried her to safety on shore. The woman said she had swallowed water during the incident but recovered on shore for about 30 minutes and was otherwise unharmed. Ross was not injured.

On Sunday, May 5, Pastor Glenn A. Germany, 54, was delivering a sermon on the altar of a church in North Braddock, Pennsylvania, when a 26-year-old man approached and aimed a loaded pistol at him. The man pulled the trigger, but the gun failed to fire as Germany then sought cover behind a pulpit. As the assailant lifted one leg over a railing to access the altar, 63-year-old Pittsburgh heavy equipment mechanic **Clarence McCallister** who was video recording the service, sprinted toward the altar and leapt over the railing. Just as the assailant took a step toward the pulpit where Germany had retreated, McCallister grasped the assailant from behind and took the man to the ground. Germany responded to grasp the assailant's wrists and the gun's barrel.



*Clarence McCallister*



*Daniel C. Wagner*



*Kevin M. Barrett*



*Cameron A. Whiting*

McCallister disarmed the assailant, pulling the gun from his grasp, as Germany restrained the man until police arrived about 20 minutes later. The assailant was taken into custody and jailed where he awaits further court proceedings. Neither McCallister nor Germany were injured.

On June 17, 2022, a suicidal, semi-conscious woman, 27, reportedly under the influence of prescription drugs struggled to swim in the Fox River near Elgin, Illinois. She was in 7 feet of water, 150 feet from both banks of the river. Elgin Fire Department battalion chief **Daniel C. Wagner**, 51, who was on duty and patrolling nearby, drove to the scene. When he arrived, local emergency personnel were throwing one end of a rope toward the woman, but she was too far from the bank. Seeing she was bobbing and submerging for at least 30 seconds and knowing that a rescue diver was at least three minutes away, Wagner removed his shoes and entered the water fully clothed. Wagner waded and swam to her, wrapping his right arm around her waist. Swimming back to wadable water at a point about 40 feet from the

bank, Wagner stood and carried the woman the remaining distance to the bank. She was taken to a local hospital. Wagner suffered no ill effects.

A group of more than a dozen swimmers were finishing an open-water swim on June 2, in the Pacific Ocean near Del Mar, California, when teammate Caleb Adams, 46, was attacked by a juvenile great white shark. The shark was later determined to be approximately 9 feet long and 550 pounds. The bite from the shark caused severe lacerations on Adams' chest and torso. It also inflicted lacerations and puncture wounds on his right thigh, and lacerations on his left hand from trying to fend it off. After he punched the shark twice, the predator was not seen again. Adams, and a nearby witness who heard him, screamed out for help. San Diego financial advisor **Kevin M. Barrett**, 51, and **Cameron A. Whiting**, 31-year-old real estate company vice president of Encinitas, California, had just finished their swim when they heard the screams. The men exchanged a glance and then swam toward Adams. As Barrett approached, he saw blood in the water. Reaching Adams, Barrett pulled him on top of his chest and began to backstroke toward shore. Whiting arrived seconds later, as did a male surfer, who offered his surfboard for them to use. Barrett and Whiting moved Adams atop the board face-down, while Whiting laid atop Adams' lower body and kicked his legs in the water to propel the board toward shore. Barrett swam next to them and kept a hand on the board to steady it. Once they were in waist-deep water, Barrett and Whiting each grabbed an arm and helped Adams to shore. They made their way up the beach and laid him in the back of a lifeguard truck that had arrived. Within 10 minutes, paramedics arrived and took Adams to a nearby hospital. Doctors told Adams he lost a third of his blood from his wounds and underwent emergency surgery to repair them. He was hospitalized for three days and has now recovered. Both Barrett and Whiting were not injured. ☹



*Photo by WMC-TV*

*A screenshot from a recording of a May 5 sermon in which Carnegie Hero Clarence McCallister is seen jumping over a railing to tackle a gunman who had already attempted to shoot the Rev. Glenn A. Germany. Photo courtesy of Germany.*

PRESENTING

In a double-ceremony held Sept. 23 at the Raleigh office of Sen. Ted Budd, two Carnegie heroes were celebrated and recognized.

Budd presented **Daniel L. Weiss** and the family of **Antwuan Jackson** with the Carnegie Medal. Jackson is a posthumous recipient of the Carnegie Medal.

"The Carnegie Medal is inscribed with the Holy Words of John 15:13, 'Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.' Those words perfectly describe the North Carolina citizens I met. It was nothing short of inspiring to hear their stories, hear their love for others, and their act of courage that brought them this honor. North Carolina is a special state to have produced such heroes. It was my absolute honor to spend time with them and thank them on behalf of our state," Budd said in a statement released after the presentation.

In May 2022, Weiss, 59, responded to the Greensboro, North Carolina, scene of a burning vehicle after an accident that left the driver unconscious. Seeing the woman slumped over the steering wheel, Weiss reached into the car and attempted to shake her awake. As flames grew and spread to breach the car's passenger compartment through the air vents, he called for a fire extinguisher and attempted to quench the blaze. Although he emptied the extinguisher, the fire continued to burn. Finding the driver's door to be jammed shut, Weiss ran to the passenger side of the vehicle, fully entered the vehicle and pulled the woman from the driver's seat, over the center console, and out of the car to the ground. The flames continued to grow and engulf the vehicle's entire cab. The woman was not burned but was taken to the hospital for injuries sustained in the accident. Weiss suffered minor smoke inhalation and recovered.

Weiss, his wife, Jymmi, and their children, Casey and Cody were present for the ceremony.

Accepting on behalf of her dad, was Taynea Craig, Jackson's oldest daughter. Also present were his other four children, A'Janae, Takai, and Na'tion Jackson, and Princeton Craig, and his mother, Frances Pedro.

In June, Jackson, 40, was at a large family gathering on the beach in North Topsail Beach, North Carolina, when two women and two young girls were pulled away from shore by the current into an area where they could not touch bottom. The women called for help. As family members, including Jackson, responded, one cousin placed the young girls on a bodyboard and then held to the board while awaiting further help. Jackson swam to the women and pushed them from behind toward shore. Other men from separate groups entered the water and helped aid the women, girls, and the cousin back to safety in wadable water. Jackson remained stranded in the rough current, beyond the reach of some men and responding police officers. A rescue disc attached to a rope was thrown into the water in Jackson's direction to no effect. Ultimately, Jackson submerged, did not resurface, and could not be found by rescue crews. Jackson's body was never recovered. ☒



*After the ceremony, U.S. Sen. Ted Budd, right, posed with Carnegie Hero **Daniel L. Weiss**, second from right, and his family, from left son Cody Weiss, daughter-in-law Megan Weiss, and wife Jymmi Weiss.*



*Posing with U.S. Sen. Ted Budd, center, is the family of posthumously awarded Carnegie Hero **Antwuan Jackson**.*

*It was nothing short of inspiring to hear their stories, hear their love for others, and their act of courage that brought them this honor.*





► from p.6

### MICHAEL B. NELSON

the Montana Highway Department until his retirement in 2001.

Nelson enjoyed hunting and the company of all his friends and family. He was described as a storyteller and liked to make his granddaughters laugh. Nelson was proud of his Scandinavian heritage and made sure to continue the traditional Norwegian delicacies such as lutefisk, potato sausage, and lefse at the holidays.

Nelson is survived by wife, Linda Shults; daughter, Sara McDonald; son, Matt Nelson; sisters, Ruth Jones and Julie Williams; granddaughters, Holly, Carly, and Lindsay.



### WILLIAM D. BRADSHAW

Carnegie Hero **William D. Bradshaw** of Valdese, North Carolina, died Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 in Charlotte, North Carolina. He was 72.



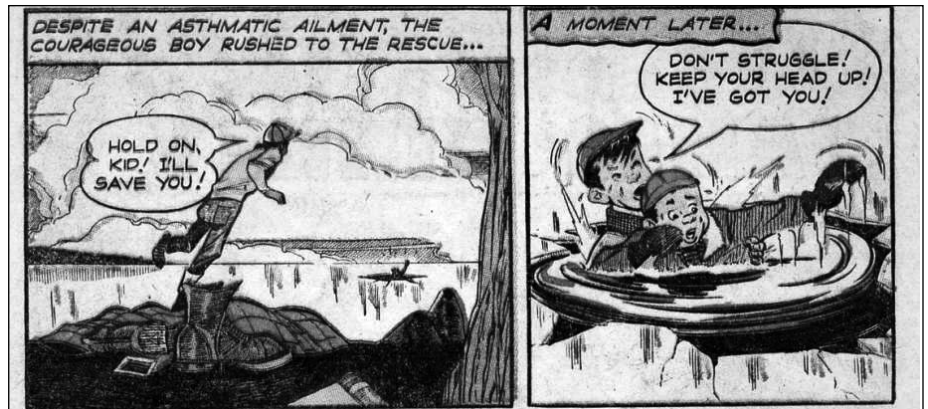
*William D. Bradshaw*

Bradshaw was born May 25, 1952, to the late Dwight Elmer Bradshaw and Gracie Rector Street in Burke County, North Carolina.

Bradshaw was awarded the Carnegie Medal after he saved people from a possible explosion in Morganton, North Carolina, on March 21, 1989. Bradshaw, then 36, worked as a security officer at the time and was alerted to escaping propane gas from an opened valve of a tank outside one of the residential cottages of the state institution where he was employed. When he arrived at the scene, he found that the highly flammable gas had formed a large, white cloud that was beginning to enter the basement of the cottage, where the slightest source of ignition would have precipitated an explosion. Bradshaw immediately entered the cloud and turned off the valve, then left for pliers and re-entered the cloud to tighten it. He then helped to evacuate the cottage, some of the residents of which were not ambulatory.

Bradshaw was preceded in death by his grandson, James. He is survived by his wife, Edith Bradshaw; siblings, Robert Kelly, Vickie Deal, and Debra Richards; son, William Bradshaw, Jr.; daughters, Kim Phillips and Kelly Paige; his three grandchildren, Zachary, Jesse, and Brittany; and four great-grandchildren. ❀

► from p.3



*New Heroic Comics Issue No. 70 depicts the exact moment, in 1951, that Carnegie Hero **James J. Kinney** went to the aid of an 8-year-old who had fallen through ice covering Lake Anna in Barbeton, Ohio. As mentioned, Kinney had asthma.*

## 'Atomic Age' comics feature Carnegie heroes

is called a "supreme sacrifice." At 15 years old, June attempted to help an 18-year-old man who had fallen into Rancocas Creek in Bridgeboro, New Jersey, but the panicking man submerged her. She drowned.

In this issue Carnegie Hero **Virginia Tremblay** is also mentioned on the issue's Heroic Hall of Honor page — used as a kind of table of contents for the heroes mentioned in that edition, but her story doesn't appear for two more issues.

Tremblay, then 26, saw three boys fall through ice covering Leverett Pond in Brookline, Massachusetts. Leaving her infant with another woman at the scene, Tremblay cross the ice, walking quickly toward the boys. She broke through the ice about 8 feet from the boys and used her arms to break the ice and make a path to them. By the time she reached them, one had submerged, but she held the other two while waiting for help to arrive.

By May 1951, the Hero Fund was making headlines in New Heroic Comics. "Carnegie hero award winner," topped the story of 14-year-old **Arnold J. Davis**, who, in February 1949, saved a 13-year-old boy from drowning in the Delaware River in Philadelphia.

The comic book sets the scene: "What better place for a fast and furious game of tag than the pilings of an old wharf? A group of Philadelphia youngsters took full advantage of the Poplar Street wharf to enjoy their sport, when, suddenly ..."

Carnegie Hero **Mary Frances Housley's** heroism was the cover story in Issue No. 68. Housley, a flight attendant, forwent her path to a safe exit from a burning airplane that had crash-landed on a Philadelphia runway. Despite being trained to abandon the aircraft when in danger of losing her life, Housley allowed 19 people to exit and maintained her position when others hesitated to leave the plane.

Finally, in Issue No. 70, **Samuel F. Sansevere** and **James J. Kinney** were the last Carnegie heroes mentioned by the series. On Feb. 19, 1951, 13-year-old James saved an 8-year-old who had fallen through ice covering Lake Anna in Barbeton, Ohio.

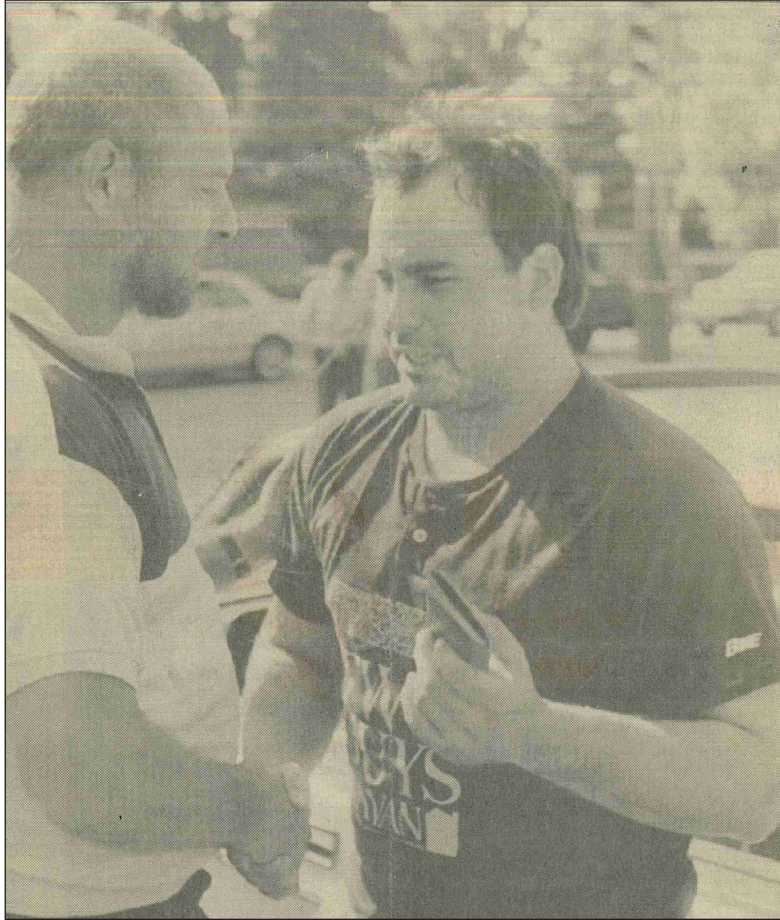
Despite having only one working leg, ship cargo checker Sansevere removed his prosthetic leg and entered the Hudson River in Hoboken, New Jersey, on July 9, 1950, after a longshoreman had fallen in. Pulling the man to the surface and holding him there, he waited for others on shore to lower a ladder and assist both men back onto the ship.

"In every sense of the word, you were a 'checker' who checked death!" the last line of the comic reads.

The bi-monthly series ceased publication in June 1955 after the release of Issue No. 97. ❀



## FROM THE ARCHIVES



*Gary F. Lamberty, left, and Russel V. Cera seen together after they both acted to halt a violent assailant who wielded a machete in 1991 on a city street in Racine, Wisconsin. The two men were recognized with the Carnegie Medal for their actions. Photo courtesy of the St. Paul Pioneer Press.*

## Two men subdue machete-wielding assailant

On June 3, 1991, in Racine, Wisconsin, a mother was crossing the street at a crosswalk with her two daughters, when they were hit by a truck driven by a violent 35-year-old man, who then fled the scene.

Racine police officer **Russel C. Cera**, 29, was off duty when he witnessed the incident and pursued the truck on foot to obtain its license plate number.

“I thought he was drunk and jumped out of my car to stop him from taking off,” Cera said in the Nov. 15, 1994 edition of the tabloid *Globe*.

“It sent a shiver down my spine.”

About five blocks from the scene of the hit-and-run, the truck driver accelerated and

struck a vehicle in front of him, which caused a chain reaction and a collision with two other vehicles.

The accident allowed Cera to catch up to the truck and he approached the driver’s door. The driver exited the vehicle and waved a machete in the air. Cera told him to drop the

weapon. The man moved toward Cera and chased him for a few feet before he returned to his truck.

An 80-year-old man whose vehicle was involved in the collision exited and approached the assailant, and the driver immediately attacked him, striking him with the machete at his head, shoulder, and back. When the innocent man attempted to cover his face with his arms, a slash from the machete severed tendons in his hand.

Seeing the attack, Cera ran toward the assailant and yelled at him again to stop and drop the machete. According to the investigation from Hero Fund Investigator Marlin Ross, the two men shared a brief dialogue.

When Cera told the assailant that police were on the way, the assailant responded, “I want the police!”

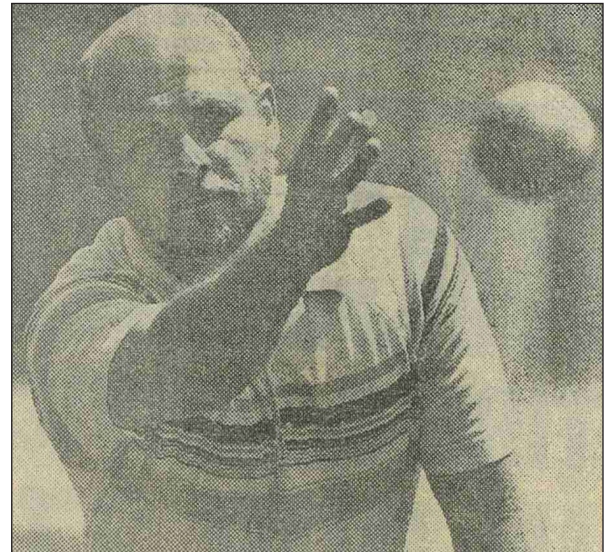
Cera ran back to his car and retrieved his badge. He showed it to the assailant and said, “Put down the knife! I’m a police officer!”

The assailant answered back, “Come here so I can kill you.”

Racine native and high school teacher **Gary F. Lamberty**, 41, arrived shortly after the crash with a friend. Lamberty’s friend aided the 80-year-old man and escorted him away to safety at Lamberty’s nearby apartment. ▶



FROM THE ARCHIVES



Left: Off-duty police officer Russel V. Cera witnessed an automobile hit a woman and her children. He pursued the driver, who wielded a machete, and helped subdue him. Right: Gary F. Lamberty also responded to the scene. He protected a woman attacked by the assailant and, later, tackled the man. Photos courtesy of the Journal Times.

The assailant continued to terrorize people in the vicinity of the collision. He approached the driver's door of another vehicle with a 47-year-old woman inside and struck the window with the handle of his weapon.

In an effort to distract him from the woman, Cera again ran toward the assailant and taunted him with shouts of, "Come and get me!"

The taunt briefly prompted a brief chase by the assailant, but he soon returned to the woman's vehicle. He smashed the glass and reached into the car where he struck the woman in the throat with the machete. The woman raised her arm to protect her face, and when the assailant swung again, he fractured her forearm and two bones

in her hand, along with severing two tendons.

A delivery truck driver was nearby when he drove his truck toward the assailant and pinned him against the



**When I went after him there was no doubt in my mind who was going down, and it wasn't going to be me.**

driver's side of the woman's car. The assailant ceased his attack on the woman.

Lamberty, at the time believing that the assailant had been subdued, left the immediate vicinity to tend the 80-year-old man's wounds. With his friend, Lamberty carried the man to a nearby fire station.

Meanwhile, Cera moved to subdue the assailant, but the crazed man freed himself and again chased Cera in an attempt to kill him, only abandoning the chase to attack another innocent bystander.

He approached a 39-year-old woman in the lot of a car dealer and struck her in the neck. She fell to the ground where the assailant continued to attack her.

Lamberty saw the assault while on his way to the fire station. He picked up a nearby branch, concealed it behind his back, and approached the assailant. The violent man slashed in the air at Lamberty, who moved to position himself between the assailant and the woman on the ground. Lamberty waited for a clear shot before he attempted to strike at the assailant.

Cera, who continued to taunt the man, and two firefighters approached, one armed with a hooked pole and the other with a fire extinguisher. The firefighter with the pole swung and missed. He swung again, but the assailant grabbed the pole and took possession of it. The extinguisher proved to be of little help, and both firemen fled back to the station.

After he gathered some rocks, Cera threw them at the assailant, hitting him in the back. The assailant pursued Cera to the lawn of the fire station, where Cera picked up a piece of brick, threw it at the assailant, and continued to run away.

He resumed his taunts and led the assailant into the intersection, where the assailant stopped.

Lamberty returned to his apartment to retrieve a broom handle when he saw the assailant standing in the intersection with his back turned to him, his focus on Cera. He approached the assailant from behind as the man attacked Cera with the hooked pole and struck his elbow.

"When I went after him there was no doubt in my mind who was going down, and it wasn't going to be me," Lamberty told the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*.

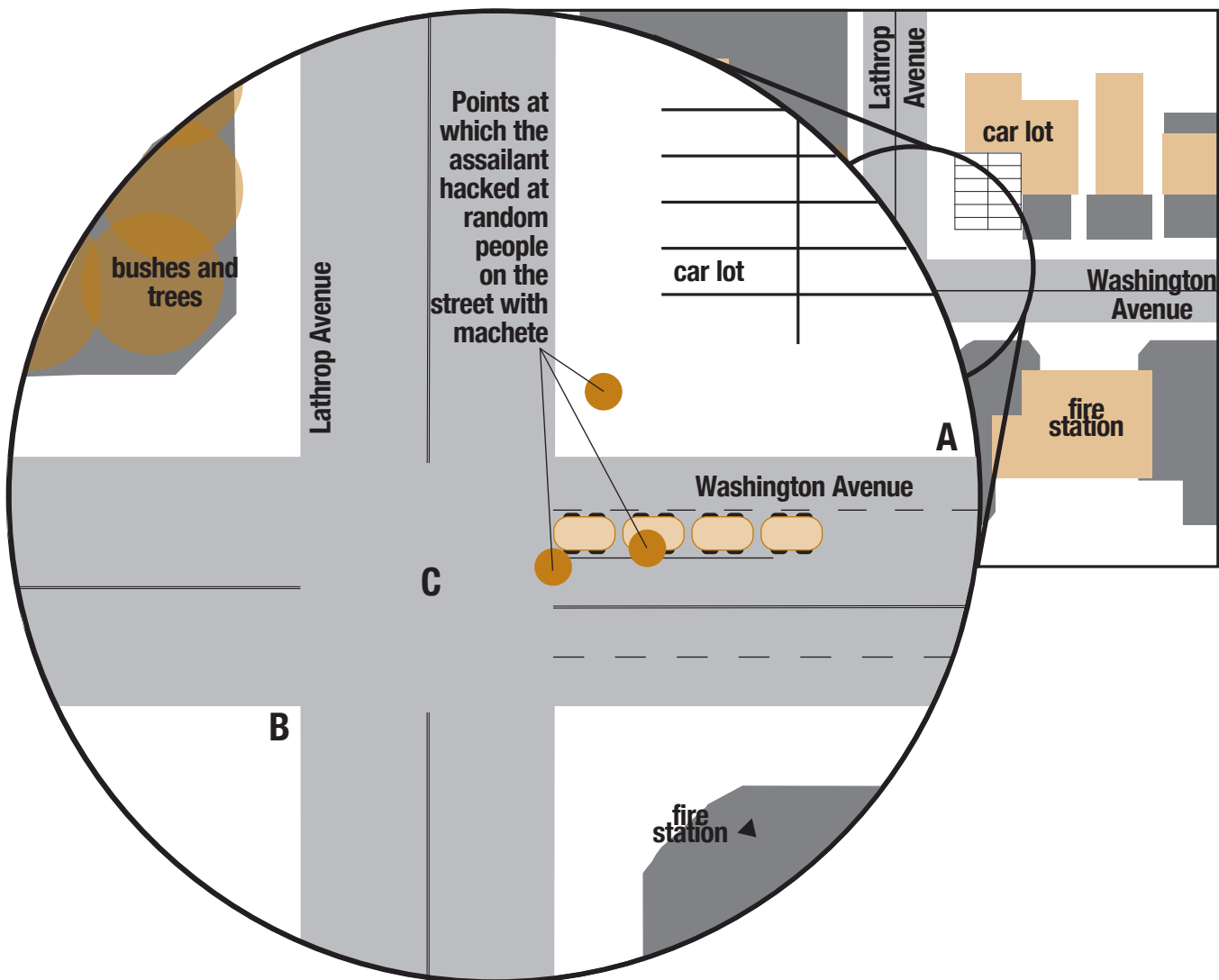
Lamberty grabbed the assailant from behind and took him to the pavement. Cera also jumped atop the assailant, along with a firefighter, a car salesman, and other men. They held the man down on the ground until police arrived.

"It felt like the whole city of Racine jumped on my back," said Lamberty.

In the aftermath of the incident, the man was later tried, convicted, and sentenced to life in prison.

While the mother and her two daughters were taken to a hospital after they were hit by the man's truck, they were not critically ▶

## FROM THE ARCHIVES



*A sketch of the scene that shows the points at which three random people were attacked by a man with a machete in Racine, Wisconsin, on June 3, 1991. Carnegie Hero Russell V. Cera approached the assailant at A, taunting him in an effort to keep him away from other victims. Carnegie Hero Gary F. Lamberty also approached the assailant and attempted to distract him away from another victim. The assailant was at C when Cera held his attention and allowed Lamberty to approach the assailant from behind and tackle him to the ground. Cera and others then rushed over to help Lamberty subdue the assailant.*

harmful, and recovered. Those attacked by the assailant following the collision, including the 80-year-old man, 47-year-old woman, and 39-year-old woman, sustained significant injuries that required recovery, but all survived.

Cera was treated at a hospital for a contusion and abrasion to his left arm. Lamberty was likewise examined and treated for lacerations and abrasions. Both men recovered.

Many witnesses were understandably shaken by the incident that occurred.

“It sent a shiver down my spine,” one witness told the *Journal Times*.

Following the incident and the stories that came out of the harrowing experience, both Cera and Lamberty were recognized by the Hero Fund for their heroism in June 1992.

Cera showed humility when asked about what he had done.

“I’m no hero,” Cera told *Journal Times*. “I’m one of those guys

that always wanted to be a police officer, and I probably would have chased the suspect even if I wasn’t on the force.”

Cera credited Lamberty for the actions he took to subdue the assailant.

“It was a nice tackle,” Cera said.

Lamberty was similarly humble about the role he played.

“What’s so heroic about getting someone from behind?” Lamberty said. “I had the opportunity to stop him and I did. I don’t see anything heroic about it.”

Lamberty lived to be 70 years old, dying on Sept. 2, 2020, in Mt. Pleasant, Wisconsin. He was described as loyal, honorable, generous, and a respected man. He is survived by his two daughters and his five grandchildren.

Cera still lives in the Racine area as a blue-collar worker. ☯

— Griffin Erdely, *Communications Assistant*



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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 death or serious injury to an extraordinary degree while saving or attempting to save the lives of others. • The Commission also provides financial assistance, such as scholarship aid and continuing grants to the heroes and 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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*It is everything to feel that you are useful.*

— Andrew Carnegie, *Gospel of Wealth* 1889

➤ CONTINUUM ➤

**GRAVE MARKERS** Bronze grave markers (below), cast in the likeness of the Carnegie Medal, are available at no cost to the families of recipients who have passed. They are designed for mounting on stone or bronze memorials.

**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.

**OBITUARIES** Written accounts of the recipient's life, such as contained in an obituary, are sought for addition to the awardee's page on the Commission's website.

**ANNUAL REPORTS** Copies of the Hero Fund's most recent annual reports (2021-2022) are available online or by contacting the Hero Fund.

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