



imPULSE

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FLORIDA OFFICER CITED FOR HOUSE-FIRE RESCUE

Proud father and grandfather Patrick J. Hopkins III of Jacksonville, Fla., says this photo of his son showing his Carnegie Medal to his own son “looks like a scene from a Norman Rockwell painting and speaks volumes about the good work your institution does for our communities.”

Patrick J. Hopkins IV of Newberry, Fla., an officer with the Gainesville (Fla.) Police Department, was awarded the medal last September by the Hero Fund, and it was formally presented to him at the department’s biannual awards ceremony in January. Representing the Hero Fund was awardee **Mark C. Moore** of Tallahassee, Fla., a physician who received his Carnegie Medal in 2009 for helping to rescue an elderly couple from their burning car after a broadside collision in Tallahassee. Moore told those at the Gainesville ceremony that “police officers and doctors share a lot of things: stress, paperwork, and saving lives.”

The photo was taken by Brad McClenny of *The Gainesville Sun* and is used here with permission. “I had a feeling (Patrick’s son, Patrick J. Hopkins V) might have a cute reaction when Patrick showed him the medal,” McClenny said.

Hopkins’s heroic actions took place in the early hours of June 26, 2015, when he and other officers responded to a house fire in Gainesville. Arriving before firefighters, they found that a one-story, wood-frame house was virtually engulfed by flames, and, outside, a woman was screaming

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Competing on ‘American Ninja Warrior,’ awardee uses medal to keep perspective

When NBC producers asked **Robin DeHaven**—who was interviewing for a spot on the hit television show *American Ninja Warrior*—if he had ever been called a hero, he smiled.

“Actually, yes,” he said, referring to the Carnegie Medal that he received in 2012 after rescuing six people from the second floor of a burning office building that had been struck by an airplane. In March, DeHaven, of Round Rock, Texas, competed in a regional qualifier for the ninth season of the sports competition show, where participants attempt to complete a series of physical obstacles that test strength, balance, flexibility, and speed.

The season premiere will air on June 12, with DeHaven’s arm of the competition, filmed in San Antonio, Texas, slated for June 19. He is not allowed to reveal his results before then. “The first time I saw the show it looked like the competitors were playing on an adult-sized playground,” DeHaven said. “It looked so fun. Like recess in elementary school. I knew I wanted to do that.”

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Carnegie hero Robin DeHaven at start of American Ninja Warrior competition in March



BOARD NOTES

'HOMESTEAD QUESTION' LINGERS, BUT IS APART FROM CARNEGIE'S PHILANTHROPY

By Mark Laskow, Chair
Carnegie Hero Fund Commission



"So, you're from Pittsburgh. What do you think about Andrew Carnegie and the Homestead Strike?"

Andrew Carnegie created and endowed about 21 organizations in North America and Europe that survive today, more than a century later. When these organizations

gather to discuss mutual interests, often in New York or Edinburgh, and the work is done, the people involved usually socialize and "talk shop." Given the nature of their business, "shop talk" usually means talking about all things Andrew Carnegie. And during that talk, someone will occasionally turn to a Pittsburgher and ask The Question. The people asking The Question have read the biographies. What they want is the "word on the street" in the 'Burgh. The inside story.

You might wonder why Pittsburghers would even have an opinion 125 years later. Well, you might just as well ask why Carnegie organization professionals and volunteers would still be asking The Question 125 years later. But Pittsburghers do have opinions, and until fairly recently it was a topic that could generate some conversational heat. From my experience, this only faded when the collapse of the steel industry was nearly complete and the United Steel Workers had become a shadow of its former self. Until then, an article in the local paper on Carnegie philanthropy could well draw a letter to the editor recalling the Homestead Strike. This has mellowed since, but I could still take you to a bar or two where we could get an argument going over the strike. Even this will pass soon enough, as boilermakers (that's a shot-and-a-beer for you foreigners) give way to microbrews and craft whiskey. But, hey, a nice triple IPA chasing a microbatch whiskey will prepare you to discuss The Question as quickly as the classic Iron and Imperial.

On the management side, passions are muted, discussions take place over cocktails, and the focus is less on labor-vs.-management than on Carnegie-vs.-Frick. While there are, to my knowledge, no direct descendants of either living in Pittsburgh, there are other relatives, and people here know direct descendants living elsewhere. For example, my wife is a great-great-grandniece (or something like that) of Frick's wife, Adelaide Childs. (Some of Frick's direct descendants carry "Childs" as a middle name.)

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'American Ninja Warrior'

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Although he has trained for the show for the last four years, it was the life-or-death situation for which he was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 2012 that helped keep him grounded throughout rigorous training, he said. On Feb. 18, 2010, DeHaven, then 28 and working as a glazier, was driving in Austin, Texas, when he saw the single-engine plane descending from the sky. Tracing the smoke, he drove to the scene, where the pilot had intentionally crashed the plane into a four-story office building, killing himself and a man inside the building. Six people on the second floor were trapped by heavy smoke and fire and shouted for help from broken-out windows.

DeHaven took a 17-foot extension ladder from his truck, climbed it to the second story, and entered the burning building to clear glass from a window. He then stepped to an outside ledge and aided the six coworkers, one at a time, onto the ladder, where they descended to safety, before he also climbed down. He suffered smoke inhalation and minor cuts, but he recovered. "My life didn't really change after the plane crash," DeHaven said. "I was in the right place at the right time, and I'm glad I could react when the time called for it."

But, DeHaven said, the Carnegie Medal serves as a reminder to keep things in perspective. "This competition is supposed to be fun, and when I find myself getting discouraged, I can remember I've been very close to real danger. I can do great things. I can make a difference. I have made a difference."

DeHaven had applied to the show twice previously before getting selected to compete. He said he was walking on the treadmill when he got the call that he had been selected. "I didn't have the over-the-top reaction I expected. Most are screaming and jumping up and down," DeHaven said. "Not me. I almost started crying. I was fighting back tears."

DeHaven coined the name, "Hero Ninja," for his Warrior alter ego and wore his Carnegie Medal to the starting platform of the obstacle course before beginning the competition.



DeHaven used the tools of his trade on Feb. 18, 2010, when he rescued six office workers from the second floor of their burning building in Austin, Texas.

Show producers select applicants based on video submissions, and those selected go on to compete in regional qualifiers and then city finals. The top 15 finishers from each city move on to compete in the four-stage national finals course in Las Vegas. When looking through submission tapes, producers look for people who have a great story, said Brain Richardson, an executive producer for the show. "Most of the people who apply are elite-level athletes, but what made Robin stand out is that he had good appeal," Richardson said. "He's already a hero, recognized by a national hero organization, and he also is an Army veteran. He has a lot going on."

DeHaven said that he's already begun training for the next season of the show and is looking forward to competing again. "Everyone was very encouraging. It's the greatest community of people I've been around in sports, and I can't wait to keep coming back," he said. "It's us against the obstacles, not us against each other, and it feels like everyone is helping to spread positivity in the world, sort of like the winners of the Carnegie Medal. It's a group of people working to show that we can do amazing things."

To learn more about DeHaven the Hero Ninja, see his Facebook page, facebook.com/heroninja. —Jewels Phraner, Case Investigator/Social Media Coordinator

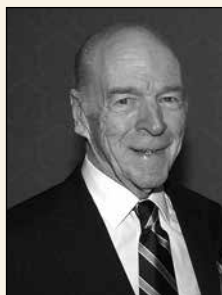
❖ FRIENDS REMEMBERED ❖



Mr. Guy

Ross G. Guy, 67, of Riverside, Calif., died Jan. 14. Guy was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 2003 for his actions of Jan. 10, 2002, by which he helped to save a man from a burning car after an accident in Moreno Valley, Calif. Then 52, Guy drove upon the scene and helped two other motorists remove the man from the car, which was destroyed in the accident and fire. Guy sustained smoke inhalation and cuts, but he recovered. Guy was a veteran of the U.S. Marines, having served in Vietnam as a helicopter door gunner. "Many children look up to their father as a hero," his obituary read. "We have proof!"

Henry L. Hillman, 98, of Pittsburgh died April 14. He was a former member of the Commission, having been elected in 1951 and remaining on the board for 24 years. Hillman and his late wife, Elsie, had a long history of service to the Pittsburgh region, serving on numerous public and private organizations, and will be remembered for their extraordinary generosity. Their benefactions include the Hillman Hall of Minerals and Gems at the Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, and in 2008 the foundation bearing the Hillman name gave \$10 million to Carnegie Mellon University for the Hillman Center for Future-Generation Technologies. From an editorial in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* on Hillman's passing: "In philanthropy, the Hillmans were the embodiment of donors who did more than write checks. They gave their time, energy and spirit to causes large and small."



Mr. Hillman



Mr. Markowitz

Jack Markowitz, 85, of Pittsburgh died April 4. He was a friend of the Commission, having written *A Walk on the Crust of Hell* (The Stephen Greene Press, Brattleboro, Vt., 1973), an anthology of accounts of the heroic acts of awardees of the Carnegie Medal. Markowitz, then the business editor of *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, took the title of his book from the case of **Joseph C. Wiest**, who was awarded the medal in 1971 for carrying a stricken steel worker to safety across the crust of hot slag. Markowitz writes in the book's introduction: "If there be, in this world of forms, documents, and filing cabinets, any sort of official report worthy of regard as a literary form unto itself, it must be

a Carnegie Hero Fund field report. Some I have consulted run to a dozen or more legal-sized, single-spaced pages: great, grey regions of tightly packed words, names, and numbers—but how the suspense builds and the drama leaps from those heavily-laden pages of fact after fact after fact!"

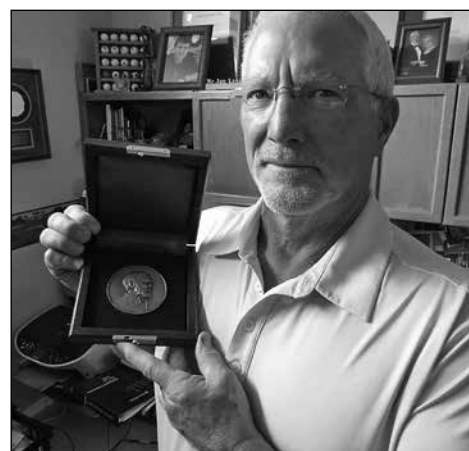


Mrs. McDaniel

Mary Laverne McDaniel, 89, of Longview, Texas, died March 21. She was the widow of Carnegie Medal awardee **James Young McDaniel**, who was fatally wounded while struggling with a gunman in the foyer of a church in Daingerfield, Texas, during morning worship on June 22, 1980. Four others were killed, and 10 were wounded by gunfire, including Mrs. McDaniel. The Hero Fund resumed a relationship with her in 2006, providing a monthly grant, to help with living expenses, that extended to the time of her passing.

Robert D. Reinhart, Jr., 61, of East Petersburg, Pa., died Feb. 19. He was awarded the medal in 1997 for rescuing a woman from a man who was stabbing her in the lobby of a building in Lancaster, Pa., on Feb. 27, 1996. Reinhart, then 40, stopped the attack, allowing the woman to flee, but the assailant broke free of Reinhart, chased after her, and resumed his assault. Reinhart again intervened, taking the assailant to the pavement and helping to subdue him until police arrived. The medal "has made me proud," Reinhart wrote on receiving it, "and has helped others see that getting involved is the right thing to do."

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Mr. Lane

CARNEGIE HERO CITED FOR MAKING 'POSITIVE IMPACT'

The American Association of Community Colleges honors outstanding community college alumni who have made a positive impact on their communities, the nation, and the world, and 1997 Carnegie Medal awardee **Jonathan Mark Lane** is one of this year's honorees. Lane was cited at the association's annual convention in late April in New Orleans, La., that was addressed by Jenna Bush Hager, television correspondent and daughter of former President George W. Bush and Laura Bush.

Lane, an alumnus of Big Bend Community College, Moses Lake, Wash., was a middle school teacher and wrestling coach when in 1996 he found himself facing down a 14-year-old student armed with a hunting rifle. The boy had shot and killed a teacher and two other students and was holding others at gunpoint in a classroom. Hearing the shots, Lane, then 48, responded to the room, where he secured the release of five students. He then charged the assailant and pinned him to the wall, allowing police to apprehend him.

In addition to the Carnegie Medal, Lane received the Rotary International Paul Harris Award and several others in recognition of his heroic actions. He was invited to testify before a committee at the U.S. House of Representatives regarding school shootings, and he appeared in a made-for-television show, *A Hero's Welcome*, that aired in 2006.

Lane continued to be an educator, serving as a principal before entering public service. He served on the Moses Lake City Council for 11 years and was elected mayor in 2010. He has served as a trustee at Big Bend Community College and established the Lane Family Scholarship fund at the college to support low-income students. Currently Lane is president of the Washington State Association of College Trustees.

In other honors, Nancy L. Rackoff, a member of the Hero Fund's board since 2002, was recognized

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BOARD NOTES

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At Christmas and Easter, my father-in-law received flowers from Frick's daughter, Helen, until her death in 1984. On the Carnegie side, Andrew Carnegie's great-granddaughter Linda Hills serves on the Commission and has made many friends in Pittsburgh.

My own point of view is different. I grew up in Philadelphia and moved to Pittsburgh only 46 years ago, but my mother was born and grew up in Swissvale, directly across the Monongahela River from the Homestead Works. My ancestors were working-class Polish, German, and Scots Irish. If I had been a young man among them in 1892, I might well have been working at Homestead. As it was, I began my legal career with the law firm whose founders, Philander Chase Knox and James Reed, were counselors to Carnegie and Frick during their good times and their breakup.

So we still feel the echoes of both men's lives in Pittsburgh, especially since Carnegie and Frick both left vibrant and influential institutions here. But what about The Question itself? My answer is that Andrew Carnegie essentially invented the mass-production steel industry in the United States. It was new, and there was no established template on which he could rely. There were missteps and wrong turns, and Homestead was one of them. The unions themselves were in the same position. They had begun as craft-oriented associations of skilled workers at much smaller enterprises. They had yet to develop methods of organizing and representing both skilled artisans and less specialized industrial workers. Most of all, they had yet to shape tools to deal effectively with Carnegie-scale industrial enterprises.

The strike was devastating for the union. While it may have been a business success for the company, Andrew Carnegie does not seem to have regarded it as a personal success for him. The strike and its aftermath were certainly a factor in the breakup of his partnership with Frick, but not the only factor. There were unsustainable economic conflicts in their "Iron Clad Agreement" that were sure to cause trouble on their own.

As for the relative responsibility of Carnegie and Frick, I think it is clear they share it. Frick was undoubtedly the hands-on manager who handled the run-up to the strike with the attendant disastrous consequences. Carnegie was not hands-on, and his role in the Homestead planning was disputed between the two. But Carnegie had ultimate control and could have exercised it if he wished.

What does the Homestead Strike mean for Carnegie's philanthropy? Far less than anyone thought, it turns out. It had been popular in some circles to dismiss his philanthropy as mere atonement for Homestead. That notion was dealt with decisively in 2006 when biographer David Nasaw revealed Carnegie's signed prenuptial agreement with Louise Whitfield, in which he described his intention to give his fortune to charity.

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Carnegie Medal awardee Donald W. Usher, second from right on stage, took part in a panel discussion on the rescue of survivors of the Air Florida Flight 90 crash in 1982. The discussion was part of a series by the National Law Enforcement Museum, Washington, D.C., which provided the photo as a courtesy.

Carnegie hero is 'witness to history' as rescuer of Air Florida crash survivors

Thirty-five years after the dramatic rescue of survivors of a jet that crashed into the Potomac River in Washington, D.C., one of the four men each awarded the Carnegie Medal for his heroic role participated in a panel discussion on the tragedy in January. *Eagle One: Rescue and Recovery of Air Florida Flight 90* was the latest installment in the National Law Enforcement Museum's "Witness to History" discussion series.

Participants on the panel were retired U.S. Park Police Pilot **Donald W. Usher**, who was awarded the medal; Eric Witzig, retired detective from Metropolitan Police Department of Washington, D.C., and Chester Panzer, the only news cameraman to capture the rescue. Craig W. Floyd, the museum's president, welcomed the 200 guests to the discussion.

The nation's capital was covered in snow on the afternoon of Jan. 13, 1982, when Air Florida Flight 90 took off from Washington National Airport (now Reagan National) and crashed into the nearby 14th Street Bridge, landing in the icy Potomac River. The impact killed four motorists and 73 of the 79 passengers and crewmembers aboard the aircraft. The survivors dog-paddled in the icy water awaiting rescue, which came from Eagle One, the U.S. Park Police Bell helicopter that was piloted by Usher, then 31, with **Melvin E. "Gene" Windsor**, 41, aboard as rescue technician.

The federal government had closed early that day, and as commuters made their way over the bridges, the U.S. Park Police received a call from flight control at the airport about a missing aircraft. Usher recalled, "We got the call, 'I know this sounds weird, but are you guys available to fly?' The easy answer would have been, 'we're unavailable, due to the weather,' but that wasn't going to happen." The snow and wind were so severe they needed a plow to get to the helicopter, which they immediately flew to the crash site.

Panzer was sitting in traffic on another bridge up the river when he received the call from his news station that a plane had gone down in the Potomac. He made his way to the site and started shooting video of the victims being pulled from the river

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Carnegie hero is 'witness to history'

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The four men each awarded the Carnegie Medal for his role in the rescue of survivors of the Air Florida crash reunited for the first time in 2004. From left: Donald W. Usher, M. L. "Lenny" Skutnik III, Melvin E. "Gene" Windsor, and Roger W. Olian. The 14th Street Bridge is in the background.

me," Usher said, "which I fixed rapidly after that."

Witzig spoke about the lack of communication options between the responding agencies. "Communications are better today than they were 35 years ago, however, they are not as good as they could be," he said. "We made the recommendation 35 years ago that I should be able to talk to [Usher]. That's two different departments, two different functions, but I needed to communicate with him and couldn't do it."

The metropolitan police were in charge of the recovery of the passengers' bodies, which spanned 11 days. "You can imagine how hard it was for the diver to find people," Witzig said, "but everyone was found." It was exceptionally emotional when he mentioned that a survivor's 18-month-old baby was the last body to be pulled from the wreckage.

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Carnegie Medal awardee Melvin E. "Gene" Windsor balanced, untethered, on a skid of the U.S. Park Police helicopter used in the rescue of survivors. Photo by Chester Panzer.

by the helicopter. "We stayed out of the way and blended in... We certainly didn't want to get in the way of saving lives."

The audience watched Panzer's footage of the incident, including rescues of the survivors by Usher and Windsor. At one point in the video, the helicopter's skid is shown briefly submerged in the water while a survivor was being extracted, a dangerous move. "I actually didn't know the skids were in the water until Gene told

OVERHEARD

The thought of not helping never crossed my mind—Alex Lacy, Carnegie Medal nominee #88832, who helped to save children from drowning at a swimming hole.

It always seems that people's true colors show when they don't have time to think about it.—

Jonathan Cannon, writing in the *Herald Democrat* of Sherman, Texas, on receiving a copy of the Hero Fund's 2015-2016 annual reports.

Only John Hollyfield bolted forward without hesitation, like he'd been electrocuted.—Witness to Hollyfield, Carnegie Medal nominee #88656, pulling a small girl from the path of a falling tree limb.

After the impact, it took a second to realize I was still alive.—**Stephanie Melinda Marino**, Carnegie Medal nominee #88362, who pulled a man away from a car that was then struck by a train.

Every chance you get to impact someone's life and do something positive, you should rise to the occasion. It might be scary, but it just might be a great thing.—**Jacob R. Ellis**, Carnegie Medal nominee #88664, who helped to save a couple from their burning vehicle.

He didn't put his name on many things. But his fingerprints are all over this region.—Patrick D. Gallagher, University of Pittsburgh chancellor, on the late Pittsburgh philanthropist **Henry L. Hillman**, who was a former member of the Commission. (See *Friends Remembered*, page 3.)

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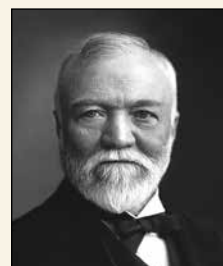
BOARD NOTES

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Carnegie signed the agreement in 1887, five years before the Homestead Strike.

Andrew Carnegie was a complicated man, and the work of his life is very much the product of his personal growth and development. He worked, learned, struggled, stumbled, and eventually triumphed, all on a scale few can imagine. Then, at the end of it all, through his philanthropy he transformed his personal triumph to public gain.

We don't need to ignore the struggles and stumbles to appreciate the magnificence of what he made from it all.



Mr. Carnegie



Mr. Frick



LATEST MEDAL OF PHILANTHROPY AWARDEES TO BE NAMED IN JUNE

The Carnegie Corporation of New York has announced that the ninth biennial awarding of the Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy will be held on Oct. 3 in New York. Inaugurated in 2001 to mark the centennial of Andrew Carnegie's philanthropies, the medal is awarded to those who emulate him by giving of their private wealth for the common good.

The eight recipients of this year's medal have been chosen by a selection committee and will be announced during a public forum in June highlighting the role of philanthropy in the new political climate. Past awardees of the medal include Michael R. Bloomberg, Ted Turner, George Soros, and the Gates, Rockefeller, Heinz, Tata, Mellon, Hewlett, Packard, and Cadbury families.

Representatives of the 20-plus institutions founded by Carnegie, including the nine extant hero funds, will have an informal "business meeting" during the two-day event, which will include the award ceremony in the Celeste Bartos Forum of the New York Public Library and a reception at the Carnegie Corporation's offices on Madison Avenue. Representatives of the hero funds, which have formed the Carnegie Hero Funds World Committee, will gather separately.



100 years later, posthumous awardee is still a hero in Seneca Falls, N.Y.

One hundred years ago in April, **Antonio Varacalli** gave his life while saving a woman from drowning in Seneca Falls, and the residents of this upstate New York town have not forgotten him. Nor are they likely to: A bronze plaque placed at the site of Varacalli's death pledges: "He honored the community. The community honors him."



Participants in "Antonio Varacalli Day" in Seneca Falls, N.Y., on April 8.

In recent years, the community has observed "Antonio Varacalli Day" in the springtime not only to recall Varacalli's heroic act, for which he was awarded the Carnegie Medal, but to celebrate its contemporary heroes. This year the event marked the centennial anniversary of Varacalli's death and included giving awards to community "angels," whose outstanding service embodied his spirit.

Students wrote essays on heroes, bells were rung, local history was recited, and songs from the 1917 era were sung.

The Hero Fund participated by sending greetings: *We heartily commend you for your efforts in both honoring Antonio Varacalli's heroic act and nurturing the spirit that prompted it. It is fitting that on the 100th anniversary of what could have been an obscure footnote in your local history you have chosen to attach to it a broader significance, that of stressing altruistic behavior. The concept, already represented by the selflessness of others in your community, is a hallmark of any civilized society.*

Not all of us will be called to face extreme danger in our efforts to help others—as Antonio Varacalli did—but each of us has the moral imperative to give of ourselves to help or guide others, and opportunities to do so present themselves daily. Recognizing that is indicative of the strength of your community, and we salute you for it. Please accept our congratulations and every best wish for the success of your endeavors, on Antonio Varacalli Day and always.

Varacalli, 20, an Italian immigrant, was living in Seneca Falls and on the morning of April 12, 1917, was laboring on the bank of the Cayuga and Seneca Barge Canal when a despondent young woman dropped from the nearby "Bridge Street Bridge" into the canal. Varacalli waded and swam to her and then towed her toward the bank, shoving her to another man who had waded out. That man took the victim to safety, but Varacalli sank and drowned. The woman was unconscious but was revived.

It's said that in 1945, Hollywood director Frank Capra, himself an Italian immigrant, stopped in Seneca Falls for a haircut while in the area visiting relatives. A year later, his classic holiday film, *It's a Wonderful Life*, was released. The movie's pivotal scene is the rescue of a man who jumps from a steel-truss bridge in a fictional upstate New York town called Bedford Falls. The man who jumps is an angel named Clarence who had been dispatched to look over the story's main character, George Bailey, played by Jimmy Stewart. Despondent himself, Bailey had been on the bridge contemplating suicide when Clarence intervened, and Bailey jumps into the water to save him, thereby commencing his redemption.

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CARNEGIE HERO CITED

(continued from page 3)

by the YWCA of Greater Pittsburgh this spring by being given its 35th annual Tribute to Women Leadership award. Rackoff, who was named the Commission's vice chair in 2016, was cited in the business and professional services category for



Ms. Rackoff

her work in advancing initiatives to improve women's heart health, train family caregivers, and champion campus awareness of sexual assault. Rackoff is an attorney with Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott LLC, Pittsburgh.

FRIENDS REMEMBERED

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Raymond L. Robinson, 50, of Chicago, Ill., died Feb. 22. He was a recent awardee of the medal, having received it last August in recognition of his heroic actions of Feb. 14, 2015. Robinson was an assistant manager of a drug store in Chicago when he and another man teamed up to rescue two city police officers who were struggling to arrest a suspected shoplifter in the parking lot. The struggle took the three men to the pavement, where the suspect gained control of one of the officers' guns and fired it. Robinson and the other man intervened, Robinson freeing the gun from the assailant's grasp. Robinson fractured a rib and sprained a knee during the rescue, and he recovered.

*Mr. Robinson*


James R. Ussery, Jr., 69, of Havelock, N.C., died Feb. 15. "Bob" was awarded the medal in 1982 to cite his actions of Aug. 15, 1981, by which he helped to save a 9-year-old boy from drowning in the Atlantic Ocean at Atlantic Beach, N.C. Ussery, then a carpenter, 34, was fishing from a pier at the scene when he saw that the boy was being swept from shore by a current. Ussery jumped feet first from the pier into the water and, despite incurring disabling injuries to his legs from hitting the ocean floor, managed to secure the boy and hold him to a piling until both could be rescued. Ussery required lengthy hospitalization and numerous surgeries on his legs. Up to the time of his passing he was given a monthly grant by the Hero Fund to help with the cost of living.

*Mr. Young*

David Anderson Young, 70, of Murrayville, Ga., died Dec. 31. He was awarded the medal in 1967 for attempting to save three Boy Scouts and their leader after leaked gasoline fumes exploded in the cave they were exploring in Trenton, Ga., on April 16, 1966. Then a 19-year-old college student, Young was exploring another cave in the vicinity when he learned of the accident. He and others entered the stricken cave, and while engaged in rescue efforts, Young became nauseated and lost consciousness. He was taken from the cave and recovered after hospital treatment. The scouts were rescued later, their leader dying in the accident. Young continued caving and in 1982 was part of the team that set a rappelling world record on Mount Thor, Baffin Island, Canada.

15:13

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In addition to the Varacalli rescue, other similarities—from architecture to street and family names—have the people of Seneca Falls believing that their town influenced Capra in the making of his film. Each December they hold an "It's a Wonderful Life" celebration of the town's connections to the beloved Christmas classic film. 



15:13 calls to mind those in the Hero Fund's 113-year history whose lives were sacrificed in the performance of their heroic acts. The name identifies the 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 9,934 medal awardees to date, 2,026, or 20% of the total, were recognized posthumously. ***They are not forgotten.***

FLORIDA OFFICER CITED

(continued from cover)

for her baby. Blocked by flames from entering the house through the living room, the officers went to a bedroom window on a side of the house and broke it out. Heavy smoke spilled through the window, and Hopkins, 26, heard a cough from inside the room.

Boosted by his patrol partner, Hopkins climbed through the window into the room. The dense smoke limited his visibility to a few inches, rendering his flashlight useless, and made it nearly impossible to breathe. There were no flames in the bedroom, but, according to investigators, the fire had reached the other side of its closed door. Hopkins's partner had been holding him by his belt, but the hold was lost when Hopkins went farther into the room. Hearing another cough, he rolled across a bed toward the far side of the room and on the floor found the "baby," who turned out to be a 30-year-old woman who outweighed him.

The woman was unconscious. Hopkins grasped her and pulled her onto the bed and then across it toward the window. He stuck his head out of the window for fresh air, but the dense smoke impeded that effort. Hopkins then maneuvered the limp woman head first through the window to other officers, who took her to the ground. Hopkins immediately followed, diving head first into the arms of his partner. Both Hopkins and the woman were treated at the scene and then taken to the hospital, where Hopkins received further treatment for smoke inhalation and numerous cuts. He recovered.

Although Hopkins responded to the scene as a police officer, the Hero Fund agreed with his department that his actions in behalf of the woman clearly exceeded the line of duty.

The officers' response did not stop with the woman's rescue. Since her family's residence was a total loss, Hopkins and his partner collected household furnishings and supplies from other officers and department employees and delivered them on their day off.

*Burned-out remains after Gainesville house fire*



HEROES' EXPERIENCES SURPRISE BIOLOGIST

By Alexis Chaine, Ph.D.
National Center for Scientific Research
Moulis, France

It has been nearly a year since I embarked on a project to understand the biological basis of heroism by engaging willing recipients of the Carnegie Medal (see June 2016 issue of *impULSE*, No. 46). The big surprise to me has not been the biology (yet), but rather the heroes' personal stories.

Some of the awardees responded by email to the invitation to participate in the study, but many more have called, which has given me the good fortune of personally interacting with a wide variety of Carnegie heroes. These conversations are important because I am asking people who volunteer for the project to feel that they can trust me and be free to ask anything about it.

Still, the early calls pushed me out of my comfort zone. I'm a biologist. I'm more comfortable in the lab, chasing birds, or crunching numbers in front of my computer than I am with talking to people I don't know about their very personal experiences. So it was with a bit of nervous energy that I undertook my first discussions with the medal awardees. Some of the conversations lasted a few minutes, but others have gone up to a full hour. We talk about the project, their experiences, and the aftermath of their heroic acts. Some get emotional and shed tears while they recount their stories, and I admit that sometimes I have quietly joined them. All conversations have ended with me gaining a deep appreciation for each person's experience.

My nervousness in the first calls was that I might refresh old emotions that the heroes would prefer to forget. Hadn't they given enough the first time around? I was naïve to think that I was the first to ask them for details. It turns out that most were willing—even *needed*—to tell their story. For some, the heroic act didn't seem like such a big deal, and for others, it was a very emotional event. Even those who suffered deeply seemed to find a form of therapy in talking about their actions. In fact, quite a few said that talking about their experience was really important to others who shared in it, and in some cases, the shared experience led to a deep bond or friendship with the person they rescued or with others who were present. As Commission Chair Mark Laskow said in the March 2017 issue of *impULSE*, sharing these stories provides optimism and community—something the awardees I talked to seemed to intuit. By openly sharing their experiences, a great many of these heroes keep giving.

While each of the heroes' experiences was unique, it struck me that there is a common thread to many of the conversations. I read the summaries provided by the Hero Fund before calling the study participants, and my conclusion in each case is that the person's action really is heroic. However, one thing that

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Aspects of Carnegie's legacy unite at hero's recent medal presentation

All things "Carnegie" came together this spring when **Nathan Ryan Reynolds** was presented his Carnegie Medal in Carnegie Hall on the campus of Pomona College, Claremont, Calif., by one of Carnegie's great-grandchildren, Linda Thorell Hills, a member of the Hero Fund's board. The event took place on April 22, which happened to be the 130th wedding anniversary of Andrew and Louise Whitfield Carnegie.



Nathan Ryan Reynolds receives his Carnegie Medal from Hero Fund board member Linda Thorell Hills.

Regarding his own heroic actions, Reynolds said, "We were all very lucky that day. I'm very fortunate that everything turned out the way it did and that everyone was OK."

The venue was a natural, as Reynolds is a resident of Claremont and Hills is a graduate of Pomona. The hall was originally a library, funded in 1905 by Carnegie, one of only two academic libraries in California given by him. The building now houses social services offices and classrooms.

It was a special day for Reynolds, whose award was announced in December. He and his family and friends gathered in a classroom for the presentation by Hills, who was accompanied by her son, Scott, one of the donor's 32 "great-greats." Reynolds later noted that there were "several teary eyes in the audience," as the Hero Fund's accompanying video highlighted the "gravity of the (heroic) acts."

Reynolds's heroism took place on Jan. 20, 2015, in Marina, Calif., where he was working as a hydrogeologist. Then 35, he witnessed a sedan driven by a 75-year-old woman enter a retention pond and begin to sink nose-first in the cold, murky water. The woman's 9-year-old great-granddaughter was in the backseat, and neither could swim.

Reynolds immediately ran to the bank, kicked off his boots, and entered the 6-foot-deep pond, despite signs on its bank warning, "high bacteria count, no water contact." He waded and swam 45 feet to the middle of the pond, reaching the driver's door of the car, and instructed the woman to roll down her window. When she did so, the young girl moved to the front seat, and Reynolds

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Andrew and Louise Whitfield Carnegie in undated photo.

Aspects of Carnegie's legacy

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Carnegie Hall, on the campus of Pomona College, Claremont, Calif., was built in 1905 in the Classical Revival temple style. A 1999 renovation returned much of its interior grandeur and enhanced its imposing exterior.

driver, Reynolds started toward the closer bank, progressing with difficulty and submerging. Police officers arriving about then aided the woman from the water, Reynolds following, nearly exhausted.

Hills, of Littleton, Colo., commented on Reynolds to a reporter: "Some of our species are imbued with this ability to act with no notice at all and be able to save someone, and Nathan, he clearly is delightful."

She said that the presentation was also special for her, since it took place on her great-grandparents' wedding anniversary. The couple were married Friday evening, April 22, 1887, at Louise Whitfield's family home in Manhattan in a simple ceremony with no bridesmaids and no best man present, according to Carnegie biographer David Nasaw. Afterwards, the couple went to a steamer pier in Hoboken, N.J., from which they set sail for Southampton, England, on their honeymoon.


The day is especially significant in understanding Carnegie's philanthropy. Nasaw writes in *Andrew Carnegie* (The Penguin Press, New York, 2006): "Just moments before they exchanged their vows, Andrew and Louise repaired to the second-floor sitting room of the Whitfield house to sign their 'prenuptial agreement.' In return for an annual income of \$20,000 (more than \$3 million today), Louise gave up her rights to her husband's estate." Nasaw reports (p. 297) that the agreement declared that Carnegie "desires and intends to devote the bulk of his estate to charitable and educational purposes, and said Louise Whitfield sympathizes and agrees with him in said desire, and fully approves of said intention."

"Her husband was going to give away his fortune during his lifetime," Nasaw writes, "and she was going to help him." (See *Board Notes*, page 2.)

Carnegie hero is 'witness to history'

(continued from page 5)

Special recognition was given to Arland D. Williams, Jr., who survived the crash but was trapped in the wreckage. Williams continually passed the rescue rope to other survivors. The rebuilt portion of the 14th Street Bridge was renamed in his memory.

In addition to Usher, Carnegie Medals were awarded to Windsor; **Roger W. Olian**, 34, a commuter who entered the river in an attempt to reach the survivors; and **M. L. "Lenny" Skutnik III**, 28, who plunged into the river to aid one of the victims being towed toward the bank by Usher and Windsor. Eagle One, the helicopter used in the rescue, will be on permanent display at the National Law Enforcement Museum when it opens in 2018. 

helped her through the window and positioned her onto his back. He swam her to the bank and then returned to the car, which was continuing to submerge as it drifted toward the opposite bank. Securing a hold of the




Dr. Chaine and subject

HEROES' EXPERIENCES

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nearly every awardee tells me is that anyone else would have done the same thing if given the chance; the awardees don't think of themselves as heroes. But are they right? Would anyone else do the same things they did? On the best of days I flatter myself with the thought that I would jump in and help, but if I'm honest, I have to admit that I just don't know what I would do. Wanting to do something is quite different from acting when a split-second decision is important. Most of the heroes are skeptical when I tell them this, but they acknowledge that not everyone around responded as quickly as they did. Maybe this is what makes heroes unique: Might they respond more quickly than others?

The other big surprise in a number of the conversations has been the heroes remarking that they have family members who have been given an award (such as a medal of valor, a governor's medal, or even the Carnegie Medal) for helping those in distress. Quite a few had not thought much of this until they received the Hero Fund's letter about my project and wondered a bit about genes. Stories of a family member's heroic act could make another person more likely to help when the occasion arises, and this is interesting from a social perspective (the stories spread goodwill, as Laskow pointed out), but it can also confuse or hide a possible genetic effect. What struck me in conversations with the heroes is that some only learned about a family member's heroic act when they themselves received the Carnegie Medal. Family traditions and values could underlie these connections, but they still encourage me in exploring whether genes play a role in altruism.

At the end of each of these diverse conversations, I'm left with feelings of both awe and optimism regardless of what I will find in my research. Even after interacting with more than 100 heroes, that sense of awe remains after every single conversation. Each story is different, but all are really, truly amazing. 

Dr. Chaine is a research scientist with the National Center for Scientific Research in Moulis, France. A native of Oakland, Calif., he did his undergraduate work at the University of California, San Diego, and then earned his doctorate in behavioral ecology at

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LATEST AWARDEES OF THE CARNEGIE MEDAL

SINCE THE LAST ISSUE OF *imPULSE*, THE FOLLOWING 20 INDIVIDUALS HAVE EACH BEEN AWARDED THE CARNEGIE MEDAL, BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS TO 9,934 SINCE THE HERO FUND'S INCEPTION IN 1904. THE LATEST AWARDS, WHICH WERE ANNOUNCED ON MARCH 22, ARE DETAILED ON THE COMMISSION'S WEBSITE AT WWW.CARNEGIEHERO.ORG. THE NEXT ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARDEES WILL BE MADE ON JUNE 19.

Krystal Ashley Salazar, 26, of Burleson, Texas, a deputy with the Tarrant County (Texas) Sheriff's Department, attempted to save Zenola M. Jenkins from drowning in Burleson on Nov. 27, 2015. At night, Jenkins, 76, remained in the driver's seat of her car, which was stranded by floodwaters on a low bridge spanning Deer Creek. On duty, Salazar responded to the scene. Concluding that the rising floodwaters afforded insufficient time for firefighters' arrival, she removed items of her gear, including her radio, and started to wade to the car, which was about 100 feet into the floodwaters. She encountered a very swift current and in water about 4 feet deep lost her footing and was washed from the bridge. Unable to swim against the current, she was swept about a quarter-mile downstream, to where she clung to a tree along the bank. Rescued by firefighters about two hours later, she required hospital treatment for abrasions and bruising. Jenkins drowned.

Eighteen-year-old friends **Robert Hart Morgan** and **Connor William Quick**, college students from Loveland, Colo., saw a car driven by Annaliese S. Vucich, 22, enter Lake Loveland at night on Nov. 28, 2015. Vucich remained in the driver's seat as the car began to submerge in water 7 feet deep at a point about 75 feet from the bank. Morgan removed his outer attire and, despite an air temperature of about 19 degrees and the water near freezing, entered the lake and swam to the passenger side of the car. When he



Jason Barnes was at the far end of a four-man human chain that stretched into raging floodwaters on the main street of Ellicott City, Md., last July to save a woman from her stranded car. Three feet shy of the car, Barnes released from the chain, grasped the woman, and took her to safety. The rescue was captured on video shot by David Dempster, who was also part of the chain. Two people died in the flooding, which was caused by torrential rain.

broke out a window with his elbow and leaned through it, Vucich grasped him by the neck. Backing, Morgan pulled her from the car, towed her to wadable water, and then carried her from the lake. After Vucich called out another person's name, Quick, also having removed some outer attire, swam out to the car, which was then nearly fully submerged. He entered it feet first through the broken-out window and searched for any other victims. Responding firefighters also searched the car, but it turned out to be unoccupied. Vucich, Morgan, and Quick required hospital treatment for cold water exposure.

Shane S. Mitchell, 32, a carpenter, and **Lisa Missana**, 47, an administrator, both of Tampa, Fla., saved Marla B. Zick from drowning in a retention pond in Tampa on March 31 last year. Zick, 26, remained in the driver's seat of her car after it entered the pond and, drifting to a point about 80 feet from the bank, submerged

in water about 10 feet deep. Witnessing the accident, Mitchell drove onto the bank opposite the car and then entered the water and swam to it. Submerging repeatedly, he tried to open the car's driver's door and to

release Zick's safety belt, which he reached through the door's open window. About that time, Missana, another motorist who had driven upon the scene, also swam out to the car, and she too dove repeatedly to access and free Zick and was also unsuccessful. Mitchell submerged again, released Zick's safety belt, and resurfaced. He and Missana together dove to the car and removed Zick, who was unconscious, through the window. Surfacing, they swam with her to the nearer bank, where others helped them lift her from the water. Zick required hospitalization, but she recovered.

Jeromy E. Richardson, 35, an iron worker from Whitwell, Tenn., died attempting to save Christopher S. Hurt from drowning in the Sequatchie River at Whitwell on July 16, 2015. Hurt, 23, was swept over a low-head dam spanning the river and became caught in the rolling boil of water at its base. In another party at the scene, Richardson was fishing from the bank. He entered the water below the dam and attempted to reach Hurt but then returned to the bank and made his way to the top of a concrete structure at the end of the dam. Taking a board with him, he stepped down to the top of the dam and slid his feet along it to a point closer to Hurt. He extended the board to Hurt but then lost his footing and fell into the boil. Both he and Hurt submerged. Hurt's body was recovered from the river the next day, and Richardson's



Ms. Salazar



Mr. Morgan



Mr. Mitchell

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LATEST AWARDEES

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body two days later. They had drowned.

Steven Michael Paulus of Madisonville, La., saved Alecia K. Lee, 20, and Kala N. Perkins, 18, from a burning pickup truck on the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway near Metairie, La., on Feb. 19 last year. Lee was in the driver's seat, and Perkins in the passenger seat, of the stalled truck when it was struck from behind by a vehicle traveling at high speed. Its rear end demolished and aflame, the pickup came to rest with its passenger side against a bridge parapet. On duty, Paulus, 43, a Louisiana State Trooper, drove upon the scene. With 3-foot flames issuing from the wreckage in the area of the fuel tank, Paulus worked to force the driver's door open and then reached inside and aided Lee from the vehicle. When Paulus told Perkins, who was dazed, that she had to leave the vehicle, Perkins attempted to open the blocked passenger door. Paulus then extended most of his body into the pickup through the driver's doorway. He grasped Perkins and backed from the pickup, dragging her, flames shortly entering the passenger compartment.

Teacher **George A. Heath** of Taunton, Mass., died after helping to rescue Sheenah Savoy from an assault in Taunton on May 10, 2016. Savoy, 26, was at work in a mall restaurant when an enraged man entered and approached her, grabbed a steak knife from her hand, and started



On his way to church to deliver a sermon on the parable of the Good Samaritan, the Rev. Timothy Carpenter of Cincinnati, Ohio, came upon an elderly woman being stabbed outside her apartment building. Carpenter intervened but sustained knife wounds, including one to the chin, that required hospital treatment. The woman did not survive the attack, and Carpenter delivered her eulogy. Shown with him in the days after the attack is his wife, Robin. Photo is copyright 2015 Scripps Media, Inc., and provided as a courtesy by WPCO Cincinnati.

to stab her repeatedly. As she ran screaming toward the nearby bar, the assailant chased her and continued his attack on her. A diner, Heath, 56, and his wife were seated at the bar. Heath stood and pushed Savoy to the floor and then clutched the assailant, who was larger than him. As Heath crouched and tried to pin the assailant's arms to his sides, the assailant stabbed Heath in the head. Another restaurant patron, an off-duty sheriff's deputy, shot and fatally wounded the assailant. Savoy required hospitalization for treatment of serious stab wounds. Heath too was taken to the hospital, where he died shortly of his wound.

Jason Barnes, 36, a business operator from Westminster, Md., helped to save Jamie E. Knight from drowning during a flash flood in Ellicott City, Md., on July 30 last year. Knight, 29, was driving a car down a sloped street during a torrential rainfall that created a flash flood covering the roadway and sidewalks. Several vehicles that had been parked in the vicinity were washed away by the raging current. From the raised entryway of a building

just off the sidewalk at the scene, Barnes saw her approach. While directing her to the near curb, the current knocked him from his feet, but he regained his footing and returned to the entryway as Knight angled her car to the curb. Barnes and three other men then formed a human chain, Barnes at the far end, that extended from the entry toward the car, but Barnes's reach fell 3 feet short. After Knight climbed partially through the passenger door window, Barnes released from the chain and waded to the car, briefly losing his footing in the current, which struck the car forcefully and gushed up along its sides. He took Knight to the others in the chain and helped her to the entryway.

Joseph B. Hamblin rescued a woman from a runaway vehicle in St. George, Utah, on March 31, 2016. The woman was in the driver's seat of a pickup truck that was moving slowly and erratically on a four-lane highway. After striking a curb, the truck turned toward the center turning lane at about 15 m.p.h. Headed



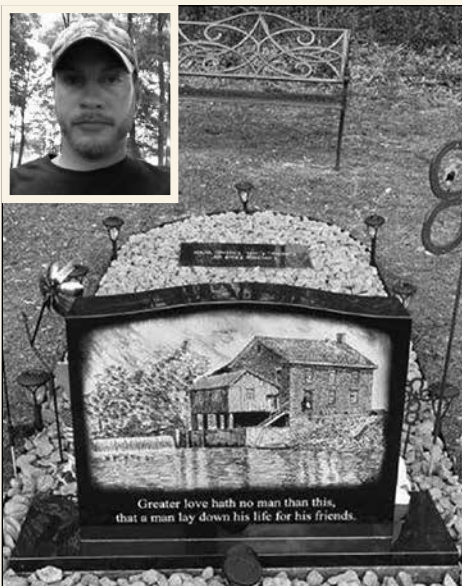
At night, Connor William Quick entered a car submerging in icy water to search for a man thought to be inside. Moments earlier, his friend pulled a woman from the same car. All three required hospital treatment for exposure to the cold water.

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LATEST AWARDEES

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Jeromy E. Richardson drowned in the boil of water at a low-head, mill dam while attempting to save a man who had been washed over the dam. His gravestone, in Havron Chapel Cemetery, Jasper, Tenn., bears the likeness of the mill—his favorite fishing spot—as well as the Bible verse (John 15:13) that encircles his Carnegie Medal: “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”

in the same direction in his vehicle, Hamblin, 36, an unemployed truck driver from Washington, Utah, saw that the woman was slumped over. He pulled off the roadway and, despite wearing a medical boot because of recent foot surgery, ran after the truck. Reaching its driver's side, he stepped onto the running board and grabbed the steering wheel through the open window of the driver's door. Hamblin guided the truck for more than 100 feet and then, as opposing traffic allowed, steered it across two lanes into a parking lot. There, he put the truck into park and helped a responding police officer tend to the woman. His affected foot bleeding heavily, Hamblin sought medical treatment, and he recovered.

Steven L. Spurling rescued a woman from an armed assault in St. Charles, Ill., on May 3, 2016. A 55-year-old woman fled from her house to escape an assault by her husband. Walking nearby, Spurling, 50, a financial sales executive, and his wife saw that the woman was bloodied and distressed. When they went to her driveway to aid her, she told them that her husband was armed. The husband then approached, and



Ms. Missana



Mr. Paulus



Mr. Hamblin



Mr. Spurling

Spurling positioned himself between him and the woman although he did not then see a gun. As the woman walked away from the property, the husband followed her, with Spurling just behind him, calling 911. Producing a handgun, the husband shot repeatedly at the woman from a distance of about 20 feet but did not strike her. Spurling lunged at and tackled the assailant to the ground as the woman ran to a neighbor's house. He put a chokehold on the assailant, took the gun and threw it from his reach, and held him down until police responded shortly and arrested him.

Pastor **Timothy Carpenter** of Cincinnati, Ohio, attempted to rescue Patricia Hummons, 60, from an assault in Cincinnati on Jan. 18, 2015. Hummons was seated in her wheelchair on a walkway outside an apartment building when

a man approached her and began to stab her repeatedly. Carpenter, 48, was leaving the building and saw the attack. He shouted as he approached them, the assailant then pulling Hummons from her wheelchair to the walkway. As Carpenter knelt to tend to Hummons, the assailant stabbed him underneath the chin. Carpenter stood and was stabbed again, in the abdomen. He grabbed the knife, breaking it in two and retaining the blade. The men struggled, during which Carpenter delivered defensive strikes with the blade against the assailant, inflicting injury. The struggle took them to the ground, where Carpenter held the assailant down until police arrived and arrested him. Hummons died at the scene of her injuries. Carpenter required hospital treatment for his stab wounds and lacerations, and he recovered.

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After escaping his family's burning house in Norristown, Pa., 12-year-old Sanford Harling III, known as “Man Man,” re-entered the structure for his father, who had been on the second floor. His father made it to safety, but Sanford died in the blaze. Firefighters took a truck to the church where his funeral was held. Fire Chief Tom O'Donnell: “We said from the beginning that he was a hero.” Photo by Oscar Gamble is courtesy of Digital First Media.

LATEST AWARDEES

(continued from page 12)

Erik Breitwieser, 35, a Southampton (N.Y.) police officer, saved Edmund Soledad-Reyes from a burning car in Southampton on Nov. 14, 2015. Unresponsive, Soledad-Reyes, 21, remained in the driver's seat of his coupe after a nighttime accident in which the vehicle overturned and its front end caught fire. Responding to the scene, Breitwieser, of Manorville, N.Y., approached the driver's side of the car and knelt on the pavement, where he used a baton to break out the window of the driver's door. Despite flames about 4 feet high issuing from the car's engine area and smaller flames inside its passenger compartment, Breitwieser reached inside and grasped Soledad-Reyes by the shirt. He tugged once, but Soledad-Reyes did not move. Realizing that his safety belt was engaged, Breitwieser went to his stomach, extended his upper body into the vehicle, and cut the belt with a knife. He then pulled Soledad-Reyes to him and, dragging him, backed from the vehicle to safety.

Justin Sweet, 23, a carpenter from San Diego, Calif., helped to save Christopher C. Phillips, 19, from drowning in the Pacific Ocean at Coos Bay, Ore., on Sept. 13, 2014. Phillips jumped from a steep cliff into the ocean and had trouble swimming in the rough, cold surf as he was swept into a small cove along the rocky shore. Hiking, Sweet witnessed the jump. He climbed partially down the cliff as Phillips was washed against rocks and then floated motionless. Sweet removed his outer clothing, jumped into the water, and swam to Phillips. He grabbed him and swam to a large rock, tiring as he tried repeatedly to remove Phillips from the water, waves buffeting them. Another man joined them and helped Sweet lift Phillips onto the rock, which was about 10 feet from the bank of the cove. Others threw life jackets to them. Sweet with Phillips then re-entered the water and with help from those on the bank maneuvered Phillips to the bank and from the water. Phillips required



hospital treatment, and Sweet was treated at the scene for cuts. Twelve-year-old **Sanford Harling III**, a student from Norristown, Pa., died attempting to rescue his father, Sanford Harling, Jr., from a fire in their home on Feb. 5 last year. The father, 58, who required the use of a walker, was on the second floor of the family's duplex unit after fire broke out in the living room, on the first floor. He alerted family members, including Sanford, who then fled the structure, but flames grew to block Harling's access to the first floor. Indicating to those outside the rear of the house that he was returning for his father, Sanford re-entered the structure through its back door. Harling, meanwhile, went to a second-floor window on the side of the house and dropped to the ground, which was grassy there. He sustained significant injury, which required hospitalization. When conditions permitted, firefighters entered the house and found Sanford on the first floor. He had died of smoke inhalation and thermal burns.

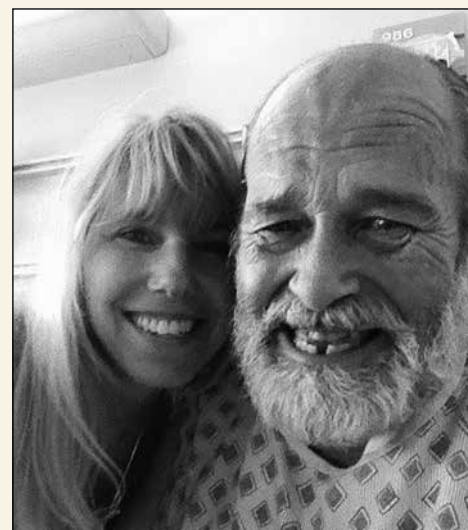
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Richard David Greeno, 40, a disabled maintenance man, and his next-door neighbor, **Lisa McNairy**, 50, a retail associate, rescued Charles C. Rhodes, 66, from a burning house

in Circleville, Ohio, on Oct. 16, 2015. Rhodes was in the lower level of the split-level house after fire broke out at night in the attached garage, engulfing it. Asleep on an upper level of the house, Greeno, now of Williamsport, Ohio,

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After discovering that her neighbor's split-level house was on fire, Lisa McNairy repeatedly entered the structure and with help removed Charles C. Rhodes, pictured, from the lower level.



Mr. Breitwieser



Mr. Sweet



LATEST AWARDEES

(continued from page 13)

was awakened to the fire by McNairy, who discovered it. Greeno exited the house but on re-entry for Rhodes was forced out by dense smoke. After breaking a lower-level window to vent the smoke, Greeno re-entered through the front door and crawled about 12 feet to the stairs extending to the lower level and descended them. Flames were entering that level from the garage, and heat was intense. Greeno located Rhodes a few feet from the stairs. McNairy, meanwhile, responded to the front of the house, and she too entered through the front door and was repulsed by dense smoke. After repeated attempts, she crawled to the stairs and met up with Greeno and Rhodes. She and Greeno dragged Rhodes to the front door and out of the house, the lower level of which was shortly engulfed by flames.

Humberto Sanchez III, 23, a business manager from Stockton, Calif., saved an infant from a burning car in Stockton on Aug. 25, 2015. A 4-month-old boy remained strapped in his car seat, which was secured to the backseat of a sport utility vehicle, after the vehicle was struck by a pickup truck. The sport utility vehicle was then pushed into another car, and all three vehicles came to rest close to each other, the sport utility vehicle between the other two. Flames broke out at the front end of the sport utility vehicle and spread. Sanchez was nearby and heard the crash. He approached the driver's side of the sport utility vehicle but found both doors on that side jammed shut. Then going to the passenger side, he opened the rear door,



Humberto Sanchez III entered a burning sport utility vehicle to free a 4-month-old boy from his car seat. He is pictured here with his fiancé, Viviana Cano, and their son, Jayden Sanchez.



At work landscaping, Raul Moreno saw a dump truck leave the nearby highway, crash into a ditch, and catch fire. Using his hand pruners, he broke out the window of the truck's driver's door, reached inside, and, requiring repeated attempts, pulled the driver from the vehicle. Photos courtesy of WSBTV.com.

fully entered the car, and worked to free the boy from his seat's restraints. He then lifted the boy from the seat and backed through the opened door with him, flames by then issuing along the underside of the vehicle to impinge on his legs. Flames grew also to enter and shortly engulf the front of the passenger compartment.

Madison L. Williams, 13, a student from Dublin, Ohio, saved a small boy from drowning in a septic tank in Dublin on Aug. 27, 2016. The boy, 2, fell through the small, ground-level hatch of the underground tank and submerged in sewage about 4 feet deep. Those responding could not reach him in the 8-foot-deep tank. Alerted to the situation, Madison lay on her stomach and, positioning her arms over her head, entered the 12-inch-wide opening to her thighs while others secured her by the legs. She skimmed the surface of the sewage with her hands searching for the boy for several moments before she saw his foot. Madison grasped the boy's foot and shouted to be pulled out. As she and the boy were being lifted from the tank, the boy's other foot became stuck under the inside lip of the hatch. On Madison's instruction, she was lowered somewhat and was able to reposition the boy. They were then pulled completely free of the tank. The boy recovered after hospital treatment, and Madison required medical treatment for damage to a wrist.

Landscaper **Raul Moreno**, 44, of Conyers, Ga., saved Harry Douglas from a burning truck after an accident in Conyers on June 22, 2016.

Douglas, 71, was the driver of the dump truck, which left the roadway and entered a shallow ditch. Trapped by wreckage, he remained in his seat as flames broke out in the undercarriage of the engine compartment and grew and spread, and dense smoke filled the cab. Witnessing the accident from his job site nearby, Moreno went to the driver's side of the truck and broke out the window of that door with his pruning shears. He then leaned through the opening but was repulsed by smoke and retreated. Taking a deep breath and holding it, Moreno again leaned into the cab. He bear-hugged Douglas and, pulling multiple times in between retreating for breaths of air, inched him from the cab as Douglas maneuvered his feet from his boots, which were trapped in the wreckage. Free of the window opening, the men fell to the ground, after which another man aided Moreno in carrying Douglas to safety.



George A. Heath, a visual design instructor, was in a mall restaurant when an enraged man entered and repeatedly stabbed one of the waitresses. Heath died defending her.

PRESENTING



Feb. 23 was proclaimed “**Duncan O.C. Harris Day**” by Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner in honor of the man who was awarded a Carnegie Medal for helping to save a teenage boy from drowning during the summer of 2015. In the photo on the right, Harris, left, of Buffalo Grove, Ill., is being given the medal by the governor in his statehouse office. Five days later, Harris’s co-rescuer, **Peter F. Pontzer**, was presented his medal by the Fairfax County (Va.) Board of Supervisors. Harris and Pontzer were each vacationing with their families at Emerald Isle, N.C., on July 28, 2015, when they were alerted to two boys from a church group who were having difficulty in the Atlantic Ocean attempting to return to shore. They didn’t know each other, but Harris, then 21, a construction worker, and Pontzer, 51, an administrative judge from Fairfax, together made their way out to one of the boys, who was about 350 feet from shore. They labored to return him to the beach, and each required hospital treatment for effects of their exertion. In the photo at left, Pontzer is backed by the board of supervisors and is shown with his family, from left, daughters Katie and Emma and wife, Margaret. At right of Pontzer are Sharon Bulova, supervisors board chair, and Eric P. Zahren, executive director of the Hero Fund.



Aberdeen (S.D.) City Council recognized city public works employee **Jameson Bartscher** of Aberdeen at a council meeting in late January. Bartscher was awarded the Carnegie Medal last September for his role in the rescue of occupants of a burning sport utility vehicle in Summit, S.D., on June 9, 2015. Driving upon the scene, Bartscher, then 30, used a fire extinguisher against the flames and then broke out a side window with it. He and another man then removed the car’s occupants, who included a 2-month-old infant.



Family and friends gathered in Wilmington, Del., in February for the posthumous awarding of the Carnegie Medal to **Michael J. Manley, Sr.**, who died Sept. 27, 2015, after saving his girlfriend’s son from drowning in the Atlantic Ocean at Virginia Beach, Va. The medal was presented by Eric P. Zahren, right, the Hero Fund’s executive director, to the girlfriend, Amy Jo Fosdick, and her sons, Andrew Short, and Michael J. Manley, Jr., not pictured. Manley, 43, a heavy equipment operator, swam out to Andrew, then 17, who was caught by a strong current, and instructed him on how to return to shore. Andrew made it to safety, but Manley did not. “Everybody loved Michael,” his sister Linda Ubil said. “If you called him, he’d be right there.”



FORMER NAVY PILOT HEROIC IN CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT CRASH

The Hero Fund provides grave markers—bronze medallions cast in the likeness of the Carnegie Medal—at no cost to the families of deceased awardees (see back page). One such was provided to the family of **Alvan C. Hirshberg**, who died at age 86 on Jan. 16, 2013, and is buried in the Children of Israel Cemetery, Haverhill, Mass. Hirshberg was awarded the medal in 1962 for saving the four-man crew of a turboprop airliner that crashed at New York Municipal (now LaGuardia) Airport on Sept. 14, 1960, and—upside down—caught fire. The plane had been carrying 3,000 gallons of fuel.



Mr. Hirshberg

The 70 passengers aboard the flight, including Hirshberg, then 34, president of a family business, escaped serious injury and ran from the wreckage. When he saw that the crew was trapped in the cockpit, he returned to the plane and tried

without success to break out a cockpit window. Taking a quarter from his pocket, Hirshberg then pried the external lever securing the window until he could get a grasp of it to release the window. Standing only 15 feet from flames on the fuselage, Hirshberg pulled the first officer through the window opening and then with him removed the other three men.

"I'm no hero," Hirshberg said of his actions. "This was the result of my Navy training." Hirshberg was a Naval lieutenant commander, having served in the Pacific battle theater during World War II and then with a Navy Reserve flight squadron, retiring in 1986.



HEROES' EXPERIENCES

(continued from page 9)

the University of California, Santa Cruz. His research focuses on the links between cooperation and conflict in social dynamics, the structure of social groups, behavioral interactions within species, and social communication. He works on diverse systems, including microorganisms, sea slugs, lizards, rodents, birds, and humans.

1968 awardee still a 'real-life hero' to her family and those she serves


By John Roberts

Danvers, Mass.

Our mother, **June E. Roberts**, raised two children while working for more than 30 years for New England Telephone/NYNEX. Somehow, she managed and was able to send us both to private schools for 12 years and college. She was able to purchase—and still lives in—the house where she raised us and, even though working full-time, was a constant presence and role model for our upbringing.

Even as before her unselfish heroic act in 1967, she continues a life of sacrifice in giving of her time and support to others. She has always offered to take others who cannot drive or have a car on errands or just place a phone call when she thinks someone may need it. She has befriended many during her life, including those who may have been dismissed by others, making them feel as if they will always have a friend. She continues to be the person who saved that boy every day of her life.

These days, many years after retiring, she spends a lot of her time enjoying her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She is the biggest fan of her youngest grandson, who excels in high school athletics, and never misses any of his basketball or baseball games. As she is also a fan of all the Boston professional sports teams, we took her to her first Red Sox game in 40 years for her 80th birthday. She even went into downtown Boston to one of the Patriots Super Bowl parades—on her own, without telling anyone!—showing that she is very independent at her age. She still drives her own car and takes walks with her beloved dog Remy on the very same beach where she saved the boy from drowning almost 50 years ago.

When we honored her at Christmas, we reminded her that she is a real-life hero to the boy she saved in 1967, and we also reminded her that she has always been our hero as well. 

June E. Roberts was six months pregnant with son John on Oct. 31, 1967, when she was at a beach along Chelsea Point Channel in Boston, Mass., and saw a 12-year-old boy struggling in water about 40 feet deep. She waded and swam to the boy, who was unconscious by then, and towed him back to wadable water but was too fatigued to continue with him. A man waded out and took the boy to safety, Roberts following. For her actions, she was awarded the Carnegie Medal a year later.



Carnegie Medal awardee June E. Roberts, center, is flanked by her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren over the Christmas 2016 holiday. Son John Roberts has his arm around her, and daughter Maria Roberto is the second adult from left. As a surprise, Roberts was given updated material from the Hero Fund as well as a lapel pin and a parchment certificate confirming her award of the Carnegie Medal, which she is holding. From son John: "We read the article from the Boston Herald from 1969 and watched a PBS documentary that aired that year to honor our mother and remind her we have not forgotten her heroic act."

PRESENTING



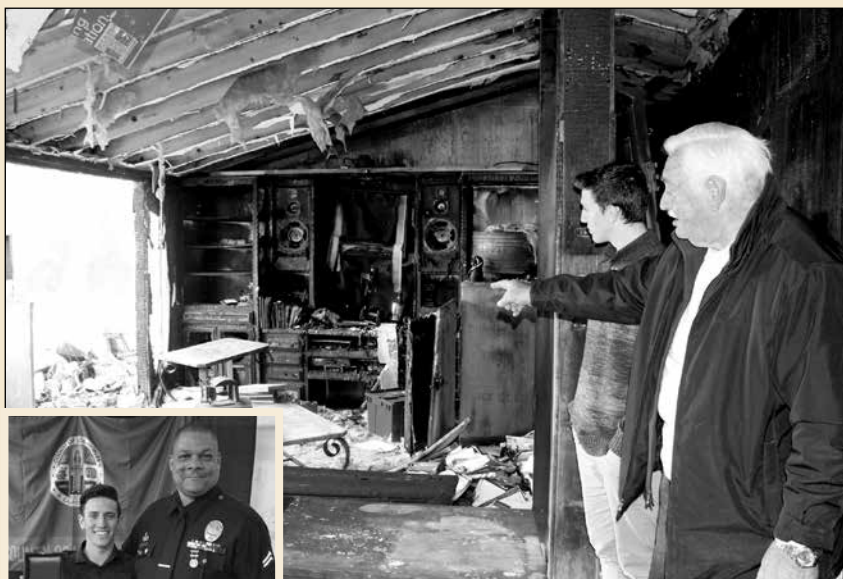
Richard Raab, left, a trustee of Amboy Township, Ohio, presented **R. Wayne Trivette** of Metamora, Ohio, his Carnegie Medal after **Timothy A. Holtz II**, right, of Sand Creek, Mich., was given his medal by Fairfield Township (Mich.) supervisor Larry Keck (not pictured) during a Fairfield Township board meeting in March. Trivette, a retired truck driver, and Holtz, a business operator, joined forces on July 21, 2015, to pull a 25-year-old woman from her burning sport utility vehicle after a head-on collision in Jasper, Mich. After fighting the flames with fire extinguishers to limited effect, Trivette, then 67, and Holtz, then 35, worked to force the driver's door open, reached inside, and pulled the woman free, flames beginning to enter the passenger compartment. Photo, by Hannah Warner of *lenconnect.com*, is provided as a courtesy by the *Daily Telegram*, Adrian, Mich.



Joshua Gary Grimmert, second from right, of Boise, Idaho, says there's something much better than winning an award. He told a reporter from KTVB that it is the "happy ending" for the young woman whose life he spared. On May 25 last year, Grimmert, then 33, entered the cold water of Moses Creek near Boise, swam 275 feet out to the woman, and towed her back to the bank. He was awarded the Carnegie Medal in December, and its presentation to him in February was by Idaho U.S. Sen. James E. Risch. Grimmert was joined at the ceremony by his wife, Talitha, and their children, Abigail, 2, and Isaac Routson, 12. Photo courtesy of the senator's office.



Dennis R. McGee, seated, of Greeneville, Tenn., received his late wife's Carnegie Medal from **Charles S. Harris** of Ooltewah, Tenn., earlier this year. **Dinah Keturia McGee**, 67, died July 10, 2015, in the attempted rescue of her sister from the McGees' burning home. A retired nurse, she was the caregiver for her younger sister, who was infirm, and after fleeing the structure to alert help, she re-entered it for her. Both died in the fire. The McGees were married for 47 years. Harris is one of the Hero Fund's volunteer medal presenters and was awarded the medal himself, in 1963, for a water rescue. Photo by Teresa Harris.



Carnegie Medal awardee **Donald E. Thompson**, at right in the smaller photo, of West Hills, Calif., is one of the newer volunteer presenters of the medal, and in March he had the opportunity to deliver a medal to a "neighbor," **Justin Lee Greenwald**, of Calabasas, Calif., both towns being "off the 101" in the western suburbs of Los Angeles.

Greenwald was cited by the Hero Fund for saving Ronald L. Lallone from a nighttime fire in his home on Nov. 29, 2015. Both are pictured here in the remains of the structure. Thompson, an officer with the Los Angeles Police Department, was cited by the Hero Fund in 2014 for his Christmas Day 2013 rescue of a man from his burning car in Los Angeles.



PRESENTING

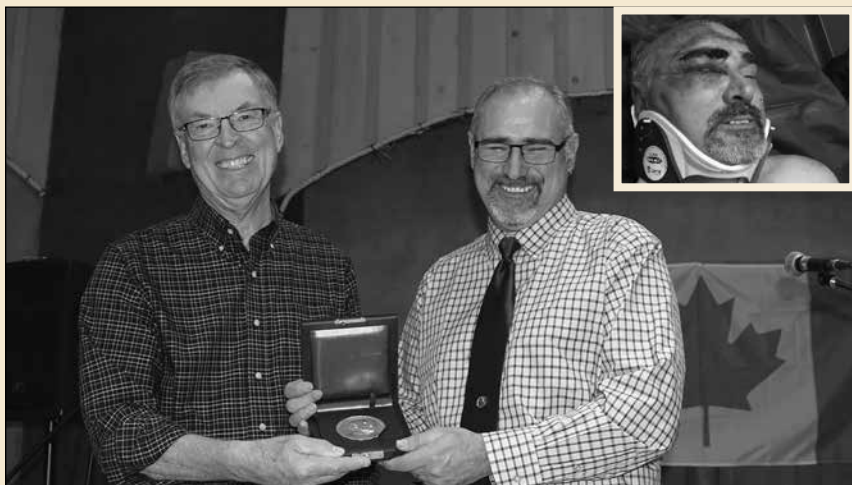


Christopher Chmielnicki, right, of Henryville, Pa., received his Carnegie Medal from Eric P. Zahren, the Commission's executive director, in February. Chmielnicki was awarded the medal in September in recognition of his saving a woman from her 37-foot motorhome after the vehicle caught fire in the business district of Mount Pocono, Pa., on Sept. 18, 2015. Then 34, he entered the smoke-filled vehicle for the woman despite flames growing to engulf it and the car it was towing and to reach overhead power lines. Both he and the rescued woman required hospital treatment for smoke inhalation.



J. Thomas Manger, right, chief of the Montgomery (Md.) Police Department, presented the Carnegie Medal to each of his officers who rescued an unconscious man from a burning car after a nighttime accident on Interstate 495 in Silver Spring, Md. On Sept. 1, 2015, **Brian Nesbitt**, then 35, left, and **Cody Fields**, 24, responded to the scene, gained access to the car, and partially entered it to free the victim as intense heat was compromising the vehicle's windshield and dashboard. Manger said "it is quite clear" that both officers went above and beyond their job expectations in effecting the rescue, and each was also awarded the department's medal of valor.

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Calvin Bradley Stein, at right in larger photo, took quite a beating last July when he was run over and dragged by a team of runaway ponies while saving a small girl from their path. Stein, then 51, of Madoc, Ont., was attending an agricultural fair when the ponies broke away and headed for the 3-year-old girl. Stein ran to the girl and scooped her into his hands to throw her clear of the ponies' path but then was trampled by the animals and suffered a concussion, facial injuries, and lacerations (inset). For his actions, he was awarded the medal, which was given to him in April by **Joseph H. G. Allison** of Newmarket, Ont., left. Allison is also an awardee of the Carnegie Medal, having been cited for helping to save a man from suffocating in a well in Picton, Ont., in 1966. Then 19, Allison entered the well three times to help save a farmer who had been overcome by fumes from a gasoline-powered pump. The larger photo is by Sue Dickens of the *Central Hastings (Ont.) News*, and is used with permission.



The Hon. Sara Kurovski, left, is mayor of Pleasant Hill, Iowa, and in March she had the honor of presenting a Carnegie Medal to one of her constituents, **Damian Bell**, shown with his son, Konnor, 9. On Feb. 14 last year, Bell, then 35, Konnor, and their friends were ice fishing on 115-acre Lake Ahquabi at Indianola, Iowa, when Konnor heard a man screaming for help; the man had broken through the ice several hundred feet away. Bell and his friend set out to rescue him, Bell pulling a canoe across the ice and working to pull the man aboard. Responding firefighters helped finish the rescue, and Bell was quick to acknowledge their efforts, as well as those of his son and their friends.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

A renowned explorer, Carnegie hero remembered as fair, decent

By Phoebe Porter
Conway, Mass.

Carnegie Medal awardee **Charles T. Porter, Jr.**—known by his family as “Talby” and by the outside world as “Charlie”—led an adventurous life. It was often lonely but was punctuated by moments of intense human contact during rock climbing adventures, ocean trips, and explorations. He was my brother.

Talby’s obituary in *The New York Times* quoted Duane Raleigh, editor of *Rock and Ice*, a climbing and mountaineering magazine, as saying that he was “probably one of the great adventurers of the 20th century.”

Born on June 12, 1950, and raised in Pepperell, Mass., Talby was a somewhat solitary child. He preferred building model airplanes in his room and inventing things to playing outside with kids his age. He loved fly-fishing and was tying his own flies from early on. I remember how he set up a telegraph between our bedrooms so we could communicate using Morse Code. At 13, he constructed a canvas-covered canoe that worked perfectly even if it was a bit tippy.

Talby hated formal schooling and did not excel in his classes, but whenever he wanted to learn something, he taught himself. And he learned it well, a pattern that lasted a lifetime. For example, while



Mr. Porter



“Talby” and rock-climbing gear in photo taken near the time of his 1968 rescue of two victims of an avalanche on Mount Washington, N.H.

still in school, Talby developed a passion for rock-climbing, creating his own techniques and equipment. He designed and made his own ice axe, and he invented and made new equipment like rursps, or thin pieces of metal used in climbing.

Although Talby never took lessons in rock-climbing, he developed unusual skill in the sport. It served him well; by 17, he was found by the Hero Fund’s investigator to be “absolutely fearless

in mountain climbing” when he helped to save two climbers from exposure after an avalanche on Mount Washington, N.H. He was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 1969 for his role.

During his high school summers, Talby hitchhiked to California, where he was part of the rock-climbing scene in Yosemite National Park. In 1972, he made the first ascent of the Shield on El Capitán with the aid of 35 consecutive rursps. In the early ’70s, Talby became famous for his big-wall routes, establishing the New Dawn and Zodiac ones alone and later three more on El Capitán: Tangerine

Trip, Mescalito, and Excalibur.

Other climbs include one on Moose’s Tooth, a peak in Denali National Park, Alaska, where he placed a 20-pound moose antler that he lugged the whole way up. This is just an example of his sense of humor and the light-hearted attitude he took toward mountain climbing. He also made the first solo ascent of the North Face of Mount Asgard on Baffin Island, Canada; the ice climb up the Polar Circus in Banff National Park, also in Canada; and the first solo ascent of the Cassin Ridge on Denali.


By the late ’70s, Talby’s passion for adventure led him to the Andes Mountains and the Patagonia region of South America. He chose to get there on his own by building a sailboat in our parents’ driveway. Although he was a self-taught engineer and boat-builder,

my brother did not know a thing about sailing. Somehow he made it from Salem Harbor, accompanied by his wife, to Patagonia, where he spent the last 35 years of his life. Learning as he went, my brother figured out how to sail during that long voyage from New England, through the Panama Canal, and then along the Pacific coast of South America.

Talby settled for a few years on the island of Chiloe and did lots of exploring of the Patagonian archipelago by kayak. In 1979, he was the first person to round Cape Horn in a kayak, through the perilous waters of the Drake Passage. By then he had made his final home in Puerto Williams, the southernmost town with a marina in the world.

During his time in Chile, Talby explored and mapped the complex area of the Patagonian archipelago and got to know the last of the indigenous people who lived there in traditional ways. His extensive study of their languages and knowledge of herbs and plants added to our general knowledge about their culture.

In addition, Talby dedicated himself to studying glaciers, archaeology, botany, zoology, marine biology, and climatology. In 1984 he established the non-profit Patagonia Research Foundation, and he was famous for setting up automated weather stations in isolated places. His wife later told me that the rigors involved in setting up the stations may have contributed to his early death from a heart attack, on Feb. 23, 2014.

After Talby’s death, I visited Puerto Williams and met the people who knew him during the last half on his life. I remember the words of a restaurant owner who knew my brother well and admired him: She repeated, “*él no distinguía, no distinguía...*,” meaning that he treated all people, from upper or lower ranks of society, in the same kind and frank manner. Perhaps this is his best legacy, that he saw people’s individual worth as equals. Those Chilean friends of my brother whom I met during my visit remembered him with great fondness for being not only an intrepid adventurer, but a fair and decent person. 

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Further information is available online or by contacting the Commission.

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

Address change? Please keep us posted!

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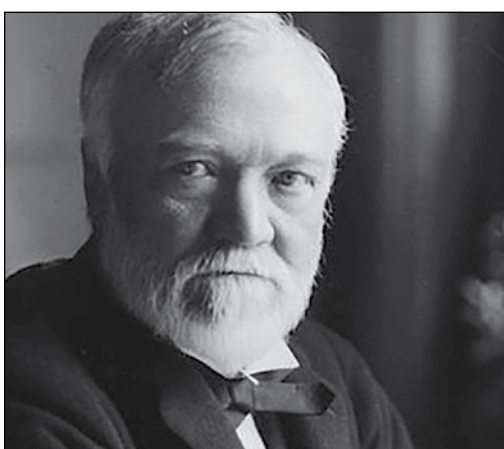
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THE QUOTABLE A.C.



We have got to show young men that there are just as great battles to be fought in peace-time as in war-time and just as much heroism demanded, just as much opportunity for the hero.

— To friend Frederick Lynch in *Personal Recollections of Andrew Carnegie*, F.H. Revell Co., New York, 1920

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) or write her at the address given below.

MEDAL REFINISHING The Hero Fund will refinish Carnegie Medals at no cost to the owner. The medals are to be sent to the Hero Fund's office by insured, registered mail. Allow a month for the process. The contact is 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 by contacting Gloria Barber (gloria@carnegiehero.org).

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