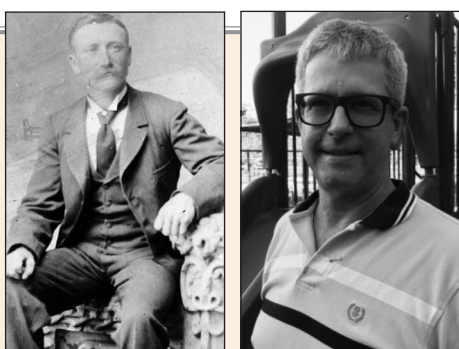




imPULSE

A Periodic Newsletter of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission ISSUE 52 • DECEMBER 2017



James M. Hermansen John Paul Hollyfield


LIKE GREAT-GRANDFATHER, LIKE GREAT-GRANDSON

Carnegie Hero **John Paul Hollyfield** was awarded the Carnegie Medal in September after he saved a 6-year-old girl from being struck by a falling tree limb in July 2015 in Accokeek, Md. (Read more, page 10) But he isn't the first in his family to receive the Carnegie Medal.

More than 90 years earlier, Hollyfield's great-grandfather, **James M. Hermansen**, was also awarded the Carnegie Medal, posthumously, after he attempted to rescue a 10-year-old boy from being struck by a runaway wagon in Widtsoe, Utah.

A team of spirited horses hitched to a wagon ran away with the boy, Derald E. Lay, in the wagon. While the horses were running at a speed of 12 m.p.h., Hermansen, a 54-year-old farmer, ran to one side of their path to grasp the lines at the bit and turn the team into a fence. The team turned suddenly toward him and struck him. He fell between the horses and was rolled by the under part of the wagon as it passed over him. His spinal cord was severed, and his head was cut. He died three weeks later as a result of his injuries. The team was finally stopped, and Derald was uninjured.

In a Facebook group belonging to the Hermansen family, Hollyfield posted that he feels "blessed that I did not meet the same fate as my grandfather."

Family members affixed a Carnegie Hero grave marker on Hermansen's head stone in September in Elsinore, Utah. 

Story of Carnegie Hero Mary Frances Housley touches many through decades

Those who learn about the life and death of Carnegie Hero **Mary Frances Housley** seem to get invested. From a 2007 high school A.P. U.S. History class at Housley's alma mater to a now-closed Eastern Color Printing Company that featured her in a 1951 comic book, those who rediscover Housley and her heroism want to make sure her story continues to be told.

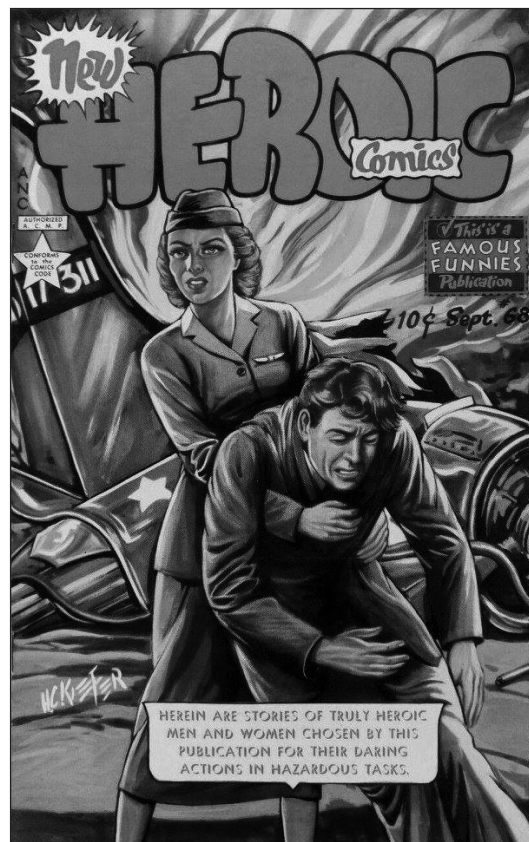
That's why a Knoxville, Tenn., health science teacher petitioned the city of Knoxville to name a bridge after Housley.

"Aside from honoring her and her sacrifice, I also wanted to restart the conversation about her," said Chris Hammond. "I wanted to bring her story, the story of her sacrifice back to life, back up to the surface."

On July 13, the formerly named Holbeck Road bridge was renamed the Mary Frances Housley Memorial Bridge "serving as a reminder to generations to come of [Housley's] selfless act of bravery," stated the proclamation signed by Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero.

A resolution, requested by Knoxville Council Chairman Marshall Stair, sought to "recognize, honor, and memorialize the personal sacrifice of Mary Frances Housley's own life." Council members unanimously approved the proposal in May and contributed \$250 for signage for the project.

According to a May 22 *Knoxville Focus* article, Housley – known to her friends and family as "Frankie" – grew up in the Fountain City neighborhood in northern Knoxville. Hero Fund records indicate that her father was an advertising salesman and her mother was a registered nurse, living under modest circumstances. Housley attended Central High School, participating in bowling, science, commercial, and ►



The cover of New Heroic Comics issue No. 68, which contained the story of Mary Frances Housley.



BOARD NOTES

CARNEGIE HEROES KNOW WHAT THEY ARE GETTING INTO WHEN THEY ACT

By Mark Laskow, Chair
Carnegie Hero Fund Commission



It is pretty rare that a discussion of heroism erupts into the national discourse the way it did this fall. Almost everyone we meet is interested in heroism and true stories of real heroes. Why wouldn't they be? The stories of the Carnegie heroes alone (a subset of all heroes) are marked

by danger, daring, drama, and, all too often, by tragedy. Yet the number of people who spend much time thinking about heroism — trying to understand it — is vanishingly small. We are aware of a few academics around the world who work in this field, as well as awarding organizations of various kinds, but all of that adds up to a tiny portion of the population. So maybe we shouldn't be surprised, or too critical, that when a debate about heroism does "erupt" between public figures, the result is a lot of heat and smoke, but not so much fire.

I am referring, of course, to the protests on the statement by the president that a soldier recently killed in Africa "knew what he was getting into." Some protesters argued this comment denigrated the dead soldier and his service. Did it? We don't know much about military operations and nothing at all about the circumstances of this soldier's death. But as a general proposition, does the idea that someone attempting a difficult task "knew what he was getting into" somehow reduce the heroic potential of the act? Or is it just the opposite, that a foreknowledge of the risk is an essential element of heroism?

The Carnegie Hero Fund recognizes acts that represent a moral choice and a mortal choice. The "mortal choice" part is easy to understand. Did the rescue attempt involve a meaningful risk of death or serious injury? The "moral choice" part is slightly more complicated, but it means that the rescuer made a conscious decision to accept the risk of a rescue to save the life of another, without any obligation to do so. Plainly, knowledge of the risk involved is indispensable. If a rescuer knew nothing about the risk involved, how could we say they made a choice at all, much less a morally significant decision? How would an uninformed, unknowing act have more moral significance than, say, picking up a package a stranger had dropped? ► p.3

Story of Carnegie Hero Mary Frances Housley

glee clubs, as well as the honor society. After graduation, she moved to Jacksonville, Fla., where she became a flight attendant in 1950.

"A very popular girl who was always full of life," is how relatives described her in a 1951 article published in *The Tennessean*. Her roommate, Peggy Egerton, was quoted in *Reader's Digest* as saying Housley "loved people."

On Jan. 14, 1951, five months after starting her career in aviation, Housley, 24, was the sole flight attendant on National Airlines Flight 83 from Newark, N.J., to Philadelphia. The plane carried 25 passengers and two pilots, in addition to Housley.

According to the Hero Fund's report, at the Philadelphia airport, melted snow 1 inch deep covered the ground, a light rain was falling, and air temperature was 33 degrees. The pilot brought the airplane down for landing 3,000 feet from one end of the runway, but noted immediately that he had misjudged his position and that the momentum of the airplane would carry it beyond the runway. The airplane continued at high speed, left the runway, skidded across a ditch and came to rest on a roadway near the airport. The fuselage and fuel tanks, containing 1,550 gallons of gasoline, ruptured. The gasoline caught fire and flames, 10 feet high, enveloped a wing section adjacent to the cabin door. They spread toward the fuselage and into the ditch below the cabin door.

Housley flung open the cabin door and, standing in the doorway, beckoned passengers to come toward her, while the pilots escaped through a cargo hatch. Taking 4-month-old Brenda Joyce Smith of Norfolk, Va., from a seat, she stood near the door and instructed passengers to jump out of the plane to safety. Flames lapped the lower edge of the doorway and broke through the cabin wall. Maintaining her station near the door, Housley continued to direct the passengers from the airplane. She loudly exhorted several women to jump from the doorway despite the flames, but they shrank back into the cabin. Dense flames engulfed the doorway. Firefighters extinguished the flames and found Housley on the cabin floor with Brenda in her lap. They and five other people had perished in the fire.

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.

"The stewardess could have escaped easily if she had not tried to save the passengers," said Richard Gordon Benedict, a passenger who jumped from the plane, as reported in a Jan. 15, 1951 *New York Times* article.

Housley was posthumously awarded the Carnegie Medal nine months after her death. The bronze medal was given to her parents.

"Mary Frances's story really struck a chord with me spiritually," Hammond said. "She had her whole life ahead of her, but she did not hesitate to get people out of that burning airplane. It really reflects the beauty of the human spirit."

Housley's nephew, John H. Housley III, traveled from Jacksonville, Fla. to Knoxville to attend the bridge ►



Mary Frances Housley



The recently dedicated Mary Frances Housley Memorial Bridge in Knoxville, Tenn.

dedication, and was also able to visit Housley's grave and affix a Carnegie Hero grave marker to her headstone. Procuring the grave marker had been initiated by Hammond.

"It was an honor to put that hero marker on my family's grave marker," John Housley said. "It was really emotional."

Hammond is also working to raise funds to erect a life-sized statue of Housley in Fountain City Park, a project that garnered the attention of Betty Desjardins, one of the 19 people Housley saved.

Desjardins was 18 months old at the time of the plane crash and was able to exit the plane with her mother and aunt, thanks to Housley's instructions and cool head. It was Desjardins's infant sister that Housley was holding when she died.

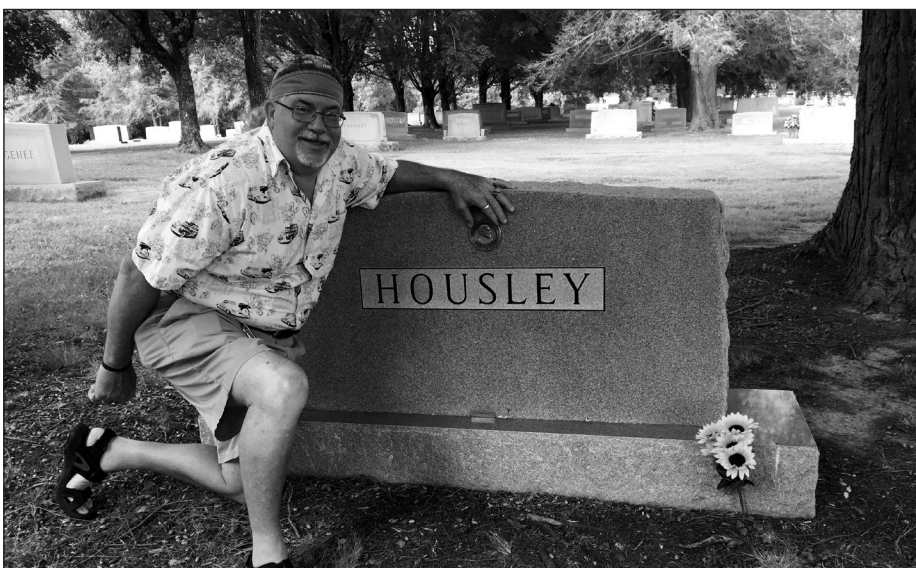
"I think the story of Mary Frances Housley is amazing," said Jennifer Seal, the daughter of Desjardins. "I come from a long line of strong, courageous women and Mary Frances Housley ties into our family story quite well. It doesn't even surprise me at all that she crossed paths with our family."

Hammond was able to provide Desjardins with her sister's birth certificate and aid the family in finding the unmarked grave of little Brenda Smith. Desjardins said she and her sister plan to travel to Philadelphia to purchase a headstone for the grave.

"If it hadn't been for [Housley] our family would have stopped," Desjardins said. "I can't believe there would be a woman that young who could be that brave."

—Jewels Phraner, outreach coordinator

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 9,971 medal awardees to date, 2,035, or 20 percent of the total, were recognized posthumously. **They are not forgotten.**



John H. Housley III, the nephew of Mary Frances Housley, moments after affixing the Carnegie Hero grave marker to the headstone marking Housley's grave. John Housley traveled to Knoxville, Tenn., to see the dedication of the Mary Frances Housley Memorial Bridge on July 13.



A clipping of the photograph of the burning plane that ran in a 1951 edition of Time magazine.

DID YOU KNOW: IN 1926, A LOCAL MAN WAS AWARDED FOR HEROISM

By Arnold Bass
The Michigan City News-Dispatch

There are numerous stories that tout the virtues and sometimes non virtuous events that marked the county's history. In my researching the history of La Porte County (Ind.) I came across articles of people, places, and events that defined the county's history. Some of the articles referenced the first person to do this or that. Others announced the first time an event or opening occurred. This is the latest in a series of articles that may bring a smile or frown to our face, or cause you to say "Oh my gosh," or "I didn't know that."

Twenty-nine acts of heroism were announced and recognized by the Carnegie Hero Fund ▶ p.7

▶ from p.2 BOARD NOTES

This is not just a theoretical concept. We do see cases in which someone intervened in a situation to help another but had no idea of the real danger involved. For example, in an assault an attacker's weapon might be hidden from the view of a rescuer. If it is clear that a rescuer did not know of the risk, we do not award the Carnegie Medal. Understand that while these cases do occur, they are rare. Usually what is going on is so dramatic that the risk is all too obvious. We see the issue more often in cases involving very young children, who might not have any appreciation of the risks involved in an act, or even the finality of death itself. If we conclude that a child did not have that understanding, we do not award the medal. Based on 113 years of experience dealing with these kinds of issues, it is our view that, within our domain at least, it is essential that the rescuer "knew what he was getting into."

Let me conclude with some disclaimers. First, let's not be too nerdy about this. If you are an individual in great peril, you probably don't care whether your rescuer understood the risk. It is enough that he or she got you out of the jam you were in. Second, Andrew Carnegie gave us the task of finding and rewarding civilian heroes. Military activities are outside the scope of our experience. Finally, we have no expertise in whether one politician is more or less right or wrong than some other politician. But, having said all that, I am confident that we do understand heroism generally and that the principles involved matter to us. From this we know that what makes our heroes so morally compelling is that they knew exactly what they were getting into, and took the risk anyway. Bless them for doing that.



Boi Jongejan, representing the Netherlands hero fund, speaks at the Carnegie Hero Funds World Committee meeting held Oct. 2 in New York. Photo by Filip Wolak of Filip Wolak Photography.

REPS FROM SEVEN HERO FUNDS MEET FOR WORLD MEETING IN NEW YORK

Representatives from seven of the hero funds established by Andrew Carnegie more than a century ago met Oct. 2 in New York. Nine of the 11 original funds are still in existence and are part of the Carnegie Hero Funds World Committee, created to allow greater communication and cooperation among the funds.

The latest gathering was hosted by Carnegie Corporation of New York, piggybacking the biennial awarding of the Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy (see page 15).

The meeting was led jointly by U.S. chair Mark Laskow and U.K. delegate William Thomson, who serve as co-chairs of the World Committee. Thomson is one of the great-grandchildren of Andrew and Louise Carnegie.

Funds represented at the meeting were those of Switzerland, Sweden, Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy, the U.K., and the U.S.

Representatives from each fund present reported on the latest news from their commissions.

As a group, a 2018 event in The Hague was discussed, possibly to be centered on the Peace Palace, followed by the Dutch's World Hero Day. The group intends to continue to keep communication lines open with all nine funds, including Norway and Denmark, which were not represented at the meeting.

The committee strives to meet yearly and most recently has gathered in The Hague, Rome, and Edinburgh. Representatives who attended the meeting include Hans-Ruedi Hubscher and Daniel Biedermann of Switzerland; Ann-Christine Lindeblad, Agneta Ahlbeck, and Ulf Koping-Hoggard of Sweden; Belgium's Theo Van Santen; Gabor Toth of Italy; William Thomson, Ian Wilson, George Murray, Nora Rundell, and Andrew Croxford of the U.K.; and Mark Laskow, Sybil P. Veeder, Linda T. Hills, Nancy L. Rackoff, Nathalie Lemieux, Ann M. McGuinn, Evan S. Frazier, Susanne C. Wean, Peter J. Lambrou, and Eric P. Zahren of the U.S. fund.

Following the meeting, Laskow presented Carnegie Medals to three June 2017 awardees, **David Blauzvern**, **Gary J. Messina**, and **John J. Green III**, who had saved a man from drowning one year earlier. (See page 8.)

1933 posthumously awarded Carnegie Hero's legacy carries on through generations

By Carolyn Schiavo
Raynham, Mass.

My grandfather was a recipient of the Carnegie Medal for his heroism. **Joseph D'Amato** (1882-1933), immigrated to the United States in 1908, at age of 26, from Popoli, Italy. He settled in New Britain, Conn., married, had a family, and worked at the gas-making plant, Stanley Works, as a gas-producer operator. The plant converted coal to gas which was used for the heat-treating of metals. Stanley Works was the largest company in the city; they made many types of hand tools, including levels, squares, and planes.

On June 3, 1933, my grandfather died attempting to save the life of a co-worker who had entered an underground chamber in the gas-making plant, for an unknown reason. The worker, Michael Kalnik, was overcome by carbon monoxide and lay in the ashes 7 feet below ground level. My grandfather immediately entered the chamber through a 14-inch manhole and descended the ladder to Kalnik. He raised and carried Kalnik on his shoulder up the ladder, calling to a workman to hurry and pull Kalnik out. The workman grasped Kalnik's hand and pulled him to the opening. My grandfather was then overcome with carbon monoxide and fell into the ashes. The workman lost his hold on Kalnik, who also dropped to the ashes. The workman yelled to **Parker Wheeler Fairbank**, the electrical superintendent, who was able to place a hook in Kalnik's clothing and drag him up. Fairbank then entered the producer and hooked a rope around my grandfather who was pulled out by the men at the top. My grandfather could not be revived. Kalnik was revived but died four days later from pneumonia and carbon monoxide poisoning. Both my grandfather and Mr. Fairbank were awarded the Carnegie Medal.

Following my grandfather's death, my grandmother, Mary D'Amato, received the Carnegie Medal which was posthumously awarded to her husband. The bronze medal has an engraved picture of Andrew Carnegie on one side. The reverse side of the medal has an engraved verse from the Bible, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). She also received a stipend of \$60 per month from the Carnegie Hero Fund to care for herself and her children.

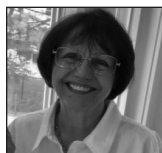
When the Hero Fund was created in 1904 by Andrew Carnegie, it had a trust of \$5 million. He established the fund to recognize people who performed extraordinary acts of heroism. The requirements state, "These candidates must be a civilian who voluntarily risks his or her life to an extraordinary degree while saving or attempting to save the life of another person. The rescuer must have no full measure of responsibility for the safety of the victim."

The Carnegie Hero award is based solely on someone stepping in to save someone from danger or death.

My family is very proud of my grandfather's legacy. His action to enter the chamber without hesitation, trying to save his co-worker's life, was truly a courageous deed. The Carnegie Hero award helped provide financial support for the family he left behind and recognize Joseph D'Amato's heroism.



Portrait of Joseph D'Amato



Carolyn Schiavo returned to community college after her retirement from nursing and wrote this essay for her first English class at Bristol Community College in Taunton, Mass. She said she is interested in family history and hopes to write short histories of family members to pass on to her grandchildren.

PRESENTING

Gov. Matt Bevin presented Carnegie Medal awards to two Kentuckians on Aug. 7 at a ceremony at the Kentucky State Capitol.

Lori Doppelheuer Kearney of Maysville, Ky., died attempting to save her sons Christopher I. Kearney, Kieran C. Hargis, and Eagan S. Hargis from a fire at their home on Oct. 20, 2015. Kearney was last seen running through dense smoke up the stairs to the second floor where the boys were sleeping. After the fire was brought under control, Kearney was found on the floor of the younger boys' bedroom, cradling Kieran, with Eagan and Christopher lying nearby. They had died of smoke inhalation.

Kearney's daughter, Makayla Kearney, accepted the medal for her mom.

"For those of us who have families, for those of us who have children, our heart breaks for you," Bevin said. "I'll tell you what Makayla, you have a special mom."

Makayla attended the ceremony with her grandmother, Ann Doppelheuer, also Kearney's mother.

"I know she was great at being a mom," Makayla said in a video that played during the ceremony.

Pictured (top photo) are Makayla, Bevin, and Doppelheuer.

Louis Daniel Scharold of Alexandria, Ky., saved a truck driver after the truck was struck nearly head-on by a pickup truck traveling in the wrong direction on a highway in April 2016. Both trucks overturned, and a fuel tank ruptured, leaked fuel and caught fire. Despite intense heat from nearby flames, Scharold reached through the broken-out windshield of the refuse truck, grasped the man by the arm, and led him away from the burning vehicle to safety.

"That is a really powerful story, and it gives me tremendous pleasure to present this to you, Lou," Bevin said.

"I'm just glad I could be there when I could be there," Scharold said.

In the bottom photo, from left, are Scharold, Bevin, and Scharold's wife, Barbara Scharold.



Jeanne Atkinson, left, hugs Arapahoe County (Colo.) Sheriff David C. Walcher after accepting her late husband's Carnegie Medal.

Kenneth R. Atkinson was fatally shot in April 2016 after he responded to a woman who was shot by her husband.

The woman had fled across the street from her home, and as the assailant chased her and continued to shoot at her, Atkinson crossed the street.

As he was kneeling to tend her and call 911, another neighbor who had gone outside shouted to Atkinson that the assailant was approaching.

The assailant fired at Atkinson, striking him in a leg. Atkinson stood and sought cover at a vehicle parked nearby in the driveway, but the assailant went to him there and at close range shot him again before returning to his property.

Sheriff's deputies responded shortly and arrested the assailant. The woman required hospitalization for treatment of her wounds. Atkinson was mortally wounded.

Jeanne Atkinson accepted the Carnegie Medal at an Oct. 2 city council meeting in Centennial, Colo. City Mayor Cathy Noon, Walcher, and Councilman Mark Gotto presented the award.



TO THE HERO FUND

PROMISES TO MAKE HERO FUND PROUD

I wanted to personally thank you for the educational scholarship for this coming school year. I cannot begin to express how meaningful and helpful this is to my family and me. Also, a huge thanks to the Carnegie Fund for its impact on my life and on Ron Lallone (the man I saved). What you and the Fund do is incredible work that touches the lives of thousands of people, and I just want you to know that the awardees recognize this to its fullest extent. You have my word that I will not let this scholarship money go to waste, and will make the Carnegie Fund proud in my pursuit of a higher education. Once again — thank you.

Justin Lee Greenwald, Calabasas, Calif.

Greenwald was awarded the Carnegie Medal last year for helping to save his neighbor from a burning mobile home on Nov. 29, 2015 in Calabasas.

THRILLED WITH MEDAL PRESENTATION

I want to thank you and the entire Carnegie Hero organization for the incredible honor you bestowed upon my brother, Dennis. He certainly was our family's hero, and it is an honor that your organization felt the same ...

It has truly been an incredible experience all around ...

We also appreciate your traveling to Maine to present the medal to me with my whole family present ... It was a memorable weekend for sure! (See page 13 for photos of the presentation.)

Cheri Surowiec, Kingfield, Maine

*Surowiec's brother, **Dennis D. Swenson**, was posthumously awarded the Carnegie Medal last year, after he died attempting to save their mother from their burning home on May 1, 2015 in Cornucopia, Wis*

THANKS FOR EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

Thank you! The support I have received from your team these past few years are beyond words of thanks. I want to thank you and your team for supporting me throughout my educational journey. The scholarship has provided me an opportunity to enhance my educational career as an occupational therapist. It truly is a blessing that you and the team believe in me and provide me with the financial support because without your help, I wouldn't be able to do it.

Jenna Fanelli, Elmsford, N.Y.

Fanelli was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 2015 after helping to rescue a 5-year-old boy from drowning in the Hudson River on Sept. 7, 2014 in Yonkers, N.Y.

We need heroes, so here they come

By Lawrence W. Reed
The Newnan Times-Herald

Just for a moment, imagine a world without heroes.

There would still be lots of good and decent people, mixed in with the bad and the rotten, of course. But it would be a world where the good and decent were otherwise unremarkable. No stand-outs, the differences between us being muted enough that no one would rise very far above the crowd.

A world without heroes could actually be much worse than humdrum. The anti-heroes just might take charge. In the absence of any who would speak truth to power no matter the consequences, the anti-heroes could make life almost unlivable for the rest of us.

We need heroes. They raise our standards and make us all better people. It's not enough, though, to simply need them. We must value them. We must recognize them and impart to others the lessons that their heroic deeds teach. I would like nothing better than for heroism to become so common as to be the norm, not the exception.


Courage is a common thread because heroes are rarely, if ever, timid and retiring. If a hero has to stick his neck out to get a job done, he does it. He ventures forth in ways and directions the less-brave will not dare. In so doing, he or she provides an uplifting example. "Courage is contagious," evangelist Billy Graham once said. "When a brave man takes a stand, the spines of others are often stiffened."

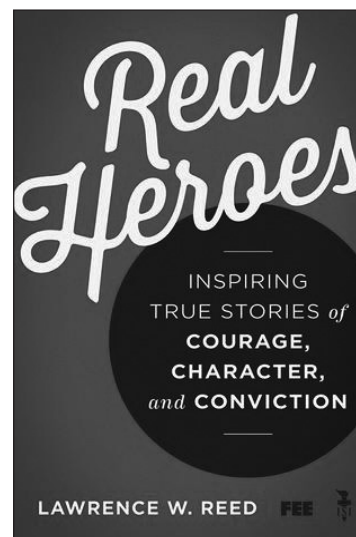
I've heard it said that there are only three kinds of people in the world: A very small minority that makes things happen, a somewhat larger minority that watches things happen, and the vast majority of people who never know what happened. If so, then heroes are surely of the first group.

Heroes possess traits of character that define what "a better world" really means—traits like honesty, humility, personal responsibility, self-discipline, inventiveness, entrepreneurship, vision, compassion, optimism. And the heroes I most enjoy writing about are men or women who stand not for what they think others will fall for, but for principles they value because those principles are sound and right.

Heroes exhibit courage, character and conviction—to varying degrees, to be sure—not for one brief moment when an emergency arises but as a part of their very make-up. For every one big deed a hero is widely known for, he or she quite often is busy performing many small ones too, sometimes known only to himself.

Great movements, countries, moments and achievements are marked by heroic individuals. Perhaps in our midst are a great many other heroes we ought to be learning about and be inspired by. Are you looking for them? When you come upon one, do you thank them?

Who doesn't yearn for a world where at least some people live their lives as fine examples of heroic character? Fortunately, a world without heroes is neither the one in which we live nor one to which we should aspire. 



This article was reprinted with permission. It was originally posted July 21, 2017 on The Newnan Times-Herald website, times-herald.com. Lawrence W. Reed, a resident of Newnan, Ga., is president of the Foundation for Economic Education in Atlanta. He recently published the book, "Real Heroes: Inspiring True Stories of Courage, Character and Conviction."



From left, Angus M. Hogg, retired trustee for The Carnegie Dunfermline & Hero Fund Trust, Commission President Eric P. Zahren, and Ian M. Wilson, Vice Chairman for the trust.

Awardee, U.K. hero fund trustees visit Commission offices

The Carnegie Hero Fund Commission had several visitors to its Pittsburgh office recently.

Carnegie Hero **Lance O'Pry** was visiting the area for work and stopped by to say hello. O'Pry is a 2014 awardee, who helped to save a 43-year-old man from burning. After a highway accident, the man was trapped in the burning wreckage of the cab of the tractor-trailer he had been driving. Driving nearby, O'Pry, a 42-year-old field mechanic at the time, witnessed the accident and immediately responded to the scene, where he saw the man suspended by his safety belt in the wreckage, flames overhead. He and another man who responded removed pieces of the wreckage to access the man and, despite intense heat in the cab, worked to free and remove him.



Carnegie Hero Lance O'Pry, center, with staff members from the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission. From left, President Eric P. Zahren, Awards Coordinator Jo Braun, Case Investigator Chris Foreman, and Investigations Manager Jeffrey A. Dooley.

In addition, trustees from the U.K. hero fund – The Carnegie Dunfermline & Hero Fund Trust – stopped in before continuing on to the Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy event held in early October in New York (see page 15) and the following Carnegie World Hero Funds meeting (see page 4).

Ian M. Wilson and his wife, Margaret, and Angus M. Hogg, and his wife, Rachel, took a quick tour of the Hero Fund office before a lunch with Commission President Eric P. Zahren and Chair Mark Laskow.

► from p.3

DID YOU KNOW: IN 1926, A LOCAL MAN WAS AWARDED FOR HEROISM

Commission at the end of January 1926 with the awarding of bronze medals. The medals were awarded three times a year following reports of acts of bravery that had been investigated and approved by the Commission. The Hanna Pennsylvania Railroad agent organized the movement to obtain the recognition for an area man's heroic act of bravery.

Fourteen of the heroes lost their lives and to the families of these, pensions totaling \$10,140 were granted. In addition to those grants, awards totaling \$9,600 were appropriated for educational purposes, and in seven cases, awards aggregating \$5,000 were made for other worthy purposes.

Among the recipients of bronze medals was **Kennard N. Dudgeon** of Hanna, Ind.. He was the first La Porte County person to win the coveted recognition for bravery. He was described by the newspaper as a "modest, red-headed, freckled-faced youth." Dudgeon, a 15-year-old farm hand at the time, saved 40-year-old William H. J. Jahns, a farmer, from burning to death in Hanna. Four days later, the same newspaper listed his name as Kenneth Neal Dudgeon, an 18-year-old.

On the last day of August 1924, Jahns was in a barn when it was struck by lightning and began to burn. He was rendered unconscious by the shock. Dudgeon ran to the hay loft of the barn and waded through the burning hay in an effort to find Jahns.

By the time he had finished his search, the flames had cut off his retreat to a ladder, which he had climbed. He then ran to a door in the side of the barn and jumped 8 feet to the ground. He went to another door, found Jahns lying on a pile of straw just beginning to burn as were his coveralls. Dudgeon dragged him 25 feet through the flames.

Outside, he "rolled him in some puddles of water and put the fire out." Both escaped death.

"Hanna's hero was only a slight fellow, standing about 5 feet, 3.5 inches in his stocking feet and tipping the scales at 130 pounds." (Evening Dispatch, January 28, Feb. 1, 1926.)



This article was reprinted with permission. It was originally posted Sept. 15, 2017 on The Michigan City News-Dispatch website, thenewsdispatch.com. Arnold Bass is a past president of the La Porte County Historical Society.



PRESENTING



U.S. Congressman Jamie Raskin, left, presented the Carnegie Medal to Carnegie Hero **Jason Barnes** of Westminster, Md., Sept. 14 at the representative's Capitol Hill office.

In July 2016, Barnes helped save a woman from drowning after a flash flood threatened to wash away the car she was driving. Barnes directed her to pull to the curb, losing his footing in the knee-deep water on the sidewalk and being swept several feet away before regaining his footing and returning to the scene. Then, he and three other men formed a human chain that extended from the entry of a business toward the car with Barnes at the far end, but Barnes's reach was 3 feet short. After the woman climbed partially out the passenger window, Barnes released from the chain and waded from the car to lift and carry the woman to the others and to safety.

Raskin, who represents Maryland's eighth district, presented the medal to Barnes in front of his family and friends.

Raskin later tweeted that he was "honored to meet Jason and his beautiful family."



Three Carnegie Heroes were presented the Carnegie Medal at the Carnegie Hero World Funds meeting held Oct. 2 at the Carnegie Corporation offices in New York.

Hero Fund Commission Chair Mark Laskow, right, presented the award to, from left, **Gary J. Messina**, **David Blauzvern**, and **John J. Green III**, who, together, saved a man from drowning in the East River on June 1, 2016.

All three men jumped from the top of a sea wall into the river to help keep afloat a man who had jumped into the river. They took turns holding his head above water, as they were swept downstream with no way to exit the river due to the sea wall. Eventually a police rescue boat arrived and all four men were assisted from the water.

The World Funds meeting included representatives from seven of the nine hero funds worldwide. (See more, page 4.) Photo by Filip Wolak of Filip Wolak Photography.

From left, Carnegie Heroes **Robbie Goering-Jensen**, **Dennis Wilson**, **C. Fredric Holbeck**, and **Brett Bailes** display their Carnegie Medals, while Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts and Omaha Police Capt. Michael McGee stand in the background.

On Aug. 28, Ricketts, McGee, and a representative from Omaha Mayor Jean Stothert's office presented the Carnegie Medal to the four men for two separate acts of extraordinary heroism.

"We live in the best place in the world. And the reason Nebraska is the best place in the world is because of our people," said Ricketts during the presentation held at the Omaha Police Department.

"And we also have a spirit of dedication to our fellow citizens, of grit, and of courage. And that is why we are here today. To talk about and honor four men who have demonstrated that spirit of Nebraska, that courage, that grit, in service of their fellow citizen."

Suffering smoke inhalation injuries, Omaha Police officer Goering-Jensen saved two people from a burning house in December 2015 in Omaha. Despite dense smoke and flames, Goering-Jensen twice entered the home on his hands and knees to remove one man who used a wheelchair and an elderly woman.

In February 2016, neighbors Bailes, Holbeck, and Wilson worked together to remove a man who was trapped in a burning car after an accident in Omaha. Holbeck bent the car's window frame to access the man, and then, in repeated attempts, all three men pulled on the man until he was free.

"We all have in our minds what we believe a hero is. Who doesn't know these words: faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive, able to leap tall buildings in a single bound?" said McGee. "While we don't have Superman here today, we have men here today that have done super things."



LATEST AWARDEES OF THE CARNEGIE MEDAL

SINCE THE LAST ISSUE OF *imPULSE*, THE FOLLOWING 18 INDIVIDUALS HAVE EACH BEEN AWARDED THE CARNEGIE MEDAL, BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS TO 9,971 SINCE THE HERO FUND'S INCEPTION IN 1904. THE LATEST AWARDS, WHICH WERE ANNOUNCED ON SEPT. 19, ARE DETAILED ON THE COMMISSION'S WEBSITE AT CARNEGIEHERO.ORG. THE NEXT ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARDEES WILL BE MADE ON DEC. 19.

Construction company owner **Kevin L. Heselton**, 44, of Tiburon, Calif., rescued Marcy L. Andrews from assault in San Rafael, Calif., on June 18, 2016. Andrews was in her fenced-in back yard when a man entered the yard and said he was going to kill her, pulling a revolver partially out of the pocket of his pants. Andrews picked up a pair of pruning shears, ran to the 6-foot-high, wooden fence and started to climb over it, but the assailant pulled her to the ground. The assailant took the pruning shears from her and stabbed her in the neck and back before he began to choke her. Hearing Andrews's screams, Heselton ran to the fence and climbed over it. He kicked the assailant off of Andrews, grabbed him, and held him to the ground until police arrived and apprehended him. Heselton sustained a laceration to his right hand and was treated at the scene; he recovered.

Ten-year-old **Kevin D. Little, Jr.**, died attempting to save his cousin Tae'Najah Morgan, 2, from a burning building in Milwaukee on Oct. 20, 2015. Tae'Najah and Kevin were in a bedroom on the second floor of a house when fire broke out in the living room below. Kevin entered an adjacent bedroom and woke his grandmother, alerting her to the fire in the house. The grandmother woke four of Kevin's siblings also sleeping in that room. Kevin exited the bedroom, and the grandmother got the four younger children out of the house to safety. Firefighters found Kevin in the bedroom where he had been sleeping, lying on Tae'Najah, and there was a mattress pulled over the two of them. Tae'Najah died the next day of smoke inhalation. Kevin died nearly three weeks after the fire; his death due to smoke inhalation.



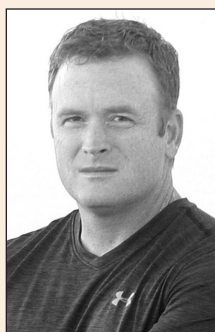
The remains of the home where flames broke out in October 2015. Kevin D. Little, Jr., awoke his grandmother and then died after he returned to a bedroom to attempt to rescue his 2-year-old cousin. Photo courtesy of City of Milwaukee Police Department.

Electrician **Nathan Michael Stieg**, 30, and his 14-year-old nephew **Jayden Charles Concha**, both of Dickinson, N.D., helped to rescue Edward W. Shypkoski and attempted to help rescue Frederick J. Ewoniuk from drowning in Mandaree, N.D., on Feb. 20, 2016. Shypkoski, 58, was riding an all-terrain vehicle with Ewoniuk, 60, on ice on Lake Sakakawea when the ice broke, sending them into the frigid water. Shypkoski and Ewoniuk both screamed for help, alerting Stieg and Jayden who were in another party across the lake. Stieg, with Jayden, rode their ATV to a point near the hole created by the fall. Jayden retrieved cable and gave it to Stieg, who threw it toward Ewoniuk, but was unable to reach him. Stieg, Jayden, and the vehicle then also broke through the ice. Stieg aided Jayden out of the water and then got himself out. Directing Jayden to stay back on safer ice, Stieg retrieved a rope and laid on his stomach at the north end of the hole. He extended the rope toward Shypkoski. By then, Ewoniuk had submerged. Shypkoski grasped the rope, and Stieg, holding the other end, pulled him partially out. Shypkoski rolled his upper body onto the ice and climbed the rest of the way out. He stood

up, and Stieg aided him in walking to Jayden, who assisted Shypkoski to the bank. Ewoniuk's body was recovered about six hours later. He had drowned.

Neighbor **Merrill O. Naylor**, a 56-year-old security specialist, rescued Sheryl C. Lewis, 70, from her burning home in Stephens City, Va., on Nov. 4, 2015. In the evening, Lewis awoke in her bedroom inside her house and, smelling smoke, went to the living room to see that a fire had broken out and was spreading quickly. She suffered severe burns near the living room and was disoriented in the heavy smoke. Naylor ran to the house, hearing Lewis calling for help. He entered at a kitchen door, where fire burned on the ceiling. Following Lewis's voice, Naylor crawled toward the living room until he found her on the floor. Unable to lift her, Naylor dragged her outside to safety. Lewis, who inhaled smoke, was flown to a hospital and underwent lengthy treatment for her burns. Naylor declined medical treatment for minor burns to his face, neck, and back, and smoke inhalation.

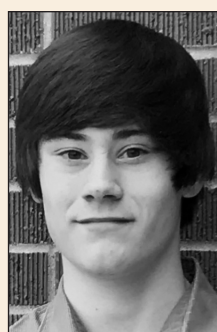
Richard William Dorrity, a 64-year-old disabled truck driver of Livingston, Calif., saved Clyde D. Willoughby, 19, from a burning truck in Livingston on April 19, 2016. Willoughby was a passenger in a pickup truck involved in an accident. Dorrity went to the scene, where he saw flames on the truck and



Kevin L. Heselton



Kevin D. Little, Jr.



Jayden Charles Concha



Nathan Michael Stieg



Merrill O. Naylor



LATEST AWARDEES

Willoughby in the passenger seat. Electric lines from a nearby power pole were draped above the truck. Dorrity reached through the window opening and grasped Willoughby, but wreckage blocked the opening. Dorrity picked up a metal bar and pried away part of the window frame. He then reached through the opening again, released Willoughby's seatbelt, grasped him underneath the arms, and pulled him head first to safety. Dorrity helped Willoughby to his feet and away from the burning vehicle. The two had only walked a few steps before an explosion occurred at the truck, knocking them to the ground. As they moved farther away, the electric lines fell onto the truck.

Michael Lumahang, a 39-year-old custodian, died helping to save and **Jesse T. Haw**, 24, helped to save a 12-year-old boy from drowning in Ottawa, Ontario, on Aug. 23, 2014. The boy was fishing on rocks in the Ottawa River with family friend Lumahang of Ottawa, when he slipped and fell into the water. Lumahang threw his fishing pole to the boy but the boy was unable to grasp it and was pulled downstream by the current. Lumahang jumped into the 65-degree water and moved toward the boy. The two shouted for help. Haw, also of Ottawa, was nearby and heard them shouting. Haw swam out to Lumahang and the boy and grasped them. Haw swam backward

with them toward the bank but submerged a few times. Unable to continue to swim with both the boy and Lumahang, Haw and Lumahang separated and Lumahang was taken downstream by the current. Haw swam with the boy toward the bank where others took the boy from him and removed him from the water. Haw was able to exit the water on his own. Lumahang submerged in the water and drowned. The boy was treated for mild hypothermia. Haw was cold after the rescue and sustained lacerations to his feet; he recovered.

Teacher **John Paul Hollyfield**, 56, of Accokeek, Md., saved 6-year-old Ashley S. Gruwell from being struck by a falling tree limb in Accokeek on July 9, 2015. During a cookout on the wooded Moyaone Reserve, Ashley was seated at the top of a slide that was about 10 feet beneath an 80-foot-long limb of an old-growth tree. At the trunk, the limb was at least 3 feet in diameter. An attendee, Hollyfield heard the limb cracking from the tree and concluded that its collapse was imminent. While Hollyfield and others yelled for guests nearby to disperse, Ashley remained atop



Michael Lumahang



Jesse T. Haw



David E. Hammond

the slide. Hollyfield, then standing near a pavilion, ran about 30 feet to the slide, where he grabbed Ashley and led her to the ground. Hollyfield then led her to safety in the vicinity of the pavilion. Within seconds, the limb fell across the top of the slide, destroying it, while also damaging other structures at the scene.

David E. Hammond, a 64-year-old retired business operator and landlord of Gulf Breeze, Fla., saved his tenant, Stephanie Wright, 47, from a burning house in Gulf Breeze on July 28, 2016. At night, Wright, who used a wheelchair, was in her bedroom after a fire started in another bedroom on the same end of her house. Wright called 911 and then called her friend Hammond on another phone. Overhearing Wright tell a dispatcher that she could not breathe, Hammond drove to her ►



Flames grew to engulf a pickup truck that had been involved in a collision with a tractor-trailer. Richard William Dorrity pulled Clyde D. Willoughby through a window of the truck to safety. Photo by Sgt. Luis Lara, California Highway Patrol.

LATEST AWARDEES

house. Arriving at the scene, Hammond repeatedly rammed his body into the glass sliding door at her bedroom until it broke open. Unable to see her bed, Hammond crawled until he felt it and located Wright, who was unconscious. He dragged Wright to the doorway, then collapsed, nearly exhausted. Police officers then assisted. Wright was not burned. Hammond suffered numerous cuts on his body and was treated for inhaling smoke.

Off-duty firefighter and emergency medical technician **Eric W. Edwards**, 39, of Lodi, Calif., rescued 37-year-old Orlando A. Villalobos from drowning in Watsonville, Calif., on Feb. 14, 2015. Villalobos was swimming in the Pacific Ocean when he was caught in a rip current and carried away from shore. Edwards entered the 55-degree water with a boogie board and swam in 6-foot swells toward Villalobos. When Edwards reached him he extended the board to Villalobos, who was barely above the surface of the water. Villalobos grasped the board and, with Edwards kicking, the men moved with difficulty in the rough conditions toward shore. When they reached wadable water others came out and carried Villalobos from the water. Edwards exited on his own and collapsed



After becoming alerted that Stephanie Wright's house was on fire, David E. Hammond drove to the scene, broke through a sliding glass door and dragged the unconscious Wright from a smoke-filled bedroom.

on the beach. Edwards also sustained mild hypothermia and was nearly exhausted. He was treated at the scene and recovered.

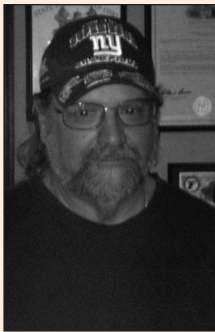
Jamie Alan Hyatt, 34, of Wood Lake, Minn., died attempting to rescue David D. Syring, 34, from suffocation inside a tanker-trailer on a Granite Falls, Minn., farm on Jan. 7, 2016. Syring was working inside the tanker-trailer that was later found to be deficient in oxygen when he collapsed and lost consciousness. Hyatt, who was a friend

of Syring's and was employed as a truck driver by the farm, was outside the tanker talking to Syring when Syring collapsed and became unresponsive. Despite near-darkness inside and no easy egress, Hyatt entered the tanker through a small hatch in its top. Once inside the tanker Hyatt experienced breathing difficulties almost immediately. He attempted to reach Syring about 20 feet away but ultimately lost consciousness. The men were later removed and taken to the hospital, where Syring regained consciousness and survived and Hyatt died from effects of asphyxia.

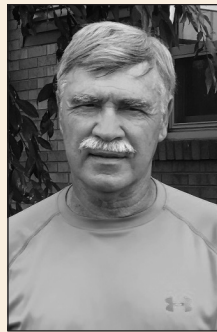
Neighbors **Vincent Santaniello**, 56, and **Harold Shaw**, 68, saved 32-year-old Crystal G. Roup from a burning pickup truck in Uhrichsville, Ohio, on Sept. 27, 2016. At night in a rural area, Roup was trapped in the driver's seat of a truck that was involved ►



Jamie Alan Hyatt



Vincent Santaniello



Harold Shaw



The 80-foot-long, fallen tree limb that landed on play equipment from which John Paul Hollyfield removed 6-year-old Ashley S. Gruwell moments earlier.

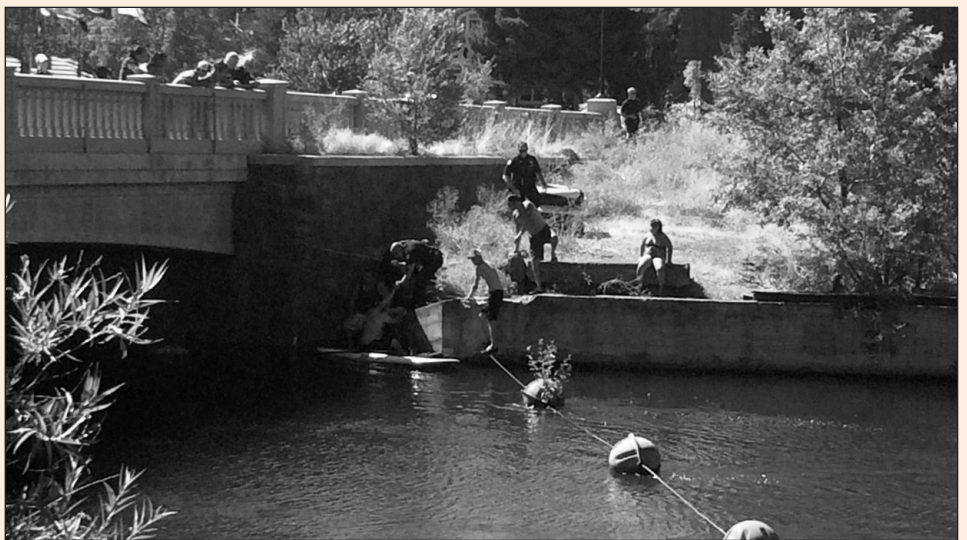


LATEST AWARDEES

in a one-vehicle accident that caused heavy damage to the truck's front end and the driver's door. A fire broke out under the hood. A nearby homeowner, Santaniello, a truck driver, went to the pickup and opened the passenger-side door. Reaching inside, he pulled Roup's torso into the passenger seat. Retired mechanic Shaw then responded to the scene, entered the truck and reached to the driver's side floor to free Roup's feet from the pedals. Shaw then moved the steering wheel, further freeing Roup, as Santaniello pulled her from the truck. Santaniello and Shaw dragged Roup into the grass before flames increased to engulf the truck. Roup was hospitalized for minor injuries but was not burned. Shaw suffered minor cuts to his fingers.

René Roy, a 55-year-old electro-mechanical technician of Sherbrooke, Que., saved Robert Mercier, 78, from a burning car in Sherbrooke on Aug. 5, 2016. In a nighttime accident, a car overturned, flames ignited at its front end, and Mercier, its driver, ended up in the trunk. Damage to the car's trunk area included a small opening. A passing motorist, Roy, approached Mercier's car, where flames prohibited possible entry at the front doors. Roy called out, and Mercier responded. Roy reached through the hole, but it was too narrow for him to enter further. A rear tire then exploded, causing Roy to step away. Seeing Mercier's head and arm emerge through the opening, Roy returned to the car, grabbed the free arm and pulled, pressing his foot against the car for leverage. Through continuous pulling, Roy freed Mercier. Roy then dragged Mercier away from the car. Mercier was not burned.

A 36-year-old metal worker, **Bobby Lynn Arnold** of



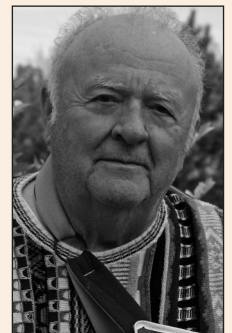
Bend (Ore.) Police assist in pulling Teresa Samano out of the Deschutes River, after Tanner Douglas Boslau had untangled her and towed her to the bank. Photo courtesy of The Bulletin.

Onalaska, Texas, died helping to rescue 7-year-old Emily A. Nevil from drowning in Trinity, Texas, on June 29, 2016. While with her family, Emily fell from a pontoon boat into Lake Livingston. Arnold was on the boat, and jumped into the lake and swam to her. Emily's mother and aunt also jumped into the water and swam toward Emily. The current thwarted the aunt's efforts and she turned back. Arnold grasped Emily about her torso and held her above the water's surface. Arnold handed her to her mother, and she also held Emily above the water. They took turns holding her until the mother submerged and was taken away from them by current, later reaching the shore to safety. Arnold held her until a man in another boat arrived, and took Emily from Arnold. Arnold submerged and never resurfaced. Arnold's body was recovered eight hours later. He had drowned.

Tanner Douglas Boslau, 30, service advisor from Bend, Ore., saved Teresa Samano, 58, from drowning in Bend on Aug. 7, 2016. On the Deschutes River, Samano floated on an inner tube into an impoundment for a hydroelectric dam and held to a buoyed cable that spanned the river. The 62-degree water flowed toward the dam's spillway, which was about 75 feet away, and Samano was about 20 feet from the retaining wall at the closest bank. On a paddle



René Roy



James O. Vernon

board upstream, Boslau heard Samano's family call for help; he paddled to the cable. Boslau lowered himself, untangled Samano from the cable and inner tube, and directed her to hold onto his board as he sat atop it. Boslau then grabbed the cable with one hand and towed Samano to the near bank. Arriving police threw Boslau a rope, and he maneuvered the board against the wall. Police pulled Samano from the water, then helped Boslau to land.

Morton, Ill., resident and 75-year-old retired information technology specialist **James O. Vernon** saved 17 children and four women from assault in Morton on Oct. 13, 2015. The children and women were in a conference room of a public library attending a youth chess class, taught by Vernon. A 19-year-old man, holding a knife in each hand, entered the classroom shouting. He stopped near a table where children were playing a chess game. Vernon, who was a short distance away, stepped toward the assailant and confronted him while the children and women exited the room to safety. The assailant swung one of the knives at Vernon, who raised his left arm to deflect it. A struggle ensued, with Vernon forcing the assailant onto a table, subduing him and causing him to release his grip on the knives. Police arrived and apprehended the assailant. Vernon underwent surgery for multiple serious lacerations to his left hand. ☒



The remains of the pickup truck from which Vincent Santaniello and Harold Shaw pulled Crystal G. Roup while flames issued from under the hood.

 PRESENTING

Carnegie Hero Fund Commission President Eric P. Zahren presented the Carnegie Medal to the family of Carnegie Hero **Dennis D. Swenson** in a private ceremony held Aug. 20 in Kingfield, Maine. Swenson's medal was accepted by his sister, Cheryl Surowiec.

Swenson was posthumously awarded the Carnegie Medal in December 2016. He died attempting to save his mother, Dorothy H. Swenson, from their burning home on May 1, 2015 in Cornucopia, Wisc.

Dennis became alerted to the fire and was seen outside the house by a responding neighbor using a fire extinguisher against flames that were issuing from underneath the porch.

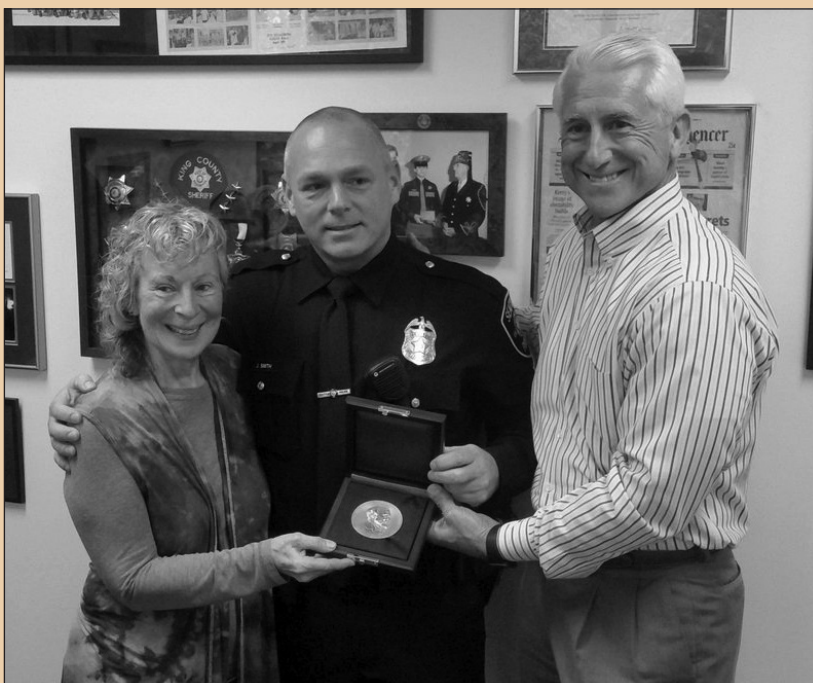
Taking a second fire extinguisher with him, Dennis entered the structure, telling the neighbor he was going to get his mother.

Flames grew quickly to engulf the house, and he was not seen again.

Family and friends of Swenson, Surowiec, and her husband, Brent Surowiec, gathered to view a video about the history of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission and its heroes, before Zahren read the official award summary detailing Swenson's sacrificial act and presented the Carnegie Medal to Cheryl Surowiec.

Pictured are, in the bottom photo from left, Brent Surowiec, Zahren, and Cheryl Surowiec. In the top photo, Cheryl Surowiec is seen showing Swenson's medal to young family members.

"Dennis Swenson certainly embodied Carnegie's ideal," Zahren said. "In the midst of so much heartache while we mourn the tragic loss of both Dennis and Dorothy, we celebrate the enduring heart of the heroes who give us hope and continue to inspire us through their selfless sacrifice. Let us allow Dennis's example to make us better people and ours a better society for his having reminded us of what it truly means to be a hero."



Seattle (Wash.) Police Officer **John David Smith**, center, was presented the Carnegie Medal by U.S. Rep. Dave Reichert, right, who represents Washington's eighth district. With them is Kaarisa B. Karley, whom Smith saved from a burning vehicle in July 2016.

Smith was off-duty when he witnessed an interstate highway accident in which the back of Karley's vehicle caught fire. With flames in the rear of the passenger compartment, Smith worked to force the car's driver's door open, extended his upper body over the center console and repositioned Karley, who was slumped across both front seats. He then released her safety belt and, grasping her under the arms, backed from the vehicle with her, dragging her to safety.

Flames grew and spread quickly to engulf the vehicles. Karley was not burned.

Reichert tweeted about the ceremony, stating he was "honored" to award Smith in recognition of his "bravery, sacrifice, and commitment to serving his community."

Members from Smith's department also attended the Oct. 18 presentation held at Reichert's district office. Photo courtesy of Seattle Police Department.



PRESENTING



California Highway Patrol Capt. Barry Koenig, right, presented the Carnegie Medal to **Stephanie Melinda Marino** in an Oct. 24 presentation held at the highway patrol's office in Stockton, Calif.

Marino saved a man from being struck by a train in June 2016. The man was a passenger in a sport utility vehicle that left a highway and came to rest on a set of two railroad tracks. Seeing the accident, Marino ran to the vehicle and helped the man out of it. As a train approached at 70 m.p.h., Marino grabbed the man, who seemed dazed, and pulled him away from the vehicle. She maintained her grip on the man as the train struck the vehicle knocking it about 10 feet away and causing both of them to fall to the ground, debris from the impact striking them.

Accompanying Marino at the ceremony were her daughter, Angelique Marino, her mother, Kit Neustel, and family friend, Samira Jones.



From left, recent Carnegie Medal awardees **Robert Sunkel** and **Linda Nolan** with **Ralph Cash Kaschai**, a volunteer presenter of the Carnegie Medal who is also a Carnegie Hero, awarded in 1978.

Kaschai presented the medal to Indian River County, Fla., sheriff deputies Sunkel and Nolan on Sept. 19 at a county commissioners meeting.

In March 2016, Sunkel and Nolan responded to the scene of an accident in which a vehicle had caught fire with its driver inside. Sunkel broke out the window of the car's front passenger door with his baton, opened the door, and leaned inside as flames reached the car's windshield and dashboard. He grasped the driver, but could not move her, and then withdrew from the car as heat intensified. Nolan then entered the vehicle and pulled the driver over the console before withdrawing. Sunkel made another entry. He grasped the woman, pulled her to the roadway, and then with Nolan dragged her to safety.

"Deputies Linda Nolan and Robert Sunkel exemplified that love when they rescued Cheryle D. Coons from burning on March 23, 2016," said Kaschai, referring to Bible verse John 15:13, "Greater love hath no man that this, that a man lay down his life for friends," which encircles the reverse side of the Carnegie Medal.

Kaschai has been a volunteer presenter for one year, and was awarded the Carnegie Medal after a 1976 act in which he helped to rescue two men from a burning sedan in Orlando, Fla.

 IN OTHER WORKS



Vartan Gregorian, president of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, hugs Big Bird before the big, yellow bird left the stage at the Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy ceremony held Oct. 3 in New York.

Nine philanthropists honored at Carnegie event in New York

On a beautiful October afternoon, distinguished guests — including Vartan Gregorian, Yo-Yo Ma, and Big Bird — gathered in the Beaux-Arts splendor of The New York Public Library's Bartos Forum to salute the “awe-inspiring” munificence of this year's Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy awardees.

It was a day to honor those who use their success and stature to take on some of the world's biggest problems.

More than 300 guests came to The New York Public Library's Stephen A. Schwarzman Building on Oct. 3 to celebrate nine of the most influential philanthropists on the planet.

Vartan Gregorian, president of Carnegie Corporation of New York, enlightened the crowd about the exceptional achievements of this year's medalists.

“Indeed, the munificence of the Carnegie Medal recipients is not only remarkable, but awe-inspiring,” said Gregorian. “You are living examples of Andrew Carnegie's philanthropic legacy and of those who have followed in his footsteps.

“You have all dedicated not only your personal wealth, but your reputations, your time, and your talents to causes of deep significance to you and to your communities: namely education, international peace, the environment, the arts, the protection of our democracy, and much, much more.”

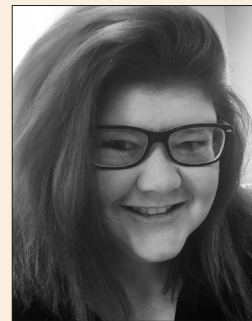
As the morning moved to afternoon, Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble took to the stage to perform a selection of instrumental songs and dances, highlighted by Sandeep Das's haunting tabla solo.

Speaking next was the event's master of ceremonies, BBC World News America presenter Katty Kay. Kay brought each of the medalists on stage in turn, displaying videos detailing their philanthropic efforts.

The 2017 honorees are: ► [p.17](#)

NEW EDITOR HELMS NEWSLETTER

At the age of 10, I started my summer by creating a neighborhood newsletter, formatted on a double-sided, 8.5-by-11 piece of paper. The handwritten, hand-drawn publication mostly included puzzles,



Jewels Phraner

a few tidbits of insignificant, subdivision gossip overheard from my friends' parents, and the weather report plagiarized from the real newspaper. Despite the completion of a mere three editions before moving on to a weeks-long

Monopoly game and the fortification of last year's tree fort, it was my first introduction to journalism.

Later, I worked through stints as editor of my high school and university newspapers. It was there that I learned the value of telling stories. I could see students flip through the paper before class, hear groups of people discuss what they had learned from that edition, and answer follow-up questions from sources and peers. My classmates could use the paper to spread the news about an initiative or learn about what was going on with their town, their campus, and their tuition dollars. During those later years, I earned a Bachelor of Journalism from the widely acclaimed University of Missouri and went on to work as a reporter for a Pittsburgh daily newspaper in 2009. While there, I also started what became a moderately successful blog that mostly included scrumptious recipes, a few tidbits from my own life and Pinterest-worthy crafts.

Twenty years after the debut of my journalism career, I am honored to continue growing as an editor through imPULSE.

When I started working at the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission in June 2013, I wrote in my introduction to the organization that I have always loved telling stories and those of our heroes were especially fulfilling to me as a writer and as a human.

“Every day I get to write about extraordinary acts of kindness. I get to tell the epic stories of the bravery and courage and altruism in real people,” I wrote in an imPULSE article three months after joining the organization.

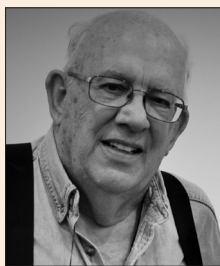
As a case investigator, most of that writing was in the form of highly detailed reports that attempted to present the fullest picture of the rescue for Commission board members to effectively render their decisions. Investigations include determining wind direction and water current speed, estimating the weight of an attacking animal, or calculating the impact force created by a falling object. These types of ► [p.17](#)



CARNEGIE HERO RELEASES THIRD BOOK ABOUT CIVIL WAR RELICS

A third book written by Carnegie Hero **Charles S. Harris**, a self-proclaimed relic hunter, was released in November.

The History and Story of the Lookout Mountain Civil War Musket Cave Guns tells



Charles S. Harris

the story of nine Civil War muskets that were left in a cave on the side of Lookout Mountain in Tennessee.

Harris said he started writing the story 20 years ago, but he kept setting it aside.

"I finally decided that I had to complete it or forget it," he said.

The Lookout Mountain ridge straddles northwest Georgia, northeast Alabama and the Tennessee state line in Chattanooga, Tenn. It was the scene of the Nov. 24, 1863 battle called The Battle above the Clouds.

Harris, 76, spent part of his childhood on Lookout Mountain, and has always lived near the area.

"Actually the book starts when I was about 10 years old, when I saw my first of the Cave Guns," Harris said.

The nine guns were found in 1931 and taken home by the finder, who died in the mid-1950s. They were then dispersed with the rest of his estate, and Harris has been on a quest to reunite them.

Harris has since collected five of the nine guns, and knows the location of the sixth, he said.

Harris also wrote *Civil War Relics of Western Campaigns, 1861-1865* and co-authored *Never Mace a Skunk II*, which is a group of short stories about relic hunting.

At the age of 22, Harris was awarded the Carnegie Medal for pulling two girls, ages 8 and 10, from a submerged vehicle in Big Spring Creek near Guntersville, Ala. The girls were in the rear seat of a coupe that entered the creek and sank in water, 11 feet deep. While the girls' family escaped, Harris entered the vehicle multiple times to search for and ultimately remove the girls from the vehicle. One of the girls was revived, but the other had drowned. Harris continues to serve by acting as a volunteer presenter of the Carnegie Medal to new awardees in the southeastern U.S.

The book is softbound, 8.5-by-11 format, with 101 color pages. Retail is \$20, plus \$4 shipping. To purchase *The History and Story of the Lookout Mountain Civil War Musket Cave Guns*, write to Harris at 9819 Leslie Sandidge Drive, Ooltewah, TN 37363. ☒



Earl Francis Higgins with fiancée Nancy J. Rigg. Rigg helped establish a memorial fund in honor of Higgins after she witnessed Higgins enter the flood-swollen Los Angeles River in an attempt to help a 10-year-old boy who was struggling in the water. Higgins was swept away by the current and drowned.

Fiancée commits to Carnegie Hero's legacy

After her fiancé, **Earl Francis Higgins**, died aiding a boy who fell into the Los Angeles River, Nancy J. Rigg committed herself to advocacy for improved swift-water rescue training. She also vowed that Higgins, a posthumous awardee of the Carnegie Medal in 1980, would not be forgotten.

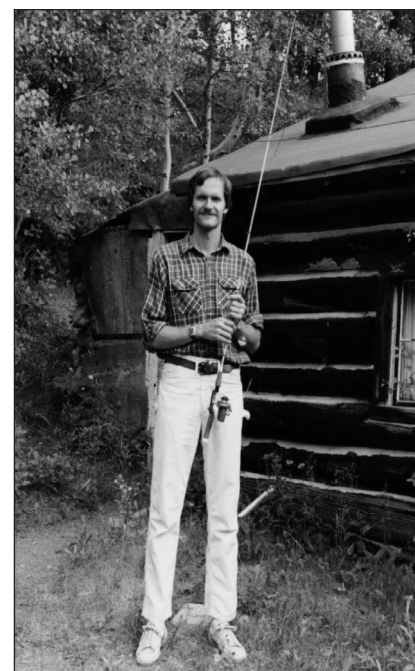
Rigg's efforts included her involvement in the Higgins and Langley Memorial and Education Fund, which is devoted to honoring outstanding water-rescue operations across the globe. The group, which will reach its 25th year in 2018, also bears the name of the late Jeffrey Langley, who was a Los Angeles County Fire Department firefighter-paramedic.

In September, the most-recent class of Higgins and Langley Memorial Awards in Swiftwater Rescue recipients included emergency responders from Canada and Australia, as well as the U.S. In particular, the group recognized the coordination among 30 North Carolina teams that rescued more than 2,300 people from flooding related to Hurricane Matthew in October 2016.

"We feel very honored that this award has survived all these years on worthy recipients," said Rigg, who lives in Camarillo, Calif.

The memorial fund, which originally began in 1993 as a committee of the National Association for Search and Rescue, now has a connection to the International Association of Water Rescue Professionals, which provides the setting for the award presentations in South Bend, Ind.

Steve Miller, chairman of the memorial fund's board, said some studies indicate firefighters are four times more likely to die in response to a swift-water emergency than a fire. Miller, who has more than 40 years of experience as a firefighter, was involved in the formation of a river rescue team in Montgomery County in Maryland in the 1990s. At the time of Higgins's act, he said, there was little first- ▶



Earl Francis Higgins



Carnegie Hero Fund Commission board chair Mark Laskow with his wife Lisa, holding a doll made in the likeness of Andrew Carnegie at the Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy ceremony held Oct. 3 in New York.



Carnegie Hero Fund Commission board member Linda T. Hills, holding a doll made in the likeness of her great-grandfather, Andrew Carnegie. With her is Matthew Scott at the Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy ceremony held Oct. 3 in New York. Scott is the president of the Carnegie Institution for Science in Washington, D.C.

► from p.15

Nine philanthropists honored

- Mei Hing Chak, China; HeungKong Charitable Foundation
- H. F. (Gerry) and Marguerite Lenfest, U.S.A.; Lenfest Foundation
- Azim Premji, India; Azim Premji Foundation
- Julian Robertson, U.S.A.; Robertson Foundation
- Jeff Skoll, U.S.A.; Skoll Foundation
- Kristine McDivitt Tompkins, U.S.A.; Tompkins Conservation
- Shelby White, U.S.A.; Leon Levy Foundation
- Sir James D. Wolfensohn, U.S.A. and Australia; Wolfensohn Center for Development

In addition, Big Bird, accompanied by Sherrie Westin, executive vice president for Global Impact and Philanthropy at Sesame Workshop, took the stage to talk about his Yellow Feather Fund, which brings education materials to children in need globally. Before he left the stage, Gregorian couldn't help but steal a quick hug from the big bird.

Kay concluded the afternoon by summing up the sentiments of the Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy with a quote from Andrew Carnegie himself: "Wealth is not to feed our egos, but to feed the hungry and to help people help themselves." ❧

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NEW EDITOR HELMS NEWSLETTER

facts are integral to helping Commission members determine the risk taken on by each rescuer under consideration for the Carnegie Medal.

Now, as I stretch my legs in a newly created outreach coordinator role, I still have the honor of writing about Carnegie Heroes, but imPULSE deals with more than just these epic rescues – it deals with the aftermath, too. Together, we get to learn about what the heroes do with the rest of their lives, such as Carnegie Hero **John Williams**, who recently won sheriff department awards for two additional rescues (see September edition of imPULSE). We get to learn about the impact of the rescue on those who were saved, such as the boy named for **Primitivo Garcia**, the man who saved the boy's then-pregnant grandmother from assault in 1967 (see September edition of imPULSE). And we get to learn about the legacy left behind by our Carnegie Heroes for future generations, such as posthumous awardee **John N. Miller's** children, who returned to their hometown this summer to recognize their father's sacrifice (see page 18 and those who continue to tell the story of **Mary Frances Housley** (see cover).

As its second-ever editor, my plans for imPULSE are to continue its tradition of telling relevant, interesting stories that not only illustrate the continued impact of Carnegie Medal awardees on their friends, families, and communities, but also the impact of the Commission. I hope this newsletter continues to inform and inspire, as it has done for its first 50 issues.

"We live in a heroic age," Andrew Carnegie wrote in the Commission's Deed of Trust. And I can't wait to tell you about it. ❧

–Jewels Phraner, outreach coordinator

► from p.16

Fiancée commits to Carnegie Hero Earl Francis Higgins' legacy

responders in Los Angeles could do, citing minimal training for a water rescue.

Rigg was with Higgins on Feb. 17, 1980, when the 29-year-old writer and filmmaker ran to help James G. Ventrillo, 10, at the nearest river bank. Thirty years later, in a story broadcast on KPCC, a Pasadena (Calif.) radio station, Ventrillo said Higgins had extended his belt to him, and he grabbed onto it.

"This one second would change both of our lives, obviously, forever because what it did was it stopped me from going out any further," Ventrillo said then. Higgins soon after entered the water.

While Ventrillo made it out safely that afternoon, Higgins was missing for nine months. His body had been swept about 30 miles downstream, Rigg said.

Through the 1980s and into the 1990s, Rigg said, it was a challenge to encourage emergency officials in the L.A.-area that

they needed better training. The turning point came with the high-profile death of a 15-year-old boy in the same river in 1992. Television coverage of failed efforts to rescue the boy contributed to the establishment of swift-water teams shortly thereafter.

In the aftermath, Rigg developed a video, "No Way Out," that was distributed in Los Angeles County schools to explain the dangers of flood-control channels to students.

Later, on the prompting of officials from six fire departments, Rigg set up the Drowning Support Network to provide a community for families of loved ones who were missing. That network, which is sponsored by the memorial fund, since has grown to include a private Facebook group. She also has written articles for several publications for emergency officials.

"I feel like I really honored my promise to Earl," Rigg said. ❧

–Chris Foreman, case investigator



OVERHEARD

A big thank you to #CarnegieHero for sending this plaque. It was a very emotional moment when I finally affixed it Friday. —Great-great grandson of **William McRae**, Carnegie Medal awardee #1676, who died in 1920 while attempting to save a man from drowning.

This was a monster. —Eyewitness to actions of **John Paul Hollyfield**, Carnegie Medal awardee #9962, in reference to the size of the tree from under which Hollyfield saved a girl from being struck by its falling, 80-foot limb.

It feels good. It's nice someone acknowledges something was done. —**Richard William Dority**, Carnegie Medal awardee #9959, who saved a man from a burning pickup truck.

He was always a big brother. —Mother of **Kevin D. Little, Jr.**, posthumous Carnegie Medal awardee #9955, who attempted to save his 2-year-old cousin from a burning house.

I know he doesn't call himself a hero, but he is our hero. —Woman saved by **David E. Hammond**, Carnegie Medal awardee # 9963, who pulled her from a burning house.

It's just something I thought anybody would have done if they was in the situation. You hear somebody screaming, you try to help. —**Harold Shaw**, Carnegie Medal awardee # 9967, who helped to save a woman from a burning pickup truck.



Daniel Boudreau, left, and his grandfather, William MacRae, standing next to the headstone of MacRae's grandfather, William McRae, who posthumously received the Carnegie Medal after he died in 1920 during an attempted water rescue.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

A 1949 photograph taken of the burning house that neighbor John N. Miller entered, attempting to save two children from burning in Aquashicola, Pa. The first and second floors of the house collapsed and firefighters found Miller and the two children together in the basement. All three had perished.



Pa. fire company, historical society unveils Carnegie Hero's grave marker

It was Thanksgiving Day in 1949 when a fire tore through a house in the village of Aquashicola, Pa., and forever changed the lives of two young families.

John N. Miller, 36, lost his life attempting to rescue two neighborhood children, who also died in the fire. Miller's heroic actions were brought to the attention of the Hero Fund Commission and he was posthumously awarded the Carnegie Medal in April 1950.

Descendants of both families came together recently to recognize and honor the sacrifice made by Miller, known as "Buddy" to friends and family.

Sixty-eight years ago, Miller, his wife Faye, and their children, 2-year-old Elaine and 4-week-old Barry, were living at the home of Faye's parents on Forest Inn Road, just across the street from Charles Arner, his wife Alice, and their children.

The Arner house caught fire and Miller, a World War II veteran, ran to the home. Alfred Arner, 4, and his sister Shirley, 2, were trapped on the second floor of the house, where flames at the top of the stairway blocked egress to the first floor.

Miller entered the house and told Alice he would go upstairs and that she should take the other children out of the home, which she did. Miller covered his head and face with a water-soaked rug and ran upstairs to the second floor.

At one point, Miller's leg was seen extended through one of the windows on the second floor of the house but when firefighters arrived they were unable to enter, due to deteriorating conditions inside the home.

The first and second floors collapsed and Miller, Alfred, and Shirley were found together in the basement.

All three perished in the fire.

At Miller's funeral service the pastor read a Bible verse: "Greater love hath no



Sixty-six years after John N. Miller was posthumously awarded the Carnegie Medal, members of the Aquashicola Volunteer Fire Company and Palmerton Area Historical Society held a Carnegie Medal ceremony, in which they unveiled Miller's headstone adorned with a Carnegie Hero grave marker. Photo by Meredith Koons.

man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" from John 15:13 – the same verse engraved on the Carnegie Medal.

Miller's widow Faye received her husband's medal and an \$80 monthly grant that lasted until she married Paul Butler in November 1950. Butler adopted Elaine and Barry.

More recently, Aquashicola fire company member Mike Snyder learned there was nothing that noted Miller's life-saving efforts on his headstone in Towamensing Cemetery in Palmerton, Pa.

Seeking to rectify that, Snyder, other fire department volunteers, and local

historians spent several years researching the fire, Miller's actions and, with the help of others, located Miller's family members.

They requested a Carnegie Hero Fund Commission grave marker, and planned a July 22 ceremony – hosted jointly by the Aquashicola Volunteer Fire Company and the Palmerton Area Historical Society – where they unveiled the newly ornamented headstone.

Snyder and Rory Koons, President of the Aquashicola fire department, planned the July ceremony.

Miller's children Elaine Shaw and Barry Butler both attended the ceremony, as did Larry Arner, Charles Arner, and Sandy

Engle, siblings of Alfred and Shirley.

Tina Marie Decker, the daughter of Barry Butler and his wife Shirley, possesses her grandfather's Carnegie Medal.

Barry said the event was an emotional experience for him and his family.

"The Carnegie Medal is a very important part of my life, my family's history, and my father's legacy. It is the one thing I can hold in my hands and feel in my heart a connection to my father. Thank you for making this event, as well as the past, a more vivid part of my life."

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

—Susan M. Rizza, case investigator



John N. Miller's children, from left, Barry Butler and Elaine Shaw. They unveiled the medal to attendees of a July 22 ceremony honoring Miller's heroic act. Photo by Meredith Koons.



The headstone of Carnegie Hero John N. Miller, who was also a World War II veteran. Miller died while attempting to save two children from a burning home in 1949 in Aquashicola, Pa. After years of research, local officials sought a grave marker to affix to Miller's headstone located in Towamensing Cemetery in Palmerton, Pa. Photo by Meredith Koons.

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imPULSE is a periodic newsletter of the CARNEGIE HERO FUND COMMISSION, a private operating foundation established in 1904 by Andrew Carnegie. • The Hero Fund awards the CARNEGIE MEDAL to those throughout the United States and Canada who risk their lives to an extraordinary degree while saving or attempting to save the lives of others. • The Commission also provides financial assistance, which may include scholarship aid and continuing grants, to the heroes and to the dependents of those awardees who are disabled or die as the result of their heroic acts.

Further information is available online or by contacting the Commission.

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

Address change? Please keep us posted!

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THE QUOTABLE A.C.



*The performance of a duty ranks
before the offering of a prayer, any
day – nay, is of itself the best prayer.*

—An American Four-in-Hand in Britain, 1884

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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