2017 marked a year of change, growth, and continued success for the Hero Fund at large, which is reflected in and supported by the work of the Executive Committee. The Commission’s fulfillment of its mission is to recognize and support civilian heroism in the United States and Canada.

This past year saw a greater than average number of posthumous awards to deceased heroes, who gave their all in the attempt. In its work, it should be remembered that the Committee, in recognizing Carnegie heroes, does so in a lasting fashion, well beyond the present, and well into the future. The work lives on as a lasting tribute to heroes, in life and in death.

In September of last year, the Commission received a note from Merry Stockwell, widow of two-time Carnegie Medal recipient Daniel Elwood Stockwell, who died in 2009. Merry Stockwell had finally completed the final steps in placing a memorial stone at her husband’s grave site. It was a difficult final step for her to take. The stone bore two Carnegie Hero grave markers, one for each of the medals Daniel Stockwell had won, in 1964 and 1992, and they still provided comfort for her. She stated in her note that “Dan would be very proud to see them on his stone. Although he was never comfortable with the title of ‘hero,’ he was very proud to have been honored by the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission ... Being part of the (Commission) ‘family’ was a privilege to Dan and has remained a source of pride and comfort to the children and me … Thank you for the work that you do honoring those who have heroically tried to save a fellow human being.”

Daniel Elwood Stockwell was awarded the Carnegie Medal twice. First, for rescuing a man from drowning in 1963 in Phippsburg, Maine. Nearly 30 years later in East Swanzey, N.H., Stockwell, a high school principal, entered a classroom where a 16-year-old boy, armed with a high-powered rifle, had taken 15 seventh-graders as hostages. Stockwell offered himself as a substitute hostage in exchange for the students’ release, to which the assailant agreed, allowing the students to exit the room unharmed. For the next 40 minutes, Stockwell, at gunpoint, talked with the boy, until police arrived.

By Sybil P. Veeder, Chair, Executive Committee
Carnegie Hero Fund Commission

2017 in review: 77 awards made, more than $850,000 given in grants

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT
DEDICATED TO CARNEGIE HERO
An Eagle Scout project that was ultimately dedicated to Carnegie Hero Robert W. Eicher was featured recently at a national Boy Scouts of America gala.

Completed in August 2016, Boy Scout Benjamin Ryan Motta orchestrated the building of three structures located on the banks of the Rappahannock River near Falmouth, Va., and Fredericksburg, Va. That section of the river, which is flat and shallow in many places and situated between two parks, attracts swimmers, bathers, and anglers, but has also been the location of dozens of drownings since 1972.

“I was reading an article about the Rappahannock River. A lot of people have drowned,” said Benjamin, now 16, in a video produced by the scouting organization’s National Capital Area Council for the gala. “And I said, ‘Has anybody done anything about this?’”

On either side of the river, Benjamin built two stands that each hold a life ring buoy, a throw rope, and instructions on completing a water rescue. A third stand holds about 40 life jackets available at no cost for river visitors.

“Hopefully it will never have to be used, but if it does, it’s there,” Benjamin said.

Benjamin raised $2,000, solicited donated materials and at-cost building supplies, and organized the project.

The plague on one stand that bears the name of Carnegie Hero Robert W. Eicher, also one of the first recipients of the Boy Scouts gold honor awards.

By Sybil P. Veeder, Chair, Executive Committee
Carnegie Hero Fund Commission
A detailed account of Marsh's work and its impact.

In 2017, Marsh was awarded the Carnegie Medal, which is a prestigious honor recognizing individuals who have made significant contributions to the field of altruism.

Marsh's research focused on how our brains respond to fear and altruism, and her work has been instrumental in understanding the neurological basis of these behaviors.

Marsh's research has shown that when individuals respond to fear, their amygdalae (a part of the brain responsible for processing emotions) become activated. This activation is particularly pronounced in individuals who have a genetic predisposition to altruism. Marsh's work has helped to distinguish between those who respond to fear with a desire to help others and those who do not.

Marsh's research has also shown that altruistic behavior is not random, but rather is driven by a combination of genetic and environmental factors. She has identified specific genes that are associated with altruism, and has shown that these genes are expressed in the brains of individuals who are more likely to engage in altruistic behavior.

Marsh's work has had significant implications for understanding the neurological basis of altruism, and has helped to advance our understanding of the complex interplay between genetics and environment in shaping our behavior.

In conclusion, Marsh's research has been a groundbreaking contribution to the field of altruism, and her work has helped to establish a scientific basis for understanding the neurological basis of this complex behavior. Her research continues to inspire scientists around the world to explore the mysteries of the human brain, and to uncover new insights into the ways in which we can understand and harness the power of altruism.


Documentary chronicles girl saved by Carnegie Hero as she regains use of arm

When 15-year-old Loren B. Schaller walked into San Francisco’s Creighton’s Bakery on a spring day in 2007, she didn’t know her life would permanently be changed. Unprovoked, a man armed with a knife stabbed her multiple times in the bakery, only stopping when another customer, Kermit R. Kubitz, intervened.

An attorney, Kubitz, then-60, grabbed and then struggled with the assailant, who stabbed him twice. Kubitz removed the knife from his hand and threw it to the sidewalk, the assailant fleeing the scene.

Kubitz and Loren were both taken to the hospital for treatment of their stab wounds. Kubitz recovered after a month. Loren suffered nerve damage, which resulted in paralysis of her right arm.

Loren’s family is grateful to Kubitz, said Linda Schaller, Loren’s mother and a filmmaker.

“He risked his life for her, a complete stranger,” Schaller said.

Schaller said she struggled with the possibility her daughter might not use her arm again.

“It was hard with her being dependent again,” Schaller said. “She was paralyzed from her shoulder to her wrist. There was really nowhere to go but up at that point.”

However, hope was found when they found surgeon Susan Mackinnon, a doctor at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. She performed nerve transfer surgery, which saved Loren’s arm.

Schaller said she wanted to spread the word of this surgery through a 2015 documentary, “A Spark of Nerve,” which recounts the assault and shows how the surgery helped to save Loren’s arm, as well as other cases showing how the procedure has positively impacted patients who could have lost limbs without it.

Loren said she still deals with pain due to scar tissue, but has 95 percent use of her arm. She said she is grateful for how far she has come. She aspires to be a costume designer, and that would not be possible if she were still paralyzed.

“I imagine trying to sew without arm function. I think it’s safe to say that [Dr. Mackinnon] changed my life.”

Kubitz said has seen the documentary and described it as wonderful.

“It’s great to see so many people working together to help someone,” he said.

He said he was grateful that he was able to help Loren in that traumatic situation.

“She was such a little kid, well not so little anymore,” he said.

He described the rescue as a group effort, referring to Jonas Stullin, who ran after the attacker following the incident, and Dr. Sang-ick Chang, who kept Loren from bleeding out.

In the documentary, Mackinnon explained the surgery restores nerves to save arms and legs, avoiding needless amputations.

“She rewired me,” Loren said. “It’s sad that people with similar injuries have no idea that this is even possible.”

Schaller and husband Tim Schaller, who co-produced the film, had both worked in video production well before the bakery assault. Linda Schaller worked with numerous production and visual arts programs for PBS stations and also worked for productions with Kaiser Permanente Hospital’s multimedia department. Tim Schaller’s previous experience included shooting and editing film, animation, and he also was a colorist.

“A Spark of Nerve” has been shown at several festivals throughout the country and won Best Documentary Overall in the Los Angeles World Film Festival. They created Fogline Features LLC to create the self-funded documentary, which took five years to complete.

“A Spark of Nerve” can be purchased through its website, sparkofnerve.com.

— Missy McLaughlin, case investigator

Former AP Reporter hired as commission investigator

By the time I was hired to investigate Carnegie Medal nominees, I’d been writing about them for more than 17 years.

That stretch of Carnegie Hero reporting began shortly after I was hired in 2000 by the Associated Press, after spending the previous 12 years reporting for newspapers.

“What’s a Carnegie Hero?” I’d ask the first time the story was assigned to me.

I learned from the press release the essentials of the award. Then, as I’d write the AP stories and compile the accompanying list of winners with each, I came to understand what makes a Carnegie Hero and how Carnegie Heroes differed from other heroes I’d covered.

I learned that Carnegie Heroes must risk — or, in some cases, lose — their own lives to save someone from a life-threatening situation. But I didn’t fully appreciate that simple humanitarian calculus until I was hired as a case investigator in November.

My first case was, by Commission standards, fairly straightforward: A fellow crashed his car into a wooded embankment early one Saturday morning. Another motorist saw the burning wreckage, ran to the vehicle, and pulled the driver — all 6 ft, 2 inches and 300 pounds of him — through the driver’s window opening moments before the car was fully engulfed in flames.

I learned, among other things, that my first nominee wouldn’t have necessarily been eligible for a Carnegie Medal if he had simply been able to open the burning vehicle’s door and pulled the driver to safety. Rather, the nominee in my case had to go further, putting his life truly on the line by extending his upper body into the burning car because the doors were jamed shut. The nominee then lifted and pulled a much larger, and much younger, man to safety.

I was also taken by the time I spent investigating the actions of a Carnegie Medal nominee.

That case involved a man who claimed he was briefly enveloped by flames when the front tire of the burning vehicle burst because of the fire. He’d never seen a car burn to that extent in person, and realized I’d have to confirm whether such a thing occurs — or is even physically possible — during a vehicle fire.

Thanks to YouTube, I was able to find videos of a car fire where a burning tire did just what he said this tire had done. I was also able to track

ISSUE 53 • MARCH 2018

To see footage of Benjamin’s project, visit carnegieheroes.org/eagle-scout
Jamie Alan Hyatt died attempting to save friend David Syring from a ravine. He said the presentation to the Hyatts was emotional, in 2011 after helping to pull a man from a burning airplane that crashed after losing consciousness and becoming unresponsive. He attempted to reach Syring, who was about 20 feet away, but ultimately lost consciousness and became unresponsive.

A Carnegie Hero as well, Ansolabehere was awarded the Carnegie Medal for Syring and then entered through a small hatch in the tanker’s top. Once inside, Hyatt began experiencing breathing difficulties almost immediately. He attempted to reach Syring, who was about 20 feet away, but ultimately lost consciousness and became unresponsive.

A Carnegie Hero as well, Ansolabehere was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 2011 after helping to pull a man from a burning airplane that had crashed landed in a ravine. The award “reminds us of what bravery and what virtue lives in the hearts of our friends and neighbors,” said Gaetz, who represents Florida’s first district. The award “reminds us of what bravery and what virtue lives in the hearts of our friends and neighbors,” said Gaetz, who represents Florida’s first district.
by a man in a public waiting room of a police station, which caused her to fall to the floor. The assailant stood over her and punched and kicked her repeatedly. Alerted by her screams, Thomas left a secured area to go to Walter’s aid. He had drowned. 22, of Marietta, Ga., died on May 10, 2016 attempting to save friend Joseph H. Hopkins, 22, from falling in Lake Texaway, N.C. While hiking in a mountainous area during the evening, Hopkins and Zinsenheim were walking on the rocks in a streambed. Thick vegetation obstructed sight of the stream’s extension to the edge of a cliff and a waterfall at least 100 feet in height. Some distance from the cliff, Hopkins fell and slid over the brink to a ledge partway down. Zinsenheim, who had been standing close to Hopkins, yelled out. He ran after Hopkins until he too lost his footing, slid over the edge, and fell to the base of the waterfall. Both suffered fatal injuries. Thomas M. Petruszak, a 57-year-old tree trimmer of Manteno, Ill., died on Sept. 3, 2016 attempting to save friend Adam M. Woodruff, 37, from drowning in Lake Michigan near Goshute, Mich. Woodruff was fishing from a motorboat about 1 mile from shore when he lost his balance and fell into the deep, 70-degree water. Woodruff tried to swim to the boat, but he struggled to swim against the strong current. His mother then entered the water and swam to them. They all held onto each other and fought to stay above water as they drifted to the middle of the river. More than 200 feet downstream, Woodruff separated from Crystal and his mother and submerged. 91-year-old Frank B. Conselman, a 52-year-old arborist, of Atlantic Beach, N.C. The girl and her younger sister were caught in a rip current. Alerted to the situation, Conselman gave Marchand the kickboard and then swam to the other man, who was about 45 feet away. Conselman grasped the man’s arm and swam toward shore, hampered by the waves and strong winds. Once Conselman had him in washable water he stood and pulled the man toward the beach. Others then assisted him as well as Marchard. Neighbor James Edward Giles, 40, a construction safety officer, rescued a boy and girl from a burning house on October 18, 2016 in Terrace, British Columbia. The young siblings were in a split-level house when fire broke out in an attached garage. Alerted to the fire, Giles went to the home’s front door, which was opened by the children’s mother, who exited the house. Giles entered the house where visibility was limited by dense smoke, and covered the face of his shirt. He found the boy on a stairway to the basement, located about 8 feet from the front door. Giles partially descended the stairway and grasped the boy, then took him outside to safety. Giles re-entered the house and, retracing his steps, found the girl on the stairway going up to the upper floor. Giles picked up the girl and exited the house with her. A 52-year-old arborist, Mark Rich of Randleman, N.C., helped save a 9-year-old girl from drowning on July 25, 2016 in water off of Atlantic Beach, N.C. The older and younger sister were caught in the strong current of an inlet and pulled away from shore. The girl’s father attempted to go to their aid, as did her mother, who swam out and reached the 9-year-old. On shore, Rich witnessed the family in distress. Rich swam to the girl, who left her mother and held to him. With difficulty, Rich swam the girl almost back to shore but struggled to reach washable water. Rich’s wife swam out to assist them, and the girl, with help from others, reached safety on the beach. Joshua J. Owen, a 33-year-old construction worker of Kansas City, Mo., helped rescue a woman 39, and an 8-month-old baby from a Sept. 11, 2016 assault in Shawnee, Kan. In a store parking lot in the afternoon, two men ambushed the woman at her car after she placed her son inside. The woman suffered blows to her head, including from a handgun. Owen responded to the woman, who was bloodied. Owen punched and tackled one assailant, who then shot Owen in the face with the handgun. Owen continued to tussle with the man, who shot him twice more in the forearm and shoulder. Owen rode a few feet away. A bystander then fatally shot that assailant; the other had fled the scene but later was arrested. Owen underwent facial reconstruction surgery. Two months later, doctors removed the bullet from his shoulder. Neighbor Kevin Garrett, a 59-year-old senior equipment technician, and police officer Kyle Van Note, 32, of Kunkletown, Pa., rescued Andreas Kuznjeza, 65, from an overturned and burning car on Aug. 25, 2016, in Cresco, Pa. After a nighttime accident, a fire started at the car’s front end and smoke filled the interior, blocking visibility inside the car. Quintana and Van Note, who arrived at about the same time, attempted to open a damaged front door. They moved to a rear door and opened it. Kuznjeza’s hand soon appeared through the smoke. Van Note leaned into the car, grabbed the hand, and pulled on Kuznjeza, whose body was stuck. Quintana, too, grasped Kuznjeza, and together they pulled him from the car. As Van Note dragged Kuznjeza, whose pants were burning, further away, Quintana attempted to smother the flames with a floor mat before pulling the pants off. Quintana and Van Note then carried Kuznjeza to safety as flames grew. A 76-year-old museum owner, James Raymond Garvey, Sr., of Fairhope, Pa., saved Ryan Hindinger, 26, from a burning sport utility vehicle on Nov. 19, 2016 in Imler, Pa. Hindinger remained in the driver’s seat of his car after it left an interstate highway and crashed,
catching fire. Garvey was driving nearby when he noticed the fire. He ran to Hindinger’s vehicle and urged Hindinger to exit. Hindinger could not open the driver’s door. The passenger side of the vehicle was inaccessible due to burning brush. Garvey extended his upper body through the driver’s window opening and pulled Hindinger, who was much larger than Garvey, partially through the opening as flames burned next to the open window. Garvey then braced his feet against the vehicle and pulled Hindinger free of the vehicle, and to safety.

On October 28, 2016, Angel Darlene Fiorini, 32, a stay-at-home mom of Newman Lake, Wash., and Matthew Paul Burson, 45, registered nurse of Spokane Valley, Wash., helped to rescue Fiorini’s 7-year-old daughter, Gianna E. Fiorini from a burning home, with Burson also rescuing Fiorini. Fiorini was in the bedroom of a burning mobile home when fire broke out in the kitchen. Fiorini removed Gianna’s brother and sister from the home and then re-entered for Gianna. Fiorini went first to her hands and knees to her stomach and moved toward the bedroom through the thick, black smoke and blistering heat. Once inside the bedroom she removed Gianna from a bed and put her on the floor, then dragged her toward the front door. Fiorini stopped several feet from the door and briefly released Gianna to open it. Fiorini lost consciousness as she returned to Gianna. Matthew Paul Burson arrived on the scene and entered the home, crawling until he reached

a 24-year-old accountant, Justin William Schroepfer of Rhinelander, Wis., died June 11, 2016, attempting to save Kaylilyn S. Tansey and Abigail L. Sprinkle, both 22, from drowning in Lake Superior. Tansey and Sprinkle were wading in waist-high, 50-degree water on a shoal that extended from a shoreline to an island about 300 feet away. While Sprinkle reached a large rock nearer to the island, Tansey had difficulty with the rough current. Sprinkle left the rock to assist Tansey and called for help. Onshore with friends, Schroepfer waded into the water, then swam through large waves toward Tansey and Sprinkle. Schroepfer arrived in their vicinity, but all three were swept into deeper water, and Tansey and Schroepfer submerged. As Sprinkle floated into calmer current back toward shore, others brought her to land. Tansey and Schroepfer drowned.

Dmitry A. Bondarenko, a 39-year-old business officer of Shakopee, Minn., died Aug. 16, 2016, attempting to save his relative Aleks M. Kanishchev, 60, from drowning in waterfront off of Panama City, Fla. Kanishchev became trapped in a strong current in the Gulf of Mexico that took him away from shore and kept him from returning in the choppy water at a point about 160 feet from shore. Despite the strong current, Bondarenko ran to the water, entered the surf and waded and swam toward him. Bondarenko reached a point about 3 feet from Kanishchev and told him to swim. Bondarenko submerged and never resurfaced. Kanishchev swam out of the rip current and toward shore. Another man entered with a rescue tube and swam to Kanishchev when he reached a point about 50 feet from shore and aided him back to the beach. Bondarenko drowned.

The wreckage of the overturned sport utility vehicle from which Noah Hill King removed Jonathan A. Chiodo, despite growing flames in its engine compartment.
In 2015, Hollyfield was at a cookout when he heard a limb cracking from a tree that was positioned above playground equipment where Ashley was playing. Naylor found the woman on the floor. Unable to lift the woman, who outweighed him, Naylor told her to hug onto him as he reached under flames burned on the ceiling. Crawling 15 feet toward the living room, Naylor tugged hard on the man as the train, then in emergency braking, bore down on them. He dragged the man from the track just seconds before the front of the train passed them. "Officer Ortiz's heroic effort, which was captured on video and circulated around the world led to numerous awards. His final and most prestigious award was ... the national Carnegie Medal," the police department published after the ceremony.

Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett, right, presented the Carnegie Medal to the family of Kevin D. Little, Sr., and three of his siblings accepted the award. On Oct. 20, 2015, Kevin, 10, woke his grandmother, alerting her to a fire in the house. The grandmother woke four younger children, and as she escorted them outside to safety, Kevin re-entered the room where he and his 2-year-old cousin had been sleeping. Firefighters later found Kevin in that bedroom, lying on his couch, a mattress pulled over the two of them. Both children died.

The church service was preceded by members of Milwaukee Fire Department’s honor guard presenting the colors.

Kevin’s remains were carried through the church by men playing drums and placed on the altar during the service at his home church, where he was baptized in 2010 and where his parents married this past August. Each child at the service received a picture of Kevin’s baptism, which they held while singing “This Little Light of Mine.”

“What my son did,” Aerial Little told reporters at the service, “It didn’t get swept under the rug. We’re honored that he’s being honored by such beautiful people.”

“Today we pay tribute to a true hero,” Barrett said as he presented the medal. The congregation responded with a standing ovation.

Pastor Mary Martha Kannass also spoke during the service.

“Kevin responded with the most intense goodness that a pure human can show,” she said. “The strength of Kevin’s goodness still gathers people together.”

Kevin’s parents, Aerial Little and Kevin D. Little, Sr., and three of his siblings accepted the award. Kevin’s parents, Aerial Little and Kevin D. Little, Sr., and three of his siblings accepted the award. Kevin’s parents, Aerial Little and Kevin D. Little, Sr., and three of his siblings accepted the award.
The Carnegie Medal recipient will surely be remarkable, this hero will also represent the 9,999 awards that have come before them. These men and women—regardless of race, age, geography, or socioeconomic class—voluntarily entered dangerous circumstances, risking life and limb, to put their own lives on the line to rescue others. Although we have Carnegie Heroes stretching from Alaska to Hawaii and from one ocean to the other in two countries, we hope to involve as many people as possible in the celebration. One way to participate is to record a video for the Commission to use in a larger media project where the public can hear straight from the Carnegie Heroes themselves. The video will be made available online and also be shown at an event.

We are asking Carnegie Heroes or the families of posthumous awardees to answer five questions in a short video:

• What does the Carnegie Medal mean to you?
• How did your rescue act change you?
• What does the word ‘hero’ mean to you?
• What were you thinking when you made the decision to enter danger?
• Why is the Carnegie Hero designation important?

Those interested can have family or friends film them or simply record self on their phone. Other options include submitting a recorded video conference with Commission staff, or, for those near Pittsburgh, scheduling time to stop into the Commission office for a brief interview.

Videos should include the hero’s name and award year as an introduction. Although high quality footage is preferred, this solicitation is a rare case of quantity over quality, so whether a hero has his or her own YouTube channel or can barely find the record button, the Commission is interested in hearing from them.

To participate or to find out more information, contact Outreach Coordinator Jewels Pinsen at toll-free 1-888-443-8800 or jewels@carnegiehero.org.

Carnegie Heroes reunited with woman they rescued from vehicle blaze in B.C.

By Brian Fitzpatrick Regina Leader-Post

For Regina, Sask., men Andy Hilderman, Mark Barnard, and Mike Landry, a quiet beer in a city tavern is a world removed from the chaotic scene where they first met Julie Slade.

It was July 23, 2007 when the men — all just 21 years old at the time — rescued the Milton, Ont., woman from her burning, overturned vehicle at the side of Highway 97 near Armstrong, B.C., and saved her life. In 2009, the three received the Carnegie Medal for the dangerous rescue.

Recently at Leopold’s Tavern East, the three heroes — who firmly reject the term “hero” — caught up with Slade to mark the event’s 10-year anniversary, as Slade passed through Regina on her way to see family in Calgary, Alta.

“They’re part of my life,” Slade (formerly Julie Wharram) said as the group bantered back and forth while photos were taken. “We have that relationship ... it feels natural. This is like the third time I’ve seen Mark in my life, but it feels like the 500th time.”

It’s almost it’s strange to see how comfortable the four are with each other, when they’ve seen each other just a few times since that fateful night. However, these friendships were not forged in any normal way. Slade, then 25, had just controlled on Highway 97 and careened off the road at around 1:30 a.m., with her vehicle flipping and catching fire. “It’s burning, help me,” Hilderman recalled hearing her shouting at the time, as the three Regents came upon the scene minutes after the crash.

“It was just pure luck, we being on the road,” Hilderman says. “Just absolute luck. We could see the light from the ditch. It wasn’t too far off the road, maybe 50 feet, but it was a steep embankment so it was just getting down to it that was (tough).”

Though on vacation in the region, Hilderman, Barnard and Landry weren’t even supposed to be in that area at all. Headed to a houseboat on Shuswap Lake, they had detoured to visit a friend in Kelowna, B.C. For Slade it was the luckiest detour of her life, as the three men saw her hand reaching through the billowing smoke and went to work without thinking.

With the fire rising, they struggled to get Slade out of her safety belt, using water from their cooler and even some Coke cans they had around to try to quell the flames, but to no avail. Eventually, a knife was secured from another driver who had stopped, and Slade was cut loose by Landry.

“We grabbed her back — probably about 50 feet — and literally 30 seconds later, the car was exploded,” Landry told the Regina Leader-Post at the time.

Slade’s passenger had earlier escaped with minor injuries but she herself didn’t. She was sent to intensive care in Vancouver, B.C., with first-, second- and third-degree burns to 20 percent of her body. Since she’s recovered, her bond with the three men has become extremely close, as they stay in regular contact via social media. Indeed, the three even attended her wedding in Toronto six years ago, as guests of honor.

“It was the best night of my life,” says Landry. “It’s the only time I think I’ll ever get a standing ovation. I’ll always remember that. Meeting her parents and her to-be husband was just amazing.

Before this year, the group hadn’t met up for a few years, but Slade was clearly glad to be “just hanging out” with the locals. “It feels like we’ve known each other forever,” she said.

“We were just three guys that happened to do something that had to be done,” Hilderman said. “We didn’t go looking for it, it just happened to knock on our door. When the congratulations came in it was, ‘no, that’s not us. That’s not what we came here for.”

But the adulation did come. For their roles in the exploding car scene they described as “just like in the movies,” they received awards in Saskatchewan and beyond.

In addition to the Carnegie Medal, the three were presented with a Canadian Medal of Bravery each in Ottawa, Ont., in 2010, and had previously received official provincial recognition from then- lieutenant-governor Gordon Barthell. They were even featured in a beaver-themed piece in Reader’s Digest, with Lisa Vincent, Slade’s mother, keeping a photo of the boys on her fridge.

Yet lives move on from even the most dramatic events, and it now feels like a long time ago since Hilderman, Barnard and Landry were part of a group of 21 youngsters heading to enjoy a leisurely trip when they came upon the Carnegie. Andy is now a computer programmer at SaskTel, Mike is an electrician for Enbridge Pipelines, and Mark is an electrician for Bayer Crop Science. All three have taken last fallen lessons from that night, however.

“I find myself always wondering, ‘What’s around the next corner.’” Barnard says. “I don’t travel anywhere without my vehicle anymore. It’s definitely shaped our lives. You feel yourself more prepared for something like that, just having been through it.”

“Every now and then, I have that door. When the congratulations came in it was, ‘no, that’s not us. That’s not what we came here for.’”

The three men have each gone on to enjoy a houseboat trip when they came upon the carnage. Andy is now a computer programmer at SaskTel, Mike is an electrician for Enbridge Pipelines, and Mark is an electrician for Bayer Crop Science. All three have taken last fallen lessons from that night, however.

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“Every now and then, I have that door. When the congratulations came in it was, ‘no, that’s not us. That’s not what we came here for.’”

The remained of Julie Slade’s vehicle after Mark Barnard, Andy Hilderman, and Mike Landry rescued her, after a highway crash in which the car overturned and caught fire.
GRAVE MARKERS Bronze grave markers (below), cast in the likeness of the Carnegie Medal, are available at no cost to the families of deceased awardees. They are designed for mounting on stone or bronze memorials. Contact Susan Rizza (susan@carnegiehero.org).

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

OBITUARIES Written accounts of the awardee’s life, such as contained in an obituary, are sought for addition to the awardee’s page on the Commission’s website. Contact Chris Foreman (chris@carnegiehero.org).

ANNUAL REPORTS Copies of the Hero Fund’s most recent annual reports (2015–2016) are available online or by contacting Gloria Barber (gloria@carnegiehero.org).

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All is well since all grows better.
— Andrew Carnegie’s motto, 1913

Pictured: Oil on canvas portrait of Andrew Carnegie on display at the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery in Washington. The artist of the work, painted circa 1905, remains unknown.