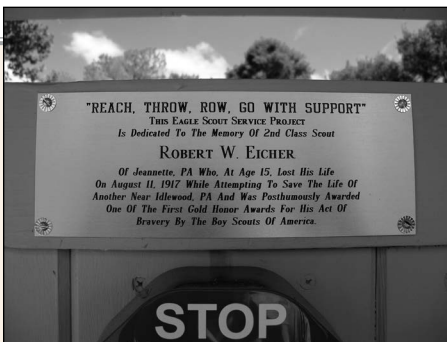




# imPULSE

A Periodic Newsletter of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission ISSUE 53 • MARCH 2018



*The plaque 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.*

## 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 ►p.4

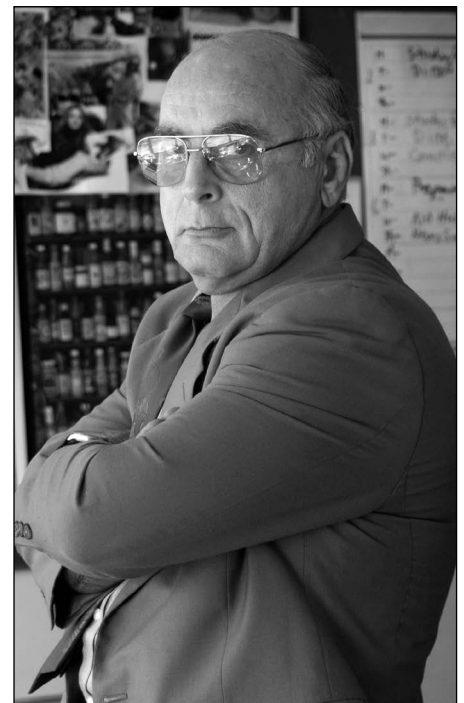
## 2017 in review: 77 awards made, more than \$850,000 given in grants

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

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.*





BOARD NOTES

**AUTHOR'S RESEARCH SHOWS LINK BETWEEN ALTRUISM AND HUMAN BRAIN**

By Mark Laskow, Chair  
Carnegie Hero Fund Commission



Mark Laskow

Abigail Marsh, an associate professor of psychology and neuroscience at Georgetown University, has written a galvanizing account of her research into the neurobiology of altruism. Galvanizing? Well, certainly to those interested in Carnegie heroes, but beyond that to anyone interested in how our brains work.

Marsh's book, *The Fear Factor*, tells the story so engagingly that describing her conclusions should require a "spoiler alert." Research by Marsh and her coworkers provides startling insight into the way a particular brain structure influences altruistic behavior. Yet these findings raise a disturbing question for the Hero Fund: Is the Carnegie Hero Medal just an award for a particular brain anatomy? If that were the case, it certainly might change the way we look at what we are doing.

Marsh's journey to the study of altruism was both personal and intellectual. As a young woman, she herself benefited from a dramatic rescue that, at the least, would have merited consideration for a Carnegie Medal. The peril she faced, and the stranger who helped her, left a lasting emotional impression.

Marsh's intellectual journey was more complicated, but equally interesting. Her Harvard postdoctoral thesis, based on her own research, revealed that a person's altruism was reliably predicted by that person's ability to recognize fearful facial expressions in others. She found this result "weird," and indeed two prominent psychologists noted it as one of the "most unintuitive" psychology findings of 2007.

Armed with her doctoral degree, Marsh began work at the National Institute of Mental Health as a postdoc assistant to James Blair, a prominent researcher in psychopathy. This might seem an odd turn away from Marsh's research into altruism, but it proved serendipitous. Marsh screened young people for early signs of potential psychopathy. Those who were willing underwent a functional MRI, or "fMRI," which is a specialized brain scan. An fMRI can't tell what a subject is thinking, but it can reveal how active various parts of the brain are during a particular mental activity. These scans were compared to a control group who had more normal scores on the psychopathy screening test. When the control group viewed human faces showing fear, their right

*2017 in review*

**Awardees**

Nominations of new cases numbered 735 during the year, and of the 77 submitted for Committee review, all were felt to fall within the awarding requirements. The number of awards, 77, was a decrease of 16 from the previous year. The total number of awardees during the life of the Hero Fund was 9,991 at year's end.

Seventy-two heroes came from 30 U.S. states and five Canadian heroes from three of the 13 provinces and territories. In the U.S., Florida was home to the most awardees (eight), followed by California and Ohio (six each). In Canada, Ontario claimed the most, three. At 6.5 percent of the year's total, the ratio of Canadian heroes was similar to the historical rate of 7.7 percent. The number of female awardees last year—eight, or 9 percent of the total—was right at the historical rate of 8.9 percent. 2017 saw a spike in the number of death cases, 18, or 23.4 percent of the total, as compared to 11, or 11.8 percent of the total in 2016 and the historical rate of 20.4 percent. In seven of the 18 death cases, the hero acted in behalf of family or extended-family members, including **Kevin D. Little, Jr.**, who at age 10, with the family's house ablaze and safety within reach, turned and walked toward the flames in an attempt to rescue his 2-year-old cousin. Neither survived the fire.

Kevin was the year's youngest recipient. **James Raymond Garvey, Sr.**, 76, was the year's oldest recipient. Garvey was recognized for his rescue of 26-year-old Ryan Hindinger from his burning sport utility vehicle on a rural stretch of an interstate highway in Imler, Pa. The age of heroes in 2017 included eight people younger than 20 years old; 12 in their 20s; 20 in their 30s; 17 in their 40s; 12 in their 50s; five in their 60s; and three in their 70s.

By type of act, most of the cases were fire-related, including burning-vehicle (20) and burning-building (12) rescues. Water-related cases numbered 28 (including five submerged vehicle and two ice cases). There were nine assault cases, which have increased during recent years. There were no animal-attack rescues, compared to five in 2016. There were three moving-vehicle cases, three elevation cases (an increase from last year), and a single falling object case, in which **John Paul Hollyfield**, 56, saved 6-year-old Ashley S. Gruwell from a monstrous, 80-foot tree limb that fell onto a playground where Ashley stood frozen atop a slide during a summer cookout.

**Grants**

Each of the year's awardees received a one-time grant of \$5,000. In 2017, nearly \$200,000 was spent on scholarship assistance, which involves aid applied toward the academic costs of tuition, books, and fees. The students who receive the scholarship



*After hearing a cracking sound at a park in Accokeek, Md., John Paul Hollyfield, 56, ran 30 feet to grab Ashley S. Gruwell from atop a slide and led her to the ground and then to safety. Within seconds, a tree limb, 80 feet long and 3 feet in diameter, fell across the top of the slide, destroying it and other playground equipment.*

assistance are diverse and impressive, each a hero themselves or a dependent of a disabled or posthumous awardee. Regarding the beneficiaries, who are primarily the widows of posthumous awardees, \$273,715 was paid in 2017 in monthly installments that averaged \$360; the number of beneficiaries decreased from 58 to 55 at year's end, through death or attrition. Each of the beneficiaries receives an annual review, with staff sympathetic to increased need, and all changes in the grants are reported to the Committee.

**Outreach**

With a continued emphasis on personal medal presentations to award recipients, Commission staff coordinated personal presentations of the Carnegie Medal to 60 awardees in 2017, accounting for around 77 percent of recent awards. Presentations were made by Commission staff and board members, public officials at every level, and volunteers, made up of previously awarded Carnegie Heroes.

Press coverage of heroic acts, awards, and medal presentations was robust, and websites' and social media accounts' public engagement saw increases.

Efforts are well underway in preparation for our 10,000th award, which will include enhanced outreach, commemorative items, and events.

**Abroad**

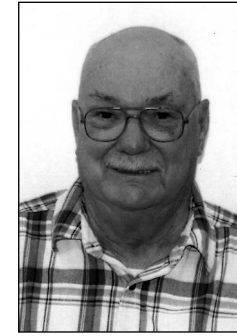
During 2017, grants were disbursed to the Dutch and Italian Funds in support of operations and events. The grants, provided by Carnegie Corporation of New York, with a goal to support and maintain the vibrancy of Carnegie's European Hero Funds, were instrumental in achieving the shared goal of inter-fund support and continued viability of Carnegie's international network of funds that support and celebrate heroism in many countries. Carnegie Corporation has remained an invaluable partner and has pledged continued support in the short and long term. Representatives of seven of the remaining nine Carnegie Hero Funds met in October as part of the biennial Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy events hosted by Carnegie Corporation. Plans are underway for collaboration on efforts and events in 2018 and 2019 in support of individual fund operations as well as a World Peace Day in the Netherlands and events to commemorate Andrew Carnegie's death anniversary in 2019.

**At home**

No changes were made at board level during the year. However, at the staff leadership level, the retirement of Walter Rutkowski in June effected the final stage of a year-long executive transition plan, with new Commission President Eric P. Zahren taking the reins effective June 30. This represented a significant, and historically rare, leadership transition at the Commission. Prior to his retirement on June 30, Rutkowski had served the Commission for nearly 44 years, most recently as its President. In Zahren, there are expectations of a steady hand at the helm to keep the Commission on its current course of success, with room for new perspectives within a time-honored approach.

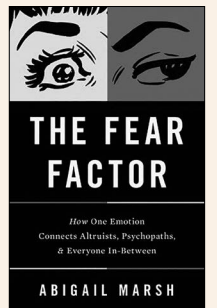
I would like to thank the staff for their unflagging enthusiasm and valued work, especially during this transition. After 25 years, I will miss Walter and his guidance, and I look forward to Eric's leadership.

*Sybil P. Veeder, a member of the Commission since 1992, has chaired the Executive Committee since 2002.*



*2017's youngest and oldest awardees. Left, Kevin D. Little, Jr., 10, died in 2015 attempting to save his 2-year-old cousin from a burning house in Milwaukee. After alerting his grandmother to the fire, instead of exiting the house, he returned to the room where he and his cousin had been sleeping. Firefighters found Kevin lying on top of his cousin, the mattress pulled over the two of them. Both children died from smoke inhalation. Right, James Raymond Garvey, Sr., 76, of Fairhope, Pa., pulled a 26-year-old man, who was much larger than he, from a sport utility vehicle that had left the roadway, crashed, and caught fire in Imler, Pa.*

from p.2  
**BOARD NOTES**



amygdala "lit up," showing high activity. The amygdalae (there are two) are small structures, roughly the size and shape of an almond, deep in the brain. When children who displayed high risk for psychopathy viewed the same human faces showing fear, the right amygdala show no activity. This was what the researchers were looking for.

Marsh's next step was inspired. As she looked at a graph showing the activation of each subject's amygdala, she saw that it looked like a normal "bell curve distribution" sawed in half. Most people clustered around a normal response to fearful faces, but the curve declined as fewer and fewer subjects showed lower and lower activation of the right amygdala. Out at the end of the curve were a tiny number of potential psychopaths who showed no response at all. When Marsh looked at the sawed-off bell curve, she wondered if there might be a population of people who made up the missing half of the bell. Could they be the altruists she had studied in her postdoctoral research?

To find out, Marsh set out to create a study of the purest altruists she could find. She initially considered a Carnegie Medal awardee, but quickly focused on individuals who donated kidneys to complete strangers. Rules around research on human subjects made the kidney donors more feasible. Marsh clearly enjoyed dealing with these remarkable people, and her description of their participation in the study alone makes her book worth reading. But the research results were even better: these altruists (and their control group) did indeed make up the population on the missing half of the bell curve. When they were shown fearful human faces, their right amygdalae "lit up" even more brightly than the controls. These kidney donors made up the missing tail of the bell curve, on the opposite side from the psychopaths.

This critical finding was really just the point of departure for Marsh and other researchers. Good science required, for example, that she explore other possible explanations for the data, and rule them out if possible. These are not minor details, because some of this work bears on the question raised earlier in this essay: Is the Carnegie Medal just an award for a particular brain anatomy? For today at least, I will invoke the "no spoiler" rule. (I hope I don't give too much away if I tell you we will still be awarding the Carnegie Medal!) If you are interested in heroism and altruistic behavior, read the book. Later, in another issue of imPULSE, we can gather again to discuss that issue. With luck, our understanding will be enriched by further research Marsh is planning with a group of Carnegie Medal awardees we are helping bring together. In the meantime, reading *The Fear Factor* will prove to be its own reward.





Boy scout Benjamin Ryan Motta standing in front of one of the completed life ring buoy stands he completed for his Eagle Scout project.

► from p.1  
**EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT**

three build days to complete the project.

"For me and all of the volunteers, it was 440 man-hours to build the entire project," Benjamin said.


Benjamin had previously read a booklet written in 1939 about the early recipients of Boy Scouts honor awards, including Eicher of Jeannette, Pa., and another boy, Edward S. Goodnow, 16, of Springfield, Mass. Both boys were posthumously awarded the Boy Scouts first Gold Award for heroism in 1917 after drowning while attempting to save others.

Eicher was also awarded the Carnegie Medal for the same act. On Aug. 11, 2017, a 15-year-old girl became distressed in Loyalhanna Creek in Long Bridge, Pa., and Robert, 15, who was fully clothed, waded from the bank and swam toward her. Robert sank within three feet of the girl, resurfaced, drifted several feet, sank again, and drowned.

"I thought it fitting that the stands be dedicated in their honor and to honor the tradition of trained water safety rescue that has become a hallmark of the Boy Scouts ever since," Benjamin said in a personal video he made about the project.

The Robert W. Eicher Memorial Life Ring Buoy Stand is located on the north side of the Rappahannock River, while a brass plaque on the south bank's life ring buoy stand bears Edward's name.

Benjamin said he is very proud of his project and his scouting career.

"Scouting means to me being a good person, being a good citizen, being a good member of the community. Doing what's right even when no one's looking," he said. 

—**Jewels Phraner, outreach coordinator**

To see footage of Benjamin's project, visit [carnegiehero.org/eagle-scout](http://carnegiehero.org/eagle-scout)



The front of Creighton's Bakery in San Francisco after an incident in which Carnegie Hero Kermit R. Kubitz rescued 15-year-old Loren B. Schaller who was being stabbed by a man armed with a knife.

## 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 did not 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 side 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.

"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 she was grateful that he was able to help Loren in that traumatic situation.

"She was such a smart little kid, well not so little anymore," he said.

He described the rescue as a group effort, referring to Jonas Svallin, 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 reroutes 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."

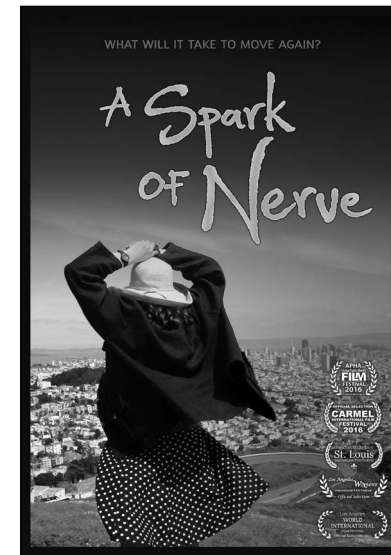
Schaller and husband Tim Schaller, who co-produced the film, had both worked in video production well before the bakery assault. Linda Schaller worked with numerous production and visual arts programs for PBS stations and also worked for productions with Kaiser Permanente Hospital's multimedia department. 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 International 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](http://sparkofnerve.com). 

— **Missy McLaughlin, case investigator**



Loren B. Schaller



Kermit R. Kubitz

### 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.



Joe Mandak

"What's a Carnegie Hero?" I recall asking 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 feet, 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 had he 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 jammed shut. The nominee then lifted and pulled a much larger, and much younger, man to safety.

I also learned the attention to detail that goes into 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. I'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 video of a car fire where a burning tire did just what he said this tire had done. I was also able to track ► p.14





PRESENTING



From left, volunteer presenter **Paul A. Ansolabehere** presented the Carnegie Medal to the family of posthumously awarded Carnegie Hero **Jamie Alan Hyatt**: mother Geraldine Hyatt and father Robert Hyatt, along with Yellow Medicine County Sheriff Bill Flaten on Nov. 13 at a Wood Lake, Minn., Council meeting.

Jamie Alan Hyatt died attempting to save friend David Syring from suffocation. Hyatt entered a tanker-trailer after Syring collapsed and became unresponsive inside the tanker that was later found to be deficient in oxygen. Despite near-darkness inside and no easy egress, Hyatt called 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. He said the presentation to the Hyatts was emotional, with family from Syring's family also in attendance.



"The story of Mr. Hammond truly is inspiring," said U.S. Rep. Matt Gaetz, right, who presented the Carnegie Medal to Carnegie Hero **David E. Hammond** on Jan. 25 in the Santa Rosa County Commissioners meeting room.

On July 28, 2016, Hammond of Gulf Breeze, Fla., rammed his body into the glass sliding door of a home to remove his friend, who used a wheelchair. Once the door shattered, he was unable to see inside the room, but he crawled until he felt the bed and located Stephanie Wright. He dragged her to the doorway, and then collapsed, nearly exhausted. Others removed Wright from the doorway. Hammond suffered numerous cuts on his body and was treated by medical personnel for smoke inhalation.

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. "I'm honored," Hammond said after the ceremony.

Carnegie Hero **Robert Conant**, center, received his Carnegie Medal at a Nov. 16 ceremony at the Ontario Provincial Police department honoring highway safety employees. Police Commissioner J.V.N. (Vince) Hawkes, left, and volunteer presenter **Dennis J. Rogers**, presented the medal to Conant.

In 2015, Conant, an on-duty police officer of Stoney Creek, Ont., responded to the scene of a man who had become stranded on the wall of a steep ravine at a point about 10 feet from the wall's abrupt drop. Concluding that there was not enough time to wait for rescuers, Conant tied one end of a worn rope that was at the scene around his chest as the other end was secured to a tree root.

He lowered himself to the man, who outweighed him and was struggling to maintain a grip on a tree branch with one hand while holding his dog in his other hand. Conant helped reposition the man to a more secure position, straddling the branch, until rescuers could arrive.

Firefighters eventually used a series of ropes and a harness to secure and remove the man and his dog to the top of the cliff, an hour after his ordeal began. Conant was raised in a similar fashion, having spent 30 minutes on the cliff face.

Rogers, also a Carnegie Medal awardee, rescued a woman from a burning home in 2002. Conant said he particularly enjoyed spending time with another Carnegie Medal recipient.

"I met Dennis, and he was a great guy," Conant said. "We shared some laughs, compared some stories, and created a good connection."



LATEST AWARDEES OF THE CARNEGIE MEDAL

Since the last issue of *imPULSE*, the following 20 individuals have each been awarded the Carnegie Medal, bringing the total number of recipients to 9,991 since the Hero Fund's inception in 1904. The latest awards, which were announced on Dec. 19, are detailed on the Commission's website at [carnegiehero.org](http://carnegiehero.org). The next announcement of awardees will be made on March 26.

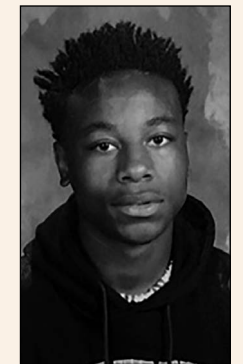
Teacher **Robin Ireland**, 39, of Plymouth, Mass., rescued a woman, 39, from a July 14, 2016 assault in Plymouth. The woman was jogging on a wooded trail at a municipal park when a park employee followed her to a secluded area, where he grabbed her and pressed pruning shears to her back. The woman struggled with the assailant, who tackled and repeatedly stabbed her. Jogging nearby, Ireland, heard her screaming and ran to the sounds. Ireland stepped to within 10 feet of the assailant, who stood a few feet closer than the woman. She was bleeding from the face and neck. The assailant, who was larger than Ireland, showed Ireland the shears; Ireland grabbed a long stick from the ground and yelled for the assailant to get away from the woman. As Ireland encouraged the assailant to come at him, the woman ran to safety at a small beach.

**Jason Allen Williams**, a 32-year-old truck driver of Orange City, Fla., rescued Michael J. Bridges, 61, from an overturned and burning truck on Aug. 4, 2016 in Apopka, Fla. Williams witnessed the accident and stopped. Despite flames burning at the front end and underside of the vehicle, Williams climbed atop the vehicle and opened the passenger door. He extended his head and arms inside, pulled on Bridges's arms but slipped and fell from the truck. He again climbed to the top of the truck and reached inside, grasped Bridges

about his belt and pulled him out of the vehicle. Bridges rolled over Williams, and both men fell from the vehicle to the ground. Flames grew to engulf the cab. Bridges required hospital treatment for his injuries, which included severe burns. Williams suffered minor burns, and he recovered.



Robin Ireland



Courtney Baynes Dorsey



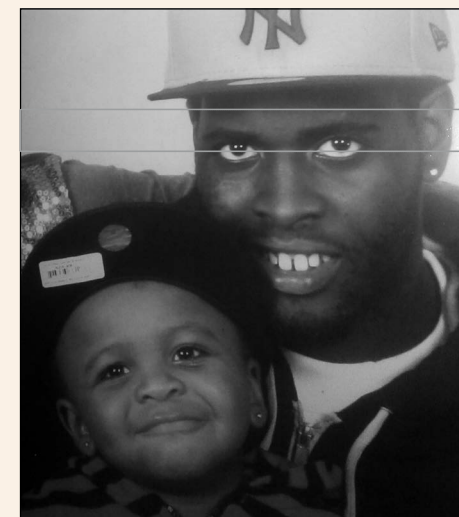
Terryann E. Thomas

Sixteen-year-old **Courtney Baynes Dorsey**, of Georgetown, S.C., died July 3, 2016 attempting to save his brother, Coey D. Dorsey, 13, from drowning in the ocean off Pawleys Island, S.C. Coey was wading in the Atlantic Ocean when he was knocked off his feet and carried away from shore by a strong rip current. Courtney jumped from the end of a rock jetty that extended into the water and swam toward Coey, but was unable to reach him. Courtney eventually submerged. Coey was rescued by a man on a surfboard who took him to shore. Coey was transported to a hospital and kept overnight for observation. He also sustained lacerations to his feet from which he recovered. Rescuers searched for Courtney, but he was not recovered.

**Demetrius T. Johnson, Sr.**, 24, of Buffalo, N.Y., died Feb. 19, 2016 attempting to save

his son, Demetrius T. Johnson, Jr., 3, from their burning home. Demetrius was in a bedroom of his family's first-floor apartment when fire broke out in the kitchen. Johnson was sleeping in the apartment's living room at the time. He was awakened and carried another child in the apartment outside to safety. Realizing that Demetrius was still inside, Johnson went back into the apartment to retrieve him. Arriving firefighters found Johnson and Demetrius in the living room and removed them. Demetrius was hospitalized three days for smoke inhalation; he recovered. Johnson died of smoke inhalation.

Police department inventory specialist **Terryann E. Thomas**, 46, of Topeka, Kan., rescued police officer Tammy K. Walter, 50, from assault on July 10, 2015 in Topeka. Walter was punched ▶



Demetrius T. Johnson, Sr., with his son Demetrius T. Johnson, Jr.



The burning, overturned grapple truck from which James Allen Williams rescued Michael J. Bridges from burning on Aug. 4, 2016 in Apopka, Fla.





**LATEST AWARDEES**

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. She yanked at the assailant from behind, pulling him away from Walter, but she released her grasp when the assailant began punching her. A struggle ensued with the assailant continuing to attack Walter and Thomas, at one point pulling her toward an elevator. He then kicked her in the head and chest. Thomas rose and ran to a door, opened it and shouted for help. Responding officers took the man to the floor and into custody.

Eighteen-year-old high school student **Austin Craig Welch** of Bartow, Fla., died on Sept. 3, 2016 attempting to save his sister, Crystal E. Droz, 11, from drowning after she fell from a Bartow dock into a rain-swollen river. Welch jumped from the dock and grabbed her, but he struggled to swim against the strong current. Their mother then entered the water and swam to them. They all held to each other and fought to stay above water as they drifted to the middle of the river. More than 200 feet downstream, Welch separated from Crystal and his mother and submerged. Soon after, Crystal and the mother reached a river bank, pulled themselves from the water, and went to a nearby highway to seek help. Responding authorities located Welch the following day in the vicinity of where he last had been seen. He had drowned.

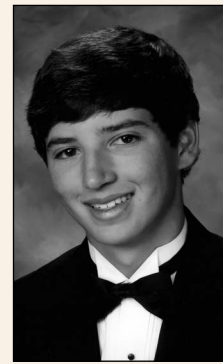
College student **Davis Ilan Zinsenheim**, 22, of Marietta, Ga., died on May 10, 2016 attempting to save friend Joseph H. Hopkins, 22, from falling in Lake Toxaway, N.C. While hiking in a mountainous area during the evening, Hopkins and Zinsenheim were walking on the rocks in a streambed. Thick vegetation 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 Gladstone, 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 trod water as he drifted from the boat, which his friend was unable to start.

A 38-year-old financial planner, **Noah Hill King** of Panama City, Fla., saved 23-year-old Jonathon A. Chiodo from an overturned, burning sport utility vehicle on Oct. 25, 2016 in Panama City. After an accident, the car came to rest on its passenger side in a culvert, its front end aflame. King drove upon the scene. He approached the driver's side of the vehicle and using his forearm, struck the window, but the glass did not break. King was able to break out the window after two more attempts. Despite growing flames



*Noah Hill King*



*Davis Ilan Zinsenheim*



*Austin Craig Welch*

Also on board, Petruszak jumped from the boat and swam to Woodruff. Petruszak attempted to tow Woodruff to the boat, but a wave separated them, and Petruszak disappeared. The friend signaled distress and notified authorities. Alerted, a party in another boat located Woodruff, who was nearly exhausted, pulled him from the water, and took him to shore.

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 girl and her younger sister were caught in the strong current of an



*The burning house James Edward Giles entered twice to rescue two young children from burning in Terrace, B.C.*

at the engine compartment, King extended his upper body inside the window opening, grasped Chiodo under his arms, and dragged him through the opening out of the vehicle. King dragged Chiodo away from the immediate vicinity of the vehicle as flames soon grew to engulf it.

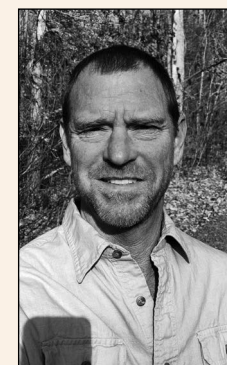
**Frank B. Conselman**, a 45-year-old business owner from Rockwall, Texas, saved a 32-year-old man and helped to save Robert S. Marchand, 36, from drowning on July 26, 2016 in Pensacola Beach, Fla. Marchand and the other man were caught in a rip current. Alerted to the situation, Conselman put on a flotation belt, obtained a kickboard, and entered the water. He swam approximately 225 feet to Marchand, who was barely above the surface of the water. 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 wadable water he stood and pulled the man toward the beach. Others then assisted him as well as Marchand.

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 his face with 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.

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 wadable water. Rich's wife swam out to assist them, and the girl, with help from others, reached safety on the beach.



*James Edward Giles*



*Mark Rich*



*The remains of the vehicle involved in the rescue of its driver, Ryan Hindinger, by James Raymond Garvey, Sr.*

Neighbor **Hilton Quintana**, a 59-year-old senior equipment technician, and police officer **Kyle Van Note**, 32, of Kunkletown, Pa., rescued Andreas Kruiuzenga, 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. Kruiuzenga's hand soon appeared through the smoke. Van Note leaned into the car, grabbed the hand, and pulled on Kruiuzenga, whose body was stuck. Quintana, too, grasped Kruiuzenga, and together they pulled him from the car. As Van Note dragged Kruiuzenga, whose pants were burning, farther away, Quintana attempted to smother the flames with a floor mat before pulling the pants off. Quintana and Van Note then carried Kruiuzenga to safety as flames grew.



*Kyle Van Note*



*Frank B. Conselman*

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,

Two months later, doctors removed the bullet from his shoulder.

Handgun. Owen continued to tussle with the man, who shot him twice more in the forearm and shoulder. Owen rolled 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.

**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

►





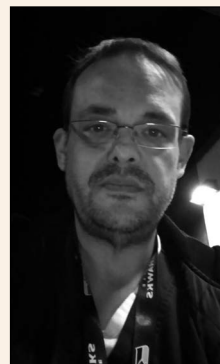
**LATEST AWARDEES**

catching fire. Garvey was driving nearby when he noticed the fire. He ran to Hinderger's vehicle and urged Hinderger to exit. Hinderger 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 Hinderger, 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 Hinderger 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. Gianna 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



*Angel Darlene Fiorini*



*Matthew Paul Burson*

for Gianna. Fiorini went first to her hands and knees then 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



*Justin William Schroepfer*



*Dmitriy A. Bondarenko*

Fiorini, who was unconscious. Burson moved Fiorini to the door and took her outside, where she regained consciousness. Burson re-entered the home and found Gianna, who was also unconscious, and removed her from the home, where she regained consciousness. Flames extended out the doorway minutes after they were away from the home, which was shortly engulfed by flames.

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. On shore 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.

**Dmitriy A. Bondarenko**, a 39-year-old business officer of Shakopee, Minn., died Aug. 10, 2016, attempting to save his relative Aleks M. Kanishchev, 60, from drowning in water 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 Jonathon A. Chiodo, despite growing flames in its engine compartment.*

**PRESENTING**



Carnegie Hero Fund Commission board member Evan S. Frazier presented the Carnegie Medal to **Harold Shaw** (left photo) and **Vincent Santaniello** (right photo) in ceremonies held Jan. 28 in Ohio.

In September 2016, neighbors Santaniello and Shaw responded to the scene of a one-vehicle crash in which a pickup truck left the highway, struck a utility pole and flames broke out under the hood. Santaniello, who arrived first, opened the passenger-side door and pulled the driver into the passenger seat. Then Shaw arrived, and upon hearing that the driver's legs were trapped, he entered the truck and reached into the pedal area to free her feet. Shaw then moved the steering wheel, further freeing the driver as Santaniello pulled her from the truck. Together they dragged her into grass before flames increased to engulf the truck.

Pictured, Frazier, left, presented Shaw with the Carnegie Medal at the Mystic Tie No. 194 masonic lodge in Dennison, Ohio. He also traveled to Santaniello's home in Uhrichsville, Ohio, where he presented the medal to him there in a private ceremony with his wife, Karen Santaniello, and children, Michael Jones and Michelle Cook.

"It was a true honor and pleasure to present Carnegie Medals to Santaniello and Shaw," Frazier said.



Carnegie Hero Fund Commission president Eric P. Zahren traveled to Ottawa, Ont., to present the Carnegie Medal to the family of **Michael Lumahang** and **Jesse T. Haw** at a Nov. 9 ceremony held at the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General.

Michael Lumahang's posthumous medal was presented to his mother, Aquilina Tremblay (top photo). Also pictured are Haw, left, accepting the Carnegie Medal from Zahren at the joint ceremony (bottom photo).

On Aug. 23, 2014, a 12-year-old boy slipped and fell into the Ottawa River in Ottawa. Lumahang, who was with the boy, jumped into the 65-degree water and moved toward the boy. The two shouted for help.

Haw was nearby, heard them shouting, and responded to the scene. He swam to Lumahang and the boy and grasped both of them. Haw swam with them toward the bank, but submerged a few times. Unable to continue to swim with both of them, Haw and Lumahang separated, and Lumahang was taken downstream by the current. Haw swam with the boy toward the bank where others took him from the water. Lumahang submerged and drowned.

The presentation was part of Zahren's visit to the Canadian Chancellery of Honours, which grants decorations and medals in recognition for Canadians tremendous contributions to society.

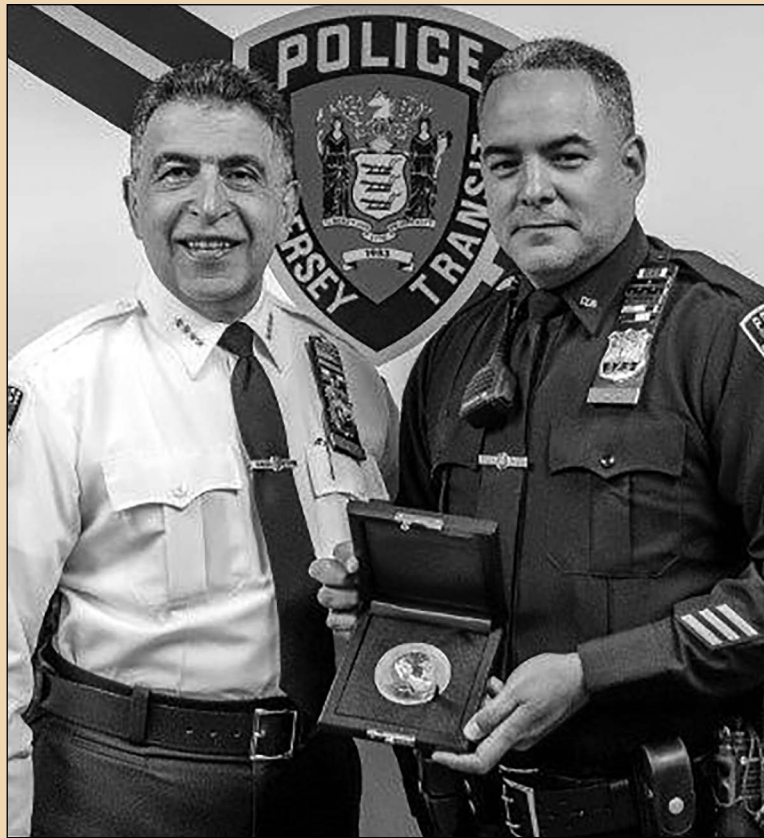
"Granting honours is a gracious, tangible, and lasting way to pay tribute to people whose achievements are exceptional, who have performed outstanding acts of bravery, or who have benefited Canada or humanity in general," the Governor General website states.

Lumahang and Haw also received the Canadian Medal of Bravery.





## PRESENTING



Carnegie Hero **Victor M. Ortiz**, right, a New Jersey Transit Police officer, was presented the Carnegie Medal by police chief Christopher Trucillo at a Nov. 16 ceremony held at the Newark, N.J., transit police department.

On Aug. 26, 2016, Ortiz, who was on-duty, responded to a despondent man at a train station in Secaucus, N.J. The man was at a point between the rails of a track at a commuter train station as an express train traveling at 60 m.p.h. approached the station on the track.

Ortiz advanced to the man who was lying face down on the track, grasping its rails. Ortiz handcuffed one of the man's hands and pulled it from the rail, but the man, who greatly outweighed Ortiz, resisted Ortiz's attempts to remove him from the track.

Seeing the train approach, Ortiz stepped between the rails of the track, but the man continued to struggle against him. Ortiz 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.

The ceremony was also attended by Ortiz's family.

To see footage of Ortiz's heroic rescue, visit [carnegiehero.org/victor-m-ortiz](http://carnegiehero.org/victor-m-ortiz)



From left, recent Carnegie Medal awardee **John Paul Hollyfield**, Ashley S. Gruwell, whom Hollyfield saved in his rescue act, U.S. Sen. Chris Van Hollen, and Carnegie Hero Fund Commission President Eric P. Zahren.

Zahren and Van Hollen, who represents Maryland, presented the Carnegie Medal to Hollyfield at a Jan. 24 ceremony in Van Hollen's Washington, D.C., office.

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. While Hollyfield and others yelled for guests to disperse, Ashley remained on top of a slide. Hollyfield ran 30 feet to the pavilion and led her to safety seconds before the 80-foot limb fell across the slide, destroying it.



Carnegie Hero Fund Commission President Eric P. Zahren presented the Carnegie Medal to Carnegie Hero **Merrill O. Naylor** in a private ceremony held Jan. 24 in Stephens City, Va.

Naylor responded to his elderly neighbor's burning home on Nov. 4, 2015. Naylor entered her home through a kitchen door, where flames burned on the ceiling. Crawling 15 feet toward the living room, 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 her arms. With flames burning overhead, he dragged her to the kitchen and outside to safety. Naylor suffered minor burns to his face, neck, and back.

## PRESENTING

Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett, right, presented the Carnegie Medal to the family of **Kevin D. Little, Jr.**, at a Jan. 28 church service held at Hephatha Lutheran Church in Milwaukee.

Kevin's parents, Aerial Little and 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 cousin, 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."



Carnegie Hero **James O. Vernon**, left, and U.S. Rep. Darin LaHood pose for a picture after LaHood presented the Carnegie Medal to Vernon at a Jan. 16 ceremony held in LaHood's Peoria office.

Vernon was stabbed in the hand while confronting and struggling with a man wielding two knives who had entered a youth chess classroom in a Morton, Ill., library. Vernon immediately stepped toward the assailant and confronted him, while the 17 children and four women attending the class exited the room to safety. Vernon ultimately forced the assailant onto a table, subdued him, and caused him to release the knives. Police arrived and apprehended him.

"To have him recognized by the Carnegie foundation really says a lot about him, his courageous acts on that day. And it tells young people that we have a hero in this community," said LaHood, who represents the 18th district of Illinois.

"Jim was phenomenal in just talking with the young man, and deflecting his attention from the kids in the room, because he really came in with the intent to hurt children," said Sandy Rassi, an eyewitness to the rescue.

Vernon continues to teach chess every Tuesday.





## OVERHEARD

It was just amazing. He beat the guy off with a stick and saved her life. — Eyewitness to the actions of **Robin Ireland**, Carnegie Medal awardee #9972

Every day I see accidents out there on the highway. I was thinking that if it were me, I'd want someone to come over and help me out. I wouldn't want to burn alive in my truck. — **Jason Allen Williams**, Carnegie Medal awardee #9974

Crash, boom, bang, it came down and crashed. — **John Paul Hollyfield**, Carnegie Medal awardee #9962, who saved a girl from a falling, 80-foot tree limb.

There was 100 feet of black smoke in the air. It looked like an atom bomb went off. — **Richard William Dorrity**, Carnegie Medal awardee #9959, who saved a man from a burning vehicle.

He loved Spider-Man and Doctor Who and all sorts of sci-fi, but this boy is a real-life superhero. — Family friend of **Austin Craig Welch**, posthumously awarded Carnegie Medal awardee #9977

I kept telling myself, 'You have a family. Why are you walking toward this burning vehicle?' When I saw a person in there, my instincts just kicked in. — **Noah Hill King**, Carnegie Medal awardee #9980

► from p.5  
FORMER AP REPORTER

down a forensic vehicle fire expert who explained the physics behind this phenomena - one of several steps I had to take to ensure this story of heroism wasn't embellished or simply misunderstood in a rush of adrenaline.

I was reminded of the seriousness of Mr. Carnegie's mission, which I and the rest of the Hero Fund carry forward, more than 114 years later, by my second case investigation. It involved two police officers who helped a woman escape a house fire.

Both officers responded and were commended for heroism by their police department. But only one officer entered the smoke-filled bedroom where the victim was trapped, after first taking a gulp of fresh air, and emerged with the woman in his arms a short time later. And, so, only one nomination went forward for investigation under our rigorous standards.

Those distinctions aren't spelled out in the press releases we issue and, as a result, that part of the story - the painstaking attention to detail and our rigorous award standards - sometimes escapes the public's eye.

It doesn't escape mine any longer. ☒  
— **Joe Mandak**, case investigator

## FROM THE ARCHIVES



*Mark Barnard, Andy Hilderman, Julie Slade and Mike Landry pose for a photo at Leopold's Tavern East. The friends met to mark the 10-year anniversary of Slade's rescue by the three men, who in 2009 were named Carnegie Heroes for the rescue. Photo, by Michael Bell, is courtesy of the Regina Leader-Post.*

## 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 men 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 just feels natural. This is like the third time I've seen Mark in my life, but it feels like the 500th time."

Indeed it's almost 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 lost control 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 Regina men came upon the scene minutes after the crash.

"It was just pure luck, us 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 lying 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 dragged her back — probably about 50 feet — and literally 30 seconds later, the car 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.

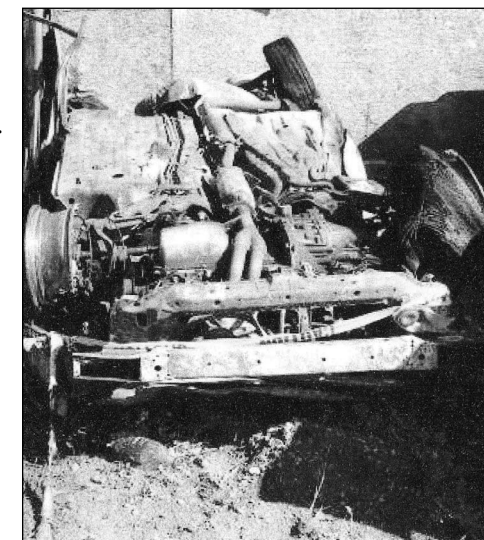
In addition to the Carnegie Medal, the three were presented with a Canadian Medal of Bravery each in Ottawa, Ont., in 2010, and had previously received official provincial recognition from then-lieutenant-governor Gordon Barnhart. They were even featured in a bravery-themed piece in *Reader's Digest*,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

Yet life moves on from even the most dramatic of 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 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 lasting lessons from that night, however.

"I find myself always wondering, 'What's around the next corner,'" Barnard says. "I don't travel anywhere without a knife in 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 medal hanging up in my living room and you see it and you remember," Landry says. "It really makes me proud of these guys, and proud of everything that happened. But it makes me more proud to see Julie." ☒

This article was reprinted with permission. It was original posted July 14, 2017 on the Regina Leader-Post website, [leaderpost.com](http://leaderpost.com).



*The remains 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.*

## CALLING ALL CARNEGIE HEROES

This summer the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission will be celebrating the awarding of its 10,000th Carnegie Medal.



Although the details of the 10,000th Carnegie Medal receipt 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 at the time 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 self-record on their phone. Other options include scheduling a recorded video conference with Commission staff, or, for heroes 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 Phraner at (toll-free) 1-800-447-8900 or [jewels@carnegiehero.org](mailto:jewels@carnegiehero.org).



**Carnegie Hero Fund Commission**

436 Seventh Ave., Ste. 1101 • Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1841

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

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

**Address change?** Please keep us posted.

Carnegie Hero Fund Commission  
436 Seventh Ave., Ste. 1101  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1841

Editor: Jewels Phraner

Telephone: 412-281-1302 Toll-free: 800-447-8900  
Fax: 412-281-5751  
E-mail: [impulse@carnegiehero.org](mailto:impulse@carnegiehero.org)  
Website: [carnegiehero.org](http://carnegiehero.org)

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**THE QUOTABLE A.C.**

*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.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:gloria@carnegiehero.org)).

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

**CARNEGIE HERO FUND COMMISSION**

436 Seventh Ave., Suite 1101, Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1841

Telephone: (412) 281-1302 Toll free: (800) 447-8900

Fax: (412) 281-5751

E-mail: [carnegiehero@carnegiehero.org](mailto:carnegiehero@carnegiehero.org)Website: [carnegiehero.org](http://carnegiehero.org)