



# imPULSE

*A periodic newsletter of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission* ISSUE 54 • SUMMER 2018

*Final Tribute to Schoolboy's Heroism*



*From the front page of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Oct. 12, 1954.*

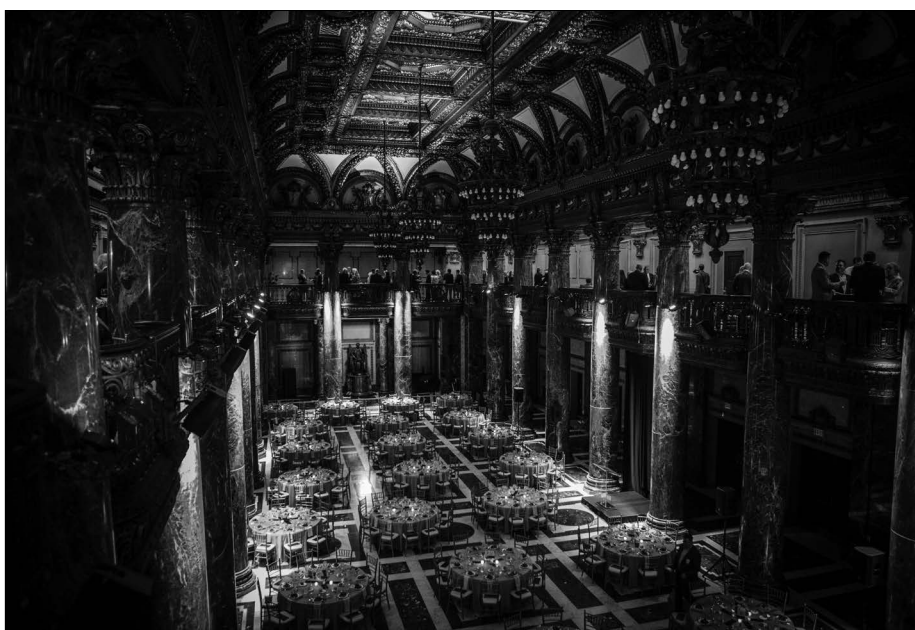
## 15:13: TEEN SAFETY CAPTAIN SHIELDED STUDENTS FROM 'ON-RUSHING' CAR

While the Hero Fund saw to it that **John Minadeo** be recognized for his courage, Pittsburgh school leaders ensured he would be remembered by his community.

John became a hero at age 15, when the newly named captain of his school safety patrol died attempting to shield classmates from an out-of-control county government car that rushed down a steep hill near their school after dismissal on Oct. 7, 1954. John had been a member of the safety patrol for about three years.

At his station on a curb at an intersection, John extended his arms horizontally to guard the children behind him as the car's right wheels mounted the curb. The car struck John and two girls, carrying them across the intersection before they fell to the ground; the car crashed into a pole. John and one of the girls died almost instantly; the other girl, who suffered extensive brain trauma, was hospitalized for 10 months.

Within weeks of the horrific accident, then Pittsburgh Public Schools Superintendent Earl A. Dimmick wrote to the Hero Fund to nominate John for the Carnegie Medal. In a petition that included several newspaper clippings chronicling the crash and the aftermath, ▶p.5



*Cocktail hour began at 6 p.m. in the balconies of the Carnegie Music Hall foyer before guests moved down to dinner on the ground floor. The four-hour event, held June 12, included speakers at dinner and a post-dinner program that included the unveiling of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission's Roll of Honor and the awarding of the Carnegie Medal to the Commission's 10,000th and 10,001st awardees, Vickie Tillman and Jimmy Rhodes.*

## Nearly 300 gather to celebrate Andrew Carnegie and his 10,000 heroes

On the evening of June 12, more than a decade after the centennial celebration of the founding of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission by Andrew Carnegie, 275 invited guests returned to Carnegie Music Hall to honor his philanthropic legacy and 10,000 Carnegie heroes.

The event, themed as "The Power of One – A Tribute to the Power of the Individual," marked the second in a year-long series of events around the world to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Carnegie's death in 1919. The evening's program celebrated Carnegie's enduring impact in Pittsburgh, and included Pittsburgh's four 'Carnegie' institutions – the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, and Carnegie Mellon University.

Master of Ceremonies Scott Simon, a decorated journalist, author, and host of *Weekend Edition Saturday* on NPR, welcomed guests to the festivities. The Chicago native proved he had indeed done his homework with his expert pronunciation of the Carnegie name. Following Simon's introduction, William E. Hunt, ▶





## BOARD NOTES

**'UNSUCCESSFUL' RESCUES ARE ALSO DESERVING OF THE CARNEGIE MEDAL***By Mark Laskow, Chair  
Carnegie Hero Fund Commission**Mark Laskow*

This issue of *imPULSE* brims with stories of the 10,000th and 10,001st Carnegie Medal awards, covering the rescuers, their rescues, and the joyful ceremony at which **Vickie Tillman** and **Jimmy Rhodes** received their medals as representatives of all Carnegie heroes, past and future. Instead

of rehashing what my colleagues have covered so well, I'd like to discuss a question — two questions, really — that might have occurred to you after you read these articles. First, why do we award medals for unsuccessful rescues? That is, cases where the victim died despite the valiant and risky efforts of the rescuer. Second, did an unsuccessful rescuer provide any benefit to the deceased victim? Was the effort, however risky, totally fruitless? These are important questions, ones that go to the very nature of the Carnegie Medal and to our human nature.

The first question, "Why do we award medals for unsuccessful rescues?" is the one that speaks to the nature of the award. We don't award the Carnegie Medal for physical prowess or competency in rescue technique. Remember, our rules that focus on altruism would exclude the part of the population most expert at rescues, such as lifeguards or firefighters. To qualify, a rescuer must act without any responsibility to do so. It has to be a free choice. Happily, our first responders are highly trained in rescues, but it is what they are paid to do, and in many cases they have even taken an oath to "protect and defend." As a result, many of our most technically competent rescues won't routinely receive the medal. The more important factor, though, is what the Carnegie Medal does seek to recognize: a dangerous moral choice, carried into action, to rescue another.

The awarding rules focus heavily on choice. For example, a rescuer must "leave a place of safety" to qualify? Why? If you are already, and accidentally, in peril yourself, then you take no moral action deciding to rescue yourself and others. Consider the inspiring case of Capt. Sully Sullenberger. As he himself pointed out in public, he never made a decision to get involved in that situation to rescue anyone. When the engines failed with him aboard, the decision was made for him. He proved himself both unflappable and a superb airman. On top of that, his comment on the situation showed great moral insight. He might be my favorite non-awardee of the Carnegie Medal! This is a perfect illustration of how the award focused on the

► p.3

*The stage is set at the June 12 Power of One event held in Pittsburgh that celebrated Andrew Carnegie's legacy and his 10,000 heroes.*

## Andrew Carnegie celebration

chair of the museums's Board of Trustees, and Mark Laskow, chair of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission, provided additional introductions.

Laskow noted Carnegie's legacy of benevolence.

"More than a century ago, Andrew Carnegie built a series of organizations in North America and Europe through which he intended to do nothing less than make the world a better place. That's an ambitious goal, but he was an ambitious man. His building materials were money and ideas, and he built well," he said.

After dinner, guests moved into the intimate auditorium of Carnegie Music Hall to hear words on the educational impact and legacy of Andrew Carnegie from Farnam Jahanian, president and Henry L. Hillman President's Chair of Carnegie Mellon University, and Mary Frances Cooper, president and director of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.

Carnegie Hero Fund President Eric P. Zahren spoke of the strength of character and altruistic bravery engrained in Carnegie's heroes. He referenced the selfless actions of William Hunter, a Scottish boy who lost his life attempting to save another child from drowning in a lake in 1886, believing it gave "life to a movement — the very same we celebrate tonight — in support of an idea that one individual, acting selflessly in behalf of another, can in itself not only save a life, but give life to hope for our future and the world."

At the end of his address, Zahren revealed a Roll of Honor of Carnegie Medal-awarded heroes and heroines, completed with meticulous attention and in accordance with the Deed of Trust, which calls for a "finely executed roll." This timely tribute to the more than 10,000 past and present Carnegie Heroes, not only indicated the unwavering sense of bravery and self-sacrifice found in humans, but also the Carnegie Hero Fund's commitment to sharing the stories of individuals such as **Vickie Tillman** and **Jimmy Rhodes**, who were the guests of honor at the gala as the commission's 10,000th and 10,001st Carnegie Medal awardees, respectively.

Following Zahren's words, keynote speaker and Pittsburgh native Michael Keaton returned home to recognize the 10,000th and 10,001st Carnegie Medal awardees. During his long and impactful acting career, he has embodied heroes such as Batman, but spoke of the importance of the Fund's deferential treatment of the title 'hero' and the recognition of true noble acts of valor, evident in Carnegie Heroes.

He noted that the common denominator of heroism is courage.

"Courage shows up all the time in this world and often without any fanfare," he said. ►

Before the presentation of medals, the audience viewed a short video about the commission's history, in addition to a moving reflection of the heroic actions of guests of honor, Tillman and Rhodes. As the videos played, the audience pensively looked on; the stories of Tillman and Rhodes taking hold.

Carnegie Hero #10,000 Vickie Tillman, 56, a school cafeteria clerk, was honored for helping to rescue police Cpl. Billy A. Aime, 44, from a Feb. 19, 2017, assault in Baton Rouge, La. Aime had been arresting a man beside his police car in a vacant parking lot when a fierce struggle ensued. Tillman stopped at the scene and called 911. Upon seeing blood on Aime's head as he attempted to maintain control of his holstered gun, Tillman proceeded to grasp the assailant's hand, pulling it off of Aime's gun. Arriving police officers eventually subdued the assailant and halted the attack. Aime, who suffered a concussion, was off work for one month; he recovered. Tillman was treated for wrist pain and recovered.

As Simon read the details of Tillman's acts aloud, Aime, who towered over the 5'2" Tillman, placed the Carnegie Medal over her head.

"Ms. Vickie saved my life. Anything for her, I'm willing to do," Aime said.

To see the videos shown at the event, visit [carnegiehero.org/celebrate-10000](http://carnegiehero.org/celebrate-10000)

*Carnegie Hero Fund Commission Chair Mark Laskow spoke about the impact of Andrew Carnegie on the world. "Andrew Carnegie was a man of big ideas, and lots of them," he said speaking to a crowd of nearly 300 people at the June 12 event held in Pittsburgh.**Attendees look on during the post-dinner program held June 12 at the Carnegie Music Hall in Pittsburgh. Featured speakers included Carnegie Mellon University President Farnam Jahanian; Mary Frances Cooper, president and director of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh; Carnegie Hero Fund Commission President Eric P. Zahren; and keynote speaker Michael Keaton. In addition to the unveiling of the Commission's honor roll and commemorative Deed of Trust, awardees Vickie Tillman and Jimmy Rhodes were presented Carnegie Medals for their outstanding acts of bravery.**Carnegie Hero #10,001 Jimmy Rhodes, pictured next to Karen Mahany, widow of Patrick E. Mahany, Jr., the man rescued by Rhodes. Mahany presented the Carnegie Medal to Rhodes at the June 12 Power of One event in Pittsburgh.*

► from p.2  
**BOARD NOTES**

decision to act, rather than the technical competency of the act.

The second question, "How does a failed rescue benefit the victim?" is a tough one because it requires us to think deeply about an uncomfortable reality. The victims in all our cases face a very unpeaceful death. If the rescue fails, their death will not come at the end of a long life, at home, surrounded by loved ones and buffered by palliative medical care. They will have no time to reflect on their lives and slowly come to terms with impending death. Instead, the victims in these cases face abrupt extinction in the worst of circumstance, overwhelmed by forces they cannot control. They are usually alone and in unfamiliar, tumultuous circumstances. This is not the death that any of us would choose for ourselves. (Not that we get to choose.)

In the best case the rescue succeeds, but what if it doesn't? What did the rescuer accomplish for the risk taken? Quite a lot, according to a beautiful insight from my Hero Fund colleague Sybil Veeder. Veeder points out how important it is that the victim did not die alone. Faced with sudden, lonely, and unlovely death, the victim realizes that, no, they are not alone. They die, but they die knowing that another human, the rescuer, so valued them that the rescuer would share the very peril about to claim the victim's life. This is a gift, a mitzvah, of great value, often delivered at great cost.

It was clear what hero #10,000 Vickie Tillman did for police Cpl. Billy Aime when she helped him fight off a crazed attacker. Aime survived to present the Carnegie Medal to her. But what hero #10,001 Jimmy Rhodes did was equally lovely also, because as medivac pilot Patrick Mahany died, he knew he was not alone, that a stranger was willing to walk into fire to save him. Tillman and Rhodes illustrate what we owe our fellow citizens. No one asks that we be superheroes, paramedics, lifeguards. What Tillman, Rhodes, and all of our other heroes did was recognize the peril to another human being and put everything they had on the line to help. Bless them all, the 9,999 standing behind Tillman and the next 9,999 standing yet ahead of Rhodes. ■





## Andrew Carnegie celebration

thermal injuries he suffered. Rhodes received medical treatment for smoke inhalation and burns and recovered.

At the event, Mahany's widow, Karen Mahany, in an emotional moment, presented the Carnegie Medal to Rhodes, both of their eyes wet with tears. The audience members, many of whom were also moved to tears, stood and applauded Tillman and Rhodes for several, heartfelt minutes.

Andrew Carnegie's dedication to honoring civilian heroes continues to be fulfilled by the Carnegie Hero Fund. More than 114 years later, during a celebratory evening at the Carnegie Music Hall, the presentation of the 10,000th and 10,001st Carnegie Medals are testament to the steadfast, inherent capability of humans to act selflessly and bravely at times when they are needed most.

—Abby Brady, *Commission intern*

*Top right: The evening's Master of Ceremonies, Scott Simon, right, meets William Rackoff, left, while Carnegie Hero Fund Commission President Eric P. Zahren and Board Member Nancy L. Rackoff look on. Simon, host of NPR's Weekend Edition, said he was honored to be part of the event.*

*Bottom right: Keynote speaker Michael Keaton engages the audience while reflecting on the importance of recognizing heroic acts. "The idea of honoring those who have been heroic at the risk of their own well-being, to me, stands out," he said at the Pittsburgh event.*

*Below: Police Cpl. Billy A. Aime, right, places the Carnegie Medal on Vickie Tillman, Carnegie Hero #10,000, during the program portion of the gala. Master of ceremonies Scott Simon, left, and Carnegie Hero #10,001 Jimmy Rhodes look on.*



*Matthew L. Stultz, a member of the Washington (Pa.) Symphony Orchestra's board, narrates a presentation on local Carnegie Medal recipients.*

## 'Music to the Rescue' symphony concert recognizes local Carnegie heroes

The Washington Symphony Orchestra opened its Feb. 18 "Music to the Rescue" concert at Trinity High School in Washington, Pa., with a presentation on Washington County Carnegie heroes numbering 16. As part of the presentation, "Heroes Among Us," a short documentary on the history of the Commission and its heroes, was also shown. A short description of the Commission and its work also appeared in the concert program.

Concert attendees included Carnegie heroes **William David Pennell**, who in March 1999, rescued three people from a burning car in Monongahela, Pa., and **Thomas W. Siegler**, who helped save two men from drowning after their towboat was swept into turbulent water at the base of a dam in January 2005 on the Ohio River. Commission President Eric P. Zahren, and his wife, Laura Zahren, also attended the performance.

"Music to the Rescue" was a fitting theme to pair with the Commission's work, said Adam Shaffer, general manager for the symphony. In addition, the orchestra prides itself on working other local organizations into its programming when appropriate, enhancing the educational experience for its patrons.

Included in the program were John Williams' film favorites "Superman" and "Raiders March," along with a medley from the James Bond films. On the classical side, the concert featured Tchaikovsky's "Marche Slave," Rimsky-Korsakov's "Scheherazade," and Verdi's "Triumphal March" from Aida.

"Whether it was Superman or Mighty Mouse from our childhood, we knew when we heard that memorable musical motif that help was on the way," said Yugo Ikach, principal conductor and music director. "With 'Music to the Rescue,' we shared musical moments that inspire and strengthen us."

The concert also featured 10 talented musicians from four Washington County high schools through the Side-by-Side Program, playing wind, brass, string, and percussion instruments with orchestra mentors.

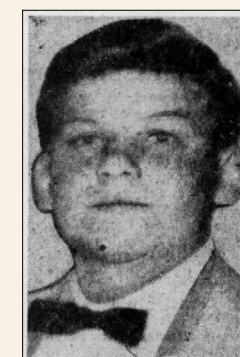
"Music to the Rescue" was the third of four concerts in the Washington Symphony Orchestra's 16th season. The orchestra presents four concerts a year featuring a blend of classics and pops around a central theme. In addition to the traditional holiday concert, "Ho Ho Ho with the WSO," next year's themes are "Scary Music," "Fire and Ice," and "Back to Broadway."

For more information about the orchestra, visit [washsym.org](http://washsym.org).

► from cover  
**15:13**

he wrote that John "gave his life in a valiant effort" to save the lives of his schoolmates from "the careening machine."

"As it plunged toward the intersection, John attempted to herd the students back on to the sidewalk," Dimmick wrote. "At the risk of his life, he ignored the on-rushing car." The following January, the Hero Fund awarded John posthumously.



*John Minadeo, from the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Jan. 22, 1955.*

The community mourned with the Minadeo family, which had moved from Italy a few years earlier. A funeral director estimated that 7,000 people came to view John's body, while roughly 1,000 attended the funeral at a church. About 20 of his fellow safety patrol members were pallbearers as he was buried in the cemetery where his father, Antonio Minadeo, was employed as a laborer.

With the aid of relatives, John's parents wrote a note to *The Pittsburgh Press*, thanking the paper and community members for honoring him.

"We shall never forget this kindness, as it makes us feel that we have made the right move in coming to this country, for only in America would the newspapers pay such tribute to our beloved son," they wrote.

By Thanksgiving, school officials already resolved to name a new building for John. That school, which opened in February 1957, remains in use today. A year later, on what would have been his 19th birthday, community members dedicated a plaque at the scene depicting his actions.

In 1978, author L.B. Taylor, Jr., included John's story in a book, "Rescue! True Stories of Heroism," which focused on the deeds of many of the youngest Carnegie Medal awardees.

—Chris Foreman, *Case Investigator*

*15:13 calls to mind those in the Hero Fund's 114-year history whose lives were sacrificed in the performance of their heroic acts. The name identifies the chapter and verse of the Gospel of John that appears on every medal: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Of the 10,028 medal awardees to date, 2,112, or 21 percent of the total, were recognized posthumously. They are not forgotten.*





## PRESENTING



Pocono Mountain Regional Police Chief Chris Wagner, center, poses with **Hilton Quintana**, left, and police Det. **Kyle Van Note**, right, after Quintana and Van Note were presented the Carnegie Medal at a March 13 ceremony at the Pocono Mountain Regional Police Headquarters in Pocono Summit, Pa.

Quintana, a 59-year-old senior equipment technician who lived nearby, and Van Note, 32, rescued a 65-year-old man from his car that overturned on a rural road in Cresco, Pa. The men pulled the driver from his vehicle. Van Note dragged the man away from the incident as Quintana used a floor mat to attempt to smother the flames still attacking him.

Quintana said he's still in shock after learning about the award, "I was expecting a handshake or a letter, something like that, but I am really honored and really proud," he stated in an online article.

However, Quintana shared that the greatest reward is knowing that the victim is alive and with his loved ones.

Photo courtesy of the Pocono Mountain Regional Police Department.



In a June 13 ceremony, Carnegie Hero **Matthew John Kalafat**, center, received the Carnegie Medal presented by Westfield Public Schools Superintendent Margaret Dolan, left, and school principal Mary Asfendis, right, in his classroom at Roosevelt Intermediate School in Westfield, N.J.

In September 2016, Kalafat, a 46-year-old teacher of Scotch Plains, N.J., saved a 26-year-old woman from drowning at Point Pleasant Beach, N.J. Kalafat entered the water to find the woman face-down and unconscious.

Kalafat grasped her around the waist and fought large waves and unswimmable water until ultimately reaching a point of safety. There, others took the woman and began efforts to resuscitate her.

"Out of 325 million Americans, the Commission chose 18 heroes, and your teacher is one of them," Dolan told Kalafat's students as they applauded.

Photo courtesy of Westfield Public Schools.



Carnegie Hero Fund Commission Treasurer Dan Sandman, U.S. Rep. Thomas J. Rooney, and Polk County Commissioner Melony M. Bell presented the Carnegie Medal to the family of posthumous Carnegie Medal awardee **Austin Craig Welch** in a special ceremony held Feb. 21 in Bartow, Fla.

In September 2016, the 18-year-old high school student of Bartow died attempting to save his sister, Crystal E. Droz, from drowning after falling into fast-flowing water. Welch and his mother entered the water and swam to Crystal. They all held to each other and fought to stay above water as they

drifted more than 200 feet downstream. Eventually, Welch separated from Crystal and his mother and submerged.

"Austin was a selfless hero who made the ultimate sacrifice for his younger sister," stated Rooney, who represents Florida's 17th district, in a Feb. 21 Facebook post.

Pictured, from left, Welch's brother, Scott Engle; Welch's father, Curtis E. Droz; Crystal; Welch's brother, Noah Droz; Welch's mother, Barbara L. Engle; Rooney; Sandman; and Bell. Photo courtesy of Rooney's office.

LATEST AWARDEES  
OF THE CARNEGIE MEDAL

Since the last issue of *imPULSE*, the following 37 individuals have each been awarded the Carnegie Medal, bringing the total number of recipients to 10,028 since the Hero Fund's inception in 1904. The latest awards, which were announced on March 26 and June 25, are detailed on the Commission's website at [carnegiehero.org](http://carnegiehero.org). The next announcement of awardees will be Sept. 18.

Photojournalist **Austin Raishbrook**, 40, of Blue Jay, Calif., saved a man from a burning car on Jan. 1, 2017. The man remained in the driver's seat of his sport utility vehicle after a highway accident in Los Angeles. As it came to a stop, it was struck by multiple vehicles, rotated, and was pushed against a concrete barrier. Its rear end caught fire, and the vehicle came to rest with part of its driver's side against the barrier. After witnessing the accident, Raishbrook ran across highway traffic lanes, approached the vehicle, and broke out the front, passenger window with

a fire extinguisher. After several attempts to force the driver's door open, he succeeded, and despite growing flames, extended most of his body inside, reaching across the unconscious man. Unable to release the man's seat belt, Raishbrook positioned the belt and pulled the man up from under it. Another man assisted Raishbrook in removing him from the immediate vicinity and ensuing flames.

**John Gerard O'Rourke**, a 61-year-old delivery driver of Milford, Conn., saved a boy, 10, from a Feb. 5, 2017, drowning in Milford. O'Rourke, who was walking his dog on a trail, warned the boy and his friends about dangerous ice conditions of a nearby pond. Soon the boy fell through the ice. Grabbing an 8-foot-long tree branch and moving on his stomach to reach the boy, O'Rourke also broke through the ice a few feet from him. Fully clothed and still about 75 feet from shore, he grasped the boy and held him above the surface of the water while treading water and attempting to break a path through the ice toward shore. Exhausted, O'Rourke heaved the boy onto surrounding ice and instructed him on how to get to safety. Unable to hoist himself out of the water, O'Rourke was pulled from the water and across the ice by police using a rope and

flotation ring. He and the boy were treated for exposure to cold water and both recovered.

Philadelphia residents **Louis Marano**, a 48-year-old salesman, and **Thomas W.**

**Brown**, a 55-year-old sales executive, helped save two men from an Aug. 6, 2016, drowning in North Wildwood, N.J. The men, both in their 20s, were swimming in the Atlantic Ocean at twilight when they struggled to stay afloat and shouted for help. After being alerted to the situation, Marano and Brown retrieved boogie boards, entered the water, and paddled and kicked to the young men, who were about 400 feet from shore. Marano grasped the arm of one of the men, told him to

*Austin Raishbrook**John Gerard O'Rourke**Karen Marie Mallon**Zachary J. Corey*

climb on his back, and using the boogie board, started to kick toward shore. Brown had the other man hold to his board. With difficulty in the waves and current, Marano and Brown moved toward the shore with the men. Officials from multiple agencies arrived at the scene with rescue equipment and entered the water. The two rescued men refused treatment at the scene. Marano and Brown were tired, and Marano swallowed water and was sore the next day, but both recovered.

**Zachary J. Corey** and **Karen Marie Mallon**, both of Beulah, Mich., saved Olivia L. Thomas and Addalyn A. Thomas from burning on Nov. 1, 2016 after an accident in Benzonia, Mich. Olivia, 6, and her sister Addalyn, 13 days old, along with their mother and 8-year-old sister were in a vehicle that struck a tow truck head on, and then traveled off the road into a shallow ditch where it caught fire. Both Olivia and Addalyn were conscious. Corey, 27, driver of the tow truck, ran to the passenger side of the vehicle where he saw Olivia in the front passenger seat. He forced the door open slightly, extended his upper body inside the vehicle, and removed Olivia from the vehicle. Mallon, a 51-year-old secretary, arrived and was alerted to the presence of children in the vehicle. With difficulty, Mallon freed Addalyn from her car seat and took her to safety. Olivia's mother and 8-year-old sister did not survive. Olivia and Addalyn were treated for minor injuries; neither was burned.

Security manager **Andrew L. Melhado**, 49, of Milton, Mass., rescued a 17-year-old boy and attempted to rescue a 24-year-old woman from a burning car on the night of Dec. 2, 2016 in

*From left, Thomas W. Brown and Louis Marano*

*Wreckage of the flame-ravished sport utility vehicle from which Zachary J. Corey and Karen Marie Mallon saved Olivia L. Thomas and Addalyn A. Thomas on Nov. 1, 2016, in Benzonia, Mich. Photo courtesy of Benzie County (Mich.) Sheriff's Office.*





*Left: A cellphone picture taken of the burning sedan that on Dec. 2, 2016, had crashed into a tree in Carnegie Hero Andrew L. Melhado's front yard in Milton, Mass. Melhado pulled a 17-year-old boy from the wreckage before flames grew to completely engulf the vehicle. Right: A tow truck removes a sedan that on July 21, 2017 entered a 9-foot-deep retention pond in Howell, Mich. Carnegie Hero Michael Albert Rodriguez pulled the unresponsive, 45-year-old driver free as the car sank. Photo by Gillis Benedict of Livingstondaily.com.*



#### LATEST AWARDEES

Milton. The boy, woman, and a man, 23, were trapped inside a sedan that had left a highway and struck a tree, causing the front end to burst into flames. Melhado was awakened by the crash in front of his home, saw the car burning, and quickly retrieved a fire extinguisher from his kitchen and ran out to the burning car. Unable to assist the 23-year-old man, Melhado broke the windows on both rear doors and, despite thick smoke, felt the boy. He grasped his shirt collar and pulled him out the window opening of the rear, driver's-side door, enduring nearby flames and intense heat. Melhado set the semi-conscious boy on the ground and moved to the driver's door and broke that window with the extinguisher. Unable to save the woman and man, Melhado was forced to retreat, and the two other occupants died. The boy was treated for injuries, and Melhado sustained burns to his left hand; both recovered.

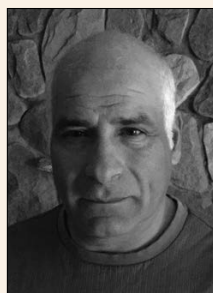
Carpenter **Michael Albert Rodriguez**, 54, of Howell, Mich., helped save a 45-year-old man from drowning in Howell. Harris was driving on

a highway when he suffered a medical problem and lost control of his car, it leaving the highway and entering a 9-foot-deep retention pond. Witnessing the accident, Rodriguez stopped his vehicle, exited, and ran to the pond. Upon seeing Harris unresponsive and still inside the vehicle that was floating in the water, Rodriguez removed his boots and socks and dog-paddled to the car. As bystanders worked to pull and maneuver the car toward shore, Rodriguez opened the driver's door and used a pocket knife to cut the seat belt and free Harris. As the car sank, he was submerged. Rodriguez grasped Harris from behind, removed him from the submerged car, and swam him toward shallow water near shore where bystanders were able to assist them from the water. Harris was not injured.

**Vickie Tillman**, a 56-year-old school cafeteria clerk of Baton Rouge, La., helped rescue Baton Rouge Police Cpl. Billy A. Aime, 44, from assault on Feb. 19, 2017. Aime had been arresting a man beside his police car in a vacant parking lot when the man, who was partially restrained by one handcuff and leg shackles, spun behind the officer and bear-hugged him. Although Aime put the assailant in a headlock, the man was able to remove Aime's baton, flashlight, and radio from his belt, and

grabbed at his holstered handgun. Tillman stopped at the scene, called 911, and exited her car. She saw blood on Aime's head as Aime attempted to maintain control of his holstered gun. Tillman proceeded to grasp the assailant's hand, pulling it away from Aime's gun. She held the assailant's hand behind him while the struggle ensued. Arriving police officers eventually subdued the assailant and halted the attack. Aime, who suffered a concussion, was off work for one month; he recovered.

**Jimmy Rhodes**, 38, of Lumberton, N.C., rescued pilot Patrick E. Mahany, Jr., 64, from a burning medical helicopter in Frisco, Colo. On July 3, 2015, Mahany piloted a helicopter that crashed in a hospital's parking lot, where it struck the front of a parked motorhome and overturned onto the pilot's side. Fuel immediately pooled on the ground and quickly ignited, the flames engulfing the helicopter's wreckage. Two nurses aboard the helicopter escaped, but Mahany remained on the ground near his seat. Rhodes, a radiographic technologist employed by the hospital, ran to the helicopter's nose with a handheld fire extinguisher, spraying Mahany and attempting to reach for his legs to free him from the blistering heat and flames. Rhodes pulled him from the helicopter's burning wreckage, spraying his body with the extinguisher as he rolled away. Although Rhodes successfully pulled Mahany from the burning wreckage, Mahany did not survive the severe burn, blunt force, and internal thermal injuries he suffered. Rhodes received medical treatment for smoke inhalation and burns and recovered. ►



*Michael Albert Rodriguez*



*Vickie Tillman*



*Jimmy Rhodes*



*Joshua K. Watt*



*Jason Alan Doig*



*William M. Mack III*



*Thomas Julius Sais, Jr.*



*Matthew John Kalafat*

A 26-year-old probation and parole officer, **Joshua K. Watt** of Bowling Green, Ky., rescued a 16-year-old girl and a 51-year-old man from an overturned and burning pickup truck following a June 26, 2017 highway accident in

Brownsville, Ky. Watt witnessed the crash that left the truck overturned with its passenger side against a guide rail. Unable to see the victims from the driver's side, Watt moved to the truck's passenger side and crawled under the guide rail. He found the girl, whose arms and upper torso extended outside through the passenger window, and used a pocketknife to cut her seat belt. After he pulled the girl to safety, Watt returned to the passenger side to find the man, whose shorts, socks, and legs were burning, crawling toward the passenger window. Despite burning gasoline dripping into the cab and onto Watt's clothes, he pulled the man through the window to safety. Both victims were hospitalized and treated for burns.

**Jason Alan Doig**, a 44-year-old cabinet shop owner from Sequim, Wash., helped save a woman from falling in Port Gamble, Wash. Doig was a passenger in a vehicle that was traveling on a bridge that spanned the Hood Canal when he saw a distraught woman standing atop a railing, attempting to commit suicide. He swiftly exited the vehicle and crossed to the opposite side of the bridge, remaining out of the woman's view. Another man approached the woman, distracting her, while Doig ran a short distance

to her and grasped her body. He maintained his hold on the woman as she struck him in the face, leapt backward from the railing, and dangled above the structure. The other man arrived and also grasped the woman. They began to pull her upward over the railing when a third man arrived and helped. The woman was safe and transported to a hospital for treatment.

On March 24, 2017, a 29-year-old on-duty police officer, **William M. Mack III** rescued a 54-year-old woman, from burning in a house fire in Aston. The woman remained in a rear bedroom of her home after a fire broke out in the home's attached carport before dawn. Three family members had escaped the house by the time Mack and another officer arrived to the scene. Mack and the officer scaled a fence and approached her bedroom. Mack climbed a stepladder to reach the window, which was about 8 feet above the ground. Using his flashlight to break the window's glass, he climbed into the bedroom as flames spread through other parts of the house. Despite thick smoke in the room, Mack, following the woman's moans, crawled about 9 feet, grasped

her, and carried her back to the window where he handed her to the officer on the ladder outside. She recovered.

**Thomas Julius Sais, Jr.**, a 62-year-old construction project manager from Palm Bay, Fla., helped save a man from burning on Oct. 16, 2016 in Palm Bay. The man, 60, was in a sport utility vehicle that, in a highway accident, left the highway, descended a steep embankment, overturned, and came to rest on its passenger side in dense vegetation at the embankment's base. Sais stopped at the scene and descended the embankment to the burning vehicle. He broke out glass from its rear hatch window and climbed fully inside. The driver was suspended by his seat belt, and after an unsuccessful attempt to secure a knife, Sais was able to release the motorist from his belt. Despite intense heat and advancing flames at the vehicle's front, Sais grasped the motorist and, with difficulty, began to pull him toward the rear. A police sergeant arrived and the two men worked together to pull the man to safety. Flames spread and the motorist was moved to the embankment and taken to the hospital for treatment; he was not burned.

A 46-year-old teacher, **Matthew John Kalafat**, of Scotch Plains, N.J., saved a 26-year-old woman from drowning on Sept. 25, 2016 in Point Pleasant Beach, N.J. Kalafat and his wife were on the beach when she woke and alerted him of a possible emergency in the Atlantic Ocean. It was high tide and the woman was struck by a wave that carried her away from shore. Kalafat immediately ran to the nearby shoreline where a small crowd had gathered and, though he did not immediately see the woman, he entered the ocean and swam into deeper waters to search for her. He found her face-down and unconscious and proceeded to grasp her around the waist and, with difficulty, towed and pushed her toward the beach. Briefly separated by a large wave, Kalafat surfaced beside her and, grasping her, resumed moving her toward shore, ultimately to a point of safety in wadable water where others took her from him and began efforts to resuscitate her. The woman was taken to the hospital where she was treated for several days and ultimately recovered. ►



*Billowing, black smoke rises from a flame-engulfed pickup truck after a June 26, 2017, highway accident in Brownsville, Ky. A young woman and man were rescued by Carnegie Hero Joshua K. Watt. Photo courtesy of Edmonson County (Ky.) Sheriff's Office.*





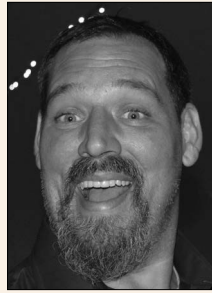
## LATEST AWARDEES

Maintenance man **Ross A. Johnson**, 52, of Colorado Springs, Colo., rescued a 65-year-old woman from assault. The woman was in the driver's seat of a car that was parked at a self-service car wash when her estranged husband suddenly punched her in the face and began to stab her in the abdomen with a pocket knife. The woman cried out for help and struggled with the assailant. Johnson heard her cries, approached the car, and shouted forcefully for the assailant to stop, prompting him to cease his attack and exit the vehicle. The assailant grabbed the wounded woman, stabbing her three more times as she attempted to exit the car. The woman collapsed and Johnson pushed away the assailant, who had placed the knife down nearby. He positioned himself between the woman and the assailant. The assailant was arrested and the victim spent eight weeks hospitalized and in rehabilitation, suffering partial paralysis from her wounds.

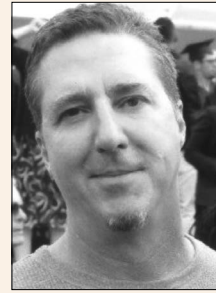
Business operator **Robert Lee Thornton, Jr.**, 40, of Warren, Mich., rescued a woman, 77, and attempted to rescue a man, 79, from a burning vehicle on Nov. 23, 2016 in Center Line, Mich. The man driving his pickup truck, accompanied by the woman, collided with a power pole carrying high-voltage lines. The truck rolled over onto its passenger side and caught fire. Thornton was driving nearby and witnessed the wreck. Realizing the truck was not energized, he climbed atop its driver's side and moved to

the driver's window where the man pushed the woman up toward the opening. Thornton reached inside, grasped her arms, and pulled her through the opening. Thornton handed her to two awaiting police officers and returned to the truck to attempt to save the driver, despite the spreading flames. Flames entered the truck's cab, causing the man to disengage. A transformer on the power pole exploded and Thornton retreated. The woman was taken to the hospital. Unable to escape, the driver died.

**John Andrew Ussery**, 51, of Sanford, Fla., died on May 16, 2017 attempting to save his 25-year-old co-worker from drowning in the ocean off Palm Beach, Fla. The man was wading in the Atlantic Ocean near a beach when he was swept into deeper, unwadable water and called for help. Ussery, a cable lineman, who was on the beach, entered the water, and swam to him. Ussery grasped him, but was unable to maintain his hold and the two were separated amid rough surf. With flotation devices, responding police officers swam out to the man and Ussery, who were about 200 feet from shore, followed by firefighters who paddled out with rescue boards. The officers secured the two men and brought them ashore. the man recovered after hospitalization, but



*Robert Lee Thornton, Jr.*



*John Andrew Ussery*



*Brian R. Gadwell*

Ussery fell unconscious on the beach and could not be revived at the hospital.

Detroit police officers, **Brian R. Gadwell**, 39, and **Steven A. Rauser**, 37, on April 17, 2017, helped to rescue a 31-year-old woman from drowning in the Detroit River. The woman fell from a concrete bulkhead into cold, deep water. Gadwell removed his duty gear to lighten himself, and jumped into the 40-degree water. Gadwell reached the woman and moved her to the bulkhead. There, he wrapped his legs around her and held to a steel rod that jutted from the bulkhead. He struggled to retain his hold and called for help. Rauser entered the water. Taking control of the woman, Rauser grasped her with one arm and held onto the rod with the other. She wrapped her arms around Rauser's neck and submerged him twice. The woman eventually disengaged from Rauser and drifted a few feet away. A boat responded and lifted all three from the water. All were taken to the hospital and treated for exposure to cold water. They recovered. ►



*The collapsed, burning home that Carnegie Hero David Moen entered on June 28, 2017, to remove a 29-year-old woman to safety in Lake Orion, Mich. Photo by Deborah Roseanne Bettis.*



*From left, Charley Torres and Stephanie L. Pelley*

Sixty-four-year-old **David Moen** of Lake Orion, Mich., rescued a 29-year-old woman from a burning house on June 28, 2017. Moen, an automotive engineer, heard an explosion, and saw smoke and debris near his neighborhood. He responded and found the home in shambles. The second floor collapsed onto the first, and flames broke out. Moen stepped through a second-floor window which had fallen to ground level and entered the unstable, burning home. He called out for his neighbor to follow his voice. Moen met the woman about 10 feet from the window, and Moen carried her outside to safety over broken glass and other debris. Aware that her parents remained inside, Moen returned to the home and made efforts to re-enter. However, the instability of the home and intensifying fire, denied his attempt to rescue them. The parents were unable to escape and did not survive the fire. the woman was treated for bruises and scrapes but no burns. She recovered.

Royal Newfoundland constables **Stephanie L. Pelley**, 25, and **Charley Torres**, 34, saved a woman from drowning on Nov. 9, 2015 after she entered water from remote shore in Flatrock, N.F. The distressed woman intentionally leapt into a cove of the Atlantic Ocean as constables urged her not to enter the frigid water. As she began to be carried away, the woman called out for help. Pelley immediately jumped into the ocean and swam toward the woman. However, the weight of her gear forced her to return to shore. Both officers removed their vests and belts, and Torres joined Pelley in the water, and they swam toward the woman. Torres reached the woman as she clung to an exposed rock. He then towed her toward the rocky shoreline. Pelley also grasped her. As waves broke over Pelley and Torres at

the shore's edge, the woman resisted them. Ultimately, Pelley and Torres pulled the woman onto shore and away from the water. Medical personnel evaluated all three for exposure to frigid water temperature. They all recovered.

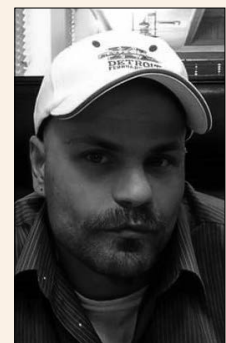
**Joshua Aaron Traylor** and **Ron Allen Elko** helped to save a 3-year-old boy from drowning on April 9, 2017, in Mount Clemens, Mich; Traylor drowning in the process. The boy was on a dock on a bank of the Clinton River when he fell into the deep, 45-degree water and was carried away from the dock by a fast-moving current. Traylor, 24, a construction worker of Clinton Township, Mich., who was also on the dock, entered the river in an attempt to reach the boy but shortly began to struggle to stay afloat and submerged. Elko, 36, factory worker, also of Clinton Township, who was fishing nearby, was alerted and ran to the scene. Seeing the boy submerge, Elko jumped into the water near him, grasped the boy's shirt and brought him to the surface, then kicked his legs and moved them both toward a boardwalk that extended along the river's bank. At the boardwalk



*Paramedics treat a 22-year-old woman after Carnegie Hero David Scot Love pulled her from the nearby burning sedan seen in the background after a Dec. 30, 2016, highway accident in San Antonio. Photo by Love.*



*David Moen*



*Ron Allen Elko*



*David Scot Love*

Elko raised the boy up and handed him to another person, who secured him, then pulled himself out of the water and onto the boardwalk. The boy was taken to a hospital for evaluation. Traylor was recovered from the river by rescue divers about an hour after he submerged but could not be revived. He had drowned.

Missionary **David Scot Love**, 41, of Flat Rock, N.C., rescued a 22-year-old woman, from a burning vehicle on Dec. 30, 2016 in San Antonio. Parked for the night in his recreational vehicle, ►





## LATEST AWARDEES

Love heard a cry for help and responded quickly. As soon as Love reached the scene of the burning car, he opened the front, passenger door and noted thick smoke polluting the interior of the vehicle. Love located the woman wedged between the underside of the steering column and the front of the driver's seat. Her legs were trapped near the burning engine compartment, placing intense heat on them. Love entered the car and put his arms beneath hers in attempt to pull her free. She would not budge. Love briefly stepped partially out of the car for a breath of air, maintaining a hold on her hand. He then re-entered the car to find that she had freed her legs. Love pulled her from the car to safety. The woman was hospitalized for burns on her right foot, calf, and left thigh. In addition, she suffered a compound fracture to her right ankle and a broken right femur. She recovered.

A 17-month-old baby was rescued by **James Williams**, 47, of Green Bay, Wis., from attacking dogs on June 20, 2016. In a residential neighborhood, an adult pit bull dog latched on to the young boy's head and



*James Williams*



*Scott Derrick Whitford*



*Kristian F. Falkenstein*

pulled him from his stroller. A second pit bull dog bit the boy's mother, and she fell on the street, out of reach from her son. Williams, a disabled construction worker, heard screams and ran to the scene. He grasped the dog that was latched on to the boy and punched its head until it released him, then threw it aside. When the dog began to move back toward Williams and the boy, Williams's stepson held it off. Williams then restrained the second dog until police arrived. The boy was hospitalized for about two weeks for wounds to his head and an ear. Immediately afterward, Williams experienced acute anxiety, for which he received treatment that afternoon at a hospital.

**Scott Derrick Whitford**, 56, of New Bern, N.C., died June 17, 2017 while attempting to rescue a 15-year-old girl from drowning in Atlantic Beach, N.C. after she was carried by a rip current about 200 feet away from an Atlantic Ocean beach. After hearing the girl and her mother, who was also in the water, call for help, Whitford, who was on the beach, entered the ocean, swam into deeper water, and was able to grasp the girl from behind. The girl clung to him, and Whitford submerged several times. When police and rescue crews arrived shortly after, he was seen floating several feet from her, unresponsive. The emergency responders attempted to perform rescue breaths on him as they towed him back to the beach, but he remained

unresponsive and in cardiac arrest. The girl was treated at the scene, taken to the hospital, and released shortly. The mother reached shore. Whitford could not be revived.

**Kristian F. Falkenstein**, 39, of Newtown, Pa., on Sept. 23, 2017, helped to save a 32-year-old man from drowning in Belmar, N.J. After being alerted to the man struggling in a strong rip current in the Atlantic Ocean, Falkenstein, a university development officer, entered the water, swam to the man, who was about 300 feet from the shore and above the surface of water, and grasped him from behind. During several minutes in the turbulent ocean conditions, he persisted in his efforts to keep the man afloat. A responding police officer swam out to the men with a flotation device, the three unsuccessfully attempted to swim out of the current. Two lifeguards also swam out to them with additional flotation devices, to which the men clung at a distance several hundred feet from shore. All five men were removed from the water by a Coast Guard vessel that had responded to the vicinity of their location, and they were taken to safety. The victim was not injured. Falkenstein was taken to the hospital and treated for effects of near-drowning; he recovered.

A 62-year-old nurse practitioner, **Deanne M. Kilian** of Olathe, Kan., rescued a 26-year-old woman from a Sept. 7, 2016, assault at a military medical center in Leavenworth, Kan. The clinical nursing supervisor was doused with a flammable liquid and set afire by an assailant as she worked in her office. Kilian discovered the woman, upper body aflame, and unsuccessfully attempted to smother



*Wreckage of an overturned, smoking, pickup truck that on Nov. 23, 2016 had crashed into a power pole. Despite spreading flames, Carnegie Hero Robert Lee Thornton, Jr., while standing atop the burning vehicle, rescued a woman and attempted to rescue a man from inside.*

flames on the victim's body with her bare arms. She ran for help and accompanied by a female physician with a blanket, the two led the woman to a corridor outside her office, laid her down, and smothered the flames. As the physician left to call 911, the assailant returned with a straight razor and pair of scissors and attempted to stab the woman as Kilian attended to her. Kilian shielded her from the attack, grasped the assailant's leg, and pulled him to the floor. A male sergeant arrived to subdue, disarm, and take the man into custody. The woman spent 42 days in the hospital where she was treated for burns to 18 percent of her body. She survived. Kilian was treated for burns to her arms and hands and for a bone fracture in her leg that she sustained in the struggle. She recovered.

Farmer **Damian Languell**, 35, of Wade, Maine saved a 16-year-old boy on July 15, 2017, from burning in a car after it collided head-on with a tree, nearly splitting it in two. The boy had been driving and, the force of the crash thrusting him into the back seat, his legs pinned in the wreckage, still wearing his seat belt the car caught fire. Languell, lived nearby and went outside after hearing the crash and observing smoke. He grabbed a water-filled bucket, ran to the scene, and seeing the injured and pinned boy, tossed water on the flames. With the aid of his girlfriend, he repeated these efforts several times, but as flames began to spread, Languell entered the burning car's rear, passenger-side door where he used a pocketknife to cut the boy's seat belt. As flames spread to the dashboard and front, passenger seat of the car, Languell moved debris away from the boy, freed his pinned legs, and dragged him from the car to safety. The boy was hospitalized for serious injuries which included broken bones and a punctured lung but was not burned. Languell inhaled smoke and sustained a puncture wound to his leg; he recovered.

A 55-year-old man was rescued by **Richard R. Krul**, 60, of Grand Blanc, Mich. from a June 21, 2017, assault in Flint, Mich. An on-duty airport police lieutenant was walking with Krul, a maintenance man, when an assailant armed with a knife attacked the lieutenant from behind and stabbed him in the neck and shoulder. Krul turned toward the assailant and, seeing him about to stab the man again, blocked his motion, preventing him from delivering another blow. A struggle ensued and the two men were able to take the assailant to the floor. Additional help arrived and the attacker was subdued, disarmed, handcuffed, and arrested. The man sustained serious knife wounds to his neck, for which he was hospitalized. He continued to suffer from nerve damage and psychological injury. Krul was treated for scratches on his right hand.

Sheriff deputy **Brian Kunze**, 49, helped saved a woman, 82, from a burning house on June 18, 2016 in Tucson, Ariz. In the early morning, the woman's grandson, who possessed gasoline-filled bottles and was armed with a sword, assaulted his mother who fled the house. Responding sheriff's deputies, including Kunze, smelled natural gas inside the house and, concluding that the woman, who was bedridden and on oxygen therapy, was in danger, used a tool to break open her bedroom

window. As another deputy attempted to enter the room through the window, a sudden explosion occurred, blowing him outside and knocking Kunze back. Flames entered the room briefly. Kunze then climbed through the window into the bedroom, and moved to the woman's bed, lifting her and passing her outside to safety. The grandson, who remained inside, perished. The woman suffered a cut on a leg but was not burned. Kunze recovered from a cut on his left hand.

Nineteen-year-old **Connor N. Devine** of Warwick, R.I., rescued an 18-year-old woman from assault on March 5, 2017. The woman was working inside a drug store in Warwick when a 41-year-old man armed with a butcher's knife attacked her. The man stabbed her multiple times as she screamed and fell to the floor. Devine, shift supervisor, was behind the checkout counter when he heard the screams and ran to investigate. When Devine reached the scene, he shouted for the assailant to stop and threw a crate at the assailant's head. The assailant continued to attack the woman. Devine then retrieved a utility cart from nearby and forcefully rammed the cart into the assailant multiple times, knocking him away from her. The knife slipped from the assailant's hand and landed on the floor a few feet away. Devine and others attended to the badly injured woman, while a store customer pinned the assailant until police arrived. The woman was hospitalized and recovered.

**Michael E. Surrell, Sr.**, 64, of Allentown, Pa. saved an 8-year-old girl from a burning home on May 4, 2017. The girl was located on the second-floor of a three-story house which had



*Damian Languell*



*Connor N. Devine*



*Richard R. Krul*



*M. Ross Klun*



*Brian Kunze*



*Catherine Kinyua*

caught fire. Surrell, a disabled truck driver, who lived next door was alerted. He entered the house through its front door and began to climb the stairs but was repulsed by dense smoke and heat. He retreated outside. Determined, he re-entered the house. Surrell heard the girl moan and, despite intense heat and dense smoke that precluded visibility, crawled toward the sound of her voice, finding her on her back several feet from the top of the stairs. He placed her over his shoulder and carried her out on to the porch. The girl, unresponsive, was given rescue breaths by Surrell, and was revived. She was hospitalized for smoke inhalation and recovered. Surrell was hospitalized for a burn to his larynx and smoke inhalation.

**M. Ross Klun**, 45, of Somerville, Mass. and **Catherine Kinyua**, 24, of Boston, helped to rescue a man on Oct. 30, 2016 from drowning in the Charles River in Cambridge, Mass. The man floated motionless in a deep, murky inlet near a bulkhead adjacent to a highway. Alerted by bystanders, Klun, an off-duty sheriff's lieutenant, pulled over and raced to the sidewalk's railing. Klun climbed over the railing to a ledge about 15 feet above the water's surface. He removed his jacket and boots and plunged into the 53-degree water. Kinyua, paralegal, who had also been passing by the scene, stopped and followed Klun. In the water, Klun reached the man and turned him over, elevating his face above the surface. He revived him, then grasped him from behind and towed him about 5 feet to the bulkhead. Kinyua swam to the bulkhead and helped Klun hold the man up while treading water. Police responded shortly and returned all three to shore. The man was hospitalized. Klun and Kinyua were not injured.





## PRESENTING

Carnegie Hero **Mark Rich**, left, was presented the Carnegie Medal by U.S. Rep. Mark Walker on March 12 in Greensboro, N.C.

Rich, a 52-year-old arborist from Randleman, N.C., helped to save a girl from drowning on July 25, 2016 in Atlantic Beach, N.C.

A 9-year-old girl and her sister were caught in a strong current and pulled away from shore.

Both of their parents responded, with the mother reaching the 9-year-old.

Rich swam to the girl, who left her mother, who was struggling, and held to him.

With difficulty, Rich swam the girl nearly back to shore but struggled to reach wadable water. Rich's wife swam out to assist them, along with others, in reaching the beach safely.

Boaters rescued the girl's sister and mother from the water and recovered her father, who was unresponsive and could not be revived.

"I was humbled today to present Mark Rich of Randleman the Carnegie Medal -- a rare and prestigious award for life-saving heroism," Walker said. "Because of his sacrifice and courage to do the right thing, this girl has a future. Thank you Mr. Rich for being a hero."

Walker represents North Carolina's sixth congressional district.

Photo courtesy of Walker's office.



Carnegie heroes **Angel Darlene Fiorini**, of Newman Lake, Wash., and **Matthew Paul Burson**, of Spokane Valley, Wash., were presented the Carnegie Medal by Spokane County Commissioner Mary Kuney on March 6 in Spokane, Wash.

Fiorini, 32, removed two of her children from their burning home and then re-entered for daughter Gianna Fiorini, 7. Fiorini crawled through thick, black smoke and blistering heat to reach her daughter.

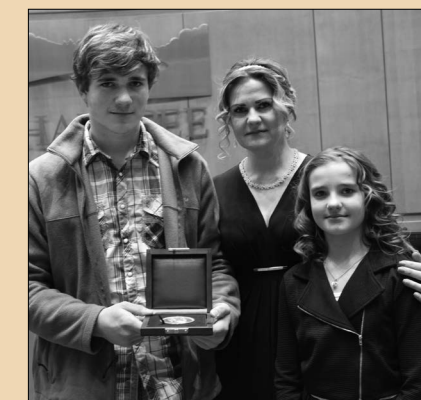
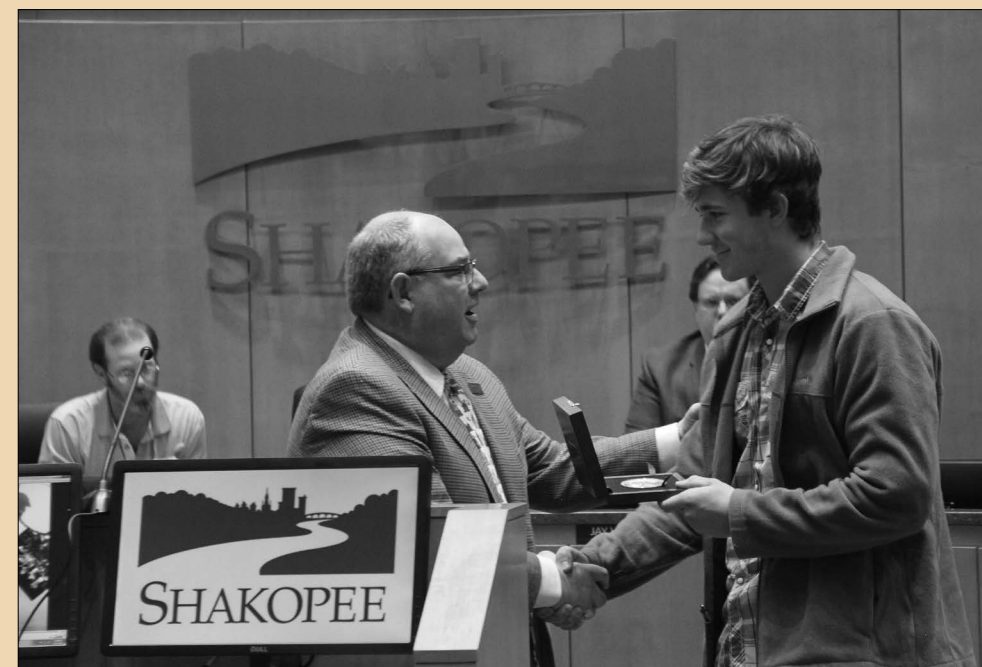
"I had this rush of maternal strength. I would walk through fire for my children," said Fiorini in an online article.

Fiorini and Gianna both lost consciousness while attempting to exit the home. Burson, a 45-year-old registered nurse, then arrived at the scene and pulled both outside to safety.

"You help people," added Burson. "It could have been my family and I would want the same thing."

Pictured, from left, are Fiorini, Gianna, Kuney, and Burson.

## PRESENTING



On behalf of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission, Shakopee (Minn.) Mayor Bill Mars presented the Carnegie Medal to the family of posthumous Carnegie Medal awardee **Dmitriy A. Bondarenko** during a city council meeting held March 20.

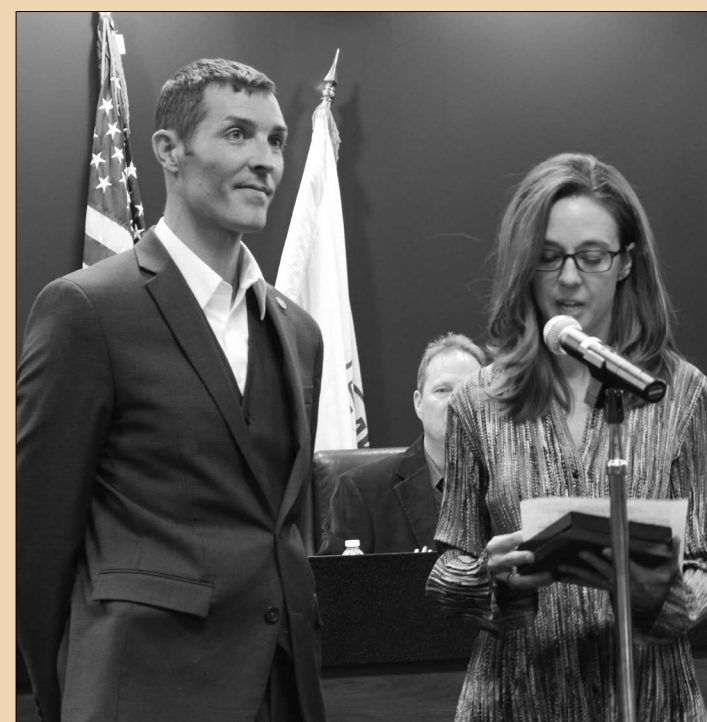
Left: Bondarenko's son, Artem Bondarenko, right, accepts the award from Mars.

Right: From left, Artem holds his father's Carnegie Medal while posing with his mother, Anastasiya Bondarenko, and sister, Dasha Bondarenko.

Bondarenko, 39, died Aug. 10, 2016 while attempting to save a man from drowning in Panama City, Fla. The Shakopee resident and businessman was on a family vacation when a relative was swept from shore by a strong current. Bondarenko entered the surf and waded and swam toward the man. Bondarenko reached a point about 3 feet from him and told him to swim before he submerged and never resurfaced. His relative was able to swim out of the rip current and was brought to shore by another person equipped with a rescue tube.

"It's totally in his character. He would do this naturally. It would flow out of him. He loved people," said Natalia Sidorov, Bondarenko's sister, in an online article.

Photo courtesy of the City of Shakopee.



Carnegie Hero **Joshua J. Owen**, left, stands as Shawnee (Kan.) Mayor Michelle Distler reads the details of Owen's heroic actions during a Feb. 12 presentation of the Carnegie Medal at a Shawnee City Council meeting.

On Sept. 11, 2016, Owe, a 33-year-old construction worker, helped rescue a woman and 8-month-old baby from an assault in a parking lot after two men ambushed the woman at her car after she placed her baby inside. Suffering blows to her head, including from a handgun, she screamed for help.

Owen, of Kansas City, Mo., responded and confronted one assailant, punching and tackling him. The assailant returned to his feet and shot Owen in the face. Owen took him to the ground a second time, and while they were on the ground, the assailant shot Owen twice more in the left forearm and shoulder.

Another bystander fatally shot that assailant; the second assailant fled the scene but was later apprehended.

The woman, who was bloodied, was hospitalized for head injuries, and Owen underwent surgeries to reconstruct his face and to remove the bullet from his shoulder. He recovered in about six months.

In a Feb. 12 tweet, the Shawnee Police Department stated the Carnegie Medal was "an honor befitting [Owen's] heroism."

Photo courtesy of the City of Shawnee.



# PRESENTING



Carnegie Hero **James Raymond Garvey, Sr.**, left, was presented the Carnegie Medal by Hero Fund Commission board member, Peter Lambrou, right, and Somerset County Commissioners Chairman Gerald Walker, during a county commissioners meeting on April 3, 2018 in Somerset, Pa.

On Nov. 19, 2016, Garvey, 76, a Fairhope, Pa., museum owner, extended his

upper body through the driver's window opening of a sport utility vehicle and pulled its driver partially through the opening as flames burned next to the open window. Garvey then braced his feet against the vehicle and pulled the man free of the vehicle and to safety.

"It's the only time I've ever seen a miracle," said Garvey's wife, Nancy Garvey, in an online news article. "I'm very proud of him."



Posthumous Carnegie Medal awardee **Justin William Schroepfer** was honored on April 3 at U.S. Rep. Sean Duffy's district office in Wausau, Wis.

Justin William Schroepfer, a 24-year-old accountant from Rhinelander, Wis., died attempting to save two 22-year-old women from drowning on June 11, 2016 in Lake Superior, Marquette, Mich.

After seeing the women struggling in rough current, Schroepfer entered 50-degree water and swam through large waves toward them, but all three were swept into deeper water. One woman and Schroepfer eventually submerged and drowned. Others rescued the other woman.

"We knew our whole lives he was a brave, brave guy. It had to be hard to do, we're proud of him, we all wish he was standing here. It just wasn't God's will," said Kevin Schroepfer, Justin Schroepfer's father, in an online article.

Pictured, from left, are Schroepfer's sister Kayla Ehrhardt; his parents, Connie and Kevin Schroepfer; and Duffy, who represents Wisconsin's seventh district.

# PRESENTING



The family of posthumous Carnegie Medal awardee **Davis Ilan Zinsenheim** accepted the Carnegie Medal, presented by volunteer presenter Charles S. Harris on April 22, 2018 in Marietta, Ga. Pictured, from left, are Penny and Steve Zinsenheim with Harris.

On May 10, 2016 in Lake Toxaway, N.C., 22-year-old college student of Marietta, Zinsenheim died attempting to save his friend from falling to the base of a waterfall. The two were walking on the rocks in a streambed while hiking. The man fell and slid over the brink to a ledge partway down. Zinsenheim yelled out and ran after him until he, too, lost his footing and slid over the edge.

"Truly, what is a hero? A hero is a person that has saved or attempted to save another person with no real thought of the consequences of his actions upon himself. Davis Ilan Zinsenheim definitely fills the shoes of a true hero in every sense of the word. He truly gave his all for another," said Harris during the presentation.

Harris is a past recipient of the Carnegie Medal, for a 1962 water rescue of two girls who were in the rear seat of a coupe that plunged into Big Spring Creek in Guntersville, Ala.

Photo by Teresa Harris.

Carnegie Hero **René Roy**, center, poses with Robert Mercier, left, and Commission board member Nathalie Lemieux, right, after being awarded the Carnegie Medal during a special ceremony on May 12 at the Sherbrooke Fire Department in Sherbrooke, Qué.

In August 2016, Roy, 55, an electro-mechanical technician of Sherbrooke, saved Mercier, 78, from a burning vehicle which had left the road and overturned in Sherbrooke.

Roy approached the car unsure if anyone was still in the vehicle, then observed Mercier's head and arm emerge through an opening.

He grabbed Mercier's free arm and pulled, pressing his foot against the car for leverage until Mercier was free, then dragged him to safety.







## PRESENTING



U.S. Rep. Stephanie Murphy presented the Carnegie Medal to the family of posthumous Carnegie Medal awardee **John Andrew Ussery** on June 1 in Murphy's Orlando, Fla., office.

From left, are Ussery's son, Gabriel Ussery, with Murphy and Ussery's widow, Jung Hwa Choi.

John Andrew Ussery, a 51-year-old cable lineman of Sanford, Fla., died after attempting to save his 25-year-old co-worker from drowning on May 16, 2017 in Palm Beach, Fla. Ussery reached the man in the Atlantic Ocean but could not maintain his hold. After being towed ashore, Ussery fell unconscious on the beach. He was taken to a hospital but could not be revived.

"Humbled to meet the family of John Andrew Ussery to present them with a Carnegie Medal in his honor. John, who lived in Sanford, was a man of incredible courage who sacrificed his own life to save the life of another," stated Murphy in a tweet after the ceremony. Murphy represents Florida's seventh district.

Photo courtesy of Murphy's office.

Carnegie Hero **Noah Hill King**, center, holds his Carnegie Medal after a March 16 ceremony in which U.S. Rep. Neal Dunn, right, recognized King. With them is King's father, Tom King, left.

In October 2016, King, 38, a financial planner of Panama City, Fla., saved a 23-year-old man from a burning sport utility vehicle in Panama City.

Its front end aflame, the vehicle came to rest on its passenger side in a culvert. Using his forearm, King struck the driver's window until it finally broke.

Despite growing flames, he extended his upper body inside the vehicle, grasped the driver under his arms, and dragged him through the opening out of the vehicle.

As King dragged the man to safety, flames grew and spread to engulf the vehicle.

"This is a huge amount of fun for me and an honor to have a chance to recognize someone who has done something really selfless and heroic for a stranger," said Dunn, who represents Florida's second district.

Photo courtesy of Dunn's office.



## Two interns join Carnegie Hero Fund Commission this summer

This summer, the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission offered two individuals the opportunity to intern with the Commission throughout the summer. Interns Abby Brady and Lauryn Maykovich delved into communicating through social media outreach, preparing cases for the meeting of the Executive Committee, and assisting in planning and executing the Power of One event, honoring the Commission's 10,000<sup>th</sup> and 10,001<sup>st</sup> Carnegie Heroes. It is clear that their time with the Commission has impacted each in a significant way as they reflected on their experience.

### ABBY BRADY

As a Cincinnati native, I had been to the Pittsburgh suburbs to visit old neighbors as I was growing up, and as I was beginning high school, attended a family wedding on Mt. Washington. I was drawn to the opportunities Pittsburgh had to offer.

When I came to the city four years ago to begin my undergraduate studies at the University of Pittsburgh, I was intrigued by the wide-ranging impact of industrialist and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. As a student, my tuition covered access to the library, natural history museum, and art museum, all bearing his name. Within a five-minute walk, I was able to experience a sliver of the continuous impact Carnegie's dedication to arts and education has had during the past century.

As a lover of history, I was drawn to the Art History and Museum Studies program at Pitt. In nearly all of my classes, there were occasions when lecture was held at the art museum. The hands-on learning I was lucky enough to experience is a result of Andrew Carnegie's steadfast influence.

Before graduating in April, I began exploring opportunities that would allow me to further develop the writing, research, and digital media skills, central to my major. I stumbled upon this internship. I was fascinated by the longevity and success the Fund had endured since its founding in 1904. In addition, I was amazed by the number of awardees and the Commission's dedication to remaining present in the lives of their families.

Admittedly, I often catch myself feeling discouraged by stories I hear on the news or doubtful of the actions and demeanor of individuals in the media. However, I am inspired by the brave and selfless acts of Carnegie Medal awardees. Their stories provide hope, optimism, and confidence in the resolute human tendency to rise to the occasion, despite dangers and risk to their own lives. Throughout this summer, I am eager to continue learning about individual heroes and assist with the various outreach efforts of the Commission.

The theme of optimism and good-natured humanity projected by each and every Carnegie hero's story is a similar key point that appeared striking to both interns during their time with the Commission.



### LAURYN MAYKOVICH

There are millions of reasons to be positive. I have always been a firm believer that positivity is one of the most important attributes; it is also one of the most rewarding qualities an individual can spread.

Since I was young, I have been known for my sheer optimism. It is simple for me to see the good in every situation. As a student, I volunteered my time with organizations such as Salvation Army, Soles for Souls, and several other community efforts. My friends would often refer to me as "a ray of pure blonde sunshine" or "annoyingly happy."

As I learned about this personality trait, my affinity to help express positivity to others grew. This innate feeling is part of what pushed me to pursue a degree in journalism and multi-media arts at Duquesne University. There's nothing quite like the feeling when I see a person react to a video I have created to increase body positivity or see remarks of how my written words impacted others in an encouraging manner. Being fortunate enough to help others is invaluable to me.

When I first learned about the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission, I became enthralled. Recognizing individuals for their acts of civilian heroism and bravery is an incredible opportunity to highlight and strengthen the positivity in human nature that still exists but can, at times, be clouded. When I began working hands-on for the Commission, I have never been more passionate about the tasks I was executing, and never felt more at home with the friendly staff.

Throughout my time as an intern here, I continue to find myself enraptured in each and every act that a Carnegie hero performs. Whether a wagon rescue from years past or a water rescue that occurred just last year, there is a specific quality to genuine goodness that captivates me. Additionally, I have acquired more knowledge about Andrew Carnegie and his generous principles than any history book could ever teach me.

Here, I have been able to personally experience his legacy and influence, yet, more importantly, I have been able to participate in the continuation of preserving them. Being blessed to have the opportunity to apply my academic knowledge and skills to honor such selfless individuals, such as Carnegie Heroes, and their acts of courage is an opportunity that will humble me forever.



### NEWSLETTER CHANGES PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Starting with this edition, the publishing schedule for *imPULSE*, the Hero Fund's quarterly newsletter, has changed. The editions will now be designated by season: winter, spring, summer, and fall, and follow the informal publishing months of January, April, July, and October.

This special edition contains the award summaries for the spring and summer Carnegie heroes, but subsequent editions will include only those awarded most recently. The change allows each edition to more closely align with the quarterly award announcements, making each issue timelier. The next edition of *imPULSE* will come out in October.



**Carnegie Hero Fund Commission**

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

412-281-1302 • 800-447-8900

[carnegiehero.org](http://carnegiehero.org)

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Pittsburgh, PA  
Permit No. 2461

**Address Service Requested**

NOTICES: © Carnegie Hero Fund Commission and/or its suppliers, 2018, U.S.A. All rights reserved. This newsletter is governed by our terms & conditions (see [carnegiehero.org/terms-conditions/](http://carnegiehero.org/terms-conditions/)), including our privacy notice (see [carnegiehero.org/privacy-policy/](http://carnegiehero.org/privacy-policy/)) (or direct an inquiry to us directly by using the above contact information).

[facebook.com/carnegiehero](https://facebook.com/carnegiehero)[twitter.com/carnegie\\_hero](https://twitter.com/carnegie_hero)

**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

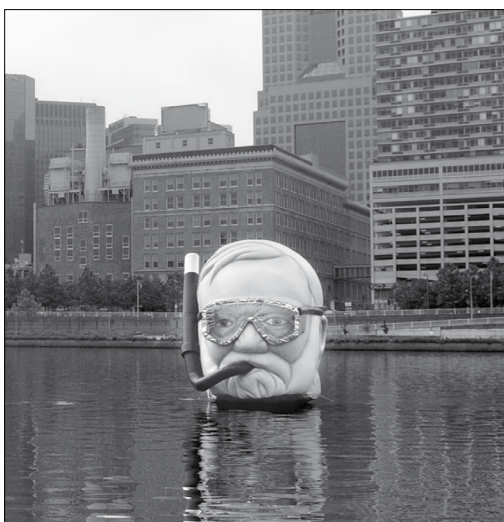
Telephone: 412-281-1302  
Toll-free: 800-447-8900  
Fax: 412-281-5751  
E-mail: [impulse@carnegiehero.org](mailto:impulse@carnegiehero.org)  
Website: [carnegiehero.org](http://carnegiehero.org)

**MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION**

A. H. Burchfield III  
Robert J. Cindrich  
Evan S. Frazier  
David McL. Hillman  
Linda T. Hills  
*Of the Carnegie Family*  
Peter J. Lambrou  
Mark Laskow  
*Chair*  
Nathalie Lemieux  
Christopher R. McCrady  
Priscilla J. McCrady  
Ann M. McGuinn  
Nancy L. Rackoff  
*Vice Chair*

Frank Brooks Robinson  
Dan D. Sandman  
*Treasurer*  
Arthur M. Scully  
Michael A. Thompson  
Sybil P. Veeder  
*Chair, Executive Committee*  
Joseph C. Walton  
Susanne C. Wean  
Thomas L. Wentling, Jr.  
*Chair, Finance Committee*  
Eric P. Zahren  
*President & Secretary*

**HONORARY MEMBER**  
James M. Walton

**THE QUOTABLE A.C.**

*It is always well to remember that  
there are giants in our own day, too.*

— *Triumphant Democracy*, 1886

Pictured: A 20-foot inflatable sculpture of Andrew Carnegie displayed in the Allegheny River during Pittsburgh's 2010 Three Rivers Arts Festival. The sculpture was by Carnegie Mellon University alumnus Stephen Antonson of New York.

**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 Jo Braun ([jo@carnegiehero.org](mailto:jo@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)