



CARNEGIE HERO FUND COMMISSION



2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORTS

I DO NOT EXPECT TO STIMULATE OR CREATE

HEROISM BY THIS FUND, KNOWING WELL

THAT HEROIC ACTION IS IMPULSIVE; BUT I DO

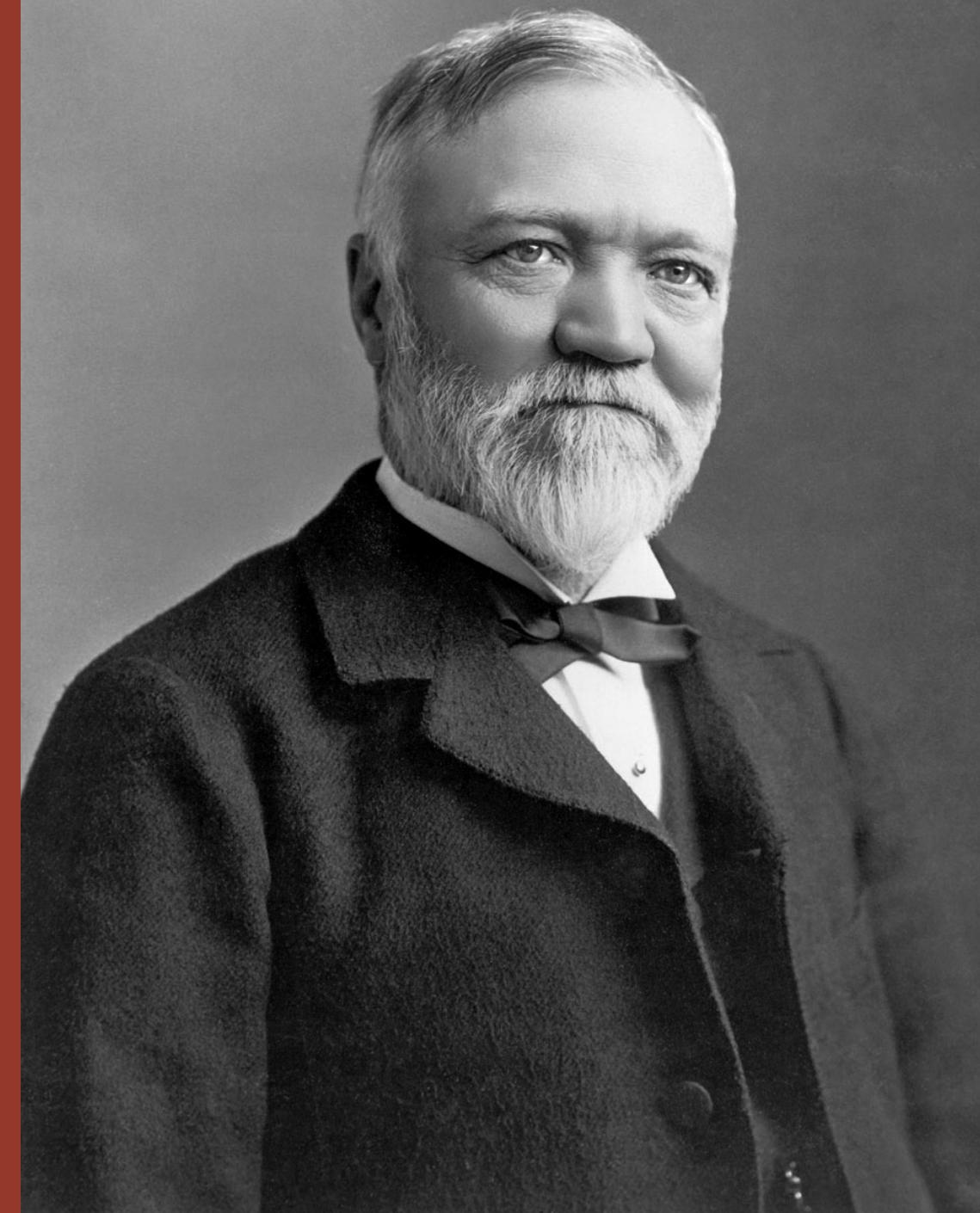
BELIEVE THAT, IF THE HERO IS INJURED IN

HIS BOLD ATTEMPT TO SERVE OR SAVE HIS

FELLOWS, HE AND THOSE DEPENDENT UPON

HIM SHOULD NOT SUFFER PECUNIARILY.

—ANDREW CARNEGIE



CARNEGIE HERO FUND COMMISSION

Established April 15, 1904, by Andrew Carnegie, the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission was created to recognize outstanding acts of selfless heroism performed in the United States and Canada. The single event that stimulated Carnegie to organize the Fund was the Harwick mine disaster near Pittsburgh on January 25, 1904, which claimed 181 lives. Those lost included an engineer and a miner who went into the stricken mine in a valiant attempt to rescue any survivors.

The tragedy and the sacrifices so moved Carnegie that he promptly took action on his then-novel idea of honoring and helping “heroes of civilization.” Writing in the Commission’s founding Deed of Trust (see page 5), he specified that each hero to be recognized, or the next of kin, was to receive a medal reciting the heroic deed it commemorated. The Commission was empowered also to make monetary gifts. Given to the heroes or their families, the grants include continuing support, scholarship assistance, and death benefits. More than \$40 million has been given to the awardees or their survivors throughout the life of the Fund.

Recommendations for awards may be made by anyone having knowledge of such outstanding acts of bravery. Awards are open to all civilian citizens of and to visitors to the two countries under regulations presented in detail on subsequent pages of this report. Each act is investigated as to fact and degree of risk involved and is evaluated by the Commission on the basis of the results of the investigation.

The Commission is a private operating foundation, classed as a charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code. Visit the Commission’s website for further information: carnegiehero.org.

HEROES HERE WHEN WE NEED THEM

Through much of Andrew Carnegie’s life, he had recognized and valued heroic acts. In 1904, he put that appreciation into action and created the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission to recognize and reward those who voluntarily put their own lives in danger to rescue another human being in “the United States of America, the Dominion of Canada, the Colony of Newfoundland, and the waters thereof.” One hundred fifteen years later his work continues, as vigorous as ever. In 2018 the Hero Fund celebrated its 10,000th Carnegie Medal Award.

Ten thousand awards may seem like a lot, but throughout that many years that represents about 87 per year.

We’re awarding at roughly that rate today – the population has grown but everyday life is a lot safer than in 1904. The constant is that heroes are still here when we need them.

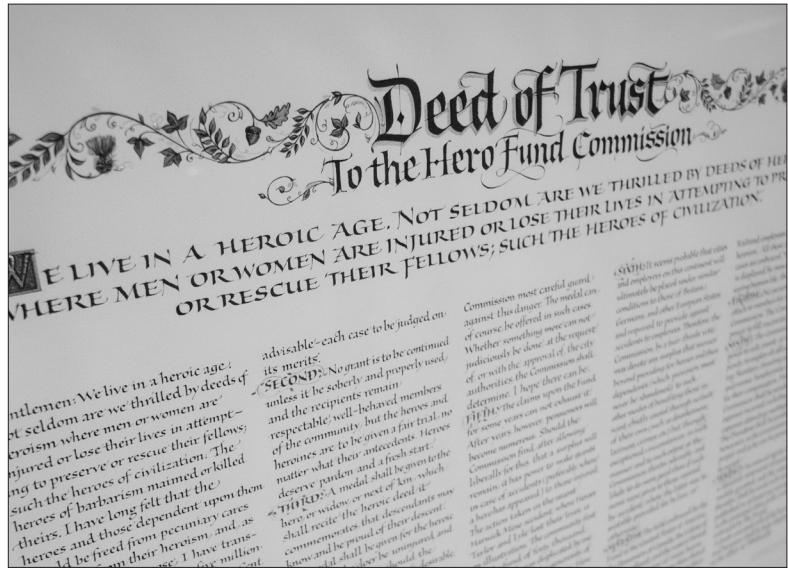
The Hero Fund publishes these reports periodically at Andrew Carnegie’s direction to create a lasting memorial to the heroes and their acts. We hope that as you review those acts, you will feel how momentous each of these events was to both rescuer and victim. Our goal is to share these stories and the sense of their importance both with you and the wider world.

And, by the way, at our 2018 celebration, we also celebrated the 10,001st Carnegie Medal. The first 10,000 were great, but now we are looking to the next 10,000 heroes. And they will be there for us, you can count on that!

With deepest respect,


Mark Laskow
Chair

DEED OF TRUST



Andrew Carnegie wrote the Deed of Trust at the inception of the Hero Fund Commission in 1904. The calligraphy pictured above was created for the 10,000th celebration to honor Carnegie's original doctrine. It proudly hangs in the Pittsburgh office today.

TO THE HERO FUND COMMISSION

GENTLEMEN: We live in a heroic age. Not seldom are we thrilled by deeds of heroism where men or women are injured or lose their lives in attempting to preserve or rescue their fellows; such the heroes of civilization. The heroes of barbarism maimed or killed theirs.

I have long felt that the heroes and those dependent upon them should be freed from pecuniary cares resulting from their heroism, and, as a fund for this purpose, I have transferred to the Commission five million dollars of First Collateral Five Per Cent. Bonds of the United States Steel Corporation, the proceeds to be used as follows:

FIRST. To place those following peaceful vocations, who have been injured in heroic effort to save human life, in somewhat better positions pecuniarily than before, until again able to work. In the case of death, the widow and children, or other dependents, to be provided for until she remarries, and the children until they reach a self-supporting age. For exceptional children exceptional grants may be made for exceptional education. Grants of sums of money may also be made to heroes or heroines as the Commission thinks advisable-each case to be judged on its merits.

SECOND. No grant is to be continued unless it be soberly and properly used, and the recipients remain respectable, well-behaved members of the community, but the heroes and heroines are to be given a fair trial, no matter what their antecedents. Heroes deserve pardon and a fresh start.

THIRD. A medal shall be given to the hero, or widow, or next of kin, which shall recite the heroic deed it commemorates, that descendants may know and be proud of their descent. The medal shall be given for the heroic act, even if the doer be uninjured, and also a sum of money, should the Commission deem such gift desirable.

FOURTH. Many cities provide pensions for policemen, firemen, teachers, and others, and some may give rewards for acts of heroism. All these and other facts the Commission will take into account and act accordingly in making grants. Nothing could be further from my intention than to deaden or interfere with these most creditable provisions, doubly precious as showing public and municipal appreciation of faithful and heroic service. I ask from the Commission most careful guard against this danger. The medal can, of course, be offered in such cases. Whether something more can not judiciously be done, at the request of, or with the approval of, the city authorities, the Commission shall determine. I hope there can be.

FIFTH. The claims upon the Fund for some years can not exhaust it. After years, however, pensioners will become numerous. Should the Commission find, after allowing liberally for this, that a surplus will remain, it has power to make grants in case of accidents (preferably where a hero has appeared) to those injured. The action taken in the recent Harwick Mine accident, where Heroes Taylor and Lyle lost their lives, is an illustration. The community first raised a fund of forty thousand dollars, which was duplicated by me after waiting until the generosity of the community had full scope. Here again the Commission should be exceedingly careful, as in this case, not to deaden, but to stimulate employers or communities to do their part, for such action benefits givers themselves as well as recipients.

SIXTH. It seems probable that cities and employers on this continent will ultimately be placed under similar conditions to those of Britain, Germany, and other European States, and required to provide against accidents to employees. Therefore, the Commission, by a two-thirds vote, may devote any surplus that accrues beyond providing for heroes and their dependents (which provision must never be abandoned) to such other modes of benefiting those in want, chiefly caused through no fault of their own (such as drunkenness, laziness, crimes, etc.) but through exceptional circumstances, in such manner and to such extent as the Commission thinks advisable and likely to do more good than if such sums were given to those injured by accident, where the latter may be suitably provided for by law, or otherwise.

SEVENTH. The field embraced by the Fund is the United States of America, the Dominion of Canada, the Colony of Newfoundland, and the waters thereof. The sea is the scene of many heroic acts. No action more heroic than that of doctors and nurses volunteering their services in the case of epidemics. Railroad employees are remarkable for heroism. All these and similar cases are embraced. Whenever heroism is displayed by man or woman in saving human life, the Fund applies.

EIGHTH. No personal liability will attach to members for any act of the Commission. The Commission has power to fill vacancies.

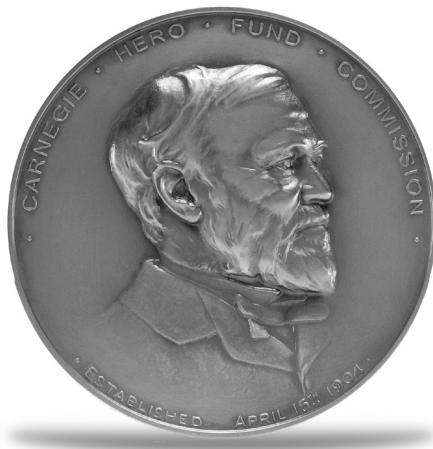
NINTH. The Commission has full power to sell, invest, or reinvest all funds; to employ all officials, including Secretary, traveling agents to visit and oversee beneficiaries, etc., and to fix their compensation. Members of the Commission shall be reimbursed all expenses incurred, including traveling expenses attending meetings. The President shall be granted such honoraria as the Commission thinks proper and as he can be prevailed upon to accept.

TENTH. An annual report, including a detailed statement of sums and medals granted and the reasons therefor, shall be made each year and published in at least one newspaper in the principal cities of the countries embraced by the Fund. A finely executed roll of the heroes and heroines shall be kept displayed in the office at Pittsburgh.



NEW YORK, MARCH 12, 1904
WITNESS, LOUISE WHITFIELD CARNEGIE

THE CARNEGIE MEDAL



The Carnegie Medal is a bronze medallion 3 inches in diameter. Andrew Carnegie's profile in relief dominates the obverse of the medal. The reverse carries a background, in low relief, of the outline of the United States and Canada, and the seals of the two countries appear in high relief. That side of the medal centers on the cartouche, or inscription plate, which carries an embossed statement naming the rescuer, the rescued, and the place and date of the heroic act. The cartouche is adorned with laurel, ivy, oak, and thistle, respectively signifying glory, friendship, strength, and persistence – the attributes of a hero. A verse from the New Testament encircles the outer edge: “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13).

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CARNEGIE MEDAL

- The rescuer must be a civilian who knowingly and voluntarily risks his or her own life to an extraordinary degree. Members of the armed services and children considered by the Commission too young to comprehend the risk involved are ineligible for consideration.
- The rescuer must have rescued or attempted the rescue of another person.
- The act of heroism must have occurred in the United States, Canada, or the waters thereof (12 nautical miles).
- The act must be brought to the attention of the Commission within two years of the date of its occurrence.
- The act of rescue must be one in which no full measure of responsibility exists between the rescuer and the rescued, which precludes those whose vocational duties require them to perform such acts, unless the rescues are clearly beyond the line of duty; and members of the immediate family, except in cases of outstanding heroism where the rescuer loses his or her life or is severely injured.
- There must be conclusive evidence to support the threat to the victim's life, the risk undertaken by the rescuer, the rescuer's degree of responsibility, and the act's occurrence.

AWARDS

- A medal is presented to the person who performed the act or, in case of death, to the widow, widower, or next of kin.
- When a rescuer loses his or her life in the performance of an act, contributions can be made toward the livelihood of the dependents. If the rescuer is disabled in the performance of the act, periodic contributions can be made to his or her livelihood. If the rescuer is not injured, a monetary grant can nevertheless be made, should the Commission deem such a gift desirable. Awardees and the dependents of posthumous and disabled awardees are eligible for scholarship assistance.
- The benefits to be paid and the manner of payment are determined by the Commission after consideration of the circumstances of each awardee. Continuing benefits are paid only if there is a clear need for such assistance and only if such benefits are soberly and properly used and the recipients remain respectable members of their communities.

HEROIC ACTS RECOGNIZED DURING 2017

The following 77 individuals were cited by the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission in 2017 for having performed outstanding acts of heroism. In each case, a Carnegie Medal and a financial grant were awarded.



BOBBY LYNN ARNOLD
Onalaska, Texas

Bobby Lynn Arnold died helping to rescue Emily A. Nevil from drowning, Trinity, Texas, June 29, 2016. Emily, 7, while boating with her family, fell from the bow platform of a pontoon boat into Lake Livingston. She struggled to stay afloat in the water. Arnold, 36, metal worker, was on the boat and witnessed Emily's fall. Arnold jumped from the rear of the boat into the lake and swam to her. Emily's mother and aunt also jumped into the water and swam toward Emily. The aunt tried to reach Emily but the current thwarted her efforts. Arnold grasped Emily about her torso and held her above the water's surface. Arnold handed her to her mother, who had by then reached them, and she also held Emily above the water. They took turns holding her until the mother submerged and was taken away from them by current, later reaching the shore to safety. Arnold held her until a man in a pontoon boat arrived. The man took Emily from Arnold, and Arnold submerged and never resurfaced. Emily required hospital treatment for contusions to the majority of her body, and she was monitored for possible water inhalation. She was treated and released, and she recovered. A dive team later responded and recovered Arnold's body about eight hours later. He had drowned. **88388-9969**



KENNETH R. ATKINSON
Centennial, Colorado

Kenneth R. Atkinson died rescuing Elizabeth L. Lyons from assault, Centennial, Colorado, April 4, 2016. Lyons, 44, was shot by her husband after she fled through the front door of their house and went across the street to a neighbor's property, where the neighbor was working in her front yard. The assailant fired repeatedly toward the women, after which Atkinson, 65, physician, who lived beside Lyons and her husband, left his house, crossed the street, and responded to Lyons. As he was kneeling to tend her and call 911, another neighbor who had gone outside shouted to Atkinson that the assailant was approaching. The assailant fired at Atkinson, striking him in a leg. Atkinson stood and sought cover at a vehicle parked nearby in the driveway, but the assailant went to him there and at close range shot him again before returning to his property. Sheriff's deputies responded shortly and arrested him. Lyons required hospitalization for treatment of her wounds. Atkinson was mortally wounded. [88190-9937](#)



BRETT BAILES
Omaha, Nebraska

Brett Bailes helped to save Nathaniel A. Wissink from burning, Omaha, Nebraska, February 26, 2016. Wissink, 28, was unconscious and trapped in the front passenger seat of a car after it was struck on its driver's side by a pickup truck traveling at high speed through a residential neighborhood. The car, which burst into flame, was demolished, with its back end split almost apart from the front, its fuel tank ruptured, and most windows broken out. Flames issued from the rear of the vehicle, including the backseat area, and were spreading toward the front seats, producing dense smoke. Bailes, 31, sales manager, was at his home nearby and immediately ran to the scene, where he saw a backseat passenger, aflame, step from the wreckage. He extinguished the flames on her and learned that Wissink was still in the vehicle. After going to its front passenger door but finding that he was unable to open it, he joined two other men from the neighborhood at the driver's side of the vehicle. In repeated attempts, the men reached deep through the window opening of the driver's door, locating Wissink but finding that he was trapped by wreckage. Reaching deep into the smoke-filled car, Bailes grasped Wissink's leg and pulled until it was freed. He and the others then pulled Wissink head first through the opening and dragged him to safety, flames shortly engulfing the car's interior. Wissink required hospitalization for treatment of his injuries. [88111-9941](#)



JASON BARNES
Westminster, Maryland

Jason Barnes helped to save Jamie E. Knight from drowning, Ellicott City, Maryland, July 30, 2016. Knight, 29, was driving a car down a sloped street in a commercial district near the end of a two-hour torrential rainfall that created a flash flood covering the roadway and sidewalks. Several vehicles that had been parked in the vicinity were washed away by the raging current. From the raised entryway of a building just off the sidewalk at the scene, Barnes, 36, business operator, saw Knight approach. He stepped into knee-deep water on the sidewalk to direct her to the near curb, but the current knocked him from his feet and swept him several feet away. He regained his footing and returned to the entryway as Knight angled her car to the curb. Barnes and three other men at the scene formed a human chain, Barnes at the far end, that extended from the entry toward the car, but Barnes's reach fell 3 feet short of the car. After Knight climbed partially through the window of the passenger door, Barnes released from the chain and waded to the car, briefly losing his footing in the current, which struck the car forcefully and gushed up along its sides. He lifted and carried Knight to the others in the chain and helped her to the entryway. Barnes recovered from cuts to his hands, feet, and torso. [88509-9923](#)



BRIAN G. BERGKAMP
Cheney, Kansas

Brian G. Bergkamp died attempting to save Kristen L. Eck from drowning, Wichita, Kansas, July 9, 2016. On the high and fast-moving Arkansas River, Eck, 26, was in a kayak that went over a low-head dam and overturned in the boil of water at its base. She submerged repeatedly as she struggled to escape the turbulent water. Another kayaker in her party, Bergkamp, 24, seminary student, followed her over the dam. He stopped paddling, keeping his kayak in the turbulent conditions rather than proceeding to calmer water downstream, as other kayakers were doing. Bergkamp procured a loose life jacket from the water and provided it to Eck, who soon lost hold of it. At some point, Bergkamp was separated from his kayak, which capsized and was washed away from him. Eck was able to escape the boil and float downstream, where another man in her party helped her exit the river. Bergkamp drowned, his body recovered from the river farther downstream several days later. [88552-9944](#)



DAVID BLAUZVERN
Roslyn Heights, New York

David Blauzvern helped to save a man from drowning, New York City, New York, June 1, 2016. The man was bobbing in the East River at a point about 60 feet from a seawall, the top of which was about 8 feet above the surface of the water. Jogging at the scene, Blauzvern, 23, investment banking analyst, immediately climbed over a railing and jumped from the seawall into the 23-foot-deep water, followed by two other men. The three rescuers swam to where the man, who had by then submerged, was last seen, Blauzvern arriving there first. He submerged and pulled the man, who greatly outweighed him, by his shirt to the surface of the water and then grasped him from behind and supported him as he trod water. The other rescuers then each grasped the man by an arm. Together, they swam back toward the seawall with the man, but the swift current carried them downstream, to a point at the wall about 600 feet from where they entered the river. As there was no egress from the water there, they remained in position, one of the other rescuers securing a hold to the wall while Blauzvern and the other rescuer trod water. A police rescue boat arrived within minutes, but as it could not get close to the wall, Blauzvern and the other rescuers swam and were carried by the current as they took the man to the boat. All four were assisted from the water and taken to safety. The man required hospital treatment, and Blauzvern was cold and nearly exhausted, but he recovered. [88313-9945](#)



DMITRIY A. BONDARENKO
Shakopee, Minnesota

Dmitriy A. Bondarenko died while attempting to save Aleks M. Kanishchev from drowning, Panama City, Florida, August 10, 2016. Kanishchev, 60, became trapped in a strong current in the Gulf of Mexico that took him farther from shore and kept him from returning in the choppy water at a point about 160 feet from shore. Bondarenko, 39, business operator, was alerted that Kanishchev needed help. Despite the strong current, Bondarenko, who was on a family vacation and was Kanishchev's relative, ran to the water, entered the surf and waded and swam toward him. Another man had reached Kanishchev but a wave separated them, and the man returned to shore. 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. Kanishchev was treated at the scene for water inhalation and near-exhaustion, from which he recovered in three days. Bondarenko's body was recovered in the water the next day. He had drowned. [88468-9989](#)



TANNER DOUGLAS BOSLAU
Bend, Oregon

Tanner Douglas Boslau saved Teresa Samano from drowning, Bend, Oregon, August 7, 2016. On the Deschutes River, Samano, 58, floated on an inner tube into an impoundment for a hydroelectric dam and held to a buoyed cable that spanned the river. The 62-degree water flowed toward the dam's spillway, which was about 75 feet away, and Samano was about 20 feet from the retaining wall at the closest bank. On a paddle board upstream, Boslau, 30, service advisor, heard Samano's family call for help; he paddled to the cable. Boslau lowered himself, untangled Samano from the cable and inner tube, and directed her to hold onto his board as he sat atop it. Boslau then grabbed the cable with one hand and towed Samano to the near bank. Arriving police threw Boslau a rope, and he maneuvered the board against the wall. Police pulled Samano from the water, then helped Boslau to land. [88480-9970](#)



ERIK BREITWIESER
Manorville, New York

Erik Breitwieser saved Edmund Soledad-Reyes from burning, Southampton, New York, November 14, 2015. Unresponsive, Soledad-Reyes, 21, remained in the driver's seat of his coupe after a nighttime accident in which the vehicle overturned and its front end caught fire. Responding to the scene, Breitwieser, 35, police officer, approached the driver's side of the car and went to his hands and knees on the pavement. He used a baton to break out the window of the driver's door, and then, despite flames about 4 feet high issuing from the engine area and smaller flames inside the passenger compartment at the pedals, reached inside and grasped Soledad-Reyes by the shirt. He tugged once, but Soledad-Reyes did not move. Realizing that his safety belt was engaged, Breitwieser went to his stomach, extended his upper body into the vehicle, and cut the belt with a knife. He then pulled Soledad-Reyes to him and, dragging him, backed from the vehicle to safety. Soledad-Reyes required hospital treatment for his injuries, and Breitwieser coughed for two days after the rescue. He fully recovered. [87937-9927](#)



MATTHEW PAUL BURSON
Spokane Valley, Washington

Matthew Paul Burson rescued Angel Darlene Fiorini and helped to rescue Gianna E. Fiorini from burning, Newman Lake, Washington, October 28, 2016. Fiorini, 32, and her daughter Gianna, 7, were inside a burning mobile home after fire broke out in the kitchen. After removing Gianna's brother and sister from the home and returning for Gianna, Fiorini lost consciousness. Burson, 45, registered nurse, was driving nearby and stopped at the scene. Burson got on his hands and knees and crawled into the smoke-filled home where heat was blistering. After crawling several feet Burson felt Fiorini on the floor and grasped her. He sat on the floor and held her to him, moving backwards to the front door. Once outside Fiorini regained consciousness and Burson moved her away from the home. Burson then re-entered and searched for Gianna, finding her in the same area as Fiorini. Burson grasped Gianna, who was 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. Fiorini was hospitalized for severe lung damage from smoke inhalation and serious burns to nearly half of her body. Gianna was hospitalized for smoke inhalation and serious burns. Burson sustained burns to his hands and knees and he recovered. [89273-9991](#)



TIMOTHY CARPENTER
Cincinnati, Ohio

Timothy Carpenter attempted to rescue Patricia Hummons from assault, Cincinnati, Ohio, January 18, 2015. Hummons, 60, was seated in her wheelchair on a walkway outside the apartment building where she lived when a man approached her from behind and without provocation began to stab her repeatedly. Carpenter, 48, pastor, was leaving the building and saw the assailant striking Hummons. He shouted as he approached them, the assailant then pulling Hummons from her wheelchair to the walkway. As Carpenter knelt to tend to Hummons, the assailant stabbed him underneath the chin from behind. Carpenter stood and was stabbed again, in the abdomen. He grabbed the knife, breaking it in two and retaining the blade. The men struggled, during which Carpenter delivered defensive strikes with the blade against the assailant, inflicting injury. The struggle took them to the ground, where Carpenter threw the blade aside and held the assailant down until police arrived and arrested him. Hummons died at the scene of her injuries. Carpenter required hospital treatment, including sutures, for his stab wounds and lacerations, and he recovered. [87167-9926](#)



ROBERT CONANT
Stoney Creek, Ontario

Robert Conant helped to save Daniel Fredericks from falling, Oakville, Ontario, April 18, 2015. Fredericks, 23, slid about 20 feet down the steep wall of a ravine at a provincial park to recover his dog and then became stranded, at a point about 10 feet above the wall's abrupt drop. He grabbed a branch of a tree protruding from the cliff and held to it with one arm as he secured his dog with the other. Responding to the scene, Conant, 29, on-duty police officer, concluded there was insufficient time to await trained rescuers. He tied one end of a worn rope that was at the scene around his chest as a bystander tied the other end to a tree root. Conant then lowered himself to Fredericks, turning to face the ravine and thereby transferring all of his weight to the rope. Although Fredericks outweighed him, Conant helped him to reposition himself so that he straddled the branch. Backup officers lowered a line to Conant that he used to secure himself further, and firefighters who responded after several minutes employed a series of ropes and a harness to secure and remove Fredericks and his dog to the top of the cliff, about an hour after his ordeal began. Conant was then raised in similar fashion, having spent 30 minutes on the cliff face. Both he and Fredericks sustained minor injury, Conant's including a bruised chest, and they recovered. [88647-9950](#)



JAYDEN CHARLES CONCHA
Dickinson, North Dakota

Jayden Charles Concha helped to rescue Edward W. Shypkoski and attempted to help rescue Frederick J. Ewoniuk from drowning, Mandaree, North Dakota, February 20, 2016. Shypkoski, 58, was riding on his all-terrain vehicle with Ewoniuk, 60, on ice on Lake Sakakawea at a point about 300 feet from the closer bank, when the ice broke beneath them, sending them into the frigid water. Unable to lift themselves onto the ice, Shypkoski and Ewoniuk both screamed for help. Across the lake, Jayden, 14, middle school student, heard the screams. With his uncle, Jayden rode on their all-terrain vehicle to a point about 30 feet from the hole created by the fall, and after his uncle removed fishing equipment and pulled the vehicle to a point about 10 feet from the hole, Jayden retrieved cable from a winch at the front of the vehicle and gave it to the uncle. The uncle tried unsuccessfully to reach the cable to Ewoniuk, and then broke through the ice himself. Jayden and the vehicle also broke through the ice. Jayden fully submerged and resurfaced. The uncle aided Jayden out of the water and directed him to stay back from the hole. The uncle got a 5-foot piece of rope from his equipment and used it to aid Shypkoski out of the water. Ewoniuk had submerged and never resurfaced. The uncle assisted Shypkoski in walking to Jayden. Jayden then assisted Shypkoski to the closer bank, and they met the uncle at his truck. They drove to a nearby home, went inside and called 911. Jayden tended Shypkoski. Shypkoski was hospitalized two days for treatment of his injuries, and he recovered. Ewoniuk's body was recovered about six hours later. He had drowned. Jayden suffered bruising and a sprain to his right wrist. He later went to his doctor for treatment. He recovered. [88248-9957](#)



FRANK B. CONSELMAN
Rockwall, Texas

Frank B. Conselman saved a 32-year-old man and helped to save Robert S. Marchand from drowning, Pensacola Beach, Florida, July 26, 2016. Marchand, 36, and the 32-year-old man entered the waters of the Gulf of Mexico in an attempt to assist a woman and two children who were caught in a rip current. Marchand and the other man were also caught in the rip current and unable to reach the woman and children. Conselman, 45, business owner, was alerted to the situation. He 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, shouting for help. Conselman gave Marchand the kickboard and then swam to the 32-year-old 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 the 32-year-old man in wadable water he stood and pulled the man toward the beach. Another man came out and took the 32-year-old man from Conselman, who was able to exit the water on his own. A lifeguard swam out to Marchand and took him back to the beach. Marchand and the other man were transported to a hospital where they were treated and released. Conselman swallowed water and was nearly exhausted after the rescue; he recovered in two days. [88455-9981](#)



RICHARD WILLIAM DORRITY
Livingston, California

Richard William Dorritty saved Clyde D. Willoughby from burning, Livingston, California, April 19, 2016. Willoughby, 19, was the front seat passenger in a pickup truck that collided with a tractor-trailer on a two-lane road. The pickup truck caught fire. Dorritty, 64, disabled truck driver, lived nearby and heard the crash. He drove his vehicle to the scene, where he saw flames on the pickup truck and Willoughby in the passenger seat. Electric lines from a nearby power pole were draped above the truck. Dorritty reached his arms through the window opening and grasped Willoughby, but a part of the window frame was blocking the opening and Dorritty could not move him. Dorritty picked up a metal bar and used it to pry away the part of the frame to the side of the opening. He then reached through the opening and released Willoughby's seatbelt, grasped him underneath the arms and pulled him head first through the window opening. Dorritty helped Willoughby to his feet and away from the burning vehicle. The two had only walked a few steps before an explosion occurred at the truck, knocking them to the ground. As they moved farther away, the electric lines fell onto the truck, which was shortly engulfed by flames. Willoughby was treated at a hospital for a head injury and broken ribs. Dorritty was not injured. [88221-9959](#)



COURTNEY BAYNES DORSEY
Georgetown, South Carolina

Courtney Baynes Dorsey died attempting to save Coey D. Dorsey from drowning, Pawleys Island, South Carolina, July 3, 2016. Coey, 13, was wading in the Atlantic Ocean when he was knocked off his feet and carried away from shore by a strong rip current. He shouted for help. Courtney, 16, high school student and Coey's brother, was nearby and removed his shirt before stepping onto a rock jetty that extended into the water. Courtney jumped from the end of the jetty 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. [88382-9976](#)



ERIC W. EDWARDS
Lodi, California

Eric W. Edwards rescued Orlando A. Villalobos from drowning, Watsonville, California, February 14, 2015. Villalobos, 37, was swimming in the Pacific Ocean when he was caught in a rip current and carried away from shore. Edwards, 39, off-duty firefighter and emergency medical technician, entered the 55-degree water with a boogie board and swam in the 6-foot swells toward Villalobos, the boogie board pulled away and recovered several times. When Edwards reached him he extended the board to Villalobos, who was barely above the surface of the water. Villalobos grasped the board and, with Edwards kicking, the men moved with difficulty in the rough conditions toward shore. When they reached wadable water others came out and carried Villalobos from the water. Edwards exited on his own and collapsed on the beach. Villalobos was treated at a hospital for mild hypothermia, from which he recovered. Edwards also sustained mild hypothermia and was nearly exhausted. He was treated at the scene and recovered. [88162-9964](#)



ANGEL DARLENE FIORINI
Newman Lake, Washington

Angel Darlene Fiorini helped to rescue Gianna E. Fiorini from burning, Newman Lake, Washington, October 28, 2016. Gianna, 7, was in the bedroom of a burning mobile home when fire broke out in the kitchen. Fiorini, 32, homemaker and Gianna's mother, removed Gianna's brother and sister from the home and then re-entered for Gianna. Fiorini got onto 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 in order to open it. Fiorini lost consciousness as she returned to Gianna, who also lost consciousness. A man arrived on the scene and entered the home, removing first Fiorini and then re-entering for Gianna and taking her from the home. Both Fiorini and Gianna regained consciousness after being removed. Flames issued from the doorway minutes after they were away from the home, which was shortly engulfed by flames. Gianna was hospitalized for smoke inhalation and severe burns. Fiorini was hospitalized several weeks for severe lung damage from smoke inhalation and severe burns to nearly half of her body. [88670-9990](#)



JAMES RAYMOND GARVEY, SR.
Fairhope, Pennsylvania

James Raymond Garvey, Sr., saved Ryan Hindinger from burning, Imler, Pennsylvania, November 19, 2016. Hindinger, 26, was driving his sport utility vehicle on a rural stretch of an interstate highway when it left the roadway and crashed. The vehicle rolled over, landed upright, and caught fire next to a wooded embankment about 75 feet from the highway. Garvey, 76, museum owner, was driving by with his wife when he noticed the fire, ran to Hindinger's vehicle, and urged Hindinger to exit. Hindinger, who was semi-conscious, could not open the driver's door, which was jammed from impact. The passenger side of the vehicle was inaccessible due to burning brush. Garvey extended his upper body through the driver's window opening and pulled Hindinger, who was much larger than Garvey, partially through the opening as flames burned next to the open window. Garvey then braced his feet against the vehicle and pulled Hindinger free of the vehicle, then led him safely away as flames engulfed it. Garvey reported minor burns to his arm, which didn't require medical treatment. Hindinger suffered a traumatic brain injury, was hospitalized for two days, and required speech therapy for months. He recovered. [88713-9987](#)



JAMES EDWARD GILES
Terrace, British Columbia

James Edward Giles rescued a boy and girl from burning, Terrace, British Columbia, October 18, 2016. Two young siblings, a boy and a girl, were in a split-level house when fire broke out in an attached garage. Giles, 40, construction safety officer, lived across the street and was alerted to the fire. Giles ran to the house and shouted. When he did not get a reply he threw a rock through a bedroom window. Giles went to the front door, which was opened by the children's mother, who exited the house. Giles went into the house where visibility was limited by dense smoke, and covered his face with his shirt. He moved forward into the house and 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. The boy and girl were treated at the scene for mild smoke inhalation. Giles was treated for mild smoke inhalation; he recovered. [88640-9982](#)



ROBBIE GOERING-JENSEN
Ashland, Nebraska

Robbie Goering-Jensen saved Gregory L. and Lula M. Damper from burning, Omaha, Nebraska, December 20, 2015. Gregory, 57, was in a wheelchair in the living room of his family's one-story house after fire broke out in a bedroom at the far end of the structure, and his mother, Lula, 83, was in a bedroom off a hall near the living room. Goering-Jensen, 49, police officer, was on duty nearby when he saw dense smoke and flames issuing from the eaves of the house. He responded to the scene and learned that the house was occupied. Entering the living room through the front door, he used his flashlight to see Gregory's wheelchair across the room. Goering-Jensen crawled through dense smoke to the chair, grasped it by a footrest, and pulled it, with Gregory, back to the door, where other responding officers took Gregory to safety. Having heard cries for help from inside the house, Goering-Jensen learned that Lula was in her bedroom. He again entered the structure and, again crawling across the living room through dense smoke, followed Lula's cries to her room. Entering the room, he stood, lifted Lula from her bed, and retraced his path back to the front door and outside to safety. Gregory and Lula were treated at the scene, but Goering-Jensen was taken by ambulance to the hospital for treatment of smoke inhalation. He recovered. [87935-9940](#)



JOHN J. GREEN III
New York City, New York

John J. Green III helped to save a man from drowning, New York City, New York, June 1, 2016. The man was bobbing in the East River at a point about 60 feet from a seawall, the top of which was about 8 feet above the surface of the water. Jogging at the scene, Green, 29, insurance broker, climbed over a railing and jumped from the seawall into the 23-foot-deep water, as did two other men. The three rescuers swam to where the man, who had by then submerged, was last seen. One of the other rescuers submerged and pulled the man, who greatly outweighed him, by his shirt to the surface of the water and then grasped him from behind and supported him as he tread water. Green and the other rescuer then each grasped the man by an arm. Together, they swam back toward the seawall with the man, but the swift current carried them downstream, to a point at the wall about 600 feet from where they entered the river. As there was no egress from the water there, they remained in position, Green securing a hold to the wall while the two other rescuers tread water. A police rescue boat arrived within minutes, but as it could not get close to the wall, Green and the two other rescuers swam and were carried by the current as they took the man to the boat. All four were assisted from the water and taken to safety. The man required hospital treatment, and Green sustained minor cuts to his hands and feet. He recovered. [88315-9947](#)



RICHARD DAVID GREENO
Williamsport, Ohio

Richard David Greeno helped to rescue Charles C. Rhodes from burning, Circleville, Ohio, October 16, 2015. Rhodes, 66, who required a cane to walk, was in the lower level of the split-level house where he was residing after fire broke out at night in the attached, adjacent garage, engulfing it. Asleep on an upper level of the house, Greeno, 40, disabled maintenance man, was awakened to the fire by a woman who lived next door. He exited the house through the back door but re-entered, through the front door, for Rhodes. Dense smoke forced him out for air. After breaking a lower-level window to vent the smoke, Greeno re-entered through the front door and, crawling, advanced about 12 feet to the stairs extending to the lower level and descended them. Flames by then were entering the lower level from the garage, and heat was intense. Rhodes had crawled toward the stairs, and Greeno located him a few feet from them. Meanwhile, the neighbor had entered the house through the front door and after repeated attempts met up with Greeno and Rhodes at the stairs. She and Greeno dragged Rhodes from the stairs to the front door and out of the house, the lower level of which was shortly engulfed by flames. Rhodes required hospitalization, including surgery, for treatment of severe burns. **88670-9990**



JOSEPH B. HAMBLIN
Washington, Utah

Joseph B. Hamblin rescued a woman from a runaway vehicle, St. George, Utah, March 31, 2016. The woman was in the driver's seat of a pickup truck that was moving slowly and erratically on a four-lane highway through a commercial district. After striking a curb, the truck turned toward the center turning lane at about 15 m.p.h. Headed in the same direction in his vehicle, Hamblin, 36, unemployed truck driver, saw that the woman was slumped over in her seat. He pulled off the roadway and, despite wearing a medical boot because of recent foot surgery, ran onto the highway after the truck. Reaching its driver's side, he stepped onto the running board and grabbed the steering wheel through the open window of the driver's door. Hamblin guided the truck along the turning lane for more than 100 feet and then, as opposing traffic allowed, steered it across two lanes into a parking lot. There, he put the truck into park and helped a responding police officer remove the woman to the pavement, where they worked to revive her. The woman was taken to the hospital, and Hamblin, whose affected foot was bleeding heavily, also sought medical treatment. He recovered. **88303-9924**



DAVID E. HAMMOND
Gulf Breeze, Florida

David E. Hammond saved Stephanie Wright from burning, Gulf Breeze, Florida, July 28, 2016. At night, Wright, 47, who used a wheelchair, was in her bedroom after a fire started in another bedroom on the same end of her one-story house. Wright called 911 and spoke with a dispatcher, then called her friend and landlord, Hammond, 64, retired business operator, on another phone. Overhearing Wright tell a dispatcher that she could not breathe, Hammond drove to her house. As smoke spread to her room, Wright passed out in bed. Arriving at the scene, Hammond repeatedly rammed his body into the glass sliding door at her bedroom until it broke open; he fell to the floor inside. Unable to see her bed, Hammond crawled until he felt it and located Wright. He dragged Wright to the doorway, then collapsed, nearly exhausted. Police officers took Wright away from the house as firefighters arrived on scene. Wright was not burned, but she was hospitalized for two nights for treatment of smoke inhalation. Hammond, who suffered numerous cuts on his body, also was treated for inhaling smoke. **88458-9963**



SANFORD HARLING III
Norristown, Pennsylvania

Sanford Harling III died attempting to rescue Sanford Harling, Jr., from burning, Norristown, Pennsylvania, February 5, 2016. Sanford Harling, Jr., 58, who required the use of a walker, was on the second floor of his family's duplex unit after fire broke out in the living room, on the first floor. He alerted family members, including his son, Sanford, 12, student, who then fled the structure, but flames grew to block Harling's access to the first floor. Indicating to those outside the rear of the house that he was returning for his father, Sanford re-entered the structure through its back door. Harling, meanwhile, went to a second-floor window on the side of the house and dropped from it to the ground, which was grassy there. He sustained significant injury, which required hospitalization. When conditions permitted, firefighters entered the house and found Sanford on the first floor. He had died of smoke inhalation and thermal burns. **88049-9929**



JESSE T. HAW
Ottawa, Ontario

Jesse T. Haw saved a 12-year-old boy from drowning, Ottawa, Ontario, August 23, 2014. The boy was fishing on rocks in the Ottawa River when he slipped and fell into the water. A man was fishing with the boy and he jumped into the 65-degree water and moved toward the boy. The two shouted for help. Haw, 24, was nearby and heard them shouting. Haw swam out to the man and boy and grasped them. Haw swam backwards with them toward the bank but submerged a few times. Unable to continue to swim with both the boy and the man, Haw and the man separated and the man was taken downstream by the current. Haw swam with the boy toward the bank where others took the boy from him when he had difficulty swimming. They removed the boy from the water. Haw was able to exit the water on his own. The man submerged in the water and drowned. The boy was treated for mild hypothermia. Haw was cold after the rescue and sustained lacerations to his feet; he recovered. **88540-9961**



GEORGE A. HEATH
Taunton, Massachusetts

George A. Heath died after helping to rescue Sheenah Savoy from assault, Taunton, Massachusetts, May 10, 2016. Savoy, 26, was at work in a mall restaurant when an enraged man entered and approached her, grabbed a steak knife from her hand, and started to stab her repeatedly. As she ran screaming toward the nearby bar, the assailant chased her and continued his attack on her. A diner, Heath, 56, teacher, and his wife were seated at the bar. Heath stood and pushed Savoy to the floor and then clutched the assailant, who was larger than him. As Heath crouched and tried to pin the assailant's arms to his sides, the assailant stabbed him in the head. Another restaurant patron, an off-duty sheriff's deputy, shot and fatally wounded the assailant. Savoy required hospitalization for treatment of serious stab wounds. Heath too was taken to the hospital, where he died shortly of his wound. **88275-9922**



KEVIN L. HESELTON
Tiburon, California

Kevin L. Heselton rescued Marcy L. Andrews from assault, San Rafael, California, June 18, 2016. Andrews, 36, was in her fenced-in backyard when a man entered the yard and said he was going to kill her. He pulled a revolver partially out of the pocket of his pants. Andrews picked up a pair of pruning shears, ran to the wooden fence, which was about 6 feet high, and started to climb over it, but the assailant pulled her to the ground. Andrews screamed for help. The assailant took the pruning shears from her and stabbed her in the neck and back before he began to choke her. Heselton, 44, construction company owner, was in the neighborhood and heard the screams. He ran to the fence, climbed over it, and dropped to the ground. Heselton went to the assailant and Andrews and kicked the assailant off of her. Heselton grabbed the assailant and held him to the ground. Andrews was moved out of the yard by others to safety. Police arrived and apprehended the assailant. Andrews sustained stab wounds and contusions and was treated at a hospital. Heselton sustained a laceration to his right hand and was treated at the scene; he recovered. **88391-9954**



C. FREDRIC HOLBECK
Omaha, Nebraska

C. Fredric Holbeck helped to save Nathaniel A. Wissink from burning, Omaha, Nebraska, February 26, 2016. Wissink, 28, was unconscious and trapped in the front passenger seat of a car after it was struck on its driver's side by a pickup truck traveling at high speed through a residential neighborhood. The car, which burst into flame, was demolished, with its back end split almost apart from the front, its fuel tank ruptured, and most windows broken out. Flames issued from the rear of the vehicle, including the backseat area, and were spreading toward the front seats, producing dense smoke. Holbeck, 54, biologist, was at his home nearby and immediately ran to the scene to find the car's driver emerging through the window of the driver's door. Holbeck aided him from the vehicle and took him to safety. Learning that Wissink was still in the car, Holbeck returned to its driver's door, where he bent down the window frame. In repeated attempts, he and two other men from the neighborhood reached through the opening, locating Wissink but finding that he was trapped by wreckage. Reaching deep into the smoke-filled car, they freed Wissink, pulled him head first through the opening, and dragged him to safety, flames shortly engulfing the car's interior. Wissink required hospitalization for treatment of his injuries. Holbeck sustained smoke inhalation but did not require medical attention, and he recovered. [88206-9942](#)



JOHN PAUL HOLLYFIELD
Accokeek, Maryland

John Paul Hollyfield saved Ashley S. Gruwell from being struck by a falling tree limb, Accokeek, Maryland, July 9, 2015. During a cookout on the wooded Moyaone Reserve, Ashley, 6, was seated at the top of a slide that was about 10 feet beneath an 80-foot-long limb of an old-growth tree, the base of which was about 20 feet away. At the trunk, the limb was at least 3 feet in diameter. An attendee, Hollyfield, 56, teacher, heard the limb cracking from the tree and concluded that its collapse was imminent. While Hollyfield and others yelled for guests nearby to disperse, Ashley remained atop the slide. Hollyfield, then standing near a pavilion, ran about 30 feet to the slide, where he grabbed Ashley and led her to the ground. Hollyfield then led her to safety in the vicinity of the pavilion. Within seconds, the limb fell across the top of the slide, destroying it, while also damaging other structures at the scene. [88656-9962](#)



JAMIE ALAN HYATT
Wood Lake, Minnesota

Jamie Alan Hyatt died attempting to rescue David D. Syring from suffocation, Granite Falls, Minnesota, January 7, 2016. Syring, 34, was working on a farm inside a tanker-trailer that was later found to be deficient in oxygen when he collapsed and lost consciousness. Hyatt, 34, who was a friend of Syring's and was employed as a truck driver by the farm, was outside the tanker talking to Syring when Syring collapsed and became unresponsive. Hyatt, from a ladder on the tanker's side, called out to Syring, then despite near-darkness inside and no easy egress entered its interior by way of a small hatch in its top. Once inside the tanker Hyatt experienced breathing difficulties almost immediately. He attempted to reach Syring about 20 feet away but ultimately lost consciousness and became unresponsive. A local fire department arrived shortly and, unable to reach Syring and Hyatt through the hatch, cut an opening in the side of the tanker to remove the men, who were transported to the hospital. Syring regained consciousness and survived. Hyatt died later that day from effects of asphyxia. [88040-9965](#)



ROBIN IRELAND
Plymouth, Massachusetts

Robin Ireland rescued a woman from assault, Plymouth, Massachusetts, July 14, 2016. In the afternoon, a 39-year-old woman was jogging alone on a wooded trail at a municipal park when a seasonal park employee followed her on a utility vehicle 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, 39, a teacher who was working at the park, 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 stick about 3 feet long 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. Ireland then ran to the assailant's vehicle, which he drove from the scene toward the point of safety reached by the victim. Arriving police arrested the assailant without resistance. The woman was hospitalized for her injuries. She recovered. [88417-9972](#)



SCOTT B. KELLER
Tecumseh, Michigan

Scott B. Keller saved Yusuf Salem from burning, Dearborn Heights, Michigan, July 29, 2016. Yusuf, 7, was on the second floor of his family's two-story townhouse after a fire broke out in the kitchen, on the first floor, and filled that floor with dense smoke. On duty, Keller, 41, police officer, responded to the scene, where he learned that Yusuf was inside the burning house. Keller went to his hands and knees and crawled a short distance into the house, shouting for Yusuf. Yusuf responded, but, unable to breathe, Keller exited the unit for air. Given a shirt that he then held to his face, Keller re-entered the structure and, again crawling, followed the sound of Yusuf's voice. After advancing about 10 feet, Keller stood and ran to the base of the stairs leading to the second floor. He went part way up the stairs, finding Yusuf standing on one of the steps. Keller picked him up and, holding the shirt against Yusuf's face, descended the steps and returned to the front door. Exiting to safety, he handed Yusuf to another person and then collapsed to the ground. Firefighters responded shortly and extinguished the fire. Both Yusuf and Keller required hospital treatment for smoke inhalation, and they recovered, Keller missing two days of work. [88442-9936](#)



DEMETRIUS T. JOHNSON, SR.
Buffalo, New York

Demetrius T. Johnson, Sr., died attempting to save Demetrius T. Johnson, Jr., from burning, Buffalo, New York, February 19, 2016. Demetrius, 3, was in a bedroom of his family's first-floor apartment when fire broke out in the kitchen. Johnson, 24, who was Demetrius's father, was sleeping in the apartment's living room at the time. He was wakened 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. [88099-9975](#)



NOAH HILL KING
Panama City, Florida

Noah Hill King saved Jonathon A. Chiodo from burning, Panama City, Florida, October 25, 2016. Chiodo, 23, was the driver of a sport utility vehicle that left the road, traveled down an embankment and struck a culvert. Its front end aflame, the vehicle came to rest on its passenger side in the culvert. King, 38, financial planner, 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 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. King suffered lacerations to his hand, and was treated at the scene. He recovered. [88682-9980](#)



KEVIN D. LITTLE, JR.
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Kevin D. Little, Jr., died attempting to save Tae’Najah Morgan from a burning house, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, October 20, 2015. Tae’Najah, 2, was in a bedroom on the second floor of a house when fire broke out in the living room below the bedroom. Her cousin Kevin D. Little, Jr., 10, student, was sleeping in the same room. Kevin’s grandmother and his four younger siblings were in an adjacent bedroom. Kevin entered the adjacent bedroom and woke his grandmother, alerting her to the fire in the house. The grandmother woke the younger children. Kevin exited the bedroom ahead of his grandmother and younger siblings. The grandmother got the four younger children down to the first floor and exited the house to safety. Kevin was found in the bedroom where he had been sleeping. He was lying on Tae’Najah and there was a mattress pulled over the two of them. Both Kevin and Tae’Najah were removed from the house by firefighters. Tae’Najah died the next day of smoke inhalation. Kevin died nearly three weeks after the fire; his death due to smoke inhalation. [88847-9955](#)



MICHAEL LUMAHANG
Ottawa, Ontario

Michael Lumahang died attempting to save a 12-year-old boy from drowning, Ottawa, Ontario, August 23, 2014. The boy was fishing on rocks in the Ottawa River when he slipped and fell into the water. Lumahang, 39, custodian and family friend, was fishing with the boy. Lumahang threw his fishing pole to the boy but the boy was unable to grasp it and was pulled downstream by the current. Lumahang jumped into the 65-degree water and moved toward the boy. The two shouted for help and a man swam out to them and grasped both Lumahang and the boy. The man began to swim backwards toward the bank but submerged a few times. Unable to swim with both the boy and Lumahang, Lumahang and the man separated and Lumahang was taken downstream by the current. The man swam with the boy toward the bank where others took the boy from him when he had difficulty swimming and removed the boy from the water. The man was able to exit the water on his own. The boy was treated for mild hypothermia. Lumahang’s body was recovered the next morning; he had drowned. [86807-9960](#)



STEPHANIE MELINDA MARINO
Manteca, California

Stephanie Melinda Marino saved Anthony H. Ortiz from being struck by a train, Manteca, California, June 8, 2016. Ortiz, 27, was the passenger in a sport utility vehicle that left the highway, went down a steep embankment, and stopped upright, straddling a set of two railroad tracks. Another motorist, Marino, 35, hospice nurse, witnessed the accident and, stopping at the scene, ran down the embankment to the vehicle. Going to the vehicle’s passenger side, she helped Ortiz, who was injured, stand outside it. A commuter train was approaching at about 70 m.p.h. and was about a quarter-mile away when its engineer saw the vehicle. He immediately applied the train’s emergency brakes and sounded its horn, which first alerted Marino to the train’s approach. In the seconds that it took for the train to reach the scene, Marino grabbed Ortiz, who was larger than her, and pulled him by an arm and his shirt toward the rear of the vehicle. She stepped off the tracks but maintained her grip of Ortiz as the train struck the vehicle at somewhat of a diminished speed and knocked it about 10 feet away. Marino and Ortiz fell to the ground, debris from the impact striking them. The train came to a stop about 2,000 feet beyond the point of impact. Ortiz required hospitalization for treatment of his injuries, and Marino recovered from bruising to her knees and cuts to her arms and hands. [88362-9935](#)



LISA MCNAIRY
Circleville, Ohio

Lisa McNairy helped to rescue Charles C. Rhodes from burning, Circleville, Ohio, October 15, 2016. Rhodes, 66, who required a cane to walk, was in the lower level of the split-level house where he was residing after fire broke out at night in the attached, adjacent garage, engulfing it. Discovering the fire, a next-door neighbor, McNairy, 50, retail associate, responded to the scene and alerted a man who was asleep on an upper level of the house. After that man left the structure, McNairy entered it through its back door to check on its other occupants and then, going to the front of the house, learned that Rhodes was still inside. Entering through the front door, she crawled about 12 feet through dense smoke to the stairs extending to the lower level, but, unable to breathe, she exited the house for air. Twice more she re-entered and advanced to the stairs. Flames by then were entering the lower level from the garage, and heat was intense. Rhodes had crawled toward the stairs, and the man whom McNairy alerted located him there. He and McNairy dragged Rhodes from the stairs to the front door and out of the house, the lower level of which was shortly engulfed by flames. Rhodes required hospitalization, including surgery, for treatment of severe burns. McNairy was given oxygen at the scene, and she recovered. [89273-9991](#)



GARY J. MESSINA
West Islip, New York

Gary J. Messina helped to save a man from drowning, New York City, New York, June 1, 2016. The man was bobbing in the East River at a point about 60 feet from a seawall, the top of which was about 8 feet above the surface of the water. Jogging at the scene, Messina, 56, on-duty police captain, climbed over a railing and jumped from the seawall into the 23-foot-deep water, as did two other men. The three rescuers swam to where the man, who had by then submerged, was last seen. One of the other rescuers submerged and pulled the man, who greatly outweighed him, by his shirt to the surface of the water and then grasped him from behind and supported him as he tread water. Messina and the other rescuer then each grasped the man by an arm. Together, they swam back toward the seawall with the man, but the swift current carried them downstream, to a point at the wall about 600 feet from where they entered the river. As there was no egress from the water there, they remained in position, one of the other rescuers securing a hold to the wall while Messina and the third rescuer tread water. A police rescue boat arrived within minutes, but as it could not get close to the wall, Messina and the two other rescuers swam and were carried by the current as they took the man to the boat. All four were assisted from the water and taken to safety, the man requiring hospital treatment. [88314-9945](#)



DENNIS JOSEPH MICHEL
Ankeny, Iowa

Dennis Joseph Michel died assisting in an attempt to save Jacob B. Seeman from drowning, Camdenton, Missouri, August 1, 2016. Seeman, 40, jumped from a dock in the Niangua Arm of the Lake of the Ozarks to retrieve a boat that was drifting from the dock. After a few strokes, he struggled in the water and called out for help, alerting his brother-in-law, Michel, 46, analyst, and Michel's wife. From the dock, Michel jumped into the 10-foot-deep water and swam to Seeman, joining Michel's wife, who had swum out from the bank. Michel placed an arm around Seeman's upper body as his wife held Seeman by the waist, but Seeman continued to struggle. The men submerged. Firefighters arrived after Michel's wife reached safety at the dock, and a dive team recovered Seeman's and Michel's bodies within three hours at a point about 75 feet from the dock. They had drowned. [88449-9949](#)



LISA MISSANA
Tampa, Florida

Lisa Missana helped to save Marla B. Zick from drowning, Tampa, Florida, March 31, 2016. Zick, 26, remained in the driver's seat of her car after it left the highway, went down an embankment, and entered a retention pond. Upright, the car drifted to a point about 80 feet from the bank and then submerged in water about 10 feet deep. Missana, 47, administrator, had driven upon the scene and, seeing the car submerge, ran to a point on the bank nearest it. She removed her sandals, entered the pond, and swam about 30 feet to the car, where another motorist who had swum out had made unsuccessful rescue attempts. Diving repeatedly, Missana also was unsuccessful in attempts to release Zick's safety belt, which she reached through the open window of the driver's door. Visibility was severely compromised in the murky water. While Missana swam to the bank for a cutting tool, the other motorist submerged again, released Zick's safety belt, and resurfaced. Missana returned, and together she and the other motorist then dove to the car and removed Zick, who was unconscious, through the window. Surfacing, they swam with her the 30 feet to the nearer bank, where others helped them lift her from the water. Zick required hospitalization, but she recovered. Nearly exhausted, Missana bruised an arm and required treatment for ear pain. She too recovered. [88184-9918](#)



SHANE S. MITCHELL
Tampa, Florida

Shane S. Mitchell helped to save Marla B. Zick from drowning, Tampa, Florida, March 31, 2016. Zick, 26, remained in the driver's seat of her car after it left the highway, went down an embankment, and entered a retention pond. Upright, the car drifted to a point about 80 feet from the bank and then submerged in water about 10 feet deep. Mitchell, 32, carpenter, was driving nearby and witnessed the accident. He drove to a point on the bank opposite the car and then removed his shoes, entered the water, and swam to the vehicle. Submerging repeatedly, he was unsuccessful in attempts to open the car's driver's door and to release Zick's safety belt, which he reached through the open window of that door. Visibility was severely compromised in the murky water. About that time, another motorist who had driven upon the scene also swam out to the car, but from a closer bank. She too dove repeatedly to access and free Zick and was also unsuccessful. While she swam to the bank for a cutting tool, Mitchell submerged again, released Zick's safety belt, and resurfaced. Together, he and the other motorist, who had returned, then dove to the car and removed Zick, who was unconscious, through the window. Surfacing, they swam with her the 30 feet to the nearer bank, where others helped them lift Zick from the water. Zick required hospitalization, and Mitchell was nearly exhausted. They recovered. [88183-9919](#)



RAUL MORENO
Conyers, Georgia

Raul Moreno saved Harry Douglas from burning, Conyers, Georgia, June 22, 2016. Douglas, 71, was the driver of a dump truck that, in an accident, left the roadway and entered a shallow ditch. Trapped by wreckage, he remained in the driver's seat as flames broke out in the undercarriage of the engine compartment and grew and spread, and dense smoke filled the cab. Witnessing the accident from his job site nearby, Moreno, 44, landscaper, went to the driver's side of the truck and broke out the window of that door with his pruning shears. He then extended his head and arms through the opening but was repulsed by smoke and retreated. Taking a deep breath and holding it, Moreno again leaned into the cab. He bear-hugged Douglas about the chest and , pulling multiple times in between retreating for breaths of air, inched him from the cab as Douglas maneuvered his feet from his boots, which were trapped in the wreckage. Free of the window opening, the men fell to the ground, after which another man aided Moreno in carrying Douglas to safety. Douglas required hospital treatment for injuries sustained in the accident, but he was not burned. [88395-9934](#)



ROBERT HART MORGAN
Loveland, Colorado

Robert Hart Morgan saved Annaliese S. Vucich from drowning, Loveland, Colorado, November 28, 2015. At night, Vucich, 22, remained in the driver's seat of her car after it entered Lake Loveland and began to submerge in water 7 feet deep at a point about 75 feet from the bank. Morgan and a friend, both 18-year-old college students, were traveling nearby and witnessed the accident. They descended to the edge of the water, where Morgan removed his outer attire. Despite an air temperature of about 19 degrees and the water near freezing, he entered the lake and waded and swam to the passenger side of the car. Unable to open the front door, Morgan broke out the door's window with his elbow. Water rushed into the vehicle and began to fill the passenger compartment. When Morgan then leaned through the window, Vucich grasped him by the neck. Backing, Morgan pulled her from the car, towed her to wadable water, and then carried her from the lake. Vucich called out another person's name, leading Morgan and his friend to conclude that the car was still occupied. As Morgan was too cold to go back to the vehicle, his friend swam out to search it for any other victims before returning to the bank. Responding firefighters also searched the car, but it turned out to be unoccupied. Vucich and Morgan required hospital treatment for cold water exposure, Morgan sustaining also a laceration to his elbow and an abrasion. He recovered. [87918-9916](#)



MERRILL O. NAYLOR
Stephens City, Virginia

Merrill O. Naylor rescued Sheryl C. Lewis from burning, Stephens City, Virginia, November 4, 2015. In the evening, Lewis, 70, awoke in her bedroom inside her one-story house and, smelling smoke, went to the living room to see that a fire had broken out and was spreading quickly. She suffered severe burns near the living room and struggled amid smoke to head toward a kitchen door. A neighbor across the street, Naylor, 56, security specialist, was alerted to the fire and ran to the house. He heard Lewis calling for help and entered at a kitchen door. Fire burned on the ceiling. Following Lewis's voice, Naylor crawled about 15 feet toward the living room until he found her on the floor. Unable to lift Lewis, who outweighed him, Naylor told her to hug onto him as he reached under her arms. He then dragged her to the kitchen door and outside to safety. Lewis, who inhaled smoke, was flown to a hospital and underwent lengthy treatment for her burns. Naylor declined medical treatment for minor burns to his face, neck, and back, and smoke inhalation. [88681-9958](#)



LINDA NOLAN
Vero Beach, Florida

Linda Nolan helped to rescue Cheryle D. Coons from burning, Vero Beach, Florida, March 23, 2016. Coons, 58, was the driver of a car that, at a rural intersection, collided with a tank truck. Badly injured and trapped, she remained in the driver's seat as the car caught fire. The tank truck, which came to a stop about 10 feet away, was also burning, as was the diesel fuel that leaked from it. Nolan, 45, on-duty deputy sheriff, responded to the scene with a fire extinguisher, finding that another deputy who had responded was attempting to rescue Coons through the car's front passenger door. Despite fire at the car's front end, with flames reaching the windshield and dashboard, and intense heat, Nolan entered the car through the same door, pulled Coons partially over the console, and then, exiting, emptied the extinguisher into the car and onto its hood, as flames were intensifying. The first deputy made another entry, grasped Coons, and pulled her to the roadway. He and Nolan then dragged her to safety as flames grew to engulf the car and destroy both vehicles. Coons was hospitalized for treatment of burns and other injuries, from which she died three weeks later. Nolan required hospital treatment for a first-degree burn to her right hand, and she recovered. [88205-9939](#)



VICTOR M. ORTIZ
Union, New Jersey

Victor M. Ortiz saved a man from being struck by a train, Secaucus, New Jersey, August 26, 2016. The man went to 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 that track. A transit police officer who had responded to the station, Ortiz, 41, advanced to the man, who lay face down on the track and grasped 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. [88536-9953](#)



JOSHUA J. OWEN
Kansas City, Missouri

Joshua J. Owen helped to rescue a woman and a baby from assault, Shawnee, Kansas, September 11, 2016. In a store parking lot in the afternoon, two assailants ambushed the 39-year-old woman at her car after she placed her 8-month-old son inside. The woman suffered blows to her head, including from a handgun; she got free and screamed for help. Parked about 100 feet away, Owen, 33, construction worker, responded to the woman, who was bloodied. She pointed out to Owen one assailant, who by then was in the driver's seat of the van beside her car. Owen concluded that he needed to protect the woman from him. That assailant, who greatly outweighed Owen, exited the van on the passenger side, where Owen punched and tackled him. The assailant returned to his feet and shot Owen in the face with the handgun. Owen continued to tussle with the assailant, taking him to the ground a second time. While Owen was on top of him, the assailant shot him twice more in the left 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. The woman, who recovered her son and went to safety inside the store, was hospitalized for head injuries. Owen underwent surgery to reconstruct his face during his five-day hospitalization. Two months later, doctors removed the bullet from his shoulder. Owen did not resume work fully for about six months. [88775-9984](#)



STEVEN MICHAEL PAULUS
Madisonville, Louisiana

Steven Michael Paulus saved Alecia K. Lee and Kala N. Perkins from burning, Metairie, Louisiana, February 19, 2016. Lee, 20, was in the driver's seat, and Perkins, 18, in the passenger seat, of a pickup truck that was stalled on a bridge when it was struck from behind by a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. Its rear end demolished and aflame, the pickup came to rest with its passenger side against the bridge's parapet. On duty, Paulus, 43, state trooper, drove upon the scene. He approached the driver's door of the pickup but found it jammed shut. With 3-foot flames issuing from the wreckage just behind the cab, in the area of the fuel tank, Paulus worked to force the door open. He then reached inside, grasped Lee, and aided her from the vehicle, handing her over to another motorist who had responded. When Paulus told Perkins, who was dazed, that she had to leave the vehicle, Perkins attempted to open the blocked passenger door. Paulus then extended most of his body into the pickup through the driver's doorway. He grasped Perkins, pulled her across the driver's seat, and backed from the pickup, dragging her. Perkins fell to the pavement there, and Paulus helped her to her feet. They left the immediate vicinity of the truck, flames shortly entering its passenger compartment. Lee and Perkins both required hospital treatment for their injuries. [88103-9921](#)



CONNOR WILLIAM QUICK
Loveland, Colorado

Connor William Quick attempted to save a person from drowning, Loveland, Colorado, November 28, 2015. At night, a 22-year-old woman remained in the driver's seat of her car after it entered Lake Loveland and began to submerge in water 7 feet deep at a point about 75 feet from the bank. Quick and a friend, both 18-year-old college students, were traveling nearby and witnessed the accident. They descended to the edge of the water. Quick's friend waded and swam to the passenger side of the car, where he broke out the window of its front door. He then pulled the woman from the vehicle and returned her to the bank, where she called out another person's name, leading Quick and his friend to conclude that the car was still occupied. Despite an air temperature of about 19 degrees and the water near freezing, Quick, having removed some outer attire, entered the lake and waded and swam out to the car, which was then nearly fully submerged. He entered it feet first through the broken-out window and, holding to an interior handle, searched for any other victims. After surfacing for air, he repeated the attempt before returning to the bank. Responding firefighters also searched the car, but it turned out to be unoccupied. Quick, his friend, and the woman required hospital treatment for cold water exposure, Quick sustaining also an abrasion to his right arm. He recovered. [87919-9917](#)



THOMAS M. PETRUSZAK
Manteno, Illinois

Thomas M. Petruszak died attempting to save Adam M. Woodruff from drowning, Gladstone, Michigan, September 3, 2016. Woodruff, 37, was fishing from a motorboat in a Lake Michigan bay about 1 mile from shore when he lost his balance and fell into the deep, 70-degree water. Woodruff tread water as he drifted from the boat, which his friend was unable to start. Also on board, Petruszak, 57, tree trimmer, 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. Authorities searched extensively for Petruszak, finding his body five days later; he had drowned. [88667-9979](#)



HILTON QUINTANA
Cresco, Pennsylvania

Hilton Quintana helped to rescue Andreas Kruizenga from burning, Cresco, Pennsylvania, August 25, 2016. Kruizenga, 65, was the driver of a car that overturned in a nighttime accident on a rural road. A fire started at the car's front end and smoke filled the interior; Kruizenga yelled for help. A nearby resident, Quintana, 59, senior equipment technician, arrived about the same time as a police officer. They attempted to open a damaged front door but, due to smoke, could not see Kruizenga inside. Quintana and the officer moved to a rear door and opened it. Kruizenga's hand soon appeared through the smoke. Quintana and the officer grabbed onto Kruizenga, whose body was stuck; together they removed him from the car. As the officer dragged Kruizenga, whose pants were burning, farther away, Quintana attempted to smother the flames with a floor mat before pulling the pants off. Quintana and the officer then carried Kruizenga toward the officer's patrol car as flames grew. Kruizenga was hospitalized for burns to his legs and arms. He recovered. **88566-9985**



SEAN C. RANDLES
Las Vegas, Nevada

Sean C. Randles died attempting to save Melanie L. Kushnir from falling, Las Vegas, Nevada, May 28, 2016. Kushnir, 42, was hiking down a sandstone mountain at Red Rock National Conservation Area when she slipped and slid in a stream of water toward the nearby brink of a 50-foot cliff. Another hiker in her party, Randles, 49, marketing manager, was near the stream at a point about 6 feet from the edge of the cliff. He lunged at Kushnir as she approached and grabbed onto her. Unable to stop her momentum, Randles held to her as they went over the cliff and fell to the rock shelf at its base. Both suffered severe injuries and died at the scene. **88309-9951**



MARK RICH
Randleman, North Carolina

Mark Rich helped to save a girl from drowning, Atlantic Beach, North Carolina, July 25, 2016. A 9-year-old girl and her younger sister were caught in the strong current of an inlet and pulled away from shore. The girl's father attempted to go the girls' aid, as did her mother, who swam out and reached the 9-year-old. On shore, Rich, 52, arborist, 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. Rich was nearly exhausted, but he declined medical treatment. Boaters pulled the girl's sister and mother from the water, and recovered her father, who was unresponsive and could not be revived. He had drowned. **88592-9983**



JEROMY E. RICHARDSON
Whitwell, Tennessee

Jeromy E. Richardson died attempting to save Christopher S. Hurt from drowning, Whitwell, Tennessee, July 16, 2015. Hurt, 23, was swept over a low-head dam spanning the Sequatchie River and became caught in the rolling boil of water at its base. In another party at the scene, Richardson, 35, iron worker, was fishing from the bank. He entered the water below the dam and attempted to reach Hurt but then returned to the bank and made his way to the top of a concrete structure at the end of the dam. Taking a board with him, he stepped down to the top of the dam and slid his feet along it to a point closer to Hurt. He extended the board to Hurt but then lost his footing and fell into the boil. Both he and Hurt submerged. Hurt's body was recovered from the river the next day, and Richardson's body two days later. They had drowned. **87575-9920**



RENÉ ROY
Sherbrooke, Quebec

René Roy saved Robert Mercier from burning, Sherbrooke, Quebec, August 5, 2016. At night, Mercier, 78, remained inside the car he was driving after it had left the road near a curve, went down an embankment, and overturned. A fire started at the front end, and Mercier ended up in the trunk. Damage to the car's rear end near the trunk included a small opening. A passing motorist, Roy, 55, electro-mechanical technician, stopped at the scene, approaching Mercier's car, where flames prohibited possible entry at the front doors. Unsure if anyone was inside the car, Roy called out, and Mercier responded. Roy reached through the hole, but it was too narrow for him to enter further. A rear tire then exploded, causing Roy to step away. Seeing Mercier's head and arm emerge through the opening, Roy returned to the car, grabbed the free arm and pulled, pressing his foot against the car for leverage. Through continuous pulling, Roy freed Mercier, who was taller and heavier than him. Roy then dragged Mercier away from the car before flames spread to consume it. Mercier was hospitalized for treatment, but he was not burned. [88481-9968](#)



HUMBERTO SANCHEZ III
Stockton, California

Humberto Sanchez III saved a boy from burning, Stockton, California, August 25, 2015. A 4-month-old boy remained strapped in his car seat, which was secured to the back seat of a sport utility vehicle, after an accident in which the vehicle was struck on its driver's side by a pickup truck. The sport utility vehicle was then pushed into another car, and all three vehicles came to rest in close proximity to each other, the sport utility vehicle between the other two. Flames broke out at the front end of the sport utility vehicle and spread. Sanchez, 23, business manager, was nearby and heard the crash. He responded to the scene, where he approached the driver's side of the sport utility vehicle but found both doors on that side jammed shut. Then going to the passenger side, he opened the rear door, fully entered the car, and, requiring multiple attempts, worked to free the boy from his seat's restraints. He then lifted the boy from the seat and backed through the opened door with him, flames by then issuing along the underside of the vehicle to impinge on his legs. Flames grew also to enter and shortly engulf the front of the passenger compartment. The boy was taken to the hospital for observation, and Sanchez sustained only minor ill effect that did not require treatment. [88161-9932](#)



KRYSTAL ASHLEY SALAZAR
Burleson, Texas

Krystal Ashley Salazar attempted to save Zenola M. Jenkins from drowning, Burleson, Texas, November 27, 2015. At night, Jenkins, 76, remained in the driver's seat of her car, which was stranded by floodwaters at the guide rail of a low bridge spanning Deer Creek. On duty, Salazar, 26, sheriff's deputy, responded to the scene. She directed that firefighters be dispatched but concluded that the rising floodwaters afforded insufficient time for their arrival. After removing items of her gear, including her radio, she started to wade to the car, which was about 100 feet into the floodwaters. Water depth increased as she progressed, and she encountered a very swift current. In water about 4 feet deep, she lost her footing in the current and was washed over the guide rail. Unable to swim against the current, she was swept about a quarter-mile downstream, to where she was able to cling to a tree along the creek bank. Rescued by firefighters about two hours later, she required hospital treatment for abrasions and bruising, and she recovered. Jenkins's car was also swept off the bridge and carried downstream. She drowned. [87881-9915](#)



VINCENT SANTANIELLO
Uhrichsville, Ohio

Vincent Santaniello helped to save Crystal G. Roup from burning, Uhrichsville, Ohio, September 27, 2016. At night in a rural area, Roup, 32, was the driver of a pickup truck that left the highway at a curve, struck a utility pole, and came to a stop on the road, between two houses. There was heavy damage to the front end and the driver's door; fire broke out under the hood. Roup, whose lower body was trapped on the driver's side, screamed for help. A nearby resident, Santaniello, 56, truck driver, went to the pickup and opened the passenger-side door. Reaching inside, he pulled Roup's torso into the passenger seat but her legs remained stuck. His neighbor responded, entered the truck, and freed Roup's feet. Santaniello then pulled Roup out of the truck as the neighbor moved the steering wheel away from her. Santaniello and the neighbor dragged Roup into the grass before flames increased to engulf the truck. Roup was hospitalized for minor injuries but was not burned. [88598-9966](#)



LOUIS DANIEL SCHAROLD
Alexandria, Kentucky

Louis Daniel Scharold saved Brian C. Ashcraft from burning, Grants Lick, Kentucky, April 25, 2016. Ashcraft, 48, was the driver of a refuse truck that was struck nearly head on by a pickup truck traveling in the wrong direction on a four-lane highway. Both vehicles overturned, the pickup coming to rest upside down partially atop a guide rail and the refuse truck on its driver's side, its front end in close proximity to the wreckage of the pickup. The pickup's fuel tank ruptured in the accident, leaking fuel, and that vehicle caught fire. Scharold, 72, retired truck driver, was driving nearby and witnessed the accident. He immediately approached the front of the refuse vehicle and saw Ashcraft, who was dazed, standing inside the cab. Despite intense heat from the nearby flames, Scharold reached through the broken-out windshield of the refuse truck, grasped Ashcraft by an arm, and, backing, led him from the vehicle and away to safety. Growing flames shortly spread to the front of the refuse truck. Ashcraft required hospital treatment for his injuries. [88358-9948](#)



HAROLD SHAW
Uhrichsville, Ohio

Harold Shaw helped to save Crystal G. Roup from burning, Uhrichsville, Ohio, September 27, 2016. At night in a rural area, Roup, 32, was the driver of a pickup truck that left the highway at a curve, struck a utility pole, and came to a stop on the road, between two houses. There was heavy damage to the front end and the driver's door; fire broke out under the hood. Roup, whose lower body was trapped on the driver's side, screamed for help. A nearby resident, Shaw, 68, retired mechanic, responded to the scene, where his neighbor already had opened the passenger-side door and pulled Roup's torso into the passenger seat. Informed that Roup's legs still were stuck, Shaw entered the truck and reached to the driver's side floor to free her feet from the pedals. He then moved the steering wheel, further freeing Roup, as the neighbor pulled her from the truck. Shaw and the neighbor dragged her into the grass before flames increased to engulf the truck. Roup was hospitalized for minor injuries but was not burned. Shaw suffered minor cuts to his fingers. [88599-9967](#)



JUSTIN WILLIAM SCHROEPPER
Rhinelander, Wisconsin

Justin William Schroepfer died attempting to save Kaylilyn S. Tansey and Abigail L. Sprinkle from drowning, Marquette, Michigan, June 11, 2016. Tansey and Sprinkle, both 22, were wading in the waist-high, 50-degree water of Lake Superior 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, 24, accountant, watched the women struggling. He 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, a man and woman reached her and brought her to land. Sprinkle was hospitalized for hypothermia, then released. Divers later recovered Tansey and Schroepfer about a half-mile from shore; both had drowned. [88838-9988](#)



JOHN DAVID SMITH
Snoqualmie Pass, Washington

John David Smith saved Kaarisa B. Karley from burning, Snoqualmie, Washington, July 18, 2016. Karley, 70, was slumped over in the front seats of her coupe after an interstate highway accident in which the vehicle was struck from behind by a pickup truck. Demolished, the back of the car was lodged under the front of the truck and caught fire, as did the truck. Another motorist, Smith, 47, off-duty police officer, witnessed the accident. He approached the driver's door of Karley's vehicle and, finding that it was jammed shut, worked to force it open. He reached inside the car and grasped Karley about the waist, but she did not move. Concluding that her safety belt was holding her in place, Smith knelt on the driver's seat, extended his upper body across the center console, and grasped Karley by the shoulders. He then repositioned her in the driver's seat, released her safety belt, and, grasping her under the arms, backed from the vehicle with her. As he dragged her toward the side of the highway, another motorist approached and with Smith carried Karley to safety. Flames grew and spread quickly to engulf the vehicles. Karley required hospital treatment for her injuries, but she was not burned. Smith suffered from a sore neck in the following days but recovered fully. [88424-9952](#)



STEVEN L. SPURLING
St. Charles, Illinois

Steven L. Spurling rescued a woman from assault, St. Charles, Illinois, May 3, 2016. A 55-year-old woman fled from her house to escape an assault by her husband. Walking nearby, Spurling, 50, financial sales executive, and his wife saw that the woman was bloodied and distressed. When they went to her driveway to aid her, she told them that her husband was armed. The husband then approached, and Spurling positioned himself between him and the woman although he did not then see a gun. As the woman walked away from the property, the husband followed her, with Spurling just behind him, calling 911. Producing a handgun, the husband shot repeatedly at the woman from a distance of about 20 feet but did not strike her. Spurling lunged at and tackled the assailant to the ground as the woman ran to a neighbor's house. He put a chokehold on the assailant, took the gun and threw it from his reach, and held him down until police responded shortly and arrested him. The woman required hospitalization for treatment of her injuries. [88336-9925](#)



NATHAN MICHAEL STIEG
Dickinson, North Dakota

Nathan Michael Stieg helped to rescue Edward W. Shypkoski and attempted to help rescue Frederick J. Ewoniuk from drowning, Mandaree, North Dakota, February 20, 2016. Shypkoski, 58, was riding on his all-terrain vehicle with Ewoniuk, 60, on ice on Lake Sakakawea at a point about 300 feet from the closer bank, when the ice broke beneath them, sending them into the frigid water. Unable to lift themselves onto the ice, Shypkoski and Ewoniuk both screamed for help. Across the lake, an ice fisherman, Stieg, 30, electrician, heard the screams. Stieg, with his nephew, got on his all-terrain vehicle and drove it to a point about 30 feet from the hole created by the fall. He removed fishing equipment from the vehicle and moved the vehicle to a point about 10 feet from the hole. Stieg took a cable, which his nephew had drawn from a winch attached to the front end of the vehicle, and walked to a point about 6 feet from the hole, threw it toward Ewoniuk, but was unable to reach him. Stieg then broke through ice, fully submerged and resurfaced. Seconds later, his nephew and the vehicle also broke through. Stieg aided the nephew out of the water and then got himself out. He directed his nephew to stay back on safer ice. Stieg returned to his equipment and secured a 5-foot piece of rope. He walked back to the hole, reaching the north end, and got down on his stomach and extended the rope toward Shypkoski. By then, Ewoniuk had submerged. Shypkoski moved along the ice until he could grasp the rope. Once he reached it, Stieg, holding the other end, pulled him partially out, then started to back away from the hole. Shypkoski rolled his upper body onto the ice and climbed the rest of the way out. He stood up, and Stieg aided him in walking to his nephew, who assisted Shypkoski to the bank. Stieg walked separately to the bank and they met at his truck. Stieg drove with Shypkoski and the nephew to a nearby home, where they called 911. Shypkoski was hospitalized two days for treatment of his injuries, and he recovered. Ewoniuk's body was recovered about six hours later. He had drowned. Stieg was cold and nearly exhausted. [88247-9956](#)



ROBERT SUNKEL
Vero Beach, Florida

Robert Sunkel helped to rescue Cheryle D. Coons from burning, Vero Beach, Florida, March 23, 2016. Coons, 58, was the driver of a car that, at a rural intersection, collided with a tank truck. Badly injured and trapped, she remained in the driver's seat as the car caught fire. The tank truck, which came to a stop about 10 feet away, was also burning, as was the diesel fuel that leaked from it. Responding to the scene, Sunkel, 25, on-duty deputy sheriff, broke out the window of the car's front passenger door with his baton. He then opened that door and leaned inside as fire burned at the car's front end, flames reaching the windshield and dashboard. The heat was intense. Sunkel grabbed Coons but could not free her, and he withdrew from the car. A second deputy arrived with a fire extinguisher about then. She entered the car through the same door, pulled Coons partially over the console, and then, exiting, emptied the extinguisher into the car and onto its hood, as flames were intensifying. Sunkel made another entry. He grasped Coons, pulled her to the roadway, and then with the other deputy dragged her to safety. Flames grew to engulf the car and destroy both vehicles. Coons was hospitalized for treatment of burns and other injuries, from which she died three weeks later. **88204-9938**



JUSTIN SWEET
San Diego, California

Justin Sweet helped to save Christopher C. Phillips from drowning, Coos Bay, Oregon, September 13, 2014. Phillips, 19, jumped from a steep cliff into the Pacific Ocean and had trouble swimming in the rough, cold surf as he was swept into a small cove along the rocky shore. A hiker, Sweet, 23, carpenter, witnessed Phillips jump. He climbed partially down the cliff as Phillips was washed against rocks and then floated motionless. Sweet removed his outer clothing, jumped into the water, and swam to Phillips. He grabbed him and swam to a large rock, tiring as he tried repeatedly to remove Phillips from the water, waves buffeting them. Another man joined them and helped Sweet lift Phillips onto the rock, which was about 10 feet from the bank of the cove. As Sweet and the man worked to revive Phillips, others at the scene threw life jackets to the rock to equip Sweet and Phillips. Sweet with Phillips then re-entered the water and with help from those on the bank maneuvered Phillips to the bank and from the water. Phillips was lifted from the scene by a Coast Guard helicopter and taken to the hospital for treatment. He recovered. Sweet was treated at the scene for cuts on his legs, hands, and feet, and he too recovered. **88151-9928**



TERRYANN E. THOMAS
Topeka, Kansas

Terryann E. Thomas rescued Tammy K. Walter from assault, Topeka, Kansas, July 10, 2015. Walter, 50, was punched 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, 46, inventory specialist, 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. He then resumed his attack on Walter, and Thomas pulled him away again. When an elevator door in the room opened, the assailant grasped Thomas and pulled her toward the elevator. In the doorway of the elevator, Thomas struggled against the assailant, falling to her hands and knees on the floor and pulling the assailant back into the room with her. 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. Walter and Thomas were taken to the hospital where they were treated for injuries, Thomas recovering in about two months. [88969-9973](#)



KYLE VAN NOTE
Kunkletown, Pennsylvania

Kyle Van Note helped to rescue Andreas Kruizenga from burning, Cresco, Pennsylvania, August 25, 2016. Kruizenga, 65, was the driver of a car that overturned in a nighttime accident on a rural road. A fire started at the car's front end and smoke filled the interior; Kruizenga yelled for help. Van Note, 32, police officer, arrived about the same time as a man who lived nearby. Van Note and the man attempted to open a damaged front door but, due to smoke, could not see Kruizenga inside. They moved to a rear door and opened it. Kruizenga's hand soon appeared through the smoke. Van Note leaned into the car, grabbed the hand, and pulled on Kruizenga, whose body was stuck. The man, too, grasped Kruizenga, and together they pulled him from the car. As Van Note dragged Kruizenga, whose pants were burning, farther away, the man attempted to smother the flames with a floor mat before pulling the pants off. Van Note and the man then carried Kruizenga toward Van Note's patrol car as flames grew. Kruizenga was hospitalized for burns to his legs and arms. He recovered. [88565-9986](#)



JAMES O. VERNON
Morton, Illinois

James O. Vernon saved 17 children and four women from assault, Morton, Illinois, October 13, 2015. The children and women were in a conference room of a public library attending a youth chess class. James O. Vernon, 75, retired information technology specialist, was the instructor of the class. A 19-year-old man, holding a knife in each hand, entered the classroom shouting. He stopped near a table where children were playing a chess game. Vernon, who was a short distance away, stepped toward the assailant and confronted him while the children and women exited the room to safety. The assailant swung one of the knives at Vernon, who raised his left arm to deflect it. A struggle ensued, with Vernon forcing the assailant onto a table, subduing him and causing him to release his grip on the knives. Police arrived and apprehended the assailant. Vernon underwent surgery for multiple serious lacerations to his left hand. [87771-9971](#)



AUSTIN CRAIG WELCH
Bartow, Florida

Austin Craig Welch died attempting to save Crystal E. Droz from drowning, Bartow, Florida, September 3, 2016. Crystal, 11, was fishing in a river from a small dock when she fell into the rain-swollen, fast-flowing water. Her brother, Welch, 18, high school student, 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. [88529-9977](#)



JASON ALLEN WILLIAMS
Orange City, Florida

Jason Allen Williams rescued Michael J. Bridges from burning, Apopka, Florida, August 4, 2016. Bridges, 61, was the driver of a grapple truck that was in an accident in which the vehicle left the roadway, traveled about 200 feet until it hit a ditch, rolled onto its driver's side and caught fire at its front end. Williams, 32, truck driver, witnessed the accident and stopped to assist. He approached the front end of the vehicle, initially intending to break out the windshield, and heard screams coming from the passenger side. 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. A woman who responded assisted Williams in aiding Bridges to safety. Flames grew to engulf the cab. Bridges required hospital treatment for his injuries, which included severe burns. Williams suffered minor burns and he recovered. **88542-9933**



MADISON L. WILLIAMS
Dublin, Ohio

Madison L. Williams saved a boy from drowning, Dublin, Ohio, August 27, 2016. A 2-year-old boy fell through the small, ground-level hatch of an underground septic tank on a residential property and submerged in sewage about 4 feet deep. Neighbors who responded to the scene could not reach him in the 8-foot-deep tank. Alerted to the situation by her mother, Madison, 13, student, lay on her stomach and, positioning her arms over her head, entered the 12-inch-wide opening to her thighs while others secured her by the legs. She skimmed the surface of the sewage with her hands searching for the boy for several moments before she saw his foot. Madison grasped the boy's foot and shouted at the others to be pulled out. As she and the boy were being lifted from the tank, the boy's free became stuck under the inside lip of the hatch. On Madison's instruction, she was lowered somewhat and was able to reposition the boy. Those on the ground then pulled her and the boy completely free of the opening. The boy was not breathing but was then revived, and he fully recovered after hospital treatment. Madison required medical treatment for damage to her left wrist that required a brace for two months and physical therapy. She too fully recovered. **88452-9933**



DENNIS WILSON
Omaha, Nebraska

Dennis Wilson helped to save Nathaniel A. Wissink from burning, Omaha, Nebraska, February 26, 2016. Wissink, 28, was unconscious and trapped in the front passenger seat of a car after it was struck on its driver's side by a pickup truck traveling at high speed through a residential neighborhood. The car, which burst into flame, was demolished, with its back end split almost apart from the front, its fuel tank ruptured, and most windows broken out. Flames issued from the rear of the vehicle, including the backseat area, and were spreading toward the front seats, producing dense smoke. Wilson, 66, retired field investigator, was at his home nearby and immediately ran to the scene, where he and two other men responding from the neighborhood learned that Wissink was still in the vehicle. Wilson went to its driver's door and in repeated attempts reached through its window opening, along with the other men, locating Wissink but finding that he was trapped by wreckage. Reaching deep into the smoke-filled car, they pulled on him until he was freed, Wilson standing adjacent to flames at the rear of the vehicle. The men pulled Wissink head first through the opening and dragged him to safety, flames shortly engulfing the car's interior. Wissink required hospitalization for treatment of his injuries. [88181-9943](#)



DAVIS ILAN ZINSENHEIM
Marietta, Georgia

Davis Ilan Zinsenheim died attempting to save Joseph H. Hopkins from falling, Lake Toxaway, North Carolina, May 10, 2016. While hiking in a mountainous area during the evening, Hopkins, 22, and his friend, Zinsenheim, 22, college student, 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 severe injuries. Firefighters utilized a 100-foot ladder on a truck to reach Hopkins; he was taken to a hospital, where he died that night. Zinsenheim died at the scene. [88278-9978](#)

HEROIC ACTS RECOGNIZED DURING 2018

The following 71 individuals were cited by the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission in 2018 for having performed outstanding acts of heroism. In each case, a Carnegie Medal and a financial grant were awarded.



JAY AGLI
Meriden, Connecticut

Jay Agli died attempting to save Kishana M. Rivera from drowning, Haddam, Connecticut, June 11, 2017. Rivera, 19, and a girl were struggling to swim back to a submerged sandbar in the cold, swift current of the Connecticut River at a state park. Rivera's family, including her brother, Jay, 17, high school student, were in knee-high water on the sandbar. While Rivera called for help, the other girl's stepfather swam to the girl and, with difficulty, took her to safety. Although Jay could not swim, he left the sandbar and began to move toward Rivera, attempting to reach her, but upon entering deeper water he submerged. Others, too, entered the river in an attempt to reach Rivera, who floated downstream to a point where those on a boat removed her from the water. Rivera, who swallowed water, was evaluated by paramedics at the scene and recovered. Authorities employed boats and divers to search the scene and located Jay's body two days later in 25-foot-deep water in the vicinity of where he was last seen. He had drowned. [89191-10038](#)



SAMANTHA OLIVE BARNHOUSE
Antioch, California

Samantha Olive Barnhouse saved Lobis Burton from burning, Antioch, California, February 17, 2018. Burton, 78, was inside a second-floor apartment when fire broke out in the kitchen. Barnhouse, 30, homemaker, lived across the street and was alerted to the fire. She hurried to Burton's apartment and entered through the front door, moving past the burning kitchen to reach Burton, who was in a bedroom and unable to move due to an injured hip. Barnhouse found Burton sitting in a desk chair, which had wheels, and grasped the back of the chair. She pulled Burton from the bedroom and into the hall, as smoke, flames, and heat increased in intensity. Barnhouse moved the chair past the kitchen and to the door, where the chair became stuck in the doorway. Barnhouse pulled on the chair, freeing it, and she and Burton fell outside onto the patio beneath flames issuing overhead through the doorway. Within a minute the apartment's windows began to break due to the heat. Burton was hospitalized for smoke inhalation and a broken hip; he was not burned. Barnhouse was treated at a hospital for smoke inhalation; she recovered. [89700-10058](#)



LIAM BERNARD
Chapel Island, Nova Scotia

Liam Bernard helped to save Ralph E. Chrisman from burning, Melford, Nova Scotia, September 16, 2016. Chrisman, 68, was the driver of a pickup truck that, following a rural highway accident, came to rest in a ditch at an angle. Chrisman remained in his seat, his legs pinned, as smoke issued from the truck's engine compartment. Multiple people who stopped at the scene, including Bernard, 37, welder, tended to Chrisman's injured passenger and helped him to safety. After fire broke out in the truck's engine compartment, Bernard opened its front, passenger door and climbed fully inside the cab while a bystander held the door ajar. Bernard released Chrisman's seat belt and removed part of the dashboard in an effort to free Chrisman but was unsuccessful. Bernard exited the cab briefly and moved away from the truck as smoke and fire intensified, but hearing Chrisman call for help, Bernard returned to the truck and, despite advancing flames, fully reentered the truck's cab. Bernard grasped Chrisman's upper body, and as others held onto him and tugged, Bernard pulled Chrisman into the passenger seat and toward the door where others helped to remove him. Bernard also exited the cab, and the truck was shortly engulfed by flames. Chrisman, who was not burned, had a lengthy hospitalization for treatment of serious injuries. [89254-10030](#)



DELBERT G. BLARE
Melbourne, Florida

Delbert G. Blare died attempting to save Robert E. Shepard, Jr., from drowning, Melbourne Beach, Florida, October 14, 2017. Shepard, 61, was swimming in the Atlantic Ocean when a rip current carried him away from shore. He called for help. Blare, 65, retired gas company employee, was on the beach with his family when he heard Shepard's calls for assistance. As others made unsuccessful efforts to aid Shepard, Blare removed his shirt, shoes, and glasses, and ran a few steps into the ocean. Despite rough water conditions, Blare dived through the waves and swam toward Shepard, who was approximately 200 feet from shore. During the rescue effort, Blare submerged and was not seen for several minutes. Shepard ultimately reached wadable water where he was assisted by others to shore. Shortly, Blare was observed floating facedown in the ocean and was recovered from the water by a sheriff's deputy. Efforts were made to revive Blare, who was unresponsive, and he was taken to a hospital for treatment. Blare died the following day; his death due to drowning. [89442-10033](#)



THOMAS W. BROWN
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Thomas W. Brown helped to save a man from drowning, North Wildwood, New Jersey, August 6, 2016. Two men, both in their 20s, were swimming in the Atlantic Ocean at twilight when they began to struggle to stay afloat and shouted for help. Brown, 55, sales executive, was on the beach and alerted to the situation. Despite diminished visibility, strong current, and large waves, Brown and another man on the beach entered the ocean with boogie boards and paddled and kicked to the two men, who were about 400 feet from shore. Brown grasped one of the men and told him to grasp the boogie board. With difficulty in the waves and current, the two began to kick toward shore, making limited progress. Officials from multiple agencies, including police, fire personnel and lifeguards, arrived with rescue equipment and entered the water. They swam to Brown and the man he was rescuing as well as the other two men and brought them to the beach. The two rescued men, arriving safely on shore, refused treatment at the scene. Brown was tired after the rescue; he recovered. [88493-9995](#)



DONALD MICHAEL BOLES
Eagle Springs, North Carolina

Donald Michael Boles died attempting to rescue Zachary K. Crumb and Zoe A. Crumb from drowning, Carolina Beach, North Carolina, October 7, 2017. Crumb, 29, and his daughter Zoe, 7, were swimming in the Atlantic Ocean near a sandbar about 150 feet from shore when they were caught in a rip current that began to carry them farther from the beach. Crumb called for help. Boles, 60, code inspector, who was Crumb's father-in-law and Zoe's grandfather, was on the beach and became aware of the situation. Boles waded a short distance into the water and, despite the strong current, began to swim toward Crumb and Zoe. Boles grasped Zoe and attempted to return her to shore, but they became separated, and Boles was carried farther from the beach. Boles was seen floating unconscious in the ocean about 500 feet from shore, taken aboard a boat, and transported to a nearby dock. Crumb and Zoe were removed from the water by rescue personnel. Zoe was nearly exhausted and had swallowed water. She was hospitalized overnight and recovered. Crumb was not injured. Boles could not be revived and was pronounced dead; he had drowned. [89417-10048](#)



MICHAEL EUGENE CHESTNUT
Foster, Kentucky

Michael Eugene Chestnut saved John J. Keuper III, Chance E. Augenstein, and Maxwell R. Millbourn, from burning, Foster, Kentucky, August 24, 2017. Sixteen-year-olds John, Chance, and Maxwell were seat-belted inside a four-door sedan that had overturned and caught fire following a collision with a van on a narrow, country road. Coming upon the scene less than a minute later, Chestnut, 59, retired tractor-trailer driver, stopped and heard the semi-conscious teens moaning and calling for help. Chestnut ran to the sedan with a knife and a fire extinguisher and called 911 on his cell phone. Chestnut crawled through the driver's window and cut part of the seat belt that restrained John, who was upside-down in the driver's seat. He then handed the knife to John to cut another portion of the belt. Retrieving a second knife from his truck after the first broke, Chestnut grasped John, who had fallen from his seat, and dragged him from the vehicle. Chestnut then discharged the extinguisher to suppress flames burning on the underside of the engine compartment and issuing from the floorboard. Crawling into the sedan through the rear, passenger-side window, Chestnut cut Chance's seat belt and dragged the teen, who was nearly 100 pounds heavier and more than a foot taller than Chestnut, to safety. As the fire intensified, Chestnut returned to the sedan a third time and pulled Maxwell to safety. John was hospitalized for four days for treatment of broken bones and other injuries; he recovered. Chance and Maxwell were each hospitalized for several weeks for multiple broken bones and other serious injuries. The teens were not burned. [89376-10034](#)



ZACHARY J. COREY
Beulah, Michigan

Zachary J. Corey saved Olivia L. Thomas from burning, Benzonia, Michigan, November 1, 2016. Olivia, 6, her sisters, 13 days and 8 years old, and the girls' mother, were passengers in a vehicle that struck a tow truck driven by Corey, 27, head on and traveled off of the road and into a shallow ditch where it caught fire. Corey ran to the vehicle, where he saw Olivia conscious in the front passenger seat. Unable to open the front, passenger door, Corey grasped the window frame and pulled on it, forcing the door open slightly. He then extended his upper body through the opening and removed Olivia's seat belt, grasped her, and pulled her out of the vehicle and to safety. A woman entered the open rear, passenger-side door, knelt on the seat, and, with difficulty, removed the infant from a car seat, and exited the vehicle with her. The vehicle was shortly engulfed by flames. Olivia's mother and 8-year-old sister did not survive. Olivia and the infant sister sustained minor injuries; neither was burned. Corey was treated at a hospital for a minor injury sustained in the accident; he recovered. [88683-9996](#)



CONNOR N. DEVINE
Warwick, Rhode Island

Connor N. Devine rescued Alyssa T. Garcia from assault, Warwick, Rhode Island, March 5, 2017. Garcia, 18, was at work inside a drug store when a 41-year-old man, armed with a butcher knife, approached her and stabbed her multiple times. She screamed and fell to the floor, while the assailant continued to stab her. Connor N. Devine, 19, shift supervisor, was behind the front, checkout counter when he heard Garcia's screams and hurried to investigate. Seeing Garcia under attack by the man, Devine shouted at the assailant to stop, and threw a crate at the assailant's head, but the assailant continued his assault on Garcia. Devine then retrieved a utility cart from nearby and forcefully rammed the cart into the assailant multiple times, knocking him away from Garcia. The knife slipped from the assailant's hand and landed on the floor a few feet away. As Devine and others made efforts to attend a badly injured Garcia, a store customer pinned the assailant to the floor. Police arrived shortly and arrested the assailant. Garcia, who suffered multiple stab wounds, was hospitalized. [88982-10025](#)



JASON ALAN DOIG
Sequim, Washington

Jason Alan Doig helped to save a woman from falling, Port Gamble, Washington, March 3, 2017. A distraught woman attempting to commit suicide stood atop a railing of a bridge that spanned Hood Canal. The bridge's deck was about 30 feet above a concrete structure and the canal below. Doig, 44, cabinet shop owner, was a passenger in a vehicle that was traveling on the bridge and had stopped at the scene. Doig exited the vehicle and quickly crossed to the opposite side of the bridge, remaining out of the woman's view. As another man approached the woman, distracting her, Doig ran a short distance to her and grasped her body as she struck him in the face and leapt backward from the railing. Doig maintained his hold on the woman as she dangled above the structure and struggled with him. The other man arrived and also grasped the woman. They began to pull her upward when a third man arrived and helped Doig and the other man lift the woman over the railing and back to the deck of the bridge. The woman was transported to a hospital for treatment. Doig sustained abrasions to his hands, face, chest, and stomach, and was treated at the scene. He recovered. [88730-10003](#)



JENNIFER LYNN DIXON
Middletown, Pennsylvania

Jennifer Lynn Dixon rescued Joseph Lewis Keating from burning, Middletown, Pennsylvania, November 25, 2016. Keating, 18, was a front-seat passenger in a car that crashed, overturned, and caught fire following an accident on a rural road at night. The car's driver was also trapped in the car. Dixon, 27, distribution process worker, was driving on the road and came upon the scene. Running from her car, Dixon heard Keating call for help. After burning her hand in an attempt to pry open his door, Dixon then kicked at the rear, passenger-side window, breaking it on her third try. Crawling beneath intensifying flames issuing from the car's interior, she extended her arms, shoulders, and head into the car toward Keating, who had unfastened his seat belt and wriggled between the burning front seats toward Dixon. Dixon grasped Keating's arms and pulled most of Keating's body from the car before she retreated. Joined by her mother, Dixon then helped pull Keating fully from the car and patted out flames burning on Keating's pants. Meanwhile, a nearby resident pulled the driver to safety. Keating was hospitalized for treatment of burns, broken vertebra, and other injuries, but recovered. Dixon was hospitalized two days for smoke inhalation and shortness of breath; she also suffered burns on her hand. She recovered. [88756-10054](#)



DAVID DUNCAN
Hyannis, Massachusetts

David Duncan saved James M. Melia from assault, Hyannis, Massachusetts, August 24, 2017. A police officer, Melia, 61, was attempting to take a man into custody when the man resisted and fought with him. Melia struggled with the assailant, and they fell to a sidewalk. Duncan, 41, security employee, who had followed Melia and witnessed the struggle, stood nearby. When another man, armed with a knife, began to approach Melia in a threatening manner, Duncan told the man several times to drop the knife and blocked his path to Melia. After the man did not respond to his commands, Duncan, using both hands, grasped the assailant's hand and wrist. A brief struggle ensued, during which Duncan disarmed the assailant and threw the knife away from them. Officers arrived shortly and arrested the assailants. Melia suffered a cut to his left hand; he recovered. Duncan was not injured. [89339-10052](#)



BRENT RUDY EDWARDS
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Brent Rudy Edwards rescued Bryce Noel from burning, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, May 27, 2017. Bryce, 23 months, was sitting on a living room sofa after fire broke out in the kitchen of a row home in a residential neighborhood that he shared with three young siblings, a cousin, and other family members, including Brent, 17, student, who was also Bryce's uncle. Adults in the home were alerted and evacuated the young children, and Brent was roused from sleep as thick, black smoke began to fill the first floor. Brent followed the others outside as his mother counted the children and realized Bryce was still inside. As Brent's mother was unable to re-enter the home, Brent, not knowing Bryce's precise location, re-entered through the front door and began to crawl into the living room beneath dense smoke. Hearing Bryce cough, Brent crawled to the far end of the sofa about 12 feet from the door and grasped him. He stood up, clutching Bryce to his chest, and ran toward light at the front door with Bryce in his arms. Once outside, he handed Bryce to his mother, laid down on the ground, and briefly lost consciousness. Arriving paramedics revived him, and he was taken to a hospital. Bryce and Brent were treated for smoke inhalation at the hospital. Brent was detained overnight for treatment and released the following day. They recovered. [89303-10045](#)



MARCUS L. ELIASON
Flagstaff, Arizona

Marcus L. Eliason saved Jonathan M. Woolverton from burning, Flagstaff, Arizona, December 15, 2017. At night, Jonathan, 17, was trapped inside a burning vehicle after the vehicle traveled off a road, struck a tree, and caught fire. Jonathan's foot was trapped near the gas pedal and he was unable to extricate himself. A passenger in the vehicle crawled out and phoned a friend, Marcus, 17, high school student, who was nearby in his vehicle and drove to the scene. Marcus approached the driver's door but was unable to fully open it. Marcus began to pull the window frame down toward the ground, then climbed up onto the vehicle's roof and sat down with his legs extended over the driver's door. Using his hands and feet to break the window and push the frame toward the ground, he opened the door farther. Marcus returned to the ground and, despite intense heat and dense smoke, extended his upper body through the space between the door frame and the body of the vehicle. Marcus grasped Jonathan and by pulling on him, freed his foot, then pulled him from the vehicle. He dragged Jonathan away from the vehicle, which was shortly engulfed by flames. Jonathan was hospitalized for a broken leg; he was not burned. Marcus sustained minor burns to his arm; he recovered. [89627-10046](#)



RON ALLEN ELKO
Clinton Township, Michigan

Ron Allen Elko saved Zerrich W. Richard from drowning, Mount Clemens, Michigan, April 9, 2017. The boy was standing 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. Another man entered the river in an attempt to rescue the boy but struggled to stay afloat and submerged. Elko, 36, factory worker, who was fishing nearby, was alerted and ran to the scene. Arriving, he saw the boy submerge beneath the surface of the water. Despite being fully clothed and a non-swimmer, Elko jumped into the water and submerging, located the boy. Elko grasped hold of the boy's shirt and lifted him above the surface of the water. Kicking his legs as he held onto the boy, Elko moved several feet to a boardwalk that extended along the river's bank. At the boardwalk 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. The other man was later recovered from the river by divers. He had drowned. [89092-10016](#)



JENNIFER E. EMO
St. Louis, Missouri

Jennifer E. Emo rescued Paisley S. Ervin from burning, O'Fallon, Missouri, August 26, 2017. Paisley, 2, was in the backseat area of a sedan traveling on an interstate highway when the sedan's undercarriage struck a large piece of metal that became lodged in its fuel tank. Fire broke out on the sedan, which also contained Paisley's grandparents and 8-year-old brother, and it was brought to a stop on the highway's shoulder. Emo, 37, veterinarian, traveling on the same highway, saw the sedan on fire and stopped at the scene. After the grandparents made efforts to remove Paisley amid rapidly spreading flames, Emo moved to the car and saw Paisley standing on the floorboard behind the driver's seat. Emo ran to the driver's side of the car and approached the rear door, which was open. As flames began to engulf the car, Emo extended her right arm inside, and despite blistering heat and flames, grasped Paisley's wrist and pulled her outside. Emo lifted Paisley and took her to a grassy area adjacent to the shoulder and rolled her in the grass to put out flames on her clothing. An off-duty officer arrived and, with Emo, tended to Paisley until the arrival of emergency responders. Paisley was airlifted to the hospital for treatment of extensive burns but later succumbed to her injuries. Paisley's grandparents also sustained burns. Emo suffered burns to her hands and left arm. **89358-10043**



KRISTIAN F. FALKENSTEIN
Newtown, Pennsylvania

Kristian F. Falkenstein helped to save a 32-year-old man from drowning, Belmar, New Jersey, September 23, 2017. The man was swimming in the Atlantic Ocean when he began to struggle in a strong rip current and signaled his distress to those on shore. Falkenstein, 39, university development officer, was on the beach and alerted to the man's plight. Falkenstein entered the water and swam to the man, who had been carried out about 300 feet from shore and was barely above the surface of the water when Falkenstein reached him. Falkenstein grasped the man from behind and, while treading water, lifted him above the water's surface until a wave swept over them. Despite the turbulent ocean conditions and a strong current, Falkenstein, for several minutes, grasped the man several times from behind and persisted in his efforts to support him in the water and keep him afloat. A responding police officer swam out to Falkenstein and the man with a flotation device and the three, while grasping the device, 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. Falkenstein and the victim were taken to a hospital. The man was not injured, but Falkenstein was treated for effects of near-drowning; he recovered. **89408-10020**



BRIAN R. GADWELL
Allen Park, Michigan

Brian R. Gadwell helped to rescue Ethel M. Woodger from drowning, Detroit, Michigan, April 17, 2017. At night in a park adjacent the Detroit River, Woodger, 34, fell from a concrete bulkhead into cold, deep water from which there was no easy egress. A police officer alerted to the incident, Gadwell, 39, and another officer, responded to the scene. Gadwell and the officer, moved to the top of the bulkhead that was about 6 feet above the water's surface and observed Woodger struggling to stay afloat. Gadwell removed his duty gear and jumped into the cold water, the temperature of which was estimated to be in the 40s. Gadwell grasped Woodger about her torso and moved with her to the bulkhead, where he wrapped his legs around her and held to a steel rod that jutted from the bulkhead. Gadwell, for several minutes, secured Woodger at the bulkhead, keeping her afloat. Ultimately, he struggled to retain his hold on the rod and called out that he was losing his grasp. The other officer jumped into the water and took control of Woodger, keeping her afloat while also grasping the rod. A boat responded from nearby and Woodger, who had drifted a few feet away and beyond the other officer's reach, was pulled into the boat by its crew. Gadwell and the other officer were lifted up from the water by emergency personnel who had responded to the scene. Woodger was taken by ambulance to the hospital. Gadwell was taken by ambulance to the hospital for treatment of his exposure to the cold water. He recovered. [89123-10010](#)



BENJAMIN M. HAWKINS
Kalkaska, Michigan

Benjamin M. Hawkins helped to rescue Mary Jo Tester from burning, Kalkaska, Michigan, February 22, 2017. Tester, 50, a paraplegic, was in her home's living room when fire broke out and began to spread in that room. Tester called for help. Hawkins, 35, deputy sheriff, and a police sergeant responded to the home after learning of the fire. Seeing flames through the living room window and black smoke issuing from the eaves, Hawkins and the police sergeant entered the home's living room. The police sergeant crawled on his belly about 15 feet across the living room to Tester, and Hawkins followed him into the room. As the police sergeant grasped Tester by the ankles and crawled backward, dragging her, Hawkins grasped the sergeant's pant leg and pulled and guided the sergeant, Tester in tow, to the door. Hawkins and the police sergeant lifted Tester and carried her from the home. Tester, who suffered smoke inhalation and severe burns, died five days later. Hawkins and the police sergeant were each treated at a hospital for smoke inhalation. They recovered. [88965-10032](#)



JOHN HAZELRIGG
Lunenburg, Massachusetts

John Hazelrigg helped to rescue Revath Than from drowning, Lowell, Massachusetts, January 3, 2018. At night, Than, 24, clung to a rock in the Merrimack River and called for help. Authorities, including police and fire departments, arrived shortly but initial efforts to rescue Than were unsuccessful. Hazelrigg, 52, state trooper, was piloting a police helicopter equipped with a searchlight that was dispatched solely to illuminate the dark river, which flowed swiftly and contained ice. The helicopter was not designed or equipped for rescue operations. Arriving at the scene, Hazelrigg and a tactical flight officer observed Than, who had been partially submerged in sub-freezing temperatures for more than 20 minutes, to be lethargic and determined that he required immediate assistance. Hazelrigg descended to water level near Than as the officer, attached to the helicopter by a strap at an open door, positioned himself outside the cabin on a skid. With Than beyond the reach of the officer, Hazelrigg maneuvered the helicopter closer to him as the officer moved to the other side of the cabin, opened another door, and again positioned himself on a skid. With the helicopter skimming the surface of the water, the officer handed Than a life vest, grasped his arm, and pulled his upper body into the cabin. Unable to pull Than's entire body inside, the flight officer held onto Than and, with the helicopter's rear doors open, Hazelrigg flew to a nearby hospital. Than suffered hypothermia and a cut on his chin; he recovered. [89614-10035](#)



BLAKE KEITH HUFF
Kalkaska, Michigan

Blake Keith Huff helped to rescue Mary Jo Tester from burning, Kalkaska, Michigan, February 22, 2017. Tester, 50, a paraplegic, was in her home's living room when fire broke out and began to spread in that room. Tester called for help. Huff, 23, police sergeant, and a deputy sheriff responded to the home after learning of the fire. Seeing flames through the living room window and black smoke issuing from the eaves, Huff and the deputy entered the home. Huff crawled on his belly about 15 feet across the living room toward Tester, who was on the floor with flames nearby. Along the way he moved a recliner, which was on fire, from his path. The deputy crawled inside behind Huff. Reaching Tester on the far side of the room amid nearby flames, Huff grasped Tester by the ankles and began to crawl backward, dragging her. The deputy grasped Huff's pant leg and pulled and guided Huff, Tester in tow, to the door, where they lifted Tester and carried her from the home. Tester, who suffered smoke inhalation and severe burns, died five days later. Huff and the deputy were each treated at a hospital for smoke inhalation. They recovered. [88964-10031](#)



CREGG JERRI
Fresno, California

Cregg Jerri saved a woman from assault, Fresno, California, July 20, 2017. In a coffeehouse, the woman, a barista, was attending the counter when a masked man armed with a hunting knife and a replica handgun approached and demanded money. The lone remaining customer, Jerri, 58, sales manager, was seated beside an exit when he saw the assailant pointing the weapons at the woman. He stood, lifted a chair, and hurried toward the counter as the assailant faced the woman. With the chair, Jerri twice struck the assailant's upper body, but the assailant, who retained his weapons, began to fight with Jerri. A violent struggle ensued, during which the assailant swung the knife at Jerri, and Jerri punched the assailant several times and took him to the floor. During the struggle, the assailant stabbed Jerri in the neck. Though wounded, Jerri pushed the assailant down, leaned atop him, and seized the knife after the gun fell to the floor. As the fight continued, Jerri stabbed the assailant, and ultimately the men separated. The assailant fled the scene, but police soon arrested him. Jerri required suturing and staples to stop arterial bleeding from his wound. He recovered. [89294-10053](#)



ROSS A. JOHNSON
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Ross A. Johnson rescued a woman from assault, Colorado Springs, Colorado, March 7, 2016. A 65-year-old woman was in the driver's seat of a car that was parked at a self-service car wash when her estranged husband in the front passenger seat suddenly punched her in the face and began to stab her in the abdomen with a pocket knife. As the woman cried out for help and struggled with the assailant, Johnson, 52, maintenance man, heard her cries and approached the car where he saw the assailant stabbing her. At the open front passenger door, Johnson shouted forcefully for the assailant to stop, prompting him to cease his attack and exit the vehicle. As the wounded woman began to exit the car through the open door, the assailant, who had remained at the door, grabbed her and stabbed her three more times before Johnson, several feet away, could intervene. After the woman collapsed outside the vehicle, Johnson pushed away the assailant, who had placed the knife down nearby. Johnson knelt beside her, putting himself between her and the assailant to prevent further injury to her. Johnson comforted the injured woman until police arrived shortly. Police arrested the assailant without incident. The woman spent eight weeks hospitalized and in rehabilitation, and suffered partial paralysis from her wounds. **89566-10007**



MATTHEW JOHN KALAFAT
Scotch Plains, New Jersey

Matthew John Kalafat saved Dishita Pandya from drowning, Point Pleasant Beach, New Jersey, September 25, 2016. Pandya, 26, was in wadable water in the Atlantic Ocean near high tide when she was struck by a wave and carried away from shore. On the beach, Kalafat, 46, teacher, was asleep when his wife woke him to alert him to a possible emergency in the ocean. Kalafat immediately ran to the nearby shoreline where a small crowd had gathered and, though he did not immediately see Pandya, entered the ocean and swam into deeper waters to search for her. Finding her face-down and unconscious, Kalafat grasped her around the waist and, with difficulty, towed and pushed her toward the beach. As he made his way toward shore with Pandya, the two were struck by a large wave and briefly separated. Kalafat, who had submerged, surfaced beside Pandya and, grasping her, resumed towing and pushing her toward shore, ultimately gaining a point of safety in wadable water where others took Pandya from him and began efforts to resuscitate her. Pandya was taken to a hospital where she was treated for several days; she ultimately recovered. Kalafat was nearly exhausted but did not seek medical treatment. **88629-10006**



DEANNE M. KILIAN
Olathe, Kansas

Deanne M. Kilian rescued Katie A. Blanchard from assault, Leavenworth, Kansas, September 7, 2016. Blanchard, 26, a clinical nursing supervisor, was doused with a flammable liquid and set afire by an assailant as she worked in her office at a military medical center. Kilian, 62, nurse practitioner, heard screaming in Blanchard's neighboring office and, going to investigate, saw Blanchard's upper body aflame. Kilian moved to Blanchard and unsuccessfully attempted to smother flames on Blanchard's body using her bare arms. Kilian left Blanchard to retrieve something to aid her in extinguishing the fire and returned with a female physician who had brought a blanket. Kilian and the physician, while using a blanket to smother flames on her body, led Blanchard to a corridor outside Blanchard's office where they laid her down and continued to smother the flames. As the physician left to call 911, the assailant returned armed with a straight razor and large pair of scissors and attempted to stab Blanchard on the floor as Kilian attended her. Kilian used one arm to fend off the assailant and shielded Blanchard's body with her own. The assailant briefly broke free, prompting Kilian to grasp his leg and pull him to the floor. As Kilian and the physician, who had returned, struggled to control the assailant, a male sergeant arrived to subdue and disarm the assailant, who was taken into custody. Blanchard 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. **88560-10021**



CATHERINE KINYUA
Boston, Massachusetts

Catherine Kinyua helped to save a man from drowning, Cambridge, Massachusetts, October 30, 2016. The 32-year-old man floated motionless in a deep, murky inlet of the Charles River near a bulkhead adjacent to a highway. Alerted by bystanders, Kinyua, 24, paralegal, went to the sidewalk's railing and saw Ruiz floating face down in the river. Following a man, Kinyua climbed over the railing to a ledge. The man removed articles of his clothing and jumped into the water, which was 15 feet below the ledge. Kinyua removed her boots and glasses and despite there being no easy egress from the 53-degree water, also jumped into the river. Kinyua swam to the bulkhead, where the man had towed the victim, and helped to hold him up while treading water. Police responded shortly in a boat and brought the victim, Kinyua, and the male rescuer aboard. The victim was hospitalized. Kinyua was cold but not injured. **89628-10028**



M. ROSS KLUN
Somerville, Massachusetts

M. Ross Klun helped to save a man from drowning, Cambridge, Massachusetts, October 30, 2016. The 32-year-old man floated motionless in a deep, murky inlet of the Charles River near a stone bulkhead adjacent to a highway. Alerted by bystanders, a motorist, Klun, 45, off-duty sheriff's lieutenant, left his car and went to the highway's sidewalk. Seeing the man floating face-down in the river, Klun climbed over a railing to a ledge, about 15 feet above the surface of the water. Klun removed his jacket and boots, and jumped into the 53-degree water from which there was no easy egress. Klun grasped the man and turned him over, elevating his face above the water's surface. Klun revived him, then grasped him from behind and towed him about 5 feet to the bulkhead, to which he held while supporting him. A woman also jumped into the water and helped to support the man. Police responded shortly in a boat and brought the man, the woman, and Klun aboard. The man was hospitalized. Klun was cold but not injured. **89088-10027**



RICHARD R. KRUL
Grand Blanc, Michigan

Richard R. Krul rescued Jeffrey C. Neville from assault, Flint, Michigan, June 21, 2017. An on-duty airport police lieutenant, Neville, 55, was walking with Krul, 60, maintenance man, when an assailant armed with a knife attacked Neville from behind and stabbed him in the neck and shoulder. As Neville was knocked forward by the blows, Krul turned toward the assailant and, seeing him about to stab Neville again, blocked the assailant's motion, preventing him from delivering another blow. A struggle ensued, during which Krul took the assailant to the floor with Neville's help. Others including the airport police chief responded from nearby and helped subdue and disarm the assailant. The assailant was handcuffed and arrested. Neville 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. [89218-10023](#)



BRIAN KUNZE
Tucson, Arizona

Brian Kunze helped to save a woman from burning, Tucson, Arizona, June 18, 2016. In the early morning, the 82-year-old woman, who was bedridden and on oxygen therapy, was in a bedroom of a one-story house when her adult daughter was assaulted by her grandson who possessed gasoline-filled bottles and was armed with a sword. The daughter fled the house. Responding sheriff's deputies, including Kunze, 49, sergeant, smelled natural gas inside the house and, concluding that the woman was in danger, Kunze used a tool to break open her bedroom window. As another deputy began to enter the room through the window, a sudden explosion inside the house blew him outside into the yard; Kunze, standing by the window outside, was knocked back. Flames briefly filled the room, then receded to an adjacent hallway. Kunze climbed through the window into the bedroom, and moved to the woman's bed. Kunze lifted the woman and carried her to the window, passing her outside to deputies who took her to safety as Kunze exited. 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. [88845-10024](#)



DAMIAN LANGUELL
Wade, Maine

Damian Languell saved Quintin S. Thompson from burning, Wade, Maine, July 15, 2017. Quintin, 16, was badly injured and pinned inside a car that had caught fire after it collided head-on with a tree that nearly split the car in two. The car came to rest with the tree's trunk embedded in its front-seat area and Quintin, still wearing his seat belt, thrust into the back seat on the driver's side with his legs pinned in the wreckage. Languell, 35, farmer, lived nearby and was awakened by a loud sound outside his house. Observing smoke issuing from a tree nearby, Languell went outside, grabbed a water-filled bucket, and ran to the scene of the accident where the front of the car was aflame. Seeing Quintin injured and pinned inside, Languell tossed water on the flames, hoping to douse the fire. He then ran back to his home to retrieve more water and, with the aid of his girlfriend, repeated his efforts several times. As flames on the vehicle began to spread, Languell opened the car's rear, passenger-side door, entered the rear of the vehicle and, using a pocketknife, cut Quintin's seat belt. As flames spread to the dashboard and front, passenger seat of the car, Languell moved debris away from Quintin and freed his pinned legs. Languell then grasped Quintin and dragged him from the car, then carried him away to safety. The car was shortly fully engulfed by flames. Quintin was hospitalized for serious injuries which included broken bones and a punctured lung. He was not burned. Languell inhaled smoke and sustained a puncture wound to his leg; he recovered. [89283-10022](#)



DAVID SCOT LOVE
Flat Rock, North Carolina

David Scot Love rescued Mishelle K. Calzoncit from burning, San Antonio, Texas, December 30, 2016. Calzoncit, 22, was semi-conscious and trapped inside a burning car following an accident at night. Love, 41, missionary, heard the crash from his recreational vehicle parked nearby and ran to the scene, where Calzoncit cried out for help. Moving quickly to the front, passenger door, Love opened it, thick smoke issuing from its interior. Love located Calzoncit, prone, wedged between the underside of the steering column and the front of the driver's seat, her legs trapped in or near the burning engine compartment. Love entered the car and, kneeling on the passenger seat, put his arms beneath hers, and attempted to pull her free. Despite several attempts to move her, she did not budge. Love briefly stepped partially out of the car, still holding Calzoncit's hand, to get a breath of air. Love then re-entered the car, where Calzoncit had freed her legs, and grasped her beneath the arms. Love pulled Calzoncit from the car to safety. Calzoncit was hospitalized for burns to her right foot and calf and left thigh, as well as a compound fracture to her right ankle and broken right femur. She recovered. [88842-10017](#)



WILLIAM M. MACK III
Aston, Pennsylvania

William M. Mack III rescued Mary Dugan from burning, Aston, Pennsylvania, March 24, 2017. Before dawn, Dugan, 54, remained in a rear bedroom of her home after a fire broke out in the home's attached carport. Three family members had escaped the house by the time Mack, 29, on-duty police officer, and another officer went to the rear of the home where they scaled a fence and approached Dugan's bedroom window, which was about 8 feet above the ground. Mack then climbed a stepladder to the window and used his flashlight to help break its glass before kicking in the window frame so he could enter the bedroom as flames spread through other parts of the house. Despite thick smoke in the room, Mack, following Dugan'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. Dugan was hospitalized several days for smoke inhalation and thermal burns. She recovered. [89027-10004](#)



KAREN MARIE MALLON
Beulah, Michigan

Karen Marie Mallon saved Addalyn A. Thomas from burning, Benzonia, Michigan, November 1, 2016. Addalyn, a 13-day-old infant, her sisters, 8 and 6, and the girls' mother were in a vehicle that struck a tow truck head on, traveled off the road, and into a shallow ditch where it caught fire. Mallon, 51, secretary, who was driving on the road, saw the tow truck driver running to the vehicle. Mallon stopped at the scene and learned there were children inside the vehicle. Mallon ran to the passenger side of the vehicle where the tow truck driver was removing the 6-year-old. Mallon noticed an infant car seat in the vehicle's rear and after entering the rear, passenger-side door discovered an infant in the seat beneath a blanket. Mallon, as heat and smoke increased inside the vehicle, knelt on the seat and, with difficulty, unstrapped the infant from her car seat. Mallon freed Addalyn from the seat, picked her up, and exited the vehicle, carrying her to safety. The vehicle was shortly engulfed by flames. Olivia's mother and 8-year-old sister did not survive. The 6-year-old and Addalyn sustained minor injuries; neither was burned. [88684-9997](#)



RONALD W. MANNING
Bogalusa, Louisiana

Ronald W. Manning saved Bridget D. Stogner and Brittany R. Purvis from burning, Bogalusa, Louisiana, July 14, 2017. Stogner, 34, and Purvis, 30, were in the front seats of a sedan that left a rural road and came to rest on its passenger side at the edge of a wooded area. Its front end caught fire. Manning, 68, deputy sheriff, was on duty and working for his department nearby when he saw smoke and responded to the accident scene. Seeing flames and hearing screams for help, he brought a small fire extinguisher from his vehicle and emptied it on the fire that issued from the engine compartment. Unable to extinguish the fire, Manning retrieved a hammer from his vehicle and used it to break out an opening in the sedan's rear windshield. Inside the car, Stogner had crawled to the rear windshield. Manning, partially entering the vehicle despite the front-end flames, grasped her arms and pulled her through the opening. Manning then fully entered the vehicle through the opening and knelt on the rear, passenger-side door. He extended his arms out and told Purvis to grasp his arms; she did so. He grasped her arms and backed toward the rear windshield, then exited through the opening as he removed her from the vehicle. Flames grew to engulf the front passenger compartment. Stogner suffered smoke inhalation and a cut to her head. [89253-10042](#)



LOUIS MARANO
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Louis Marano helped to save a man from drowning, North Wildwood, New Jersey, August 6, 2016. Two men, both in their 20s, were swimming in the Atlantic Ocean at twilight when they struggled to stay afloat and shouted for help. Marano, 48, salesman, was on the beach and alerted to the situation. Despite diminished visibility, strong currents, and large waves, Marano and another man on the beach entered the ocean with boogie boards and paddled and kicked to the two men, who were about 400 feet from shore. Marano grasped the arm of one of the men, who was bobbing in the water, and allowed him to climb onto his back. Marano grasped the board and began to kick toward shore. With difficulty in the waves and current Marano and the man made limited progress toward shore. Officials from multiple agencies, including police, fire personnel, and lifeguards, arrived at the scene with rescue equipment and entered the water. They swam to Marano, the man he was rescuing, and the other two men and took them to safety on the beach. The two rescued men refused treatment at the scene. Marano was tired after the rescue and swallowed water. His body was sore the next day; he recovered. [88492-9994](#)



ERIC MARTIN
Ohiopyle, Pennsylvania

Eric Martin helped to save Arnetta D. Johnson from drowning, Ohiopyle, Pennsylvania, June 26, 2017. At a bridge pier in the middle of the swift-flowing, swollen Youghiogheny River, Johnson, 55, partially submerged, clutched an overturned raft pinned by current against the pier as her friend lay atop it. With a 20-foot-high waterfall nearby downstream, they tenuously held on amid the cold, fast current while onlookers called for help. Alerted by the emergency response to the scene, Martin, 47, whitewater rafting business operator, and another man obtained single-person kayaks and launched them without standard safety gear. As Martin arrived at the pier, Johnson grasped onto his kayak; the raft dislodged and floated free with the friend. While Martin towed Johnson downstream toward the nearest bank, stopping at an exposed rock ledge, the other man paddled downstream to the raft and used his kayak to push it, and Johnson's friend, to safety at the bank. The man then paddled to the ledge. After securing Johnson with a rope and abandoning the kayaks, Martin and the man waded with her toward the bank, where others also helped her from the water. Johnson declined treatment for minor injuries. [89909-10061](#)



BRUCE MAYNOR, JR.
Thomasville, Georgia

Bruce Maynor, Jr., died attempting to save Jaylen Walden from drowning, Eastpoint, Florida, April 30, 2017. Jaylen, 10, was playing in the Gulf of Mexico when he was carried to a point about 75 feet away from shore by a current. He called for help. Maynor, 29, furniture delivery driver, one of three adults with Jaylen at the beach, removed articles of clothing and swam to Jaylen who continued to be carried away from shore into water 7 feet deep. As Maynor reached Jaylen, the two appeared to struggle. Two men entered the water with a boogie board and swam to Maynor and Jaylen. Maynor pushed Jaylen toward shore and one of the men grasped him. The man swam to the beach, with Jaylen in tow. The other man swam to Maynor and positioned him on the board. When the board broke, the man briefly grasped Maynor but was ultimately unable to take him to shore. Maynor floated atop the water for several minutes before he disappeared from view. Jaylen was tired and recovered. Maynor's body was recovered three days later. He had drowned. [89136-10047](#)



PATRICK NOLAN MCCARTY
Ohiopyle, Pennsylvania

Patrick Nolan McCarty saved Raecyne W. Bechtold and helped to save Arnetta D. Johnson from drowning, Ohiopyle, Pennsylvania, June 26, 2017. At a bridge pier in the middle of the swift-flowing, swollen Youghiogheny River, Johnson, 55, partially submerged, clutched an overturned raft pinned by current against the pier as Bechtold, 45, lay atop it. With a 20-foot waterfall downstream, they tenuously held on amid the cold, fast current while onlookers called for help. Alerted by the emergency response to the scene, McCarty, 29, whitewater rafting business executive director, and another man collected single-person kayaks and launched them without standard safety gear. As the other man arrived at the pier, Johnson grasped onto his kayak; the raft dislodged and floated free with Bechtold. While the other man towed Johnson downstream to an exposed rock ledge, McCarty paddled ahead of the raft and used his kayak to alter the raft's course and speed, and guide it to the bank, where Bechtold reached safety. McCarty then paddled to the ledge. After securing Johnson with a rope and abandoning the kayaks, McCarty and the man waded with her toward the near bank, where others also helped her from the water. Johnson and Bechtold declined medical treatment for minor injuries. [89908-10062](#)



JOHN E. MEFFERT
Rancho Santa Margarita, California

John E. Meffert saved Francis X. Pisano from burning, Irvine, California, June 30, 2017. Pisano, 62, was in a twin-engine plane that had taken off from a nearby airport when an engine problem caused the plane to lose altitude. Pisano was piloting the plane, his wife was in the passenger seat beside him. As Pisano turned back to the airport to make an emergency landing, the plane rapidly descended onto a multi-lane expressway, crashed, and burst into flames. Pisano's wife opened the door and stepped onto the wing, then remained at the plane as she made efforts to free Pisano from the wreckage. Meffert, 47, fire captain, who was off-duty and out of his jurisdiction, had been driving on the expressway when the front of his vehicle was struck by the plane as it flew past and crashed nearby. Meffert stopped and ran to the plane where he climbed onto the wing and aided Pisano's wife away from the plane. Despite flames several feet high on the wings, Meffert returned to the plane, stepped onto the wing a second time, and extended his upper body through the door to free Pisano's foot from the wreckage. Meffert grasped Pisano under the arms and pulled him from the plane. He then dragged Pisano to safety as the plane continued to burn. Pisano was transported to a hospital for treatment of fractured vertebrae and other injuries. He was not burned. [89211-10039](#)



ANDREW L. MELHADO
Milton, Massachusetts

Andrew L. Melhado rescued Tahjae Robinson and attempted to rescue Nina T. Lewis from burning, Milton, Massachusetts, December 2, 2016. Tahjae, 17, Lewis, 24, and another man, 23, were trapped inside a sedan that left a highway and struck a tree at night. The car's front end quickly burst into flames. Melhado, 49, security manager, was awakened by the crash in front of his home and saw the car burning from his bedroom window. Quickly dressing, he retrieved a fire extinguisher from his kitchen and ran outside to the burning car. Unable to assist the 23-year-old man, Melhado broke the windows on both rear doors and felt inside for occupants, as he was unable to see through the thick smoke. Melhado felt Tahjae, who was leaning toward the driver's-side rear door. Melhado then extended his head, shoulders, and arms inside through the broken-out driver's-side rear window opening. Melhado grasped Tahjae's shirt collar and pulled him partly out of the car through the opening. Adjusting his grip, Melhado, despite nearby flames and intense heat, pulled Tahjae, who appeared to be semi-conscious, out the window opening and set him on the ground. Melhado then moved to the driver's door and broke that window with the extinguisher. As the fire at the vehicle's front intensified, Melhado reached inside and unsuccessfully tried to free Lewis from the car, but his efforts were thwarted by advancing flames, and he was forced to retreat. Lewis and the 23-year-old man died. Tahjae was treated at a hospital for injuries and recovered. Melhado sustained burns to his left hand; he, too, recovered. [88725-9998](#)



ANDREW WILLIAM MILLER
Frisco, Texas

Andrew William Miller rescued John P. Rowley III from assault, Washington, D.C., May 12, 2017. Rowley, 62, exited a train in a subway station and walked toward an exit when he encountered a group of males, which included two 17-year-olds. Rowley was attacked by the 17-year-olds, who forced him onto the platform and kicked and punched him in the face and head. The assailants pushed Rowley toward a train accelerating out of the station, and Rowley struck it, then fell back onto the platform, where he was kicked. Miller, 23, law student, had exited a separate car of the same train and observed Rowley being attacked. Miller moved toward the group, shouting at them to stop their attack on Rowley, who was lying on the platform. One of the assailants stumbled over Rowley and toward Miller, and the two struggled. The assailant punched Miller twice, and Miller fell to the platform. The assailants and the other young men fled the scene, and the assailants were later apprehended. Rowley sustained a concussion, a broken right hand, and contusions and lacerations. Miller sustained a head injury and an abrasion to his face. **89157-10044**



DAVID MOEN
Lake Orion, Michigan

David Moen rescued Kymberly A. Dominguez from burning, Lake Orion, Michigan, June 28, 2017. Dominguez, 29, was in a second-floor bedroom of her family's home when an explosion occurred in a first-floor room that caused a portion of the second floor to collapse onto the first floor and triggered a fire. David Moen, 64, automotive engineer and Dominguez's neighbor, heard the explosion and saw smoke and debris near the home. Moen responded and called out. Dominguez, who had moved from her room to a second-floor hall, responded. Moen stepped through a second-floor window which had fallen to ground level and entered the unstable, burning home, calling out for Dominguez to follow his voice. Moen moved simultaneously toward Dominguez, meeting her about 10 feet from the window, and Moen carried her outside to safety over broken glass and other debris. Aware that Dominguez's parents remained inside, Moen returned to the home and made efforts to re-enter, but the instability of the structure and intensifying fire, thwarted his attempt to rescue them. Dominguez's parents were unable to escape and did not survive the fire. Dominguez was treated for bruises and scrapes and recovered. She was not burned. **89208-10012**



JAY ROSS MUXWORTHY
Carolina Beach, North Carolina

Jay Ross Muxworthy attempted to rescue James C. Andrews III from burning, Wilmington, North Carolina, April 24, 2016. James, 13 months, and his older sister remained in the middle row of a sport utility vehicle that was aflame in the engine area after a crash in which the vehicle left the road and struck a tree near a park entrance. During the crash, the engine's transmission breached the passenger compartment. Dark smoke issued from the vehicle. The driver, their mother, was motionless in her seat. Among those who went to the scene was Muxworthy, 48, restaurant operator, who approached the burning vehicle. After a man saved James's sister, and the mother was removed through the open driver's window, multiple people helped to pry open the rear, driver's-side door as flames spread toward James's safety seat. Muxworthy extended his upper body inside the vehicle and, despite blistering heat and advancing flames, made efforts to free James from his car seat. Overcome by conditions, Muxworthy was forced to withdraw from the vehicle, which was rapidly engulfed by fire. James did not survive. Muxworthy was hospitalized for nine days for treatment of burns to his head, arms, and right hand. He underwent additional treatment for his burns for several months following the accident. **88229-10057**



JOHN GERARD O'ROURKE
Milford, Connecticut

John Gerard O'Rourke saved a 10-year-old boy from drowning, Milford, Connecticut, February 5, 2017. The boy broke through the ice on a pond while playing with friends, moments after O'Rourke had warned the boys about the dangerous ice conditions. O'Rourke, 61, delivery driver, who was walking his dog on a nearby trail, grabbed an 8-foot-long tree branch and moved on his stomach to reach the boy about 75 feet from shore when he, too, broke through the ice a few feet from the boy. O'Rourke, fully clothed, grasped the boy and held him above water while treading water and attempting to break a path through the ice toward shore. As he became nearly exhausted, O'Rourke heaved the boy onto the surrounding ice, which held, then instructed the boy to shimmy across the ice to shore. O'Rourke was unable to hoist himself out of the water even after he moved closer to shore where the water was chest-deep. He was pulled from the water and across the ice by police using a rope and flotation ring. O'Rourke and the boy were both treated for exposure to cold water; both recovered. [88945-9993](#)



STEPHANIE L. PELLEY
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador

Stephanie L. Pelley helped to save a woman from drowning, Flatrock, Newfoundland and Labrador, November 9, 2015. A distressed woman intentionally leapt, fully clothed, from a remote, rocky shoreline into a cove of the Atlantic Ocean as police officers, including Pelley, 25, approached her and urged her not to enter the water. The woman called for help in frigid, deep water as she was carried from shore. Wearing her uniform, including her bulletproof vest and duty belt, Pelley jumped into the ocean and began to swim toward the woman but, weighed down by her gear, she returned to the water's edge to remove it. Another officer, who had also removed his vest and belt, jumped into the water, swam to the woman, who held onto an exposed rock, and towed her back toward the rocky shoreline. Pelley also grasped her, and as waves broke over Pelley and the officer at the shore's edge, the woman resisted them. Ultimately, Pelley and the officer pulled the woman onto the slippery shore and away from the water. Medical personnel evaluated the woman, Pelley, and the other officer, who were cold. They recovered. [89296-10013](#)



PHILIP RUSSELL ORZECH
West Hartford, Connecticut

Philip Russell Orzech helped to save Jose Cruz-Gonzalez from drowning, Irondequoit, New York, August 19, 2017. Jose, 9, was swimming with his 10-year-old brother in Lake Ontario when a current carried them into deep, rough water adjacent a jetty, and they called for help. A man, who was on the beach, entered the water and swam to Jose, grasping him. Jose's brother swam back to shore. The man and Jose submerged at least once and became separated as Jose floundered and yelled in distress. Observing Jose's plight from atop the jetty, Orzech, 56, sales executive, entered the water and swam about 150 feet from the jetty to Jose, where he calmed him and towed him toward the jetty. A woman who arrived in a boat assisted with getting Jose to the jetty. A man who accompanied her recovered Sigelow, who was unconscious, from the water. First responders were unable to revive Sigelow, who had drowned. Jose and his brother were evaluated at a hospital and then released. [89396-10041](#)



RUSSELL D. PHIPPEN
North Billerica, Massachusetts

Russell D. Phippen helped to rescue Revath Than from drowning, Lowell, Massachusetts, January 3, 2018. At night, Than, 24, clung to a rock in the Merrimack River and called for help. Authorities, including police and fire departments, arrived shortly but initial efforts to rescue Than were unsuccessful. A police helicopter equipped with a searchlight and carrying Phippen, 43, tactical flight officer, was dispatched solely to illuminate the dark river, which flowed swiftly and contained ice. The helicopter was not designed or equipped for rescue operations. Arriving at the scene, the pilot and Phippen observed Than, who had been partially submerged in sub-freezing temperatures for more than 20 minutes, to be lethargic and determined that he required immediate assistance. The pilot began to descend to water level near Than as Phippen, attached to the helicopter by a strap at an open door, positioned himself outside the cabin on a skid. With Than beyond Phippen's reach, the pilot maneuvered the helicopter closer to him as Phippen moved to the other side of the cabin, opened another door, and again positioned himself on a skid. With the helicopter skimming the surface of the water, Phippen handed Than a life vest, grasped his arm, and pulled his upper body into the cabin. Unable to pull Than's entire body inside, Phippen held onto Than and, with the helicopter's rear doors open, the pilot flew to a nearby hospital. Than suffered hypothermia and a cut on his chin; he recovered. Phippen was sore and wet. [89615-10036](#)



JOHN THOMAS PROKOP
Duncan, British Columbia

John Thomas Prokop helped to rescue a police officer from assault, Duncan, British Columbia, July 8, 2016. Along a city street, a police officer struggled to detain a man who violently resisted arrest and placed his hand on the officer's duty belt, which held a holstered handgun. After struggling with the officer and escaping, the assailant ran to a church porch, followed by the officer, who seized him there. The assailant put a headlock on the officer, who had difficulty breathing and was nearly exhausted. While others stood nearby, Prokop, 49, business operator, ran about 130 feet, ascended the porch steps, and grasped the assailant. A struggle ensued during which the officer was freed and, along with the assailant and Prokop, fell onto the steps. As the officer held the assailant in a headlock, Prokop pinned the assailant's legs until backup officers arrived. The officer recovered from soreness to his throat and neck. Prokop suffered scrapes on his left arm and face but did not require medical attention. [89600-10049](#)



AUSTIN RAISHBROOK
Blue Jay, California

Austin Raishbrook saved a man from burning, Los Angeles, California, January 1, 2017. Following a highway accident in early morning darkness, the male driver of a sport utility vehicle remained in the driver's seat as the vehicle came to a stop and was struck by multiple vehicles. It rotated and was pushed against a concrete barrier. Its rear end aflame, the vehicle came to rest with part of its driver's side against the barrier. Raishbrook, 40, photojournalist, who had earlier stopped at the scene, witnessed the accident. Raishbrook ran across the highway traffic lanes and approached the vehicle. He broke out the front passenger side window with his fire extinguisher and saw the man inside, unconscious. Raishbrook ran to the driver's door and tried to break out that window but the glass would not break. After several tries, he forced the door open and despite growing flames, extended most of his body inside, reaching across the man. He tried several times unsuccessfully to release the man's seat belt. Raishbrook then retreated for air. He again entered the vehicle through the door opening and made more attempts to release the seat belt but to no avail. Concluding he could not release the seat belt, Raishbrook positioned the belt so that he could pull the man's torso up from under it, and was able to release the man from the belt. Raishbrook removed the man from the vehicle, and with another man, carried him from the immediate vicinity as flames soon grew to engulf it. Raishbrook suffered a cut to his left hand and singed hair on both of his arms, and did not require medical treatment. He recovered. [88903-9992](#)



ANA MARIA RAMIREZ
Turlock, California

Ana Maria Ramirez rescued Jose J. Ramos from attacking dogs, Turlock, California, April 18, 2017. Jose, 12, was walking his family's dog on a leash in a suburban neighborhood when two, 65-pound pit bulls, a male and a female, approached and began to attack his dog. During the attack, Jose and his dog were bitten, and he was unable to release his grip on his dog's leash. Ramirez, 47, receptionist, was driving by and witnessed the attack. She stopped at the scene and, concerned that Jose would be pulled to the ground in the struggle to control and protect his dog, Ramirez blew the car's horn. She exited the car, approached, and shouted at the pit bulls. The female pit bull moved away, but the male continued its attack on Jose and his dog. Ramirez returned to her car and, retrieving part of a child's booster seat, approached the male pit bull, and struck it. The dog bit her wrist and forearm and held on. Ramirez struck the dog again with the booster seat, and the dog released her. Both pit bulls fled the scene. Jose was treated for a bite wound to his finger, contusions, and lacerations. He recovered. Ramirez was treated for a bite wound to her wrist and forearm and lacerations to her arm. She also recovered. [89178-10029](#)



STEVEN A. RAUSER
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Steven A. Rauser helped to rescue Ethel M. Woodger from drowning, Detroit, Michigan, April 17, 2017. At night in a park adjacent the Detroit River, Woodger, 34, fell from a concrete bulkhead into cold, deep water from which there was no easy egress. A police officer alerted to the incident, Rauser, 37, responded to the scene accompanied by another officer. Rauser and the officer, moved to the top of the bulkhead that was about 6 feet above the water's surface, and observed Woodger struggling to stay afloat. The other officer removed his duty gear and jumped into the cold water, the temperature of which was estimated to be in the 40s. The officer grasped Woodger and held onto a steel rod that jutted from the bulkhead but, after several minutes, he struggled to maintain his grasp on the rod. The officer called out that he was losing his grip, and Rauser jumped into the river. Taking control of Woodger, Rauser grasped her with one arm and held onto the rod with the other. Woodger wrapped her arms around Rauser's neck and began to pull him away from the bulkhead. Rauser, who was briefly submerged twice, told her to stop and tried to calm her. Ultimately Woodger disengaged from Rauser and drifted a few feet away, beyond Rauser's reach. A boat responded from nearby, and personnel aboard the boat assisted Woodger to safety. Rauser and the other officer were lifted from the water by emergency personnel who had responded to the scene. Rauser was taken to the hospital for treatment of his exposure to the cold water. He recovered. [89124-10011](#)



SVETLANA S. REUT
Loganville, Georgia

Svetlana S. Reut rescued Cameron Wagstaff from attacking dogs, Loganville, Georgia, January 24, 2018. Cameron, 9, was outside playing in a yard when three pit bull dogs, all weighing about 70 pounds, attacked him. Cameron was knocked to the ground and bitten. Reut, 29, medical lab technician, was inside her nearby house and heard him scream for help. She hurried outside and saw Cameron on the ground with the dogs attacking him, gnawing and clawing his face. Reut grasped Cameron by his hand and pulled him to his feet. Reut and Cameron ran to a nearby yard and became separated. The dogs then attacked Reut, knocking her to the ground and biting her face and arm. The dogs' owner responded and took one of the dogs back to his property. Cameron, who had remained in the vicinity, and Reut retreated to her house and the dogs ultimately left the vicinity. Cameron was treated for his injuries. Reut was taken to a hospital for treatment of her injuries, which included bite wounds to her mouth and arm. [89650-10059](#)



JIMMY RHODES
Lumberton, North Carolina

Jimmy Rhodes rescued Patrick E. Mahany, Jr., from burning, Frisco, Colorado, July 3, 2015. Mahany, 64, was the pilot of a medical 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 nearby and quickly ignited, the flames engulfing the helicopter's wreckage. Mahany remained on the ground near his seat after two nurses aboard the helicopter, both of whom were injured, escaped the burning helicopter's cabin. Alerted inside the hospital where he was employed as a radiographic technologist, Rhodes, 38, ran to the helicopter's nose with a handheld fire extinguisher. Standing at the perimeter of advancing flames, Rhodes sprayed Mahany with the extinguisher, bent over, and reached for Mahany's legs before blistering heat forced him to briefly back away several feet. Rhodes then once again moved toward Mahany and, amid encroaching flames, used the extinguisher to clear a space for him to gain hold of Mahany's vest. Using both hands Rhodes pulled him from the helicopter's burning wreckage. As Mahany rolled away, Rhodes sprayed his body with the extinguisher to douse remaining flames. Others arrived and moved Mahany farther away. Mahany was treated at a hospital for severe burns, blunt force and internal thermal injuries but did not survive. Rhodes received medical treatment for smoke inhalation and burns. He recovered. [89186-10001](#)



MICHAEL ALBERT RODRIGUEZ
Howell, Michigan

Michael Albert Rodriguez helped to save Matthew S. Harris from drowning, Howell, Michigan, July 21, 2017. Harris, 45, was driving on a highway when he suffered a medical problem and lost control of his car, left the highway and entered a 9-foot-deep retention pond. Witnessing the accident, Rodriguez, 54, carpenter, stopped his vehicle, exited and ran to the pond. Seeing Harris unresponsive and still inside the vehicle that was floating in the water, Rodriguez, a poor swimmer, 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, during which 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. Rodriguez was nearly exhausted and aggravated a previous shoulder injury but recovered. **89324-9999**



THOMAS JULIUS SAIS, JR.
Palm Bay, Florida

Thomas Julius Sais, Jr., helped to save a man from burning, Palm Bay, Florida, October 16, 2016. A male motorist, 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. The front of the vehicle caught fire along with nearby vegetation. Sais, 62, construction project manager, stopped at the scene. He descended the embankment to the vehicle and broke out glass from its rear hatch window, then climbed fully inside. Sais moved to the motorist, who was in the driver's seat and suspended by his seat belt. Unable to release the belt, Sais exited the vehicle and called out to onlookers for a knife. Unable to secure a knife, Sais re-entered and this time was successful in releasing 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 hatch. A police sergeant arrived and fully entered the vehicle through the broken hatch window, grasped the motorist, and made efforts to pull him toward the rear window. Sais and the sergeant exited, and standing outside at the rear window with a police officer, reached into the vehicle and pulled the motorist from the vehicle's cargo area out onto the ground as flames spread. The motorist was moved up to the embankment to safety. The motorist was then taken to a hospital for treatment; he was not burned. Sais sustained lacerations to his hands, arms, and legs; he recovered. **88604-10005**



JASON A. SIGELOW
Rochester, New York

Jason A. Sigelow died attempting to help save Jose Cruz-Gonzalez from drowning, Irondequoit, New York, August 19, 2017. Jose, 9, was swimming with his 10-year-old brother in Lake Ontario when a current carried them into deep, rough water adjacent a jetty, and they called for help. Sigelow, 39, caterer, who was on the beach, entered the water and swam to Jose, grasping him. Jose's brother swam back to shore. Sigelow and Jose submerged at least once and became separated as Jose floundered and yelled in distress. Observing Jose's plight from atop the jetty, another man entered the water and swam about 150 feet from the jetty to Jose, where he calmed him and towed him toward the jetty. A woman who arrived in a boat assisted with getting Jose to the jetty. A man who accompanied her recovered Sigelow, who was unconscious, from the water. First responders were unable to revive Sigelow, who had drowned. Jose and his brother were both evaluated at a hospital and released. **89345-10040**



EUGENE STAMSTA
Oconto, Wisconsin

Eugene Stamsta helped to save Anne M. Nerenhausen from drowning, Oconto, Wisconsin, July 18, 2017. While attempting to jump onto an inner tube at a river bank near her house, Nerenhausen, 75, fell into the water and struggled to swim in the swift current. From the bank, her fiancé repeatedly lobbed the inner tube, tethered to a rope, toward Nerenhausen, but she could not hold onto it. Nerenhausen was carried downstream. The fiancé yelled for help, alerting neighbors, including Stamsta, 65, welder/fabricator, who ran to a rocky embankment at a point adjacent Nerenhausen that was about 4 feet above water level. Stamsta, clothed and wearing a tool belt, entered the water and swam to Nerenhausen. Arriving as she began to submerge, Stamsta grasped Nerenhausen, who was limp. With his right arm under her armpit and across her chest, Stamsta stroked with his left arm back to the rocks, towing Nerenhausen. There, he secured a hold but was unable to remove her until firefighters responded with a board and ropes to lift her to safety; Stamsta exited on his own. Nerenhausen was hospitalized for one night and treated for hypothermia; she recovered. **89368-10051**



MICHAEL E. SURRELL, SR.
Allentown, Pennsylvania

Michael E. Surrell, Sr., saved Tiara Roberts from burning, Allentown, Pennsylvania, May 4, 2017. Tiara, 8, was on the second floor of a three-story row house after fire broke out in a bedroom on the home's second floor. Surrell, 64, disabled truck driver, who lived next door, was alerted to the fire. Learning that Tiara remained inside on the second floor, he entered the house through its front door and began to climb the stairway but was repulsed by dense smoke and heat and forced to retreat outside. Undeterred, Surrell re-entered the house, climbed the stairs to the second floor, and got down on his hands and knees. Surrell heard Tiara 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. Surrell stood up and placed Tiara over his shoulder, then carried her down to the first floor and out onto the porch. Tiara, unresponsive, was given rescue breaths by Surrell, and was revived. Tiara was hospitalized for smoke inhalation; she recovered. Surrell was hospitalized for a burn to his larynx and smoke inhalation. **89147-10026**



SEAN ZACHAREY THAYNE
Sandy, Utah

Sean Zacharey Thayne died attempting to save London Razo and Brenda N. De Dios from drowning, Provo, Utah, May 29, 2017. London, 4, and her mother, De Dios, 34, entered the cold, swift-flowing Provo River from a rocky bank adjacent a recreational trail at a county park. De Dios screamed as the powerful current swept her and London downstream, alerting Thayne, 30, programmer, and his family on the trail. Thayne ran about 500 feet on the trail along the bank, then entered the water, where he was seen a short distance from De Dios. The river carried De Dios and Thayne to a dam about 3 miles downstream, where they were removed from the water in critical condition. They were taken to a hospital, where both later died of drowning. Searchers located London's body the following morning, more than 1 mile from the scene; she had drowned. **89172-10037**



ROBERT LEE THORNTON, JR.
Warren, Michigan

Robert Lee Thornton, Jr., rescued a woman and attempted to rescue a man from burning, Center Line, Michigan, November 23, 2016. A woman, 77, was a passenger in a pickup truck driven by a man, 79, that collided with a power pole carrying high-voltage lines, rolled over onto its passenger side, and caught fire. Thornton, 40, business operator, who was driving nearby, saw the wreck and stopped at the scene where downed power lines near the front end of the truck arced. Thornton, seeing the man inside the truck and quickly surmising that it was not energized, climbed atop its driver's side and moved to the driver's window. As the man pushed the woman up to the window, Thornton extended his upper body inside, grasped her under her arms, and pulled her up through the opening. Thornton handed her down to two police officers who had responded. One of the officers carried her further away from the burning vehicle. Despite spreading flames, Thornton again reached inside the opening to briefly grasp the man, but the man disengaged as flames entered the truck's cab. As a transformer on the power pole exploded, Thornton retreated to safety and flames soon engulfed the truck. The woman was taken by ambulance to the hospital. The male driver, unable to escape, did not survive. **88860-10008**



VICKIE TILLMAN
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Vickie Tillman helped to rescue Billy A. Aime from assault, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, February 19, 2017. Aime, 44, police corporal, was 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 Aime and bear-hugged him. During an intense struggle, Aime placed the assailant in a headlock. The assailant removed Aime's baton, flashlight, and radio from his belt, and grabbed at his holstered handgun. The assailant repeatedly struck Aime in the head and bit his hand. A passing motorist, Tillman, 56, school cafeteria clerk, saw Aime, against the car, struggling with the assailant. She stopped at the scene, called 911, and exited her car. Approaching, she saw blood on Aime's head as Aime attempted to maintain control of his holstered gun. Concluding that Aime required immediate assistance, Tillman grasped the assailant's hand, pulling it away from Aime's gun. Tillman then held the assailant's hand behind him, and as the struggle continued, made further efforts to impede the attack. 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 at a hospital for hand and wrist pain from which she also recovered. **88943-10000**



CHARLEY TORRES
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador

Charley Torres helped to save a woman from drowning, Flatrock, Newfoundland and Labrador, November 9, 2015. A distressed woman intentionally leapt, fully clothed, from a remote, rocky shoreline into a cove of the Atlantic Ocean as police officers, including Torres, 25, approached. The woman called for help in frigid, deep water as she was carried from shore. Another officer jumped into the ocean and began to swim toward the woman but, weighed down by her gear, she returned to the water's edge to remove it. Torres removed his bulletproof vest and duty belt and jumped into the water. Torres swam to the woman, who clung to an exposed rock above the water and, grasping her from behind, towed her back toward the rocky shoreline. The other officer also grasped her, and as waves broke over Torres and the officer at the shore's edge, the woman resisted them. Ultimately, Torres and the officer pulled the woman onto the slippery shore and away from the water. Medical personnel evaluated the woman, the other officer, and Torres, who were cold. They recovered. **89297-10014**



JOSHUA AARON TRAYLOR
Clinton Township, Michigan

Joshua Aaron Traylor died attempting to save Zerrick W. Richard from drowning, Mount Clemens, Michigan, April 9, 2017. Zerrick was standing 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, construction worker, 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. As the boy also submerged, another man entered the water, grasped him, and brought him back to the surface. The man took the boy to a boardwalk that extended along the river's bank and lifted him up to another person, who secured him. The man then pulled himself up out of the water. 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. **89082-10015**



MARK OSCAR TUURA
New Westminster, British Columbia

Mark Oscar Tuura saved an unidentified man from drowning, New Westminster, British Columbia, October 18, 2015. A man floundered and called for help in the 50-degree Fraser River about 50 feet from a pier. Tuura, 57, stevedore, was in his parked pickup truck in a lot atop the pier when a witness alerted him to the man's plight. Tuura, fully clothed and wearing steel-toed work boots, grabbed a coil of rope from his truck, and climbed down a 15-foot-long chain to a boat anchored in the river. Unable to find a flotation device on the boat, Tuura climbed back up the chain and ran along the pier to keep pace with the victim who was being carried downstream by the river's current. Tuura then climbed down another chain onto a boom log, and despite being fully clothed and wearing work boots, dived into the river and swam toward the man, who was face-down. Grasping the man with one arm, Tuura side-stroked back to the anchored boom log where he supported the man, who was by then unconscious, to keep his head out of the water. Arriving firefighters tossed a rope to Tuura which Tuura looped around the man's arms. When firefighters were unable to fully lift the man to safety, they lowered him down to Tuura, who fastened the rope he had carried with him through the man's belt. Tuura threw the end of his rope to the firefighters above, who then used both ropes to pull the victim up to safety. The victim was taken to a hospital. Tuura declined treatment at the scene and suffered no ill effects. **87858-10060**



JOHN ANDREW USSERY
Sanford, Florida

John Andrew Ussery died after attempting to save Jason E. Deleon from drowning, Palm Beach, Florida, May 16, 2017. Deleon, 25, was wading in the Atlantic Ocean near a beach when he was swept into deeper, unwadable water and called for help. A co-worker, Ussery, 51, cable lineman, who was on the beach, entered the water, and swam to Deleon. Ussery grasped Deleon but told him he could not maintain his hold. Ussery and Deleon separated and drifted farther apart and away from shore amid rough surf. Responding police officers swam out to Deleon and Ussery, who were then about 200 feet from shore, with flotation devices, followed by firefighters who paddled out with rescue boards. Officers secured Deleon and Ussery and towed them to the firefighters, who brought them ashore atop the rescue boards. Deleon recovered after hospitalization. Ussery fell unconscious on the beach. He was taken to a hospital but could not be revived. **89171-10009**



JOSHUA K. WATT
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Joshua K. Watt rescued Alyssa L. Gore and James B. Allman from burning, Brownsville, Kentucky, June 26, 2017. Alyssa, 16, and Allman, 51, were inside an overturned and burning pickup truck following a highway accident in which the truck had come to rest on its roof with its passenger side against a guide rail. Watt, 26, probation and parole officer, was driving nearby and saw the crash, stopped and ran to the burning pickup. Flames and damage to the truck's cab prevented Watt from seeing the victims from the driver's side. Moving to the truck's passenger side, Watt crawled under the guide rail, where he saw Alyssa, whose arms and upper torso extended outside through the passenger window. Concluding she was trapped by her seat belt, Watt reached into the cab and cut the belt with a pocketknife. He then pulled Alyssa through the window under the guide rail and dragged her to safety. Returning to the passenger side, Watt saw Allman, whose shorts, socks, and legs were burning, crawling toward the passenger window. Watt extended his arms and upper torso into the truck and, despite burning gasoline dripping into the cab and onto Watt's clothes, he pulled Allman through the window to safety. Watt patted out flames on Allman's lower body and then used bottled water to douse Allman's smoldering clothes. Alyssa was treated at a hospital overnight for burns to her lower legs; she recovered. Allman was hospitalized for treatment of extensive burns. Watt was not injured. **89215-10002**



SCOTT DERRICK WHITFORD
New Bern, North Carolina

Scott Derrick Whitford died attempting to rescue a girl from drowning, Atlantic Beach, North Carolina, June 17, 2017. A 15-year-old girl was caught in a rip current that carried her about 200 feet from an Atlantic Ocean beach into water over her head. She and her mother, who was with her, called for help. Whitford, 56, carpenter, who was on the beach, entered the ocean, and despite rough conditions, swam into deeper water to the girl, where he grasped her from behind. During his efforts in her behalf the girl clung to him, and Whitford submerged several times. Ultimately, he was seen floating several feet from her as police and rescue crews shortly arrived. Emergency responders reached Whitford, who was unresponsive, and attempted to perform CPR on him as they towed him back to the beach. The girl, also brought in by emergency responders, was treated at the scene. She was taken to a hospital and released shortly. She recovered. The mother reached shore. Whitford, who remained unresponsive and in cardiac arrest, was pulled from the water and transported to a hospital, but he could not be revived. [89212-10019](#)



FRANK WILLIAMS, JR.
New Orleans, Louisiana

Frank Williams Jr., died helping to rescue Honorio Lopez from drowning, New Orleans, Louisiana, December 5, 2017. Lopez, 25, was in the front passenger seat of a car parked at a restaurant adjacent a canal of Lake Pontchartrain when the car's driver drove forward across a sidewalk and dock and entered the 10-foot-deep canal. As the car floated about 30 feet from the dock, Williams, 50, restaurant cook, and other employees and patrons who had been alerted, gathered at the scene. A man swam to the car and pried open Lopez's door, but was unable to help him and returned to the dock as the car began to submerge. Williams, 50, removed his boots, dived into the canal, and swam to the car. Williams grasped Lopez, who was outside the car, and began to move him toward the dock while struggling to keep Lopez afloat. Williams submerged, and others removed Lopez from the water. A woman performed CPR on Lopez, who was taken to a hospital and recovered. A diver later recovered the car's driver from the car; he had drowned. Williams's body was located and recovered the following day. He had drowned. [89542-10050](#)



JAMES WILLIAMS
Green Bay, Wisconsin

James Williams helped to rescue Jaikeem Hillard from attacking dogs, Green Bay, Wisconsin, June 20, 2016. On a sidewalk in a residential neighborhood, an adult pit bull dog dragged Jaikeem, 17 months, from his stroller, bit onto his head, and did not let go. A second pit bull bit his mother, and she fell into the street, just out of reach of Jaikeem. Several neighbors, including Williams, 47, a disabled construction worker, who lived across the street, heard screams for help and went outside. Running to the scene, Williams grasped the dog that was biting Jaikeem's head, punched it until it released the boy, and threw it aside. As that dog moved back toward Jaikeem and Williams, Williams's stepson fended it off. Williams later restrained the second dog, pinning it on his porch until police responded. Jaikeem's mother carried him to safety. He 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. [88954-10018](#)



JOSHUA STEWART WRIGHT
Dahlonega, Georgia

Joshua Stewart Wright saved Jacquelyn D. Andrews from burning, Wilmington, North Carolina, April 24, 2016. Jacquelyn, 2, and her younger brother remained in the middle row of a sport utility vehicle that was aflame in the engine area after a crash in which the vehicle left the road and struck a tree near a park entrance. During the crash, the engine's transmission breached the passenger compartment. Dark smoke issued from the vehicle. The driver, their mother, was motionless in her seat. Among those who went to the scene were Wright, 35, electrician, and his father, who were at the park. Unable to open the vehicle's doors, Wright climbed through an opening at the vehicle's rear windshield, advanced to the middle row, and grasped Jacquelyn. Wright returned to the rear windshield and passed her outside to a bystander. As conditions worsened inside, he exited. The mother was removed through the open driver's window, and multiple people helped to pry open the rear, driver's-side door as flames spread to the middle row and then engulfed the vehicle. Efforts by others to remove Jacquelyn's brother from his seat before the vehicle was engulfed were not successful; the brother did not survive. Jacquelyn was hospitalized for minor injuries but was not burned. Wright declined medical attention at the scene. [89870-10056](#)



SUMMARY

AARON ANDREW YOUNG *Middletown, Pennsylvania*

Aaron Andrew Young rescued Scott T. Shaffer from burning, Middletown, Pennsylvania, November 25, 2016. Shaffer, 19, was driving in a car with a passenger, 18, when the car struck a tree, overturned, and caught fire following an accident on a rural road at night. Young, 39, bank credit officer, who lived on a nearby farm and heard the crash, responded to the scene in an all-terrain vehicle. Moving quickly to the driver's side of the car, as flames and smoke intensified inside and outside the vehicle, Young crouched a foot or two beneath the flames and extended his arms through the broken window of the driver's door and grasped Shaffer's arms. Young pulled Shaffer through the window opening and patted out most of the flames with a sweatshirt. A motorist who arrived at the scene removed the passenger through the window of a rear door. Shaffer and the passenger were hospitalized for several weeks for burns and other injuries. They recovered. **88754-10055**

2017 - 2018 AWARD STATISTICS

MEDALS

Seventy-five Carnegie Medals were awarded in 2017, with 71 awarded in 2018, bringing the total to 10,062 since the Hero Fund was established in 1904. To date, the Commission has considered 90,282 rescue acts.

Especially do we remember those who gave their lives saving or attempting to save others. Twenty-eight such sacrifices were honored in 2017 and 2018, bringing the total to date to 2,052:

Jay Agli	Bruce Maynor, Jr.
Bobby Lynn Arnold	Dennis Joseph Michel
Kenneth R. Atkinson	Thomas M. Petruszak
Brian G. Bergkamp	Sean C. Randles
Delbert G. Blare	Jeromy E. Richardson
Donald Michael Boles	Justin William Schroepfer
Dmitriy Bondarenko	Jason A. Sigelow
Courtney Baynes Dorsey	Sean Zacharey Thayne
Sanford Harling III	Joshua Aaron Traylor
George A. Heath	John Andrew Ussery
Jamie Alan Hyatt	Austin Craig Welch
Demetrius T. Johnson, Sr.	Scott Derrick Whitford
Kevin D. Little, Jr.	Frank Williams, Jr.
Michael Lumahang	Davis Ilan Zinsenheim

MONETARY GRANTS	2017	2018	TO DATE
For continuing support of widows, widowers, and other dependents, and disabled heroes	\$276,166	\$257,915	\$18,795,257
Monetary awards including educational assistance and medals	\$652,650	\$673,237	\$21,681,566
TOTALS	\$928,816	\$931,152	\$40,476,823

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