



imPULSE

A periodic newsletter of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission.

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Photos by Catherine Smith

Temple (Texas) Scout Troop 101 members Walker Gordon, carrying the American flag, and Sam Mungia, carrying the Troop 101 flag, lead the march to the original gravesite of Carnegie Hero **John David McRae**, who the scouts honored April 22 in a local ceremony.

A SELFLESS FRIEND: TEXAS SCOUTS HONOR AND REMEMBER ACT OF HEROISM

Boy Scouts organized a special ceremony to honor Carnegie Hero and Boy Scout **John David McRae** and the boy he attempted to rescue, Norman E. Vrba on the anniversary of the act, April 22 in Temple, Texas.

"Society values heroic qualities because they are uncommon. People are much more ready to look away because they are afraid. That's why we should honor and celebrate those who are willing to jump into action," stated Gary Smith, Scoutmaster of Temple Boy Scout Troop 101.

The Troop opened the ceremony with the Scouts, ages 11-18, leading the march to John's gravesite in Hillcrest Cemetery. They presented the ► p. 4



Carnegie Hero **David Michael McCartney** stands alongside State Road 37 west of Elwood, Ind., March 23, 2007. McCartney helped remove a woman from a burning car in that area in January 2006. Photo courtesy of The Herald Bulletin.

Carnegie Hero saves another life

Inspired by advice from the woman he saved, Carnegie Hero **David Michael McCartney**, 35, of Darlington, Ind., became a hero once again this year by donating a kidney to a stranger.

McCartney met Elizabeth A. Testerman, then 54, when he and another man, **Lee Pierce**, removed her from her burning vehicle after a January 2006 highway accident in Atlanta, Ind. At the time of the rescue, Testerman referred to McCartney and Pierce as her "angel babies."

Testerman told McCartney, then 21, to make certain that he always helped others. McCartney and Testerman, who lived in Texas, kept in touch by phone and through letters until her death from lung cancer three years later.

McCartney said he took Testerman's words to heart, and in February, McCartney donated one of his kidneys to an anonymous recipient.

Although he always knew he wanted to help people, the decision to become a living organ donor didn't cross his mind until a friend of his wife, Kelly, lost a brother to renal failure after receiving two kidney transplants. The transplants allowed the man to live an additional 10 years before he passed away.

McCartney said he thought an organ donation sounded like a great way to help someone else, so he requested information on live kidney donations from Indiana University Health. He also talked to a woman he met at a charity golf outing who had donated a kidney. McCartney said he learned that live kidney donations had a ► p. 2



BOARD NOTES

GENERATIONS CARRY ON FOUNDER'S VISION

By Mark Laskow, Chair
Carnegie Hero Fund Commission



Mark Laskow

Andrew Carnegie was a man of mighty visions, and he acted on those visions in a way few men have.

He died 100 years ago, and on this centennial anniversary we celebrate the breadth, scale, and thoughtfulness of his work building institution that support

civil society around the world.

Andrew Carnegie could not make these dreams come true on his own. His dreams were grand enough to require both numbers and generations to carry them to fruition.

In the words of my old school song,

*A thousand hands have labored long
Mighty visions to fulfill,
To shape a dream, to 'tablish strong
This our city on The Hill*

Perhaps the greatest testament to the continuing strength and vibrancy of Carnegie's visions is the number and quality of the people who, even today, devote their lives to realizing his vision of a "city on a hill."

Knowing them has been one of the great rewards of my association with the Carnegie Hero Fund. (The greatest reward, of course, has been knowing some of our heroes!)

They lead and work in the twenty-odd Carnegie organizations that even today make Carnegie's visions a reality.

I'd love to write profiles on so many of them, beginning with every single member of the Hero Fund's doughty staff. (To that staff: watch out, someday I might do it!)

For today, let me focus on just two.

I wish Andrew Carnegie could meet Vartan Gregorian — and that I could be in the room when he did.

Gregorian leads the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the last and largest of Carnegie's philanthropic projects. His position is central to the Carnegie project, and I think Andrew Carnegie would be most pleased with the man in the position.

Gregorian is a product of the Armenian ► p.3

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Organ donation

higher success rate than those donated by a deceased donor.

After seven months of testing, including blood type compatibility and psychological testing, to see if he was eligible to donate, McCartney was given the go-ahead in December 2018. He said it all stemmed from Testerman's words of wisdom.

McCartney said that none of his family members discouraged him from donating a kidney, "but one of them thought I was crazy." McCartney said he did not think about the "what ifs" of donating, but about "what will be," and realized recipients are looking for "a hope and a dream."

McCartney, who was in good health and extremely active before the surgery, recovered from surgery quickly, returning to work in half the typical recovery time. He ran two half marathons four months after his transplant surgery. The half marathons both took place the same weekend, one in Indiana and the other one the next day in Ohio.

He and his wife raise lambs, pigs, cows, and chickens at their home in Darlington, a rural town in Indiana. His full-time job is in the maintenance department at the City of Carmel. McCartney was given scholarship money from the Carnegie Hero Fund in 2009 to attend school to get his commercial truck driver's license. He said he uses the skills he learned there at his maintenance job.

McCartney said he believes strongly in the Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

He said he didn't donate his kidney to get a pat on the back. He emphasized that his email to the Commission about his kidney donation was simply to convey how being awarded had continued to affect him.

"Testerman reached out to the Carnegie Hero Fund to nominate us for an award, the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission then reached out to me, and now I'm reaching out to you." McCartney said. "After my nomination, my life changed in how I look at people and how I serve them. I just wanted the Commission to know what they do has a lasting impression."

And what does McCartney think Testerman would say about his donation if she were still alive?

"First, she'd scold me for risking my life, then applaud me for a great sacrifice. She understood risk versus reward," he said.

McCartney said he hopes to meet the recipient of his kidney one day, but it is up to them to decide if that will happen, and so far the recipient has not been in touch with him. ☼

—Susan Rizza, case investigator



Carnegie Hero **David Michael McCartney**, left, with his son **Elijah**, after a half marathon May 4 in Indianapolis. McCartney ran two half marathons in one weekend four months after donating a kidney to a stranger.



Carnegie Hero **Charles E. Britt** gets ready to blow the candles out during his 95th birthday celebration. Britt was recently the subject of his daughter-in-law's newspaper column.

Carnegie Hero Charles E. Britt celebrates his 95th birthday

This column, dated April 17, appeared in The (North Augusta, S.C.) Star. Columnist Phyllis Britt is the daughter-in-law of Carnegie Hero Charles E. Britt, who, at the age of 73, saved a 5-year-old boy from a burning home Nov. 3, 1997, in Norfolk, Va. Britt was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 1998. We are reprinting Britt's column about husband Tom's father with permission.

We have just returned from a visit to Virginia, in large measure to see Tom's dad.

Charlie Britt will be 95 on May 10. He still has all his faculties. He mostly lives alone — happily, I might add. He still tries to cut his own grass — though his son-in-law tries to beat him to it and though he recently fell while picking up pine cones. (To admonishments from his daughter Deb, he would only admit that it took him awhile to get back up — but he did, and with no broken bones.) He's still very active in the Norfolk Retired Firemen's Association — sometimes to the chagrin of the local city council. I'm guessing it's hard to say no to a request from a 94-year-old, especially one who is obviously working for the good of men who spent a career putting their lives on the line every day. And lately he has a renewed joy spending time with the youngest great-grandchild, 1-year-old Greyson, who has become Granddad's "pancake buddy."

This time, as we were heading up to see Granddad (what all the grandchildren and great-grandchildren call him), our son, Mac, asked if we'd try to get Granddad to talk some about his childhood and his time in World War II. Like my parents, Tom's dad's youth was hard. It was during the depression, and for much of his childhood, he lived with his grandmother, whose husband was an abusive heavy drinker. In fact, Granddad saw joining the Navy as a way out. He was still in high school, but was able to leave for the South Pacific with a promise that he would get his diploma anyway. After the war, he met and married Tom's mother, and he eventually settled into a career in the Norfolk Fire Department, ultimately achieving the rank of captain. Even well after retirement, Tom's dad continued his life of service. He was awarded the Carnegie Medal for saving a 5-year-old from a burning house on his block. ► p. 10

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GENERATIONS CARRY ON FOUNDER'S VISION

community in Tabriz, Iran, who become a formidable American intellectual and leader.

He taught at a number of universities before coming to the University of Pennsylvania, where he became the Provost, or chief academic officer of the University.

From there he went to the New York Public Library, where he engineered a celebrated turnaround of an important but declining institution.

He served as president of Brown University, then in 1997 became the 12th president of Carnegie Corp.

Gregorian has used his position, combined with his vision and intellect, to revitalized the world of the Carnegie philanthropies and to build a common understanding of our Carnegie heritage.

In 2001 he gathered the Carnegie organizations to create the Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy, with great positive effect on the Carnegie "brand."

His action had a side effect which may prove just as important. The Medal of Philanthropy brought the Carnegie organizations together on a regular basis, something that had not happened before.

This has strengthened the Carnegie culture within the organization, which has in turn added to the vitality and resilience of many of them. Gregorian daily deals with the great names of culture, business and academia, but he has also been very helpful to the smallest of the Carnegie organizations.

Andrew would smile at his work. Gregorian makes the rest of us smile, as well.

From Vartan Gregorian let's turn to a young woman in her early twenties who might be the newest and most junior associate of the Carnegie organizations world-wide.

Anna joined the Carnegie Hero Fund a few weeks ago as a volunteer summer intern.

Anna hopes to gain some experience relevant to the communications degree she will earn next year, but she was also attracted by the Hero Fund's mission and by the heroes themselves. But with just a few days on the job, she picked up a sense of the "Carnegieness" of the organization. She was spotted in an idle moment at home working on a sketch of Andrew Carnegie.

And so it goes. As the years go by, new hands join the thousands working to keep the Carnegie vision real and relevant. As the next few lines of that song go,

*In those fair visions we believe
What years have builded we receive,
And ours shall be the charge to leave
Our high honor higher still.* ☼



FRIENDS REMEMBERED



Gladys Mae Willis

Gladys Mae Willis, 96, of Little Rock, Ark., died Wednesday, April 17, 2019.

Willis was the widow of **Ernest Willis**, who died in 1967 attempting to save an 8-year-old boy from drowning in a concrete drainage ditch which had overflowed due to heavy rain in Little Rock.

In keeping with Commission founder Andrew Carnegie's wish that those financially dependent upon heroes "should not suffer pecuniarily," Willis was given a continuing monthly grant for 51 years, lasting until the time of her death. Her son Donnie contacted the Commission to express how very thankful they were for the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission and how much his mother appreciated everything that was done for her.

Willis is survived by her children, Mary, Donnie, and Debbie.



Duane E. Vanlanham

Duane E. Vanlanham, 59, of Saginaw, Mich., died Friday, June 14, 2019.

Vanlanham was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 2010 for rescuing a woman from attacking dogs. He immediately ran to the woman and worked to free her. A car stopped at the scene, and the woman

entered it to get away.

Vanlanham then attempted to escape to the hood of the car, but the dogs pulled him from it, took him to the ground, and mauled him, inflicting severe injury to his legs and feet. Vanlanham developed complications that required amputation of several fingers and toes.

In September 2018, Vanlanham was diagnosed with Stage 4 throat cancer. He was always fun and energetic. He loved to hang out with family and play dominoes. Most of all, he was very proud to be considered a hero.

The family has set up a GoFundMe account called "Burial For Saginaw Hometown Hero" to help with funeral expenses.

He is survived by children, Leslie Banks and Duane Vanlanham, Jr.; sister, Debra Baston; brothers, Walter Cureton and Fredrick Crow; four grandchildren; and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews.

► from p.1

Boy Scouts

American flag and Troop 101 flag. Prayers were offered by Deacon Barney Rodriguez of St. Mary's Catholic Church; where John and Norman served as altar boys together.

To honor and remember the extraordinary actions John performed, his story was shared and the official Carnegie Hero Fund citation was recited.

Seventy-three years ago, on April 22, 1946, sorrow gloomed in Temple, Texas. John, a 13-year-old schoolboy died while attempting to save his fellow classmate 12-year-old Norman from drowning.

The day after Easter, John, Norman, and several other boys decided to spend their holiday break fishing at Pepper Creek. The banks were slippery and full of mud due to recent rain. Norman fell from the bank into a pool, where water was 8 feet deep.

John was a member of Boy Scout Troop 106, a troop no longer in existence, and had completed swimming and life-saving courses through scouting. He immediately jumped in, while still fully clothed, and swam 15 feet to Norman, who was desperately flailing.

When John reached him, a violent struggle ensued. Another boy dove from the opposite bank and swam to them, but he was unable to assist. He swam back to wadable water and then extended a fishing pole to John and Norman. John grasped the pole and was pulled toward the bank. Once he had almost reached the bank, he looked back and saw that Norman had submerged. He released his hold on the pole and swam back to Norman to pull him to the surface. The other boys extended the fishing pole to them once more, but neither took hold of it. In a brief second they both drowned.

During the ceremony, Scout Adam Dlugas, then 16, read the words taken from 2nd Corinthians 4:8-9 aloud. "We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed."

In addition to the Carnegie Medal, John was posthumously awarded the Boy Scout Gold Medal for Heroism. It was the 36th such award given by the Boy Scouts in their 35 years of existence at the time, and the first ever award given posthumously.

"Scouting works to instill values that we see as heroic and worthy, and to develop men and women of good character. The McRae boy let go of his lifeline to save another," said Smith.

In November 1946, John was named a Carnegie Hero. His father accepted the bronze medal for heroism during a service held in Pittsburgh.

The two boys were buried next to each other in Hillcrest Cemetery, just a few blocks from their parents' homes. Years later, the McRae family moved to Las Cruces, N.M. There, Mrs. McRae decided to have her son exhumed



Scout Adam Dlugas reads 2nd Corinthians 4:8-9 as part of an April 22 special ceremony honoring Carnegie Hero **John David McRae**, a Temple, Texas Boy Scout, on the 73rd anniversary of his death.

from Hillcrest and buried next to his father. She said she was gratified to know that the family would finally be together in death, if not in life.

Each of the boys were represented at the Texas ceremony by family who traveled nearly five hours to join in recognizing the heroic efforts displayed that day 73 years ago. The families were given the opportunity to share a few words in honor of their loved ones.

Although Carnegie Hero Fund's records show the McRae family received a medal, its whereabouts are unknown. To honor John during this ceremony, the Carnegie Hero Fund supplied a grave marker to adorn his gravesite.

"Having that [marker] there for the family really made the ceremony special," shared Smith.

In addition, Troop 101 arranged for a memorial stone, donated by Terrell Granite, to be placed at the empty grave next to Norman.

The ceremony concluded with the playing of taps while the scouts retired the colors. A reception with light refreshments was held immediately after at the Lamar Middle School cafeteria for all guests to join in fellowship.

"We teach the scouts that you don't have to know someone to honor them or respect what they did. When we quit remembering those individuals, they are lost to the ages," said Smith.

—Lauryn Maykovich, intern



A memorial stone is placed at the empty grave of Carnegie Hero **John David McRae**, next to Norman E. Vrba. John died April 22, 1946, attempting to save Norman from drowning. The boys were originally buried together before John's mother later had her son's body moved to lay with his father. The Temple, Texas, Boy Scouts held a ceremony April 22 remembering John, a fellow Scout. Norman's sister Eva Farley also laid flowers at the graves.



Temple (Texas) Mayor Tim Davis reads a proclamation in Hillcrest Cemetery to commemorate the heroic actions performed by Carnegie Hero and Boy Scout **John David McRae** on April 22, 1946.



GRAVEMARKERS AVAILABLE TO FAMILIES OF DECEASED AWARDEES

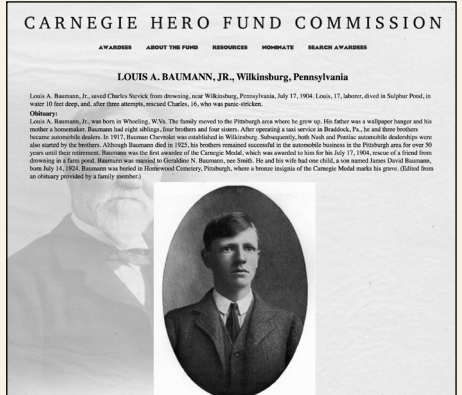
To further honor those who have been awarded the Carnegie Medal, the Hero Fund is pleased to offer at no cost a bronze grave marker to the families of deceased awardees.

The size of the medallion is 3.75 inches in diameter and is designed to replicate the look of the Carnegie Medal.

It can be displayed on an awardee's stone or bronze headstone, or on a flat-faced urn.

The medallion will be sent with a packet containing supplies to affix it and directions for application.

To order the medallion, email us at carnegiehero@carnegiehero.org, or call Susan M. Rizza at 1-800-447-8900.



OBITUARIES SOUGHT TO COMPLETE HERO FUND'S HISTORICAL RECORD OF AWARDEES

Written accounts of the awardee's life, such as contained in an obituary, are sought for addition to the awardee's page on the Commission's website. Please send to Case Investigator Chris Foreman at chris@carnegiehero.org.



BEHIND THE SCENES

INTERN HAS PERSONAL TIES TO HERO FUND



Anna Zahren

This summer, Saint Vincent College rising senior Anna Zahren interned for the Carnegie Hero Fund alongside returning intern Lauryn Maykovich.

Their primary focus is designing and editing the Commission's Roll of Honor Vol. 1, which

will display the names of the Carnegie Heroes Nos. 1-9,991.

Zahren's journey to the Hero Fund is a personal one — her father is Carnegie Hero Fund President Eric Zahren, and she and her family continue to be directly impacted by a Pittsburgh shooting that occurred a decade ago.

ANNA ZAHREN

Out of all the places I have traveled and all the places I have lived, Pittsburgh will forever be my home.

I have spent the last 10 years of my life living here, growing up with family, meeting lifelong friends, exploring the city, and discovering my passions through studying communication and graphic design at Saint Vincent College.

Both of my parents were born and raised in Pittsburgh and their families still reside here to this day. ▶ p. 7



Zahren sketches Andrew Carnegie at her home in Pittsburgh.

Hero Fund contributes to Carnegie Corporation's 'Dear Mr. Carnegie' project

A volume of letters written to Andrew Carnegie by today's leaders of the more than 20 organizations he founded will be published this fall. Carnegie Corporation of New York presented the idea to continue the yearlong tribute on the centennial anniversary of Carnegie's death, Aug. 11.

Carnegie Corporation President Vartan Gregorian wrote that the project was inspired by a speech given by Henry James, president of insurance service company TIAA, in 1935 in recognition of the centennial anniversary of Carnegie's birth. Gregorian asked organization heads to write a letter to Carnegie that "conveys not only Andrew Carnegie's influence on your organization, but also your reflections on the founder of the institutions we have the honor to serve."

"I believe that this will be the best way for all of us to express our gratitude to Andrew Carnegie and bear witness to his enormous and continuing impact," he added.

The compilation book will be distributed at the Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy ceremony in October.

The Carnegie Hero Fund Commission was pleased to contribute its part honoring Andrew Carnegie, expressing gratitude from everyone in the staff through the words of Commission President Eric Zahren.

Zahren said "the 'letters to Andrew Carnegie' project was a great idea, and perfectly timed to coincide with the 100th Anniversary of Carnegie's death ... I jumped at the chance to communicate our thanks for Carnegie's vision and inspiration, our pride in the accomplishments of the Hero Fund, and our collective resolve, as strong as ever, to carry out the work."

THE HERO FUND'S CONTRIBUTION

April 15, 2019

Dear Mr. Carnegie,

It is with great pride that I write you on this 115th anniversary of the first meeting of the Hero Fund Commission. I am pleased to report that this most venerable institution, which you considered your own child, created to serve and celebrate the better angels of mankind, has endured and thrived. You once referred to the Hero Fund as the "noblest fund in the world." After giving more than 10,000 Carnegie Medals for heroism, and nearly \$41 million in support for heroes and dependents, our work to honor the true heroes of our society goes on, having proven time and again the noble truths of your insights and the enduring value of your gift.

Beyond the medals and the support that you demanded for heroes and kin so that they "not suffer," the work of the Hero Fund has unraveled the mysteries of the acts and actors in impacting our society as well as the hearts of those who have struggled, overcome, and endured by elevating the value of another's life beyond their own. We have seen that, in all cases, as you seemed to fully understand over a hundred years ago, the hope that has come to those in peril, in the faces of strangers and friends, has been as the presence of angels. Whether lives were saved, or lost, or changed, the hero has imparted hope to the hopeless. Heroes can be considered saviors, in a sense, for all of us who have witnessed what they did for others, often strangers. This you recognized early on in the person of "young Hunter" of Dunfermline, and in those who braved the fire and smoke of the Harwick mine. It exists today in the hearts and minds of the rescuers and victims who have looked eyes in fearsome, and often final, moments.

Every one of the Carnegie heroes the Fund has recognized personifies that invaluable, God-given trait that you cherished most, and we cherish still: simply that they loved another enough to risk, and in many cases sacrifice, their own lives to try to save

“Our work to honor the true heroes of our society goes on, having proven time and again the noble truths of your insights and the enduring value of your gift.”

Great, great granddaughter marks Burkhalter grave



Three-year-old Andrew Graper stands in front of his great, great, great grandfather's gravesite holding the original Carnegie Medal.

Louis G. Burkhalter, 27, died July 28, 1912, attempting to save his sister-in-law from drowning in Bradley, Ill.

Kara Graper, Andrew's mother, had a grave marker recessed in Burkhalter's headstone, 106 years after his death.

Graper and her children traveled 90 minutes last summer to view the newly installed marker.

them. As purveyors of selflessness, hope, and equality, they represent the possibility for a more peaceful world if, as an ideal, their actions are taken into the hearts of the many, who then do likewise by putting others first.

The Fund has provided much-needed support for disabled heroes and for those from whom heroes were taken away, many times far too soon, as a result of their selflessness. As you had hoped, there have been many "exceptional children" for whom the fund has made "exceptional education" a reality. It has soothed the wounds these heroes bear, both visible and unseen. And in all it has done, the Fund continues to herald the selfless acts of the heroes among us, for our time and for future generations.

You once said that "the whole idea" of your Hero Fund was contained in the poem "In the Time of Peace" by your good friend Richard Watson Gilder. Its beautiful words ring as true now as they did more than a century ago:

"A civic hero, in the realm of laws,
Did that which suddenly drew a world's applause;
And one to the pest his lithe young body gave
That he a thousand thousand lives might save."

We rejoice in all of the good that you have done these many years through your gift of the Hero Fund Commission and those hero funds that followed and still thrive. As we look forward to the future heroes yet to join the rolls of honor, we can only offer thanks and hope that your words to the Fund's first president in 1905 ring true: "You have made a start, and there is to be no finish. It goes on forever." And if it takes forever to find the one millionth "civic hero" and reach the time of peace you dreamed of, I hope and expect that the fund will press on until he or she is found and recognized. For as you knew and taught us peace will start in the heart of someone who decides to gift it to another who is in desperate need of it, then build as the many spread it to the world, equally desperate, one heart at a time.

This is my pledge, on behalf of the devoted staff and board of the Hero Fund Commission, who are proud to continue this great work in your name. What you have done has indeed drawn, as Gilder noted, the "world's applause" for your "true heroes of civilization."

Respectfully,
Eric P. Zahren
President, Carnegie Hero Fund Commission

▶ from p. 6

INTERN HAS PERSONAL TIES

Family means everything to me, and I am always the happiest when all the grandparents, cousins, aunts, and uncles are together.

April 4, 2009, was the day that changed our lives forever. We hadn't yet moved back to Pittsburgh, but were planning to visit during spring break, when we received a call saying that my Uncle Paul, a Pittsburgh police officer, as well as two other officers were ambushed and killed after a response to a domestic violence call.

This unexpected event shocked my family and the city. We had to heal together from this tragic event through supporting one another.

The bravery of the officers and willingness to risk their lives for the safety of others is inspiring and forever left an impact on me.

Learning about the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission through my dad has opened my eyes to how much good is in the world, especially in the wake of such a family tragedy.

Honoring the lives of people who commit such selfless acts of heroism through the graciousness of Andrew Carnegie's foundation is incredibly inspiring.

Remembering those who risk their lives for the safety of others is an incredibly admirable attribute of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission.

I think about my uncle when I'm in the office as I look through the pages that lists all of the heroes' names. It reminds me to stop and remember not only their name, but also their story, their family, and the impact of their selfless act.



ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE

Readers can sign up to receive *imPULSE* via email by requesting the change from Abby Brady, operations and outreach assistance/archivist, at Abby@carnegiehero.org.

The electronic version of the newsletter is sent as a PDF and includes color photos and live links.



OVERHEARD

I think we all wonder if we witnessed such a brutal situation, what we would do. Well that's been answered for Mr. Ireland. He stepped up and did the right thing.

—Plymouth (Mass.) Police chief on actions on **Robin Ireland**, Carnegie Medal awardee #9972

Holy cow, I just noticed that Ms. Tillman was the 10,000th recipient. Can't think of a better choice.

—Friend to the Hero Fund, referring to **Vickie Tillman**, Carnegie Medal awardee #10000

I can only pray that these girls thank God every day for people like him that are willing to jump into such dangerous situations to save another's life. I know if God had told him before he dove in that it was either him or her, Scott would have done it all over again.

—Fiancée of posthumous awardee **Scott Derrick Whitford**, #10019

The Bible says there is no greater thing than laying down your life for another. That's the greatest gift of all, and that's what he did. We're very proud of him.

—Father of **Joshua Aaron Traylor**, Carnegie Medal awardee #10015, who died attempting to save a toddler from drowning

He acted with generosity last night and saved someone's life. This organization has suffered an enormous loss. But our loss pales in comparison to the loss his family is experiencing right now.

—Boss of **Frank Williams, Jr.**, Carnegie Medal awardee #10050, who died rescuing the passenger of a submerging car adjacent to the restaurant where he worked

Mr. Dixon, Mr. Casanova, your extraordinary courage and selflessness in electing to disarm a knife-wielding assailant who critically injured a police officer is also a testament to your character as human beings. Simply stated, your actions saved [the officer's] life.

—Police chief of officer rescued by **Marvin George Dixon** and **Jose L. Casanova**, Carnegie Medal awardees #10088 and #10089, respectively

We are all very proud of Troy and his incredible selflessness in saving Rick's life. His actions are a true reflection of his character and anyone who knows Troy wasn't surprised to hear of his unselfish action and courage. He knew what needed to be done and didn't hesitate to do the right thing.

—Boss of **Troy Martin**, Carnegie Medal awardee #10093, who removed a man from a burning vehicle

EXCEPTIONAL GRADUATES



Carnegie Hero **Marc J. Ellison**, right, posing with BYU's mascot **Cosmo the Cougar** and Ellison's wife, **Yvonne Ellison** at alumni event *Traditions Ball*.

Carnegie hero earns master's from BYU

Carnegie Hero and scholarship recipient **Marc J. Ellison**, 47, from American Fork, Utah, graduated from Brigham Young University in August 2018.

In 2007, Marc J. Ellison was awarded the Carnegie Medal for helping save a 3-year-old girl from falling in American Fork. While on a hike with her family, the girl had fallen from a steep wall and landed 75 feet below the trail. A family friend attempted to retrieve her, but he fell to his death.

Ellison, senior clerk and seasonal park ranger, descended to the girl using shrubs and trees as support, having to cover areas of fallen and loose rock with no holds available. Another man had descended to the girl over the same course, and he held her to keep her from falling off the ledge.

Ellison took the girl from the other man, who then used Ellison's radio to communicate their status. They waited 90 minutes on the ledge until rescue workers and medic helicopter crews assembled and secured the girl. Ellison and the other man climbed to safety.

The girl was taken to the hospital, where she was detained overnight for treatment of lacerations and bruises. She recovered. Ellison sustained bruises to his legs, and he too recovered.

Ellison graduated with his master's degree in public administration from the Romney Institute of Public Management. He achieved a 3.79 GPA and received numerous honors for his accomplishments as a student and for his service to the Boy Scouts of America.

Inspired by his youth in northern Virginia, Ellison has always considered himself a student of U.S. history.

"Growing up, my family vacations consisted of visiting national parks and historic sites. At 47 years old, I still have not been to Disneyland or Disney World, but I have visited most of the Revolutionary War and Civil War sites within a three to four-hour drive from Washington, D.C.," he said.

While reading about historical events in the U.S. and the actions of America's Founding Fathers, he recalled visiting many of the same sites. Ellison's lived experience motivated his decision to pursue a master's degree in Public Administration.

"It is hard not to want to be like those men. I am grateful for their dedication, sacrifice, and nobleness of character," he said.

The scholarship assistance Ellison received from the Carnegie Hero Fund

allowed him to achieve his goal of working toward a better America and better tomorrow without the financial stress that accompanies higher education, he said.

"The Carnegie Hero Fund scholarship helped alleviate the fear that I would graduate so far in debt that I would not be able to out-earn the debt and interest I accumulated," he said.

During his studies, Ellison achieved certifications in many areas. In February 2018 he was recognized by the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma for completing a bleeding control course. In April of that year, he finished the Emergency Management Institute's introduction to CERT, reaffirming his dedication to serve in times of crisis through continued professional development and completion of the independent study course. Finally, in June, Ellison completed the Emergency Care & Safety Institute's course on wilderness first aid.

Ellison was also awarded for his success inside the classroom and outstanding service in his community.

In September 2017, he received Utah National Parks Council's highest recognition—the Silver Beaver Award. This honor was introduced in 1931 and is a council-level, service award granted by the Boy Scouts of America to registered Scouters for distinguished service to youth. Aside from his master's degree, Ellison considers this honor his proudest accomplishment.

"For those of us that have spent thousands of volunteer hours in the cause of Scouting, it is as if you have 'arrived,'" Ellison said.

Upon graduation, he received the Gloria Wheeler Good Works Award. As indicated in the ceremony program, this award is given each year to a graduating Master's Degree of Public Administration student who exemplifies the characteristics of former faculty member, Gloria Wheeler, Ph.D. She was known as a competent and caring person, a friend of students, a loyal colleague, a champion of diversity, and a faithful person who served others generously and demonstrated a devotion to public service and management excellence in government.

When he began the three-year program in 2015, Ellison knew he wanted to take full advantage of the opportunity to develop relationships with the 45 students in his class. He worked hard and strived to add value to classroom discussions and group assignments.

"I knew that [my peers] were not average, but a group of intelligent, hardworking individuals that were adding value to their community. Each one of my fellow students had a story to tell, their story, and I received inspiration listening to each one of them," he said.

While working toward his master's, Ellison stayed busy. He worked full-time during the week, had a part-time job on the weekends with the National Park Service, gave tours of Timpanogos Caves, and still managed to organize a group of 30 young men to attend the 2019 World Scout Jamboree, a quadrennial event that brings together tens of thousands of members of the World Organization of the Scout Movement.

After graduation, Ellison was promoted to events services supervisor from his previous role as an administrative assistant with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He said he considers it another step in the right direction and is excited for the opportunities to come.

Congratulations, Marc!

—*Abby Brady, operations and outreach assistant/archivist*

“For those of us that have spent thousands of volunteer hours in the cause of Scouting, it is as if you have ‘arrived.’”



ATTENTION GRADUATING CHFC SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Carnegie Hero Fund now provides honor cords representing the Tartan plaid of Andrew Carnegie. The tri-color cord of red, green, and gold also features a tassel tag engraved with "CARNEGIE HERO." Contingent upon individual university policy, the honor cord can be worn at graduation. If you are a graduating scholarship recipient, please contact Abby Brady, operations and outreach assistant/archivist at abby@carnegiehero.org for more information.



ANNUAL REPORTS AVAILABLE ONLINE

The Hero Fund's most recent biennial report (2017-2018) is available online as a PDF.

The annual report contains the 148 heroic acts awarded during the past two years, including the extraordinary actions of seven children and teens.

To date, the Hero Fund has considered more than 90,000 heroic acts for awarding and by the end of 2018, 10,062 were selected for recognition. Historically, 20 percent of the awards were to those who lost their lives in rescue attempts.

The report is available online (carnegiehero.org/annual-reports/) or by contacting the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission.



BEHIND THE SCENES



Board member Priscilla J. McCrady, left, stands with Board Chair Mark Laskow. They are holding a framed resolution that acknowledges McCrady's 30 years of service to the Carnegie Hero Fund.

COMMISSION BOARD MEMBER SERVES HERO FUND FOR 30 YEARS

At the Hero Fund's 115th annual meeting held in June, board member Priscilla "Sibby" J. McCrady was recognized for her 30 years of service on the Commission.

A resolution was prepared, framed, and presented to her at the meeting.

"Resolved, that the Minutes of the 115th Annual Meeting of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission record its members' acknowledgement of the distinguished service given by their esteemed colleague," the resolution stated.

McCrady was elected to the board on June 22, 1989, as the first woman on the board. Her unbroken service has included active participation on the Salary and Benefits sub-committee and the Executive Committee, at one time serving as chair and vice president of the Executive Committee.

"This Commission recognizes that any success in effecting the charitable purposes ascribed to it by Andrew Carnegie is due in no small part to the selfless participation and skill of its members, as exemplified by Sibby, and, ...that this Commission extends its sincere appreciation to Sibby for her dedication, with every expectation and hope that it will remain her beneficiary for years to come," the resolution stated. 🌀

► from p.3

Charlie Britt turns 95

He then let the homeless family move in until they got back on their feet after losing everything in that fire – which turned out to be nearly three years. And since then the Norfolk Fire Department has established the Charles E. Britt Award for exceptional bravery.

Also since retirement, he's continued to be self-sufficient. At 80 he decided his roof (on his two-story home) needed replacement. Without discussing it with his kids, he took it upon himself to do the job alone. Picture an 80-year-old climbing up and down a ladder with pallets of shingles on his shoulder. I know his son, my husband, wouldn't think of doing something like that, and Tom's not anywhere near 80. (And after that event, Granddad's ladder "disappeared," with a little help from Deb.)

Of late, Granddad is finally admitting that he has a few aches and pains. The main problem is his shoulder, which he broke long ago by falling from a ladder while replacing a light bulb in a telephone pole (a security light in the backyard of his mother, who lived down the street until her death). He's also backed off on driving, limiting his time behind the wheel to daylight and short trips, mainly to eat dinner with friends.

So while we were there this time, Tom's sister Deb expressed some concern about her father living by himself. She has tried to get him to move in with her, but he won't budge. Tom tried to talk to him about it, but Granddad enjoys his solitude and his house, which he's lived in for more than 60 years, and his independence.

The good news is that currently our nephew, Justin, is living there with Granddad, but Justin's often away – one of the reasons Deb is concerned. She worries he'll try to do things he shouldn't when he's there alone, rather than calling her.

Tom spent our time in Virginia at the house he grew up in, and he had insight into what must be going through Granddad's head. After enjoying a few days sitting with his father in the swing on the porch and in the backyard, enjoying the quiet, my husband said, "I can see how hard it would be for me to give up living where we've lived for 30 years (and counting)." Tom pointed to our backyard, reminiscing on how many hours he's spent pushing children and grandchildren in a swing; how much time he's given over to planting flowers, trees and even vegetables in our yard; and how many days he enjoyed swinging in our "porch" swing, listening to the pond he built bubbling away.

Independence is a difficult thing to relinquish, I admit. Perhaps my biggest fear as I age is not being able to drive anymore. I cannot imagine the isolation that must come with no longer being able to go where I want when I want. Tom's sister, along with many of her dad's younger friends and former colleagues, have worked hard to be available to drive Granddad where he wants to go, particularly at night. But there's still that dependence that, in your heart of hearts, you wish you didn't have.

So Deb has wisely tried not to take away that feeling of independence. While she'd be happier with her father under her roof, she and her husband (whose own mother is likewise trying to age in place) are making every effort to do whatever they can to keep Granddad safe and happy at home for as long as possible.

As Rose Kennedy once said, "Age ... has its privileges." Indeed. 🌀



During a celebration of his 95th birthday, Carnegie Hero **Charles E. Britt**, front right, poses with his children, Jane Hines, front left, and back row from left, Deb Brinkley and Thomas Britt.

LATEST AWARDEES OF THE CARNEGIE MEDAL

Since the last issue of *imPULSE*, the following 18 individuals have each been awarded the Carnegie Medal, bringing the total number of recipients to 10,099 since the Hero Fund's inception in 1904. The latest awards, which were announced June 24, are detailed on the Commission's website at carnegiehero.org. The next announcement of awardees will be made in September.

Perneice L. White, 49, emergency medical technician of Gretna, Va., rescued her 58-year-old neighbor, Wayne P. Crews, who was trapped inside a burning pickup truck after a nighttime accident on March 13, 2018. As White came upon the scene on her way home from work, flames, 5 feet high, issued from the truck's engine compartment. With no burning vehicle rescue training or experience, White ran to the driver's door and reached her hands and arms through its open window, grasping Crews's arm and pulling him toward her. She braced her foot on a log and pulled on him, while Crews pushed with his legs from the inside, inching him through the window. Once he was halfway out of the truck, White readjusted her grip, grasping him by the back of his jeans and shirt and pulling him through the window to the ground. White dragged Crews away from the truck and suffocated flames on his legs. The fire quickly spread to the truck's interior. Crews sustained serious burns to his legs, along with other injuries, and died three days later.

Seventy-year-old **C. Kemp Littlepage** and 49-year-old **William Bostic** on June 12, 2018, both responded to a car that had entered a lake after its driver, Brian E. King, 37, suffered a seizure while driving in Wayne, Pa. King remained unconscious in the driver seat, his hands clamped down on the steering wheel. Seeing the accident, Littlepage, a Devon, Pa., retired real estate developer, and Bostic, a business operator of King of Prussia, Pa., stopped at the scene. Littlepage reached the water first and swam about 80 feet to the car. By then the car had begun to sink, its front end completely submerged and water reaching its door handles. Littlepage reached through the open driver's window and pulled King's head away from the steering wheel,



Perneice L. White



C. Kemp Littlepage



William Bostic



Van L. Anderson



Julie K. Callaghan



Photo by Lance Anderson/Torstar

Ryan Scott McIlwain at the scene where he swam 100 feet to a man who was struggling in the 65-degree Otonabee River and towed him to safety on the bank July 13, 2018, in Lakefield, Ont.

holding it above the surface of the water, and released King's seatbelt. By then, Bostic and his 18-year-old son had entered the water and swum to the car, water by then reaching King's chin. Bostic and his son pried open the front, passenger door, and while his son held the door open, Bostic entered the car. Littlepage pushed King toward Bostic, and Bostic pulled King from the car. He and others towed King to shore. King was hospitalized for injuries he sustained in the accident. Littlepage sustained scratches, and Bostic suffered a cut to his hand; they recovered.

Van L. Anderson, 54, a paving equipment operator of Chattanooga, Tenn., on Feb. 17, 2018, rescued 3-year-old Hazel Baldschun from the effects of a hazardous acid, after a semi-truck containing 5,000 gallons of toxic monochloroacetic acid hit the pickup truck containing Hazel and her mother and came to rest atop the pickup on an embankment. The acid was escaping the tanker and flowing into the pickup truck. Ignoring a 911 operator's warning not to approach the wreckage and despite the acid continuing to flow into the pickup truck near Hazel, Anderson, who heard the accident from his house nearby, moved to the pickup. While

standing on a rock outcrop adjacent to the pickup, he reached inside the vehicle, unfastened Hazel from her car seat, and lifted her from the truck. Anderson carried Hazel away from the wreck to safety. She had facial burns from the acid. Her mother died in the accident.

Julie K. Callaghan attempted to rescue 40-year-old Matthew Jarvis from being struck by a train May 26, 2018, in Chilliwack, B.C. Jarvis was in a motorized wheelchair when its rear wheels became caught on a railroad track. Callaghan, a 44-year-old vocational counselor of Chilliwack, had stopped her vehicle at the crossing, as the gates descended and warning lights flashed. As a train traveling at 50 m.p.h. approached she saw that Jarvis was stuck. She darted beneath the crossing gate and went to Jarvis and, with another woman, attempted to lift and pull the wheelchair from the path of the train. With her back to the train, they tried twice unsuccessfully to free the chair. Callaghan looked over her shoulder and, seeing the train bearing down on them, began to move away from the track, when the train struck Jarvis and Callaghan's hand. Jarvis was killed. Callaghan sustained broken bones and other injuries to her hand, which required surgery, and lacerations and scrapes to her legs.

On July 13, 2018, 16-year-old, Douro-Dummer, Ont., high school student **Ryan Scott McIlwain** responded to a man who was struggling to stay afloat in the Otonabee River in Lakefield, Ont. While on his lunch break from his part-time job as a grocery clerk, he spotted ►



LATEST AWARDEES

the man who was calling for help. Ryan removed his outer clothing and shoes, entered the 65-degree water and swam about 100 feet to the man. He directed the man, who was panicking, to lie on his back, and Ryan grasped him around the chest. With one free arm, Ryan backstroked and used the current to help tow the man about 150 feet to wadable water downstream. There, someone assisted Ryan and the man out of the water. The man was taken to the hospital. Ryan was nearly exhausted and cold, but he was not injured.

Marvin George Dixon and **Jose L. Casanova** helped to rescue a police officer from assault on May 17, 2018, in Hartford, Conn. Responding to a complaint, a police officer, 34, was inside a female resident's apartment when the resident attempted to leave, prompting a violent struggle. As they wrestled in the kitchen, the woman obtained a kitchen knife, which she used to repeatedly stab the officer in the neck. In the building's lobby, Dixon, 38, the building's senior maintenance supervisor of Cromwell, Conn., and Casanova, 32, maintenance technician of New Britain, Conn., were alerted that the officer needed help and responded. In the hallway, they saw the assailant, still holding the knife and choking the officer. The men ran to them; Dixon grasped the assailant from behind and Casanova seized the knife from her hand. Dixon restrained the assailant while a building manager tended to the officer's wounds until backup officers arrived. The officer survived and was hospitalized for treatment of serious wounds.

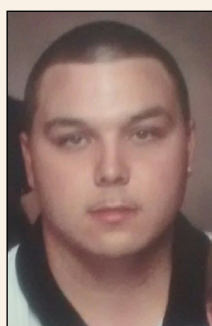
On July 19, 2018, 12-year-old Blake Brock was playing in the ocean with his brothers off of Southern Shores, N.C., when a rip current carried him into water that was about 12 feet deep. Blake's mother's fiancé, **Kenneth Raye Gooch, Jr.**, 32, a laborer of Powells Point, N.C., and vacationing firefighter **Michael S. Chandler**, 52, of Stafford, Va., responded. Gooch swam about 200 feet to Blake, moved behind him, grasped him under his arms, and threw Blake away from the rip current. Gooch struggled to stay afloat as he was carried by the current



*The wreckage from a Feb. 21, 2018, accident in which a tractor-trailer hauling diesel fuel overturned and caught fire near El Dorado, Kan. Despite flames inside the cab, off-duty state trooper **Raul Carrillo** entered it and freed the driver who was pinned inside. Photo courtesy of Amy Cantrall.*



Jose L. Casanova



Kenneth Raye Gooch, Jr.



Michael S. Chandler



Raul Carrillo

about 60 feet farther from the beach. By then, Chandler had entered the water and swam about 240 feet to Blake. Chandler grasped one of Blake's arms and towed Blake to shallow water atop a sandbar where others assisted Blake to shore. Blake had swallowed sea water and was treated at the hospital for shock. He recovered. Chandler was nearly exhausted after the rescue, but he was not injured. Ocean rescue crews pulled Gooch from

the water, but efforts to revive him were unsuccessful. He had drowned.

Off-duty state trooper **Raul Carrillo** responded to a Feb. 21, 2018, interstate highway accident in which a tractor-trailer hauling 7,500 gallons of diesel fuel overturned and caught fire near El Dorado, Kan. The driver, 55-year-old Kenny J. Cantrall was pinned inside the truck's passenger compartment. Despite flames spreading to the interior of the cab, Carrillo, 46, of Derby, Kan., entered the cab to his waist through an opening where the windshield had been and pulled on Cantrall's belt until he freed his upper body from between the front seats. With difficulty, Carrillo continued to pull on Cantrall, ultimately freeing his pinned legs from beneath the steering column. As Cantrall came free, they both fell to the pavement. Carrillo guided Cantrall farther from the truck, moments before fire engulfed the cab. Cantrall suffered severe burns and serious injuries. Carrillo suffered burns to his hands, and he recovered.

On Feb. 11, 2017, 64-year-old machinist **Troy Martin** encountered a vehicle that, in an accident in Santa Paula, Calif., went off the highway into a ditch, coming to rest on its passenger side on uneven ground with driver 19-year-old Ricardo Rodriguez trapped inside and fire under the car's hood and at the floorboards. Martin retrieved a machete from his car. Moving to ▶



*After coming upon a Santa Paula, Calif., single-vehicle accident in which a burning car came to rest on its passenger side at the bottom of a ditch, Carnegie Hero **Troy Martin** used a machete to create an opening in its sunroof and, after multiple attempts, pulled the driver from the vehicle Feb. 11, 2017.*



a rocky slope at the car's roof, he repeatedly struck the sunroof panel of the car until he created an opening, falling into the ditch once. With the dashboard on fire, Martin reached his arms through the opening and grasped Rodriguez's upper body and attempted to pull him from the car, but lost his grip on Rodriguez and fell into the ditch again. He returned to the opening, and with difficulty, dragged Rodriguez from the car, which was shortly engulfed by fire. Rodriguez suffered a back injury and minor burns to a hand and his thighs. Martin recovered from minor burns to his hand, singeing to his head, and bruises and cuts to his head and legs.

Stephen Anthony Eberle and **James R. Carroll** saved Shelton T. Smith from a burning vehicle July 16, 2017, after a nighttime accident in Middletown, Conn. Passing motorists Eberle, 31, power station electrician of Ivoryton, Conn., and Carroll, 65, teacher's aide of Middletown, responded to the car, which had caught fire on the highway with Smith, 38, who was unconscious, inside. Using a tire iron, Eberle broke out the rear, driver's-side window, opened the rear door, and entered the backseat, where he attempted to release Smith's seat belt. Unsuccessful, he moved to the driver's door and broke that window. Carroll then forced the door open, and held it open as Eberle twice attempted to enter the car there and release Smith's seat belt. Carroll then attempted to do the same, but each attempt was thwarted by heat and fire, about 2.5 feet away from them. Carroll then used a pocketknife to cut the seat belt, and together they grasped Smith and tugging hard, removed him from the vehicle and dragged him away. The car was shortly engulfed in flames. Smith was treated for minor crash injuries, but was not burned.

Troy E. Strickland died July 25, 2018, while attempting to save a girl from drowning in the Atlantic Ocean off of Emerald Isle, N.C. Strickland, 41, public defender's office investigator of Scottsburg, Va., entered the ocean after seeing a girl shouting for help and waving her arms in the air. Despite warning red flags, dangerous surf and rip current warnings, and being verbally urged to stay on shore, Strickland swam to the girl, who was about 125 feet from shore. Strickland ultimately disappeared from view and submerged. Lifeguards shortly entered the water and removed Strickland and the girl. The girl was given oxygen at the scene; she was not injured. Strickland could not be revived. He had drowned.

Taylor Rod White, a 21-year-old crane operator



Stephen Anthony Eberle



Taylor Rod White



*Carnegie Hero **Andrea L. Harris**, right, smiles at baby **Demarcus T. Richardson** being held by his mother, **Alexus Jenkins**, during an interview with a local television station. On July 27, 2018, Harris removed 7-month-old Demarcus from a burning car after an accident in Coker Ala. Photo courtesy of Billy Green of Bamberger Wrecker Service.*

from New Harbour, N.L., on March 13, 2018, entered 42-degree water after witnessing a vehicle travel off a road and into a bay of the Atlantic Ocean off of New Harbour. Despite heavy rain and wind, White swam about 80 feet to a 22-year-old woman who had exited the submerging vehicle and was floating, unconscious, near it. White towed the woman back to a dock, struggling in the cold water. Once he reached the dock, others assisted both of them from the water. White was cold after the rescue, but he recovered.

A water meter reader, **Andrea L. Harris**, 33, of Tuscaloosa, Ala., entered an overturned and burning car to save 7-month-old Demarcus T. Richardson on

July 27, 2018, in Coker, Ala. The car, being driven by Demarcus's mother, traveled off a rural highway, 50 feet down a grassy embankment, and overturned onto its roof. Fire issued from the car's undercarriage near the engine. Demarcus's mother exited the car and went to the highway for help, where she flagged down Harris. He ran to

the car, and, after failing to open the passenger-side door, laid on his stomach at the rear, passenger-side door and broke its window with his hand. He crawled through the window into the smoke-filled car and felt for Demarcus. Locating him lying inside on the car's roof, Harris grasped Demarcus's leg and dragged him from the car. Flames grew and spread as Harris carried the boy to the highway.

A high school teacher saved students and staff from a school shooter Sept. 20, 2017, in Mattoon, Ill. Students were at lunch in a high school cafeteria when a 14-year-old boy showed several students the .40-caliber, semiautomatic pistol he had brought to school. One student informed teacher **Angela Lynn McQueen**, 40, of Mattoon, and as she approached, the boy began to fire the gun toward other students. McQueen lunged for the gun and forced the assailant's hand upward toward the ceiling as he continued to fire. McQueen kept the gun pointed to the ceiling until the gun was emptied, and then disarmed him as a school resource officer arrived to handcuff him. One student was hit with a bullet and recovered. McQueen suffered minor hearing loss in both ears and post-traumatic stress disorder. The remaining students and staff escaped the cafeteria unharmed. ☸



Angela Lynn McQueen



PRESENTING



Photo by Chris E. Mickal/New Orleans Fire Department

New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell, left, hugs Doretha Williams, who accepted her late husband's posthumously awarded Carnegie Medal. Cantrell and New Orleans Fire Chief Tim McConnell presented the award to Williams during a ceremony held May 13 in the press room at Cantrell's office.

Frank Williams, Jr., died Dec. 5, 2017 helping rescue a 25-year-old man from drowning. Williams, 50, restaurant cook of New Orleans, removed his boots and dove into a 10-foot-deep canal to swim toward a submerging vehicle. He reached a passenger of the car and began to move him toward the dock while struggling to keep him afloat. Eventually, Williams submerged, while others were able to remove the passenger from the water.

"It mattered then, and it matters now, and we want to make sure it continues to matter in the future of our city. New Orleans will not forget this act of kindness and heroism," said Cantrell during the ceremony.

Frank Williams's nephew Tyrone Williams Jr., lauded the way his uncle lived his life to local reporters.

"He goes above and beyond — not just for family members or friends — for anyone in help or in need," he said.



During a June 11 San Francisco Supervisors' meeting, Carnegie Hero **Nicholas Anderson**, center, received the Carnegie Medal from San Francisco Supervisor Gordon Mar, right. Anderson was accompanied by his girlfriend, Tracy Spears, left, who witnessed his heroic actions.

Anderson, 45, operations manager, of San Francisco, removed five people from a burning pickup truck on May 26, 2017, after an accident in Willits, Calif. With another man's help, Anderson pried open one of the truck's rear doors. He then freed a 7-year-old boy from his seat and removed a 22-month-old girl from her safety seat. Moving to the truck's rear, Anderson reached through the window of the covered bed and lowered an injured man to the road. Anderson re-entered the truck twice more to remove two women before flames engulfed the truck.

"On behalf of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission, I am truly honored to recognize Nick Anderson for his courageous and quick-thinking actions that saved the lives of five others," said Mar.

Photo courtesy of Mar.

To see a video of the presentation, visit carnegiehero.org/cmp-anderson

PRESENTING



Carnegie Heroes **Eric Martin**, second from left, and **Patrick Nolan McCarty**, right, were awarded the Carnegie Medal from Carnegie Hero Fund Commission board chair Mark Laskow, center, and President Eric P. Zahren, left, during a ceremony held April 26 at Ohiopyle State Park, in Ohiopyle, Pa.

To see a video of the presentation, visit carnegiehero.org/cmp-martin-mccarty

With a 20-foot waterfall downstream, two women, Arnetta D. Johnson, 55, and Raecyne Bechtold, 45, tenuously held on to their overturned raft amid the cold, fast current of the Youghiogheny River in Ohiopyle, Pa., while onlookers called for help on June 26, 2017. Whitewater rafting business executive director McCarty, 29, and whitewater rafting business operator Martin, 47, quickly launched single-person kayaks without standard safety gear. Martin arrived at the pier where Johnson was able grasp onto his kayak; allowing the raft to float free with Bechtold. 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. Meanwhile, Martin and Johnson were stuck on an exposed rock ledge. McCarty paddled there and secured Johnson with a rope. The three of them then waded toward the bank, where others helped remove Johnson from the water.

It was standing room only in a presentation room of the Ohiopyle State Park visitor center, jam-packed with community members who wanted to laud Martin and McCarty's actions.

"You saved our lives. You are beyond being a hero," Bechtold told McCarty and Martin. "It is an extreme honor to be here before both of you today and to speak and to tell the world what wonderful, wonderful men you are."



Carnegie Hero **Kali Allen**, left, was presented the Carnegie Medal by Broken Arrow (Okla.) Mayor Craig Thurmond during a June 17 city council meeting.

In January 2018, Allen attempted to rescue a man who had fallen through ice into a deep, frigid pond. Despite his effort, Allen was unable to grab the man before he submerged. Allen then entered the water and submerged to locate the man, but he could not find him nor could he exit the pond. Responding firefighters arrived and extended ropes to Allen, who secured them around his body and he was pulled to the bank. The man was located later; he drowned.

"Divine intervention put me in the right place, at the right time, and it changed who I am," said Allen in a June 18th [online news article](http://www.news6.com) by NewsOn6.com.

Photo courtesy of the City of Broken Arrow.



PRESENTING



Kentucky state Sen. Wil Schroder, left, and state Rep. Dennis Keene, right, pose with Carnegie Hero **Kristian B. Harrison** to celebrate his act of heroism at a special ceremony June 3 in Dayton, Ky. Mayor Ben Baker presented Harrison with the Carnegie Medal and a key to the city.

On an early November morning in 2017, Harrison saved a man from a burning house. Once alerted to the fire, he forced open the front door, went to his knees, and crawled inside. Harrison grasped the man by the ankles and dragged him while crawling backward toward the front door, where he exited.

"It's amazing what you've accomplished," Keene told Harrison. "You really changed a person's life, and that's bigger than any award you could get. Your heroism is phenomenal."

Photo courtesy Schroder.



Previous Carnegie Medal awardee **Charles S. Harris**, right, adorns Carnegie Hero **Joshua Stewart Wright** with a Carnegie Hero lapel pin after presenting him with the Carnegie Medal on Friday, June 21 in Dawsonville, Ga.

On April 24, 2016, Wright saved a 2-year-old girl from a burning vehicle in Wilmington, N.C. The vehicle had left the road and struck a tree near a park entrance. Unable to open the vehicle's doors, Wright climbed through an opening at the vehicle's rear windshield and advanced to the middle row. He grasped the girl and passed her outside to a bystander. The mother was also removed from the vehicle. As conditions worsened others attempted to remove the girl's brother from his seat before the vehicle was engulfed by flames, but their efforts were not successful.

"I know that Joshua's biggest regret is that the girl's brother could not also have been rescued. Not everyone is successful in their rescue efforts, nor does every hero survive," said Harris. "Joshua unconsciously...and...selflessly laid his life on the line for another and for that he will be eternally remembered in the face of God and his friends."

Harris was awarded the Carnegie Medal in November 1963.



North Cowichan (B.C.) Mayor Al Siebring, left, presented Carnegie Hero **John Thomas Prokop** with the Carnegie Medal during the municipality's April 3 council meeting.

Along a city street in Duncan, B.C., Prokop helped rescue a police officer who was struggling to detain an aggressive assailant on July 8, 2016. The assailant had 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. There, the assailant put the officer in a headlock. The officer stated later that he was nearly exhausted and began to have difficulty breathing. While others stood nearby, Prokop, 49, business operator, sprang into action and grasped the assailant. A struggle ensued. The officer was freed and placed the assailant in a headlock, while Prokop pinned the assailant's legs until backup officers arrived.

"This presentation was truly one of the biggest honors I've had since becoming mayor," Siebring said afterward on his Facebook page.

Photo courtesy of the Municipality of North Cowichan.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

TERROR IN THE FRUIT CELLAR:

'Where there's water and electricity, you've got problems'

Fifty years ago, on the night of July 4, 1969, stormy weather was brewing in the city of Sandusky, Ohio. During this particular electrical storm, 70 m.p.h. gale winds persisted through the night and 11 inches of rain fell. Residents of the city that bordered Lake Erie were busy coping with the heavy rainfall, which caused many basements to flood.

LoRene Limbird, a 66-year-old housewife, lived in Perkins Township, a suburb of Sandusky. Around 10 p.m., she asked her neighbor, 29-year-old machine shop technician, **Larry E. Smith**, to take a look at her basement because she was worried that the freezer was broken. Smith, outfitted in hip waders, moved through the 1 foot of water that covered the basement floor, into a separate fruit room, where the upright freezer was located. He inspected the freezer and believed everything was working properly, but told Limbird that the delayed relay switch might be causing the freezer to struggle when being turned back on.

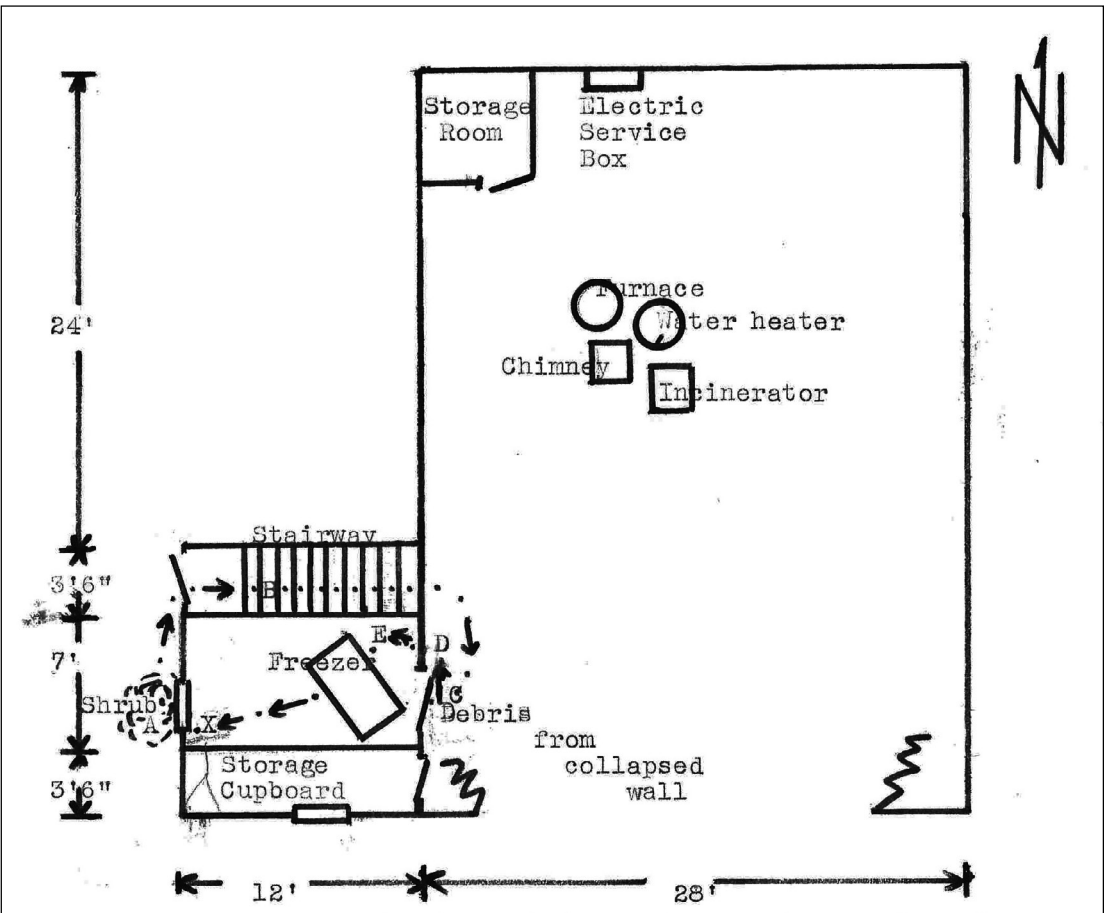
When he was in the basement, Smith also took a look at the sump pump. It was working at the moment, but wouldn't be able to handle the extra volume of water coming in. A neighbor and friend, 19-year-old Harry Kresser, was also present. Based on experience dealing with the ill effects of a storm back in 1966, both men suggested Limbird leave the basement window open and allow water to enter. This would alleviate pressure and prevent the concrete block walls from being pushed in by the relentless rain water. Limbird decided against it.

As Smith and Kresser were leaving, Smith told Limbird that if she had any more trouble that night and couldn't get to the telephone, to turn her front porch light on to signal him.

On their way back to the Smith residence, the men stopped by the home of Larry's mother-in-law. Firefighters had arrived and were helping salvage articles from the basement.

By now, the weather had worsened and the water outside was deeper. When the duo returned to the Smith residence, Smith's wife, Vicki, had more news about the state of Limbird's basement. A neighbor and retired printer, Edward Bender, had called to notify Vicki that more water was entering their neighbor's home.

As the men readied themselves for another trip to Limbird's house, Smith decided against driving his truck because he didn't think it would clear the water. Instead, he and Kresser took a tractor. On the way, they stopped at another neighbor's house. The family was away



Scene sketch by Case Investigator Fred R. Inglis indicating the obstacles that **Larry E. Smith** encountered as he moved through the water-filled basement in Sandusky, Ohio, to save LoRene J. Limbird from drowning. The sketch was part of the 1970 report submitted to the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission.

so they located a spare key and went down to the basement to check that the sump pump was in working order and place valuable objects on higher surfaces. After the neighborly check, the duo continued on to Limbird's.

Earlier that evening, Limbird had gone to bed around midnight, but after she realized the severity of the storm, she couldn't sleep. She put on a dress and stepped into her galosh boots to check the basement. At this point, the water was getting out of control and she wanted to make sure her valuables were okay. As she made her way into the fruit room, Limbird saw that a block about halfway up the concrete wall, was beginning to be pushed into the basement. She stepped over the threshold of the fruit room and the entire south wall collapsed inward. Suddenly, a wave of water, mud, and blocks surged against the opposite wall, closing and jamming the door shut.

In a matter of seconds, the water was level with Limbird's shoulders. She was a short and stout woman of just over 5 feet. According to the notes of Hero Fund case investigator, F.R. Inglis, she couldn't swim, float, or tread water.

Limbird realized that getting the door to the fruit room open would be impossible and that her only chance of escape was through the single window in the fruit cellar. As she passed by the deficient freezer, it toppled over in the water behind her and floated door-down in the



FROM THE ARCHIVES

rapidly rising and swirling muddy water, further trapping Limbird and blocking any exit by the closed door.

When she arrived at the window, measuring 1 foot high and 30 inches wide, the water was even with the sill. She opened the window by removing a section, but couldn't remove the screen because it was fastened from the outside. The water had reached the height of the outside ledge. LoRena became very alarmed and started yelling loudly for help.

Back on the tractor, Kresser and Smith were driving through 18 inches of rain. Above the noise of the wind, thunder, lightning, and tractor engine, Kresser thought he could hear cries for help. At this point, they were 150 feet away from Limbird's house. Smith stopped the tractor and they listened carefully. Hearing someone faintly calling for help, Smith noticed Limbird's porch light was on.

At the same time, 14-year-old neighbor, Patti Rausch, was in bed when she heard screams for help. She woke her father, Richard Rausch, who dressed himself in a swimsuit and raincoat, and took off barefoot to check out the situation.

Kresser and Smith got off the tractor and began walking toward Limbird's house. Smith, remiss of the pond-like depression near the home, fell into the water and was briefly submerged. After resurfacing, both men continued on to find Limbird, calling for help through a basement window.

Limbird explained that the south wall of the basement had caved in, but Larry said he didn't believe her. He used his flashlight to inspect the scene and realized then, that Limbird, standing in 4-5 feet of water up to her neck, was in danger of drowning.

Rausch arrived to the scene and asked if anything was wrong. Smith replied, "Yes," but expressed uncertainty of what to do.

Using his flashlight, Smith broke the screen so Limbird could stick her head out the window and breathe.

Smith was becoming increasingly nervous of Limbird's trapped status and feared for her life. As the group discussed their options, she remembered that she had locked the back screen door from the inside. He told her not to worry and that he'd get inside somehow.

With no water rescue training, Smith forced his way into the home wearing his regular clothes, rain jacket, and boots. Kresser started to follow, but Smith suggested he would be more help from the outside.

10 p.m. LoRena J. Limbird requests that neighbor Larry E. Smith check her basement, which was filling with water due to heavy rains. Smith reported that although her sump pump and freezer were still working, they would not be able to keep up with the amount of water filling the basement.

7 p.m. A severe electrical storm starts with gale winds up to 70 m.p.h. and rain totalling 11 inches falls.

JULY 5, 1969
midnight Limbird goes to bed. Smith and others continue helping others in the neighborhood.



Before Smith descended the stairs to the flooding basement, Rausch warned him of the electrical dangers of this rescue and encouraged him to get in and out as quickly as possible.

Commission Case Investigator Fred R. Inglis interviewed an Ottawa hydro inspector.

"He stated that there is always a possibility of shock hazard where water is involved with electricity; that if [the rescuer] had tested the water with his finger for shock and got a tingle, he might not have

recognized it, or in his desperation to reach [Limbird], would probably have ignored it and gone in anyway; that if the water were not charged when he entered it, it could be made so by rising water as it reached electrical outlets or equipment as he swam through it, making it lethal; that escaping gas could be ignited by arcing equipment and cause an explosion ... His final opinion was 'where there's water and electricity, you've got problems,'" Inglis' notes stated.

Outside, Kresser took his position at the window while Rausch went to fetch a screwdriver and hammer to remove the screen.

Inside, the basement stairway was completely dark. As Smith walked down the steps, he tripped, and fell into 6 feet of water. He immediately began to tread water to get his bearings.

Smith inspected the scene. From the outside of the fruit room, the door was closed shut. Smith shouted to Limbird, indicating that he couldn't get the door open. She informed him that it was shut from

~12:15 a.m. Unable to sleep, Limbird descends into the basement, when inside the fruit cellar, a basement wall collapses, filling the basement with 4 feet of water and trapping her inside the room.

pressure on his side of the wooden partition, separating the rest of the basement from the fruit room.

Feeling around in the dark, Smith could tell that the wooden boards of the partition went as high as the rafters that supported the ceiling. Bracing himself, he pulled as hard as he could and broke off several boards until the top one was just below the water level in the basement.

Smith swam and crawled over the partition into the fruit room, but he encountered another obstacle in the floating freezer. Its uppermost side pressed against the rafters and there was no space on either side for him to swim around. In that moment, Smith decided to dive under the freezer and swim to the other side to reach Limbird. In the muddy, swirling water, he was surrounded by baskets, boxes, bottles, papers, and other objects.

When Smith surfaced, he found Limbird in a state of panic, floating face up, holding onto the window ledge and a rafter with one foot braced against the wall. On the outside, Rausch was removing the screws from the window screen. Smith kicked his legs until he found something solid to stand on. He went under Limbird and supported her head and shoulders in the still rising water.

It took Rausch almost two minutes to remove the screen, which allowed for about 2 inches more of precious space, but no more than the 1 foot height of the window. Smith looked around and noticed that the water was now almost level with the base of an electric light that was mounted on the wall.

With time running out, Smith briefly thought about other options to get them both out of the basement safely, but the only other exit, the door, was blocked. So as not to frighten Limbird, Smith decided to remove Limbird from the position he found her.

Smith hoisted Limbird up on his shoulders to get her feet started out through the window. Outside, Rausch and Kresser each grasped a leg and pulled her carefully through the window while Smith supported her head above water until she made it out safely. Limbird was okay, but still very upset by the whole ordeal.

Smith remained in the water-filled basement. As he looked around, he noted that the water was almost halfway up the sizzling light bulb. Smith didn't have enough time to swim back toward his route of entry. With the water rising rapidly, he knew his best option was exiting through the window as Limbird had done. He pulled himself through the window and reached the outside.

~12:25 a.m. Smith and others find Limbird at the sole window inside the fruit cellar where she has been yelling for help. The men assess the situation and realize that Limbird will drown if they don't get her out.

~12:30 a.m. Smith forces his way into the home and makes his way toward the basement where, on the steps, he falls into 6 feet of water. In complete darkness he finds the door to the fruit cellar forced shut. Another man waits outside the window while a third man fetches a screwdriver to remove the screen.



A 2019 aerial image taken of the house — still standing today — by officials at Perkins Township, Ohio.

A few minutes later, Smith and Kresser went to the south basement wall and discovered that Limbird was right, the wall had collapsed inward. As they assessed the damage, they also noticed a small gas main had been pulled down with the wall.

Rausch and Kresser helped Limbird into her kitchen and she changed into dry clothes. She stayed at the Rauschs' that night. Luckily, neither Limbird nor Smith suffered any injuries as a result of the incident. In all, Smith swam about 26 feet to reach Limbird and the rescue took 5 to 6 minutes.

The severe weather that occurred during the afternoon and evening of July 4, 1969, came to be known as the Ohio Fireworks Derecho, according to historical records at the National Weather Service. The derecho storm ripped through Michigan and moved across northern and eastern Ohio and Western Pennsylvania. The rapidly moving showers, thunderstorms, and powerful winds of up to 104 m.p.h. resulted in 18 deaths in Ohio. The flat Sandusky area where this case took place experienced severe flash flooding, heavy rains, and powerful winds that knocked over trees and flooded houses.

Looking back, Smith told Inglis that he realized his life might have been in danger the next morning when he inspected the scene and saw how much of the wall had collapsed. After further processing the event and considering the broken gas main, electrical shock hazard, fast rising waters, and Limbird's panic, Smith realized the full magnitude of his act.

Smith was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 1970, along with a grant of \$750. At the time, he and his wife, Vicki S. Smith, were raising a 2-year-old girl Melinda and were expecting their second child.

—Abby Brady, operations and outreach assistant/archivist

~12:35 a.m. Smith crawls over a partition to enter the fruit cellar, then submerged and swam under a floating freezer to reach Limbird, where he held her up to the window.

The men outside removed the screen within two minutes and while Smith pushed from inside, the other men pulled Limbird through the ground-level window.

Smith remained in the basement, but having no other exit, he pulled himself through the window and climbed outside.

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

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The gravesite of Andrew Carnegie located at Sleepy Hollow Cemetery in Sleepy Hollow, N.Y.

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— Speech delivered at the dedication of the Carnegie Library in Pittsburgh, Dec. 5, 1895..

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