



imPULSE

A periodic newsletter of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission

ISSUE 59 • FALL 2019

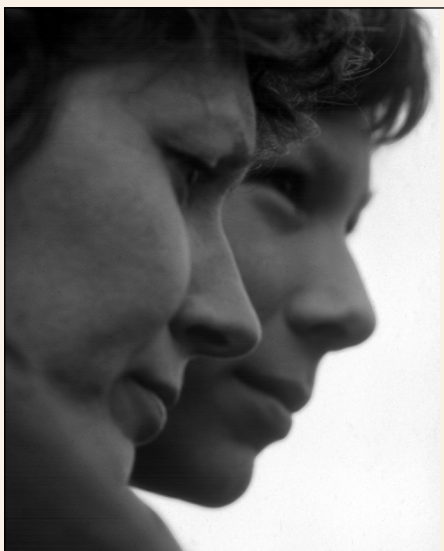


PHOTO BY JEFF CLARK

From left, Doris Clark and her son Michael Deutsch at age 11, five years before he died in a rafting accident.

GRIEVING MOTHER THANKS HERO FOR COMFORT IN SELF-PUBLISHED BOOK

Doris Clark lost 16-year-old son Michael Deutsch in the roiling waters at the base of a dam on the Fox River near Chicago on June 9, 1993.

Although it took years, Clark said she has gained perspective and learned to deal with her loss in part because of the man who tried vainly to save Michael that day, Carnegie Hero **John C. Stubner**.

Clark, then 42 and now a 68-year-old grandmother, dealt with her grief in the recently self-published book, "Rowing My Boat Ashore." She started writing the book for her other two children, Chuck and Janet, who were 21 and 19, respectively, when Michael died. Hoping the book would give her children insight into her life and memories with them, Clark said, she also came to grips with having to describe some details about Michael's death and her feelings of grief, as well.

"In the book I write a lot about losing a child. One of those things that happens is you think, unconsciously, 'You didn't take care of your baby.' And what those thoughts can do to you," Clark said. ► p.4



*From left, mother Dorothy H. Swenson, **Dennis D. Swenson**, and sister Cheri (Swenson) Surowiec and husband Brent Surowiec riding horses at the campground in 1968. The campground near Lake Superior was operated by Swenson and his mother. After their deaths in a house fire in 2015, the Surowiecs worked to get the land preserved in their memories.*

Campground operated by posthumous awardee now part of forest preserve

A popular Wisconsin campground near Lake Superior that Carnegie Hero **Dennis D. Swenson** operated with his mother now encompasses the majority of a forest preserve that is open to the public.

Swenson, 62, died attempting to save his 95-year-old mother, Dorothy H. Swenson, from the burning house they shared in Cornucopia, Wis., on May 1, 2015.

With the Swenson family aging and no other relatives close by, the family already had been considering options for the recreation land before the fire to safeguard its natural features, said Cheri and Brent Surowiec, Dennis Swenson's sister and brother-in-law.

"It just wasn't going to be handed down, so we wanted to preserve it and keep the family's wishes," Brent Surowiec said.

Shortly after the fire, the Surowiecs, who live in Kingfield, Maine, found a willing partner in a nonprofit land trust now known as Landmark Conservancy, which has established more than 200 conservation easements across 20 Wisconsin counties. ► p.2



BOARD NOTES

THE HARDEST CASES

By Mark Laskow, Chair
Carnegie Hero Fund Commission



Mark Laskow

It is truly wonderful to serve the Carnegie Hero Fund. We deal with the best of people doing the best a human can do. There are hard parts, though, such as dealing with certain kinds of cases which cause real anguish for those who must decide whether to award the Carnegie Medal.

The second hardest group of cases are those in which someone takes a serious personal risk to perform a brave and wonderful act that nevertheless falls outside the criteria for the Medal. For the Carnegie Medal to mean what it does, we have to say no to these cases, but we say so with considerable anguish.

To give a familiar example, we have written here before about our requirement that a rescuer leave a place of safety to make the rescue.

Capt. Sully Sullenberger is a great spokesman for this principle. He points out that he didn't make a choice to board an airliner with both engines out — he was already aboard when it happened. He couldn't make a decision to put himself in danger; it was forced upon him. Great guy, fascinating aviation "save," but no Carnegie Medal. That said, of course, how lucky were the passengers to have pilots with the skill and sang froid of Sullenberger and his copilot Jeff Skiles at the controls. (I've always wanted to use "sang froid" in a sentence, but if it doesn't apply to these guys, then who?)

Cases involving policemen and firemen are even harder. The issue here is the requirement that the rescuer act without any obligation to do so.

Police certainly have an obligation to intervene in assaults, and firefighters to rescue occupants of a burning building, so no Medal in those cases.

Astute readers will object that they have indeed read of firefighters and police receiving the Medal, and they are right. But police receive the medal for rescues from a hazard, such as a burning building or a raging river, that has nothing to do with law enforcement. Similarly, firefighters receive the award for rescues from assault. In each case, the rescuer was far outside of his or her professional responsibilities. ► p.3

► from p.1

Campground now forest preserve

Although the conservancy typically works with private landowners, its leaders worked with local officials to ensure the property would be accessible to the public while the conservancy maintains a conservation easement.

"I think they set a wonderful example," Landmark Conservancy conservation manager Erika Lang said of the Surowiecs and Swensons. "What an amazing legacy to leave."

After a three-year process, Bayfield County assumed ownership of the land in May 2018 through a sale that included grant funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program and Wisconsin's Coastal Management Program.

An APG Media of Wisconsin article published in 2018 stated that "Bayfield County officials said they were extremely excited about the opportunity to manage such a beautiful property. The waterfalls on the Siskiwit River are absolutely stunning, while the surrounding forest, wetland, and riparian habitats are ecologically and biologically important."

Bayfield County manages the 99-acre property, which includes more than 90 acres formerly belonging to the Swenson family.

Working together, the Conservancy will monitor the property and assist Bayfield County in their ongoing stewardship of the land.

The Swenson family's connection to the land dates to 1943, when Swenson's parents bought a dairy farm.

They later expanded the property and shifted from farming operations to cottages in the late 1960s or early 1970s.

Besides the five cottages on the campground, locals enjoyed visiting to fish in the Siskiwit River, a half-mile of which cuts through the property, the Surowiecs said.

The state of Wisconsin has designated the river on the property a Class 1 trout stream that has sufficient natural reproduction to sustain wild trout populations.

According to the APG article, there was a huge outpouring of support for the project from the Cornucopia community.

"For a few weeks, our mailbox was flooded with donations and cards from supporters, sharing memories of the Swenson family and special times spent on the river," Conservancy's Director of Advancement Mary O'Brien told APG.

"In a matter of weeks, we had the funds needed to complete the sale. ►



Growing up, sister Cheri Surowiec, left, spent much time at the campground. In 2004, she brought her daughter, Kristin (Surowiec) Tippet, right, to the property, where they waded among the waterfalls.



ABOVE: A narrow trail that runs through the property that will now be preserved for public access.

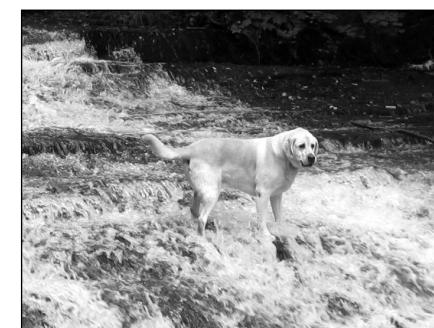
RIGHT: The Surowiecs' dog, Max, enjoys the Siskiwit River on a visit to the property in 2007.

People supported the project for a variety of reasons. People believed in the protection of the Siskiwit River and Lake Superior; they wanted to be able to continue to visit the property; they wanted to see more recreational opportunities in the area; and they wanted to encourage economic growth in their town," she said.

Visitors to the preserve now have access to parking areas on either side of the river, and an existing, roughed-in trail leads to the river. Future plans include a welcome kiosk, interpretative signs, and possibly more trails.

"I think my family would be proud with the whole outcome," Cheri Surowiec said. ☼

— Chris Foreman, case investigator

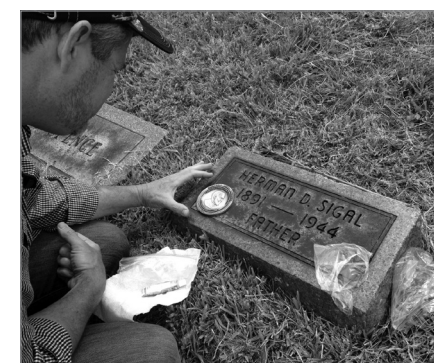


Granddaughter marks Herman D. Sigal's headstone

Gregory Mann adheres a grave marker to the headstone of his wife's grandfather, Herman D. Sigal, who died in 1944

In 1929, Sigal saved a 58-year-old lawyer from being struck by a train.

Jeanie Mann-Hoehn, Sigal's granddaughter, requested the grave marker from the Hero Fund Commission and then travelled to Pittsburgh earlier this year to place it.



► from p.2

THE HARDEST CASES

These cases are completely within the award criteria for the Carnegie Medal.

But here is a harder case: suppose a policeman is the first to arrive at the scene of a mass shooting by multiple well-armed attackers. The policeman, realizing the urgency of the situation, crosses an open space under a hail of fire to engage the attackers and stop the shooting.

Suppose that under the circumstances this was so dangerous that only 1 percent of all police officers would have acted immediately rather than waiting for help. Or even .1 percent? Nevertheless, that act itself — protecting citizens from armed attack — is squarely the kind of thing police are hired to do. This can be hard at times, but we would not award the Medal.

The value of the Carnegie Medals we award is defined by the medals we choose not to award.

If this seems like a tough line to take, consider how important it is that we make these distinctions consistently. The Carnegie Medal was not created to award goodness in general. It was created to recognize heroes who choose to put the lives of others ahead of their own, without any obligation to do so. It is the very restrictiveness of the criteria that makes the Carnegie Medal as special as it is. Put another way, the value of the Carnegie Medals we award is defined by the medals we choose not to award.

The other bit of good news is that these wonderful acts that we fail to award often attract other, more specific awards. Most police departments have a system of recognition for such acts, and there are also state and national awards for police bravery.

As for Sully Sullenberger, Jeff Skiles, and their doughty crew, London's Honourable Company of Air Pilots awarded them its rarely-awarded Master Medal. Just the right medal for the job!

I opened by saying that great acts that don't exactly meet our criteria are the second toughest we handle. The toughest? For me, every case in which the hero dies in the rescue is a heart-breaker. What these Carnegie heroes did, and the price they paid, forever humble all who read their stories. ☼



OVERHEARD

- It was just instinct. God led the way.
— Vickie Tillman, Carnegie Medal awardee #10000
- I thank God for allowing me to be in that position and not allowing me time to think — to just jump on it.
— Andrea L. Harris, Carnegie Medal awardee #10098
- If you're looking for a miracle, that was the miracle, doing it on the first shot.
— John Gerard O'Rourke, Carnegie Medal awardee #9993
- In my mind I said, "Well Lord, this is it. I'm not coming out without her, you got to help me."
— Michael E. Surrell, Carnegie Medal awardee #10026
- I never gave it a second thought. I prayed the whole way, from running out of my house, down the embankment to the wreckage, and back up the embankment when the Chattanooga Fire Department cleared the scene.
— Van L. Anderson, Carnegie Medal awardee #10085
- I honestly thought I was praying my last prayer as I felt Officer Carrillo grab hold of me. I don't know too many people that will reach into a fire.
— Man pulled from burning tractor-trailer by Raul Carrillo, Carnegie Medal awardee #10092
- It was a split second. You have to do what your gut tells you.
— Phillip H. DiLuca, Carnegie Medal awardee #10104
- The timing was everything, and I was meant to be there. It was instinct to help Rick and I would do it again.
— Troy Martin, Carnegie Medal awardee #10093
- In that moment you don't really think you just react. To me it's almost like mama bear instinct. I mean, I don't have kids of my own right now, but it's the instinct of these are still my kids, you're not going to do this to my kids, you're not going to do this at my school.
— Angela Lynn McQueen, Carnegie Medal awardee #10099
- The guy's a hero. He might not have saved my brother, but the instinct, my kid is drowning and I'm going to jump in to try to help him. It breaks my heart.
— son of Kote Mhitari, Carnegie Medal awardee #10103, who attempted to rescue his other son from drowning

► from p.1

Grieving mother thanks hero

Those thoughts wound up tormenting Clark, she said, aggravating some physical ailments that eventually required surgery and serious bouts of depression and bipolar disorder. But Clark said she found she could move past her debilitating grief by focusing on her happy memories with Michael — and by putting Stubner's ill-fated attempt to save Michael's life in the proper perspective.

The book includes a chapter on Stubner, who was caught in churning waters at the dam's base — known as a "boil" — when he tried to save Michael, and suffered brain damage that still affects his short-term memory and ability to read.

Clark came to appreciate that Stubner was there with Michael, convincing Clark that Michael died knowing that someone cared enough to try to rescue him.

Clark didn't learn the particulars of Stubner's rescue attempt until the day after her son disappeared into the river when she visited Stubner in the hospital. Clark said she worried about intruding on Stubner's family "given the circumstances."

"They were wonderful to me, and I really wondered what I'd be walking into," Clark said. "As it turned out, that wasn't the case at all. We grieved together. I will always hold all of them dear to my heart."

Clark quickly became friendly with Stubner's family, especially his mother Betty, now 79.

"I remember when it first happened, we couldn't feel bitter," Betty Stubner said. "Kids do things, it was an accident."

It was that first day in the hospital that Clark learned the details of Stubner's heroic rescue attempt.

Stubner, then a 25-year-old project manager for a major construction firm, was riding Jet Skis when he learned that Michael had gone over the dam on an air mattress he was using as a raft and got caught in the boil. Stubner sped up river to help Michael, but was knocked from his Jet Ski into the turbulent waters and also became trapped in the boil. Stubner surfaced minutes later downstream and would be comatose for two weeks. Michael's body never surfaced that day; some of his remains were found and identified weeks later.

Michael, whose happy-go-lucky nature belied his strapping 6-foot-5 frame, was still in high school but had a summer job at his uncle's diesel repair shop. Michael drove a beat-up used car that got him to and from his job, but on the day of his death, the jalopy was in the repair shop — again — so Clark dropped him at home on her way to work.

"I told him, 'I'm really sorry your car's always breaking down,'" Clark recalled. "'Wheels aren't everything, Mom.' That's the last thing he said to me. It's just etched in my brain."

Through talking to Stubner's family and Michael's friends, Clark has been able to put together a narrative of what happened that day.

Buoyed by warm, late-spring weather, Michael and two friends went to the river. His friends rode on a rubber yellow raft; Michael, somewhat of a daredevil, used an air mattress.

There were a couple dams they had to cross on the way down the river and Mike exited the river and walked along the shore around the dams, concerned that his air mattress wouldn't fare well being washed over them, Clark said. But because the river was rain-swollen, the boys came to a dam where the waters were especially high, so the drop over the dam didn't appear to be as steep or treacherous. What Michael didn't realize was the rain-swollen river hid the fact that the boil at the base of that dam was deeper and more violent than he anticipated. ►

“Clark came to appreciate that Stubner was there with Michael, convincing Clark that Michael died knowing that someone cared enough to try to rescue him.”



A recent photo of, from left, mother Betty Stubner and Carnegie Hero **John C. Stubner**, who suffered permanent brain damage during the attempted rescue of Michael Deutsch, who died after getting caught in a boil at the base of a dam in 1993.

Although Michael's friends on the raft managed to get over the dam and out of the boil, Michael did not.

As Stubner approached the boil, he sensed the danger and warned his fiancée, riding on another Jet Ski nearby, to stay away before falling into the churning waters which repeatedly drew him underwater and popped him up to the surface before he lost consciousness and, finally, drifted downstream where he was rescued. A portion of Michael's body was found by a fisherman downstream about five weeks later.

Stubner was still intubated and in a coma when Clark first saw and briefly spoke to him in the hospital, the day after the accident.

"I approached this severely hurt young man, bent over, and whispered to him, 'I know things didn't turn out the way you would have liked, but I thank you for what you tried to do,'" Clark wrote in her book. "They said it was just reflex, but John gave me a slight smile."

Although his injuries ended his construction career, and Stubner had to re-learn how to walk and talk, he recovered enough by 1997 to begin working an entry-level maintenance job with Grainger. The industrial supply company services businesses but is growing into a direct online retailer of cleaning supplies, tools, and other hardware stored at a massive warehouse in Minooka, another Chicago suburb, where Stubner is now a key staffer.

Stubner's brain damage has left him with short-term memory issues and he struggles to read material that is not in all capital letters. Still, he has tried to read part of the chapter about him in Clark's book, and appreciates what motivated her to write it. He remembers only brief snapshots of his attempt to rescue Michael.

"I remember just seeing the water and things like that," Stubner said.

Stubner has thrived in his rehabilitation, in part, because his brother Ray and his family have helped Stubner establish a regimented life and work routine that enables Stubner to compensate for his memory and reading struggles. Ray Stubner said John and the family's only regret is that Michael couldn't be saved that day.

"It's not like you blame or find fault," Ray Stubner said, "It's just an accident. Our hearts just went out for [Clark], and we just wished there was something more that could be done."

Clark said John Stubner and his family have already done all that was possible, and necessary, for her to come to grips with Michael's death and help express her feelings about it to her children.

"I decided to put it in book form for them, I felt like it was such an impact on their lives that it had to be in there," Clark said. "They didn't know those last few moments I had with Mike, they didn't know how happy he was that morning. Things like that got lost in the shuffle." ❁

— Joe Mandak, case investigator

PRESENTING



From left, Carnegie Hero **Ryan Scott McIlwain**, 17, of Douro-Dummer, Ont., shakes the hand of Provincial Parliament member Dave Smith, while Douro-Dummer Mayor J. Murray Jones looks on during a ceremony in which Jones presented Ryan with the Carnegie Medal.

"He is certainly considered a hero in many people's eyes. We're going to recognize that fact tonight," Jones said. "And what a great thing for a young kid like that to do. We're very proud of him."

McIlwain was just 16 when he 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, Ryan spotted 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.

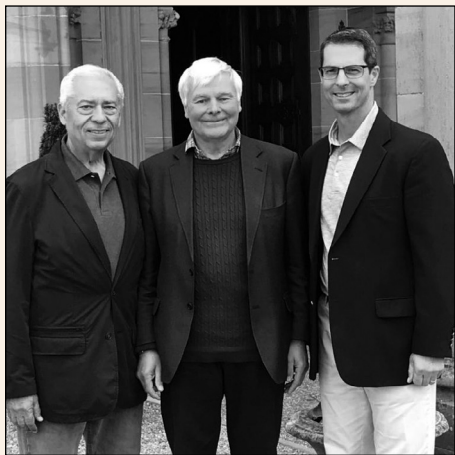
With one free arm, Ryan backstroked and used the current to help tow the man about 150 feet to wadable water downstream.

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.

"[This] is a lot more than I expected for doing anything," Ryan told a local news reporter before the Aug. 6 ceremony, held during the Douro-Dummer council meeting.

Smith represents the district of Peterborough-Kawartha.



Hero Fund Commission member Peter J. Lambrou, left, and Hero Fund President Eric P. Zahren, right, flank William Thomson, great-grandson of Andrew Carnegie at Skibo Castle.

HERO FUND OFFICIALS TRAVEL TO SCOTLAND TO HONOR CARNEGIE'S WORLDWIDE LEGACY

Carnegie Hero Fund officials spent time in Andrew Carnegie's hometown of Dunfermline, Scotland, in August as the final celebrations of the centennial of Carnegie's death took place. The Andrew Carnegie 100 Years Centenary event marking Carnegie's death took place Aug. 11-12.

On Aug. 11, several wreaths were placed at the statue of Carnegie in Pittencrieff Park. As a child, Carnegie was banned from the park, but later purchased it in 1902. The park was bequeathed in perpetuity for public use, and the statue of Carnegie erected in 1914. At the ceremony, Dunfermline Abbey Church minister the Rev. MaryAnne Rennie said, "We meet in a place that was of huge significance to Andrew Carnegie, for from childhood, in his mind, Pittencrieff Park was the image of paradise."

The event, organized by the Carnegie Dunfermline Trust, included wreaths laid by Carnegie Corporation of New York President Vartan Gregorian and Carnegie's great-grandson, William Thomson. According to the Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy website, in a similar event held at Carnegie's grave in Sleepy Hollow, N.Y., Gregorian addressed Carnegie's unassuming headstone and said, "We thank you very much for your generosity, for your vision, and for your humanity. We try to do justice to your vision and your legacy. We are fully aware that we are guardians of your legacy and mission."

The centerpiece of the celebration was the unveiling and dedication of the Carnegie Tiffany Window, an 8-foot tall stained glass art piece that depicted a colorful outdoor scene. Carnegie commissioned the Tiffany window, designed and made in the Tiffany Studios in New York, in 1913 as a memorial to parents William and Margaret, brother Thomas, and sister Anne. Carnegie's plan was to have the stained glass window installed in the ► **p.7**



A screenshot of Pittsburgh local news coverage that reported on the blue and white illumination on the roofs of two downtown skyscrapers to honor of Andrew Carnegie's lasting impact on the city.

100 years since his death, Andrew Carnegie's legacy strong as steel in Pittsburgh

Downtown Pittsburgh's building lights commemorated centennial anniversary of his death

Two Pittsburgh downtown buildings lit up in blue and white Aug. 11, to mark the legacy of Andrew Carnegie, who died 100 years earlier on Aug. 11, 1919.

Carnegie called Pittsburgh his home for a quarter of his life and its steel mills are where he made the majority of his wealth – totaling \$401.5 billion in today's dollars – and where he invested much of it back into the community.

Pittsburgh's Koppers Building and Gulf Tower were illuminated in blue and white – the colors of the flag of Carnegie's home country, Scotland – as a nod to Carnegie's omnipresent influence in Pittsburgh.

Worldwide, 22 Carnegie institutions – in international peace, education, arts, science, culture, and philanthropy – have spent more than 100 years continuing the work set forth by Carnegie.

Four of those organizations are in Pittsburgh: the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon University, and Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh.

That's the largest concentration of Carnegie organizations worldwide, which is unsurprising as Carnegie himself said Pittsburgh entered his heart as a boy and "cannot be torn out."

Last year, the four Pittsburgh institutions partnered in hosting an event that celebrated Carnegie's philanthropic legacy to the city, as part of "Forging the Future," a year-long series of events held across the globe commemorating Carnegie's lasting achievements in international peace, education, the arts, science, culture, and philanthropy, which culminated in the commemoration of his centennial death anniversary.

"In celebrating the legacy of Andrew Carnegie, our founder, we celebrate his incredibly thoughtful, forward-looking gift to a city that, at the time, was known entirely for its grit, not its culture," said Bill Hunt, chair of the Carnegie Museums board of trustees. "His museums have always been places where everyone is invited to explore worlds, past and present, through the lens of art and science. He was passionate about what the simple act of walking through a gallery of paintings or a hall of dinosaurs could trigger in a visitor, especially young visitors. And the impact of his gift certainly still resonates today in the million-plus people who visit his Pittsburgh museums each year."

Dr. Farnam Jahanian, president of Carnegie Mellon University, spoke of Carnegie's impact on education locally and across the globe. ►

"There is no better example of the power of an individual to make a difference than the life and legacy of Andrew Carnegie," he said. "As the president of the university that bears his name here in Pittsburgh, I am reminded of Andrew Carnegie's impact on education every day."

Today, Carnegie Mellon University includes nearly 14,600 students in more than 26 degree programs in 14 countries around the world.

Carnegie emigrated from Scotland at the age of 12 and went straight to work as a bobbin boy in Pittsburgh. On Saturdays, Col. James Anderson would invite working boys to his home to select a book to borrow and read that week.

"Mr. Carnegie credited this reading for his success, as he went on to become the richest man in the world," said Mary Frances Cooper, president & director of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. "One hundred years after his passing, we still look to him as an example of an immigrant who came to this country, worked hard, achieved astounding wealth, and gave back."

Carnegie funded the construction of 2,509 Carnegie libraries from Malaysia to Australia.

"He coined the idea that knowledge should be 'free to the people,' and, with access to books and reading and self-directed learning, a person could be anything he or she wants to be. Andrew Carnegie's true legacy is how his particular brand of philanthropy reflects a fundamental faith in people and in our individual and collective desire to do the right thing," Cooper said.

Toward the later years of his life, Carnegie became a fierce proponent of peace, and attempted to foster worldwide military disarmament, the end of the arms race, and compulsory arbitration (instead of war) for disputing countries.

At home, he championed a shift of society's attention from glorying military heroes to honoring civilian heroes.

At another Carnegie event held Sept. 24 at the Peace Palace in The Hague, historian David Nasaw talked at length about Carnegie's campaign for peace.

"Most of the monuments in this world,' Carnegie had discovered were 'to somebody who has killed a lot of his fellowmen.' That was not heroism. His Hero Fund would call attention to, recognize, and reward the true heroes of this world," Nasaw explained quoting Carnegie.

At the Pittsburgh event, Hero Fund President Eric Zahren expounded on this, Carnegie's reasons for starting the Fund, and the reasons Carnegie's legacy and the Hero Fund continue to be relevant today.

It is important to remember why the work of honoring heroes transcends geography and time and becomes relevant to all civilization, he said.

"And that is hope. The hope that is born, despite the realities of the challenges of the world – Carnegie's and our own – through the glorious meeting of courage and ultimate respect for another human being. Hate, violence, intolerance, war itself cannot, by definition, exist in such an environment of universal individual selflessness," Zahren said.

On the occasion of Carnegie's death anniversary Zahren added, "Carnegie stands alone, unrivaled, as the all-time greatest individual contributor to the city of Pittsburgh."

The Koppers Building houses the Carnegie Hero Fund. The flag of Scotland is a white X-shaped cross, or "Saltire" that represents the patron saint of Scotland, Saint Andrew, on a blue background. ☼

“Most of the monuments in this world,' Carnegie had discovered were 'to somebody who has killed a lot of his fellowmen.' That was not heroism. His Hero Fund would call attention to, recognize, and reward the true heroes of this world.”



The Carnegie Tiffany Window, installed in Dunfermline Abbey Church on Aug. 12.

► **from p.6**
OFFICIALS TRAVEL TO SCOTLAND

Dunfermline Abbey Church, but the window was deemed "uneccelesiastical and too modern" at the time. The window, finished in 1914, was packed away until it was installed in an auditorium in Carnegie Hall in Dunfermline in 1937, later to be stored at the headquarters of the Carnegie Trust. It was recently restored and installed in the Abbey Church, where Carnegie originally wished. On Aug. 12 as part of the centenary, the window was dedicated as part of a service that included the hymn "Amazing Grace" and a Celtic blessing.

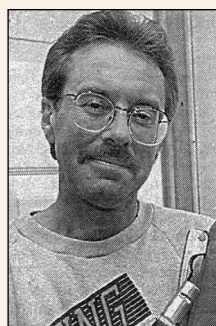
Carnegie Dunfermline Trust chairman Ian Wilson, quoted in The Courier newspaper (United Kingdom), told those gathered at the dedication, "As custodians of Pittencrieff Park, the Andrew Carnegie Birthplace Museum, and former keepers of the Tiffany window, the trustees are proud to see such a major occasion for us marked in this way. To fulfill Carnegie's own wishes on this anniversary provides the opportunity to reflect on what has been achieved with his legacy over the last hundred years, and to look forward to the achievements of the next."

After the centenary celebration, Hero Fund officials visited Skibo Castle, near Dornoch, approximately 180 miles northwest of Dunfermline. Carnegie purchased the castle in 1898, and it remained in his family until 1982, when it was sold. Stained glass windows in Skibo's Great Hall were designed in 1902 for Carnegie and tell Carnegie's story and that of Skibo Castle. Carnegie once said of the castle, "Heaven itself is not as beautiful as Skibo." ☼

— Susan Rizza, case investigator



FRIENDS REMEMBERED



Leslie M. Hough, 64, of Selden, N.Y., died Tuesday, June 11, 2019, in Patchogue, N.Y.

Hough was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 1999 for rescuing a 31-year-old woman from a burning pickup truck after a highway accident in Centereach,

N.Y. Hough responded to the scene with a fire extinguisher after hearing the accident from his nearby home.

Despite being disabled by a painful back and neck condition, Hough fought the flames with the extinguisher and then attempted to open the driver's door, but it was jammed. He went to the passenger side of the truck, opened that door, and partially entered the cab to grasp the woman and pull her to the ground. Flames on the truck increased as Hough dragged the woman to safety.

Hough was born June 16, 1954, in New York and worked as a real estate agent.



Camille Mikalik, 66, of Morgantown, W.Va., died Monday, July 15, 2019, at Ruby Memorial Hospital in Morgantown.

Mikalik was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 2001 for rescuing 9-year-old twins from a burning home, after a massive natural gas explosion reduced their

home to rubble. Mikalik was driving nearby when he witnessed the explosion and responded to the scene.

He and other men, including Carnegie heroes **Allen D. Fortney** and **Thomas Konchesky**, mounted the pile of rubble and pulled pieces of debris from it to locate the children. Mikalik held up a section of interior wall to allow others to pull the children from the basement. Everyone fled the property, which was covered by 30-foot flames within one minute.

Mikalik was born Dec. 28, 1952, in Morgantown. A 1970 graduate of Mapletown High School, Mikalik worked for Mylan Pharmaceuticals for 20 years. Mikalik enjoyed softball, poker, pool, golf, and spending time with his friends. Mikalik is survived by one brother and numerous nieces and nephews.

EXCEPTIONAL GRADUATES

Scholarship allows student to focus on grades, extracurricular activities

Hero Fund Commission scholarship recipient Niya Townsend, 22, from Detroit, will graduate with a degree in entrepreneurship and a minor in youth studies from Central Michigan University in December. She excelled in her role as a campus leader, served as a volunteer in the local Mount Pleasant, Mich., community, and performed as a member of the Rampage Dance Team.

In 2010, Townsend's father **Garrett T. Townsend, Jr.**, was posthumously awarded the Carnegie Medal after he died helping save a 7-year-old boy from drowning. The boy entered a residential construction site and fell into an excavated pit, 15 feet deep and partially full of about 10 feet of murky water. Townsend, a 58-year-old financial planner, was inside his nearby home when he became alerted to the boy's plight. Despite having limited swimming ability, he entered the pit and held the boy up before submerging himself. Another man swam to the boy, and they were removed to safety. A police officer who had arrived entered the pit and located Townsend who emergency personnel then removed from the pit. He was taken to the hospital, but he could not be revived.

As Niya Townsend prepared for college, she said it brought her peace of mind knowing she could continue her education with scholarship assistance from the Hero Fund.

"My father was very big on education. Although I would love to have my father here with me, I know he is still proud of me," she said.

In an email to the Commission, Townsend wrote that without the added financial stress of paying for a college education, she focused on grades and extracurricular activities.

During the past four years, Townsend said she has formed meaningful connections with her peers through participation in campus organizations that celebrate diversity.

Starting her freshman year, Townsend became involved with the Organization for Black Unity, serving on the executive board as a representative for the group, then fulfilling the roles of vice president and president.

According to the university website, the organization was established by students in 1976 and is committed to maintaining a strong minority presence on campus and in the community. Members promote high academic standards, community service, and support and present culturally informative events to create a bridge between the minority and non-minority communities.

"[The organization] has been successful in making students feel confident in their ability to express themselves because we care," Townsend said.

During her time as the student government association representative, Townsend acted as a liaison between the organization and the student government body, serving as a member of the diversity committee, which included planning the group's annual fashion show from start to finish.

"Our last fashion show had more than 800 people in the audience, including family members, friends, students, staff, and local fashion designers," Townsend said.

Townsend's duties, along with fashion directors and other executive board members, ►



Niya Townsend, daughter of posthumous awardee Garrett T. Townsend, Jr.

included booking venues, stage design, and finding vendors for the show including T. J. Maxx, JCPenney, Kohl's, and individual designers.

Apart from the annual fashion show, the organization held round table discussions ranging from matters of race relations and police accountability to implementing positive communication in relationships.

Townsend said she found it rewarding to lead her peers and develop friendships with those who served on the executive board during the 2018-2019 school year when she served as president.

"When you have a good team behind you it makes leading an organization on campus that much more fun and fulfilling," she said.

Nominated by members of the organization's executive board, in fall 2018 Townsend received a university E-board excellence award for her leadership.

Townsend also served as volunteer coordinator for Phenomenal Brown Girls, an organization she described as being dedicated to making black and brown girls on campus feel powerful and love their skin.

As volunteer coordinator, Townsend planned events including a hygiene drive for woman and a canned food drive.

In addition, she volunteered in the local Mount Pleasant community, specifically at the Salvation Army, Goodwill, and in Flint, Mich., as part of an alternative spring break, where Townsend worked at the Whaley's Children Center.

"We helped clean up the donation center, which contained clothes, hygiene products, and school supplies. Afterward we went to play with the children that lived there. It was one of the most fulfilling things that I've done during my time at [Central Michigan University]," she said.

When she's not volunteering, Townsend said she enjoys dancing for Rampage, the university's dance team. The team competes statewide and performs on campus. They also host an annual showcase, inviting fellow students and individuals from other schools to participate, she said.

In November 2018, the team placed first at a competition held at Western Michigan University.

"[Winning the dance competition] is my favorite memory with the team because we worked super hard for the competition, and we were all so grateful to have won," she said.

As Townsend wraps up her undergraduate studies, she said she is most proud of the connections she has made and credits the inspiring environment at Central Michigan University for helping her come out of her shell. "I have met some really great people who have helped me a lot during my four years. Their leadership, compassion, drive, and communication are all inspiring to me," she said.

In April 2019, Townsend welcomed a baby boy.

"He pushed me even harder to go for what I want in my life. I was already a hardworking and determined young lady before he came into my life. With him here now, he pushes me 10 times harder because I want nothing but the best for him," she said.

After graduation Townsend plans on attending graduate school to eventually open a community center in Detroit.

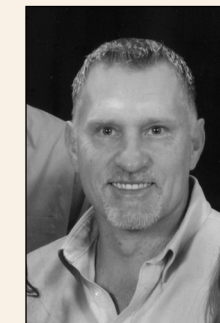
"When I think back to my childhood, my parents always had me involved in different summer or after-school programs. I found those to be very helpful for my life, even though I was young. I want other children in Detroit to have those same opportunities and experiences that I did," she said.

Congratulations, Niya! 🎉

— Abby Brady, operations and outreach assistant/archivist

“My father was very big on education. Although I would love to have my father here with me, I know he is still proud of me.”

FRIENDS REMEMBERED

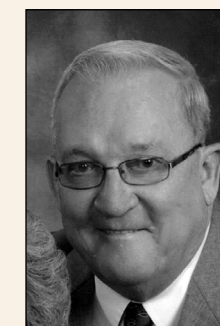


Michael Paul Mizzone

Michael Paul Mizzone, 57, of Orange, Conn., died Monday, July 15, 2019, at his home. Mizzone was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 2009 for rescuing his 82-year-old neighbor from his burning home. Mizzone entered the smoke-filled house and crawled through the kitchen to find the man

and dragged him from the home, having to retreat for fresh air and re-enter the house twice. Mizzone was hospitalized for smoke inhalation.

Mizzone was born Jan. 4, 1962 in Bridgeport, Conn. He worked as union representative of the Carpenter Union local 210 and also was a master mason 32nd degree, a member of the Scottish Rite of Ansantawae Lodge 89, B.P.O.E. of Wallingford Lodge 1365, and the Sons of the American Legion Post 196. He coached football and softball. Mizzone is survived by his wife Jennifer, four siblings, and five children.



C. James Rospert

C. James Rospert, 84, of Bellevue, Ohio, died Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2019, at his home.

Rospert was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 2004 for rescuing a 16-year-old girl from an attacking dog. The teen struggled to restrain a dog in her front yard after it had attacked

another boy, and the dog turned on her, biting her about the arms and legs.

Rospert, who was 68 at the time, witnessed the attack and went to the girl. As he approached, the 70-pound dog attacked him, until he kicked it away.

The boy, the teen, and Rospert were hospitalized for treatment of their wounds.

Rospert was born Feb. 16, 1935, in Bellevue. A veteran of the Army, he married Mary Hammersmith in 1964 after returning from his second tour in Korea. Rospert was a truck driver for many years in addition to a member of the Immaculate Conception Church, Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 490, VFW Post 1238, and American Legion post 46. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, four siblings, four children, 10 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.



LATEST AWARDEES
OF THE CARNEGIE MEDAL

Since the last issue of *imPULSE*, the following 18 individuals have been awarded the Carnegie Medal, bringing the total number of recipients to 10,117 since the Hero Fund's inception in 1904. The latest awards, which were announced Sept. 23, are detailed on the Commission's website at carnegiehero.org. The next announcement of awardees will be made in December.

Rebecka Blackburn and **Sommer Marie King**, both of Leduc, Alta., on June 20, 2018, rescued a man who was struggling to stay afloat in the middle of the North Saskatchewan River near Devon, Alta. The man waved his arms while flailing in the cold water, while the swift current carried him downstream. Blackburn, an 18-year-old college student, and King, a 33-year-old educational assistant, entered the river and swam toward him. Blackburn had nearly reached him, when the man submerged. She submerged, grasped him, and brought him to the surface. As she towed him toward the bank, she became nearly exhausted and called to King for assistance. From nearby, King joined them, and with both women grasping the man, they towed him to water near the riverbank where they waded to safety.

Jason P. Maxwell, a 43-year-old vessel operations manager of Maple Valley, Wash., on Aug. 13, 2018, entered deep, cold water at a Seattle dock to save a crewman who was floating face-down in the water near a large cargo ship. Maxwell jumped from the dock, which was 15 feet above the surface of the 59-degree water. He swam about 150 feet to the man, who had submerged in the 50-foot-deep water. Maxwell submerged and swam to him at a point about 10 feet below the water's surface. Grasping the man's coveralls, Maxwell pulled him to the surface and holding his head above the water, towed him with difficulty to a life ring that a bystander had thrown to a point about 75 feet from the dock. At the life ring, Maxwell supported himself and the man in the water. A diving salvage boat then



Carnegie Hero **Kote Mhitari**, left, poses with his family, from left, partner Larissa Davidova, son Erik Davidov, daughter-in-law Dasha Davidov, and son Georgi Davidov. Mhitari attempted to rescue Georgi Davidov from drowning in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Hawaii. Both men survived.

arrived, and its two-man crew assisted Maxwell and the man from the water. The crew performed CPR on the man, who was by then unconscious, as Maxwell lay on the deck, nearly exhausted. They both recovered.

On March 4, 2018, **Kote Mhitari**, 54, of Sandy, Utah, attempted to rescue his adult son, Georgi Davidov, 28, from drowning in the Pacific Ocean, while the family was vacationing in Lahaina, Hawaii. Mhitari and Davidov, as well as their partners, were visiting a cliff about 15 feet above the ocean, when Davidov fell into the ocean. Despite being a poor swimmer, Mhitari, a truck driver, jumped into the water and swam to his son. They grasped each other until rough surf

separated them. Davidov trod water near rocks at the base of the cliff, and Mhitari was carried to a point about 80 feet away. A responding lifeguard on a personal watercraft rescued both men and took them to a nearby beach. Mhitari was unconscious and in cardiac arrest. Both men were taken to the hospital, where Davidov, nearly exhausted, was treated for bruising and scrapes, and Mhitari, who was revived, required extensive hospitalization and therapy.

Off-duty Clinton (Maine) Police Officer **Phillip H. DiLuca**, 24, entered a burning mobile home, searched until finding the home's occupant, and guided him from the structure on June 13, 2017, in Clinton. At night, 53-year-old Shawn C. Skehan slept in the bedroom of his mobile home when fire broke out in the home's attic. Neighbors banged on the doors and windows but could not rouse Skehan. DiLuca was on his way home from work when he heard about the fire on his police radio. He drove to the scene. Unable to enter the home's front door, DiLuca ran to the rear of the home, forced open a door, and entered, encountering intense heat and smoke. DiLuca crouched low and moved quickly throughout the house, using a T-shirt to shield his nose and mouth from smoke. After searching the home's other two bedrooms, DiLuca found Skehan in the third bedroom. He shook him, waking him after several ▶



Rebecka Blackburn



Sommer Marie King



Jason P. Maxwell



Phillip H. DiLuca



PHOTO BY CAPT. BRIAN STIMITS/NORTHEAST TELLER COUNTY (COLO.) FIRE DEPARTMENT

The wreckage of the crashed and burned van from which Carnegie Hero **Richard Thomas Krochta** saved Scott C. Smith and Denese M. Kostrzewa along U.S. Highway 24, near Woodland Park, Colo.

seconds, and then guided him through thick smoke and nearby flames to the backdoor where they exited to safety. The chief of police of DiLuca's department stated that DiLuca went above and beyond the call of duty by entering the burning home without protective gear.

Dover-Foxcroft (Maine) Police Officer **Todd D. Lyford**, 54, saved a 65-year-old woman from burning after a July 30, 2018, accident caused her vehicle to leave a Dover-Foxcroft roadway, travel down a steep, wooded embankment, and come to rest tilted against a tree trunk. The vehicle's front end, which was several feet off the ground, broke out in flames. Lyford responded to the scene and arrived before firefighters. After emptying a fire extinguisher on the flames, Lyford opened the front, passenger door with difficulty. Despite the base of the door being 3 feet off the ground, Lyford extended his upper body and arms inside the flaming vehicle and grasped the woman's upper body, pulling her to the ground and then a short distance from the vehicle. He and others then dragged her up the embankment. Although she was not burned, she died nine days later from injuries sustained in the wreck. After the rescue, Lyford was nearly exhausted and had inhaled extinguisher chemicals. He recovered after emergency room treatment that day.

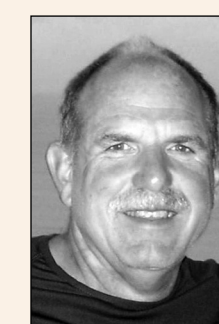
After responding to the scene of a mobile home fire on Sept. 5, 2018, in Thornton, Colo., police Officer **J. Ryan Thornton**, 41, kicked open the

door of the home and entered the structure that was filled with heavy smoke and blistering heat. He crawled about 15 feet to a 61-year-old woman, who could not leave the structure on her own. Briefly retreating outside for fresh air, Thornton re-entered and returned to the woman's bedside, despite flames burning nearby. He picked her up and carried her toward the front door. While retreating, Thornton tripped and fell to the floor. He dragged the woman the remaining distance to the front door of the home, where they were met by emergency responders. Thornton was hospitalized for two days for treatment of inhalation burn injuries, and he recovered.

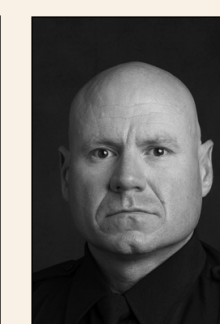
A 44-year-old construction worker on June 17, 2017, saved a kennel attendant, 42, from an attacking dog at a shelter in Yellowknife, N.W.T. **Michael Douglas Barkhouse** of Walton, N.S.,

was driving to work when he spotted the woman in a fenced kennel with the dog and heard her screaming. Wearing leather work gloves and using a wooden stake that he took from his truck, Barkhouse forced open an outer latch on the kennel and entered it. He yelled at the dog and struck the dog with his feet and hands until it released the woman. As the dog retreated, Barkhouse dragged the woman to the kennel's holding area and closed the inner gate to separate the dog from them. The attendant was hospitalized for treatment of numerous bites. Barkhouse's right hand was bruised.

Leon Wright was shopping Sept. 8, 2018, in Orlando, Fla., when he heard a car horn honking erratically. A couple was parked at a drive-through bank machine nearby when a man armed with a box cutter approached their car and reached through the driver's window in an attempt to ▶



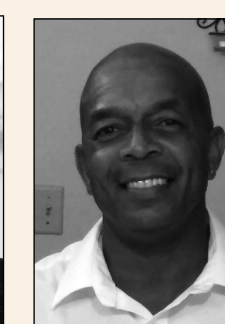
Todd D. Lyford



J. Ryan Thornton



Michael Douglas Barkhouse



Leon Wright



steal the purse of 55-year-old driver Mildred Ortiz. As Ortiz tried to drive away, the assailant shut off the car and struggled with her and her husband, passenger Albert Vasquez, 60, for control of the purse. As Wright, a 51-year-old car interior restorer of Orlando, approached, the assailant had an arm around Ortiz's neck and the retracted box cutter against her throat. Wright punched the assailant's head and side and pulled on him, until he moved away from the car and swung the box cutter at him. The struggle continued away from

the car, with the assailant falling to the pavement where Wright and another man kicked at him. The assailant regained his footing and lunged at Wright, who backpedaled away from him and fell. The assailant fled. Ortiz and Vasquez were not physically injured. Wright suffered a fractured wrist, which required surgery and therapy.

After a May 26, 2018, highway accident in Belton, Texas, 20-year-old delivery driver **Allen Sirois**, of Salado, Texas, responded to the scene:

a concrete mixer truck had overturned onto its driver's side, flames were burning in the engine area, and its driver, Melvin K. Belcher, 60, was trapped inside. Sirois used a fire extinguisher in an attempt to douse the flames, but it did little to extinguish the blaze. He kicked a small hole in the windshield,

but he could not gain access to the cab from there. He climbed the truck and, standing on a platform between the cab and the mixer, he opened the passenger door. He saw Belcher inside the smoke-filled cab, which flames had breached near the driver's door and windshield. Sirois reached through the open door and, with difficulty, pulled Belcher partially out of the cab. Another man moved onto the truck and pulled Belcher fully free from the cab. Others took Belcher to the ground and carried him to safety. Belcher and Sirois sustained minor burns, and they recovered.

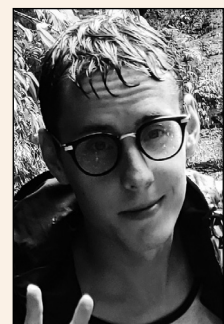
It was a late Sunday night when Truman State University student **Jordan Scott Lambay** became alerted to a June 29, 2018, attack occurring outside his Kirksville, Mo., home. Leaving the house barefoot, Lambay, 22, ran to a man who had dragged a bloodied woman into a neighborhood street and was hovering above her with an axe. Despite weighing 40 pounds less than the assailant, Lambay grasped the axe handle with his hands, prevented the man from hitting the woman again, and took him to the ground. Lambay pinned the man to the pavement and attempted to wrestle the axe away from him until his partner seized it and removed it from the vicinity. The woman, who had been hit with the axe several times before Lambay intervened, was treated at the hospital for serious injuries; she survived. Lambay was not injured.

Freight trucker **Richard Thomas Krochta** of Florissant, Colo., saved Scott C. Smith, 70, and Denese M. Kostrzewa, 59, from inside a burning minivan Aug. 29, 2018, after an accident in Woodland Park, Colo. Krochta, 56, was driving nearby and spotted the burning vehicle after it had crashed in a wooded area. Krochta went to the van, where fallen tree branches blocked his access to the driver's door. Hearing Smith call for help, Krochta moved to the van's passenger side and tugged on the passenger door, forcing it open several inches. He reached through the small gap and, by the collar, pulled Smith from the passenger seat, where he stood straddling Kostrzewa's prone body, and out of the car. Smith told Krochta about Kostrzewa, who was still inside the van. As flames grew and spread, Krochta returned to the van, located Kostrzewa and pulled her through the passenger-door opening as well. Smith and Kostrzewa were hospitalized for crash-related injuries; they were not burned.

Nineteen-year-old Mercedes C. Ramos was trapped inside a burning sport utility vehicle after an April 20, 2018, accident in which the front of her vehicle struck and became wedged beneath the rear end of a truck in East Patchogue, N.Y. Flames broke out on the vehicle's hood and spread to its interior. Suffolk County Police Officer **Richard J. Gandolfo**, 55, responded to the ►



Allen Sirois



Jordan Scott Lambay



Richard Thomas Krochta



The burned-out car from which police Officer **Todd D. Lyford** pulled the driver. In July 2018 the car left a Dover-Foxcroft, Maine, roadway, travelled down a wooded embankment, and came to rest tilted against a tree trunk at a steep angle. Courtesy of Doxer-Foxcroft Police Chief Ryan Reardon.

scene, but he could not open any of the vehicle's doors. Passing motorist **Robert M. Hosey**, 38, construction worker of Coplay, Pa., also responded and, with difficulty, opened the rear, driver's-side door. Working together, Gandolfo and Hosey maneuvered Ramos into the backseat of the car and then removed her to safety. Another man helped the duo move Ramos away from the burning car, which was shortly engulfed by flames. Ramos sustained second-degree burns to her legs and a broken ankle. Gandolfo sustained smoke inhalation injuries and burns to both hands. He recovered. Hosey was treated at the scene for smoke inhalation.

Bus passenger **Nathan Scott Wanhala** of Santa Cruz, Calif., rescued a woman, 25, and her toddler daughter, 3, from assault aboard an interstate bus on March 5, 2018, in Visalia, Calif. A passenger armed with a knife forced her way between the mother and daughter, put the girl in a chokehold, pointed the knife at her throat, and threatened to kill her. The girl's mother quickly pulled her daughter away from the assailant and urged her to run to the front of the bus. The assailant stabbed the mother twice in the torso. Wanhala, 30, moved between the mother and the assailant and grasped the assailant's right arm in both of his hands, attempting to wrest the knife from her. They both struggled for control of the knife; Wanhala was stabbed in the wrist and cut on his hands during the altercation. Others helped Wanhala subdue the assailant. The mother was hospitalized for treatment of the stab wounds, and the toddler suffered an abrasion to her forehead. The assailant was arrested and charged. Wanhala was treated for his injuries, and he recovered.

After a July 30, 2018, accident near Olympia, Wash., 29-year-old administrative assistant **Heather Zabrowski**, of Olympia, responded to a burning sport utility vehicle that had come to rest in a ditch. Despite flames burning beneath the vehicle and dry grass around the vehicle aflame, Zabrowski opened the driver's door and saw 67-year-old Alan E. Rathbun slumped over the steering wheel. She extended her upper body inside the passenger compartment and reached



The burning, overturned, concrete mixer truck after a rescue in which Carnegie Hero **Allen Sirois** climbed atop the truck, opened the passenger door, and reached inside to pull its driver partially out of the cab. An unidentified man also climbed the truck and removed the driver fully from the cab. Courtesy of Belton Police Department

across Rathbun to unlatch his seat belt. She then turned Rathbun to face her and pulled him from the vehicle to the ground. Too heavy for her to lift, Zabrowski called to others nearby for help. Zabrowski and a man who responded aided Rathbun to safety. Flames grew to engulf the rear of the vehicle and spread to its interior. Rathbun was not burned.

Vero Beach, Fla., golf professional **Darren M. Smith**, 31, saved a 17-year-old girl from burning after she was trapped inside an overturned sport utility vehicle after a nighttime highway accident March 4, 2017, in Vero Beach. As Smith

approached the scene of the accident, he heard the girl screaming from inside the vehicle, which had flames on its undercarriage. Smith retrieved a golf club and used it to break out the vehicle's front, passenger window. He then went to his stomach and crawled inside the smoke-filled vehicle. He grasped the girl's feet and pulled her toward him and then alongside him until her feet were through the window opening. Another man arrived and fully removed her by her feet. Smith backed from the vehicle, which was shortly engulfed by flames. The girl was treated at the hospital for injuries she sustained in the accident; she was not burned. Smith suffered lacerations to his hands and arms, and he recovered.

A 72-year-old man intervened as two dogs attacked a 6-year-old girl who had just exited her school bus Jan. 9 in Rockingham, N.C. Two pit bull dogs were mauling her near the bus, when resident **David Covington** saw the attack and went to her aid. Wielding a 4-foot-long tree branch, Covington swung at and struck the dogs until they ceased their attack. The girl was hospitalized for treatment of serious injuries, and she recovered. Covington died in May from causes unrelated to his heroic rescue. ☹



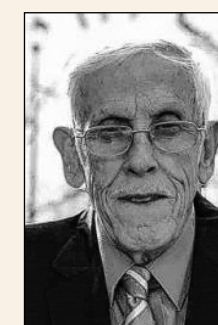
Richard J. Gandolfo



Heather Zabrowski



Darren M. Smith



David Covington



PRESENTING



PHOTO BY KATY TAYLOR/ FOLEY CITY CLERK

LEFT: From left, Foley (Ala.) Mayor John Koniar presents the Carnegie Medal to Mary Dueitt and Fred Murphy, the surviving parents of Carnegie Hero **Bradley Eugene Murphy** during a July 15 city council meeting at Foley City Hall.

"The proclamation tonight is well-deserved," said Koniar. "It brought the family back a lot of pain and that was a sad thing to see, but the honor was well-deserved."

RIGHT: Tami Wahler, right, the widow of posthumously awarded Carnegie Hero **Steven B. Wahler**, speaks to audience members at the Owensboro (Ky.) City Commission meeting held June 4.

"Our hearts are full of love and pride tonight," she said.

Owensboro Mayor Tom Watson, left, presented her husband's Carnegie Medal to her and declared June 4 Steven B. Wahler Day in the city.

Wahler, a 47-year-old IT manager from Owensboro, and Murphy, a 21-year-old landscaper of Elberta, Ala., both died during an Oct. 9, 2017, rescue of a 12-year-old boy who was carried by a rip current 100 feet from shore near Gulf Shores, Ala. Ocean conditions included rough surf and waves 5 feet high breaking near shore when Wahler entered the water with a boogie board and swam to the boy, placing him on the board. Wahler began pushing the board toward shore, but a breaking wave separated the two. The boy's mother, also using a boogie board, reached her son and guided him back to shore. Murphy, who had also entered the water, swam toward Wahler and appeared to reach him before both men submerged.

"It's the pride of our family to know that he would give his life to someone else," Tami Wahler said. "And we're thrilled to know that the little boy lived."

D. J. Connelly admires his dad's Carnegie Medal after a July 14 ceremony in which Carnegie Hero awardee **Glenn S. Bingham** presented the medal to **David J. Connelly** at the Calvary Baptist Church in Williamsburg, Va. Connelly's parents Dave and Cindy Connelly and family friend Megan Ciesielski applaud in the background.

"It was a great honor for me to be able to present this medal to Mr. Connelly," Bingham said.

In December 2016, Connelly, a crane inspector of Providence Forge, Va., rescued a couple in their 60s from drowning in a submerging vehicle in Doswell, Va. The couple was on an interstate highway, when an accident caused their vehicle to roll over a concrete barrier and fall into the Little River below. Connelly ran down an embankment and, fully clothed, entered the river and swam to the vehicle. He pulled on the driver's door, forcing it open, and entered the sinking car. He unlatched the driver's seat belt, grasped him around his arms, and removed him from the vehicle. Connelly then reentered the vehicle and submerged to unlatch the passenger's seat belt, and then grasped her around the arms and pulled her from the car. Holding to both the husband and wife, Connelly maneuvered them to the river bank.

Bingham, who was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 2002 for a water rescue of a 10-year-old boy, volunteers to present the Carnegie Medal to newly awarded heroes near his home in Williamsburg.



PHOTO BY LISA MCGLOTHLIN

PRESENTING



First responders showed up en masse to show their support for longtime Brookhaven (N.Y.) firefighter **Peter C. Di Pinto, Sr.**, center, who was presented the Carnegie Medal by Hero Fund President Eric P. Zahren, left of center, before the Brookhaven town board meeting on July 29.

"We use this time right before the town board meetings to honor and recognize special people who accomplish great things," said Michael Loguerico, Brookhaven's district 4 councilman. "We have a great leader. A member of Brookhaven Fire Department who did a very heroic thing."

Firefighters from Di Pinto's department, in addition nearby Mastic, Medford, and Ridge hamlets, as well as personnel from South Country Ambulance attended the ceremony, and Di Pinto's family. Both of his sons are also members of the Brookhaven Fire Department.

"It's great to see so many people here to honor our awardee today, especially all the first-responders. We all know you put your life on the line for us, and we thank you every day for it," said Zahren.

Di Pinto, a retired teacher of Brookhaven, saved a woman from being struck by a train

Oct. 10, 2017, in near his home. The woman, 43, was driving a van when it collided with another vehicle and came to rest straddling a nearby railroad track. Di Pinto heard the crash from nearby and responded. He ran to the driver's door of the van, which was smashed and told the dazed woman that she needed to exit. Suddenly the crossing's gates descended and lights flashed warning them of the approaching commuter train, traveling at 65 m.p.h. Di Pinto ran to the passenger side of the van, opened the front, passenger door, reached in, and grasped the woman. Di Pinto pulled her through the door and moved her off the track to safety behind a signal box. The train, which had slightly slowed, struck the van about six seconds after Di Pinto had removed her.

"We've recognized over 10,000 heroes. Each and every one of them is special and should remind us of the good within all of us, of our capacity for good when we listen to our better angels and act in behalf of another human being in disregard for our own safety," Zahren said. "Peter Di Pinto certainly embodies Carnegie's ideal, the very best in human nature."

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



Connecticut state Sen. Matt Lesser, left, presents Carnegie Hero **Marvin George Dixon**, right, with the Carnegie Medal at a ceremony while, background, from left, state Rep. Christie Carpino and U.S. Rep. John B. Larson look on.

Cromwell (Conn.) Deputy Mayor Richard R. Newton, Cromwell Police Chief Denise Lamontagne, and three other police officers also attended the private ceremony to honor Dixon, a maintenance supervisor of Cromwell, and his life-saving actions to save a police officer from a May 17, 2018, assault inside an apartment building in Hartford, Conn.

The bipartisan support from legislators on both sides of the aisle and range of local, state, and federal officials who saw to Dixon's recognition was poignant to Lesser, who said Dixon's heroic actions "bring us together as who we want to be as a community, a state, and a nation," according to a local report.

Dixon stated that he does not consider himself a hero, but he and colleague **Jose L. Casanova** were alerted that a police officer, 34, needed help in an upper-floor apartment and responded. In the hallway, they saw a female resident of the building holding a kitchen knife and choking the officer, who had already been stabbed repeatedly in the neck. 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.

In addition to receiving the Carnegie Medal, Newton presented Dixon with a key to the town of Cromwell.

"I love having you live here in Cromwell," he said.



PRESENTING



Carnegie Hero **Arcangelo F. Liberatore** poses with Natalia Petrellese, 6, whom he saved from an attacking coyote one year earlier. Hero Fund President Eric Zahren presented the Carnegie Medal to Carnegie Hero Liberatore during a July 19 ceremony at the Irvington (N.Y.) Town Hall.

Irvington Police Officer Liberatore was off-duty when a rabid coyote approached then-5-year-old Natalia, who was playing in a park with her brother and mother. The coyote bit her arm, latching onto it, and dragged her to the ground, where her mother attempted to fight it off. Liberatore ran to Natalia, grabbed the coyote, and pinned it to the ground. It released Natalia, whose mother took her to safety. Liberatore struggled to restrain the aggressive coyote, which attempted to bite him for several minutes. Police arrived and shot and killed the coyote. A bite wound to Natalia's arm required sutures. Liberatore sustained scratches to his hand. Both of them were treated for rabies and recovered.

"It's been proven widely that many people believe in guardian angels in this world. I think we're misdirected if we look to the sky for them, because they may be standing right next to us," Zahren said. "In this case, how fitting a name Arcangelo Liberatore, 'archangel liberator.' What a great name for you to have and to pass along. I don't know with that name if you could grow up to be anything other than heroic."

Liberatore's police Chief Michael Cerone, Irvington Mayor Brian Smith, and Mount Pleasant (N.Y.) Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi also lauded Liberatore's actions in behalf of Natalia, who attended with her mother and has become great friends with Liberatore's daughter, Annabelle.

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



South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem, left, presents the Carnegie Medal to **Christopher Schafer** on Aug. 10 at the Castlewood Days celebration in Castlewood, S.D.

Two years earlier, Schafer, a local tax assessor of Hayti, S.D., helped save a 16-year-old farmer from a burning semi-truck after an Aug. 17, 2017, accident in Blunt, S.D.

The driver was semi-conscious and partly buried by wheat grain inside the cab of the tractor-trailer after it collided with a train at a crossing. Flames broke out in the truck's engine compartment, in the spilled grain, and among leaking diesel fuel from the truck.

Schafer was driving nearby when he came upon the accident and went to the truck. He briefly fought flames with a fire extinguisher, but unable to squelch the flames, he then pulled on the driver's door of the cab.

Another person joined him, and together they forced the door open. With flames issuing from the undercarriage threatening to breach the truck's fuel tanks, Schafer and another man extended themselves into the cab and grasped the teen under the arms. They pulled him from the cab moments before the cab was fully engulfed in flames.

"I think it's important we recognize people who do these types of actions," Noem said in a radio interview the day before the ceremony. "I think about only 10,000 people have received this award over the past 100 years. And Chris is going to receive that award tomorrow in Castlewood right before the parade in Castlewood Days to recognize the actions he took two years ago."

Castlewood Mayor Brian Ries also recognized Schafer at the ceremony, which was largely private, but included Schafer's immediate and extended family.

FROM THE ARCHIVES



An illustration that appeared in the December 1961 issue of Reader's Digest alongside "A Killer Is Loose," a feature story on "quiet, gentle **Louis Gorman**, who, trapped with seven others by a murderous psychopath, found the courage to do 'what had to be done.'" Gorman was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 1960.

Held hostage for hours, Carnegie hero saves seven colleagues, takes down man who had murdered three

The events leading up to the 1959 heroism of **Louis Gorman** in behalf of seven other men held hostage at their workplace for several hours began with a hunt for a 21-year-old Jerseyville, Ill., man wanted on suspicion of committing three homicides across the Midwest. Jerseyville police spotted the man arrive home but as they made their presence known, the man fled by car and by foot, eluding officers once again.



Upon word that the assailant was seen, more than 100 police, state troopers, and sheriff's deputies responded to Jerseyville and hurried to place roadblocks on every route out of town.

They successfully had the town surrounded, but that did not stop the violence, as the man shot and killed a train brakeman who threatened to reveal his hiding place in a creek.

Following the killing, the assailant made his way to the Jerseyville Gorman Brothers' Builders supply firm on Franklin Street and broke out a glass panel of an exterior door that opened to a corridor between a private office and the building's men's bathroom. Once inside, he cut a piece of cardboard and used it to replace the missing panel and camouflage the damage. He then concealed himself in the private office for the rest of the night.

Meanwhile the residents of Jerseyville endured the noise of planes, helicopters, and bullhorn announcements about the killer through the night.

Around 7 a.m. the following day, co-owner Gorman arrived to the office with truck drivers Robert P. Cordes and Charles J. Kroeschel. Their ignorance to the man's presence vanished when Kroeschel noticed broken glass on the floor. As the last to leave the previous night, he told Hero Fund Case Investigator Irwin M. Urling, that he felt unnerved realizing the door panel had been broken since then.

"Louis, I think that man's around here somewhere," ►



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Kroeschel called out to Gorman, who was in the bathroom.

Just then, the assailant appeared, armed with a .22-caliber semiautomatic rifle that held 19 rounds. With 35 more cartridges in his pocket, the man ordered Cordes and Kroeschel to raise their hands, enter the office, and sit with their backs against the south wall.

He positioned himself in the doorway, which was obscured from outside view. He then ordered Gorman out of the bathroom.

Meanwhile, inside the bathroom, Gorman hastily opened the bathroom window, but failed to dislodge its screen. Hearing the commotion, the assailant threatened to shoot through the door and at one of the truck drivers if Gorman didn't exit the bathroom. Gorman verbally obliged and exited the restroom with his hands up, joining his coworkers seated on the floor.

While keeping his rifle pointed at the three men and staying in their line of sight, the assailant moved to the main office. Squatting behind a counter to conceal himself from anyone outside the building, he demanded that Gorman open the safe. Gorman told the man that none of the hostages knew the combination, and, despite arguing and making threats, the man eventually acquiesced.

William M. Kuehnel, locomotive engineer, manager Ernest G. Pohlman and truck drivers Edward L. Fitzgibbons, Hershel E. Andrews, and Darrell M. Smith, arrived to the office next, one by one.

Each time the assailant swiftly threatened them with the gun and ordered that they sit with their peers, and after the eighth man arrived, he inquired about whether any more employees could be expected. Gorman indicated that besides his brother, only customers were likely to stop by.

Following the assailant's orders, Gorman wrote on a piece of cardboard that the office was closed until 1 p.m. and placed the sign on the building's main door.

As he did, he noticed a man across the street. Gorman frantically, and without making the assailant suspicious, tried to attract his attention but only received a friendly wave of greeting.



A United Press International photo depicting the assailant, left, describing to detective Robert Webster the manner in which he robbed and killed a Missouri bait shop owner before he returned to Jerseyville, Ill., where he killed another man and held eight others hostage at their workplace. One of the hostages, Louis Gorman, saw an opportunity to free himself from captivity, but, fearing the assailant would kill the others, chose to return to the office building. He later pretended to stumble in order to take down the assailant.

Defeated, he returned to the small office to join his hostage coworkers. The assailant then turned his attention to the safe, directing Pohlman, keeper of the safe's lock combination, to open it.

Even on normal days the lock to the safe proved tricky to operate. Pohlman was nervous and stumbled over the combination as the assailant, irritated, made threats. Finally, Pohlman managed to unlock the safe, and, as directed, threw its money onto the floor and then rejoined his colleagues against the wall.

Targeting Kuehnel next, the assailant forced him to crawl on hands and knees and remove the money from the hostages' wallets. Kuehnel obeyed.

Tensions were high, and the men tried bargaining with the man. They said that the assailant could exit the building's south door and, sheltered from view of the highway by passing railroad cars, return to the woods where he previously hid or take a company truck, stressing that he wouldn't be stopped at a roadblock if he were driving a Gorman truck.

Ignoring their musings, the assailant knew what he needed most was time before the men could contact the police. He ordered Gorman to cut the building's phone line using a 6-inch paper knife he had picked up in the office. He also speculated aloud whether to kill some of the men to incite fear of sending the authorities after him in the others but ultimately decided that tying them up would suffice. ►

Gorman, frantically, and without making the assailant suspicious, tried to attract his attention but only received a friendly wave of greeting.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The man scanned his surroundings for rope and saw some atop a 20-foot-long sand and gravel bin, located about 30 feet east of the building's east door. The assailant selected Gorman to retrieve the rope and ordered the other hostages to lie face down with their heads against the wall. He covered his gun with plastic and ordered Gorman to precede him out the door. Before the two men exited, the assailant threatened the others, stating he would shoot Gorman if any of them were uncooperative.

Once outside, Gorman ascended the bin's ladder as the gunman stood watch so he could see Gorman and the other men through a window. Gorman climbed 36 feet and entered the bin. He cut the rope slowly, stating later that he hoped someone outside would take notice, while also brainstorming ways to freedom.

Gorman said that he thought he could submerge into the sand and that the gunman wouldn't be able to shoot through 4 inches of timber and 14 feet of sand. To climb the ladder would incapacitate the assailant from shooting and, in that time Gorman could call for help and throw sand on the man without exposing himself.

While he pondered, the assailant seemed to recognize his own vulnerability while Gorman remained in the bin. Reformulating previous threats, he called up to Gorman, saying he'd "knock over five or six of his buddies" on his way out if Gorman tried to draw attention from a passerby or provoke trouble.

Familiar with the gun's quick fire, Gorman told Urling later that he feared assuring his own safety would be deadly for the others. Meanwhile, in the office, the seven men were unable to see outside. Although they discussed plans for action, they were scared to move, call out, or act lest their actions lead to Gorman's death.

Gorman descended the ladder, gathered the rope, and with the gunman returned to the office.

According to Urling, Gorman's perception of the assailant was that he was absolutely dangerous, pitiless, and completely at home with firearms. He could see that he was sharp and quick.

Although, Gorman was reassured by the fact that firing the gun would be detrimental to the man's hiding place, he worried that the assailant wouldn't wait until 1 p.m. to take some form of action.

As instructed by the gunman, Gorman tied up the men, first, Kuehnel; then Fitzgibbons, and then Smith. He tied their ankles together and their hands behind their backs. According to police reports, the assailant's plan was for Gorman to tie up the others, and he would restrain Gorman himself.

In his notes, Urling described Gorman as shrewd and observant by nature. He stated that during his captivity, Gorman had watched the gunman constantly and had completely assessed the man's strength, agility, and habits. Further, he highlighted Gorman's observation that after any sudden movement, the assailant would throw the gun barrel up to avoid firing in case of a stumble.

Keeping this study in mind, Gorman finished tying Smith and stood between him and Andrews. He stretched as if his back had cramped and feigned a reel as if to faint. With a contrived

Gorman told Urling later that he feared assuring his own safety would be deadly for the others.



A clipping from the Alton Telegraph about Louis Gorman receiving the Carnegie Medal. The Jerseyville, Ill., chamber of commerce organized a community assembly for presentation of the Medal.

misstep, Gorman fell east and just as he had hoped, the assailant threw up the gun barrel.

Gorman stepped over the other hostages and then threw himself forward, striking the barrel with his left arm and the gun with his wrist. He then punched the gunman's face and struck his right arm inside the elbow with his left forearm. Gorman seized the man's throat in his own right hand and threw him back against the safe. The assailant dropped the gun and grappled with Gorman.

Gorman called out, "Come on, boys!" and the untied men, Andrews, Cordes, Kroeschel, and Pohlman all stepped over their tied counterparts. They secured the gun and assisted Gorman with the assailant.

One of the men summoned help, and authorities arrived and took the assailant to jail. He was tried and found guilty for three murders.

Gorman and the men were cramped and agitated, but they recovered.

After having spent three years in the Army and serving as a military policeman in charge of a prison, Gorman revealed to Urling that he considered his tackling the assailant to be the greatest danger he'd encountered.

A successful man, Gorman and his brother owned the largest builders' supply yard in the county. He opted to refuse the pecuniary award from the Fund because he didn't feel in need of assistance. Gorman received a silver Carnegie Medal in 1960. Jerseyville Chamber of Commerce organized a community assembly in his honor that took place June 21, 1960. ☼

—Abby Brady, operations and outreach assistant/archivist

**Carnegie Hero Fund Commission**

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

412-281-1302 • 800-447-8900

carnegiehero.org

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

Address Service Requested

NOTICES: © Carnegie Hero Fund Commission™ and/or its suppliers, 2019, U.S.A. All rights reserved. This newsletter is governed by our terms & conditions (see carnegiehero.org/terms-conditions/), including our privacy notice (see carnegiehero.org/privacy-policy/) (or direct an inquiry to us directly by using the above contact information).

facebook.com/carnegieherotwitter.com/carnegie_hero

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

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

Address change? Please keep us posted.

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

Editor: Jewels Phraner

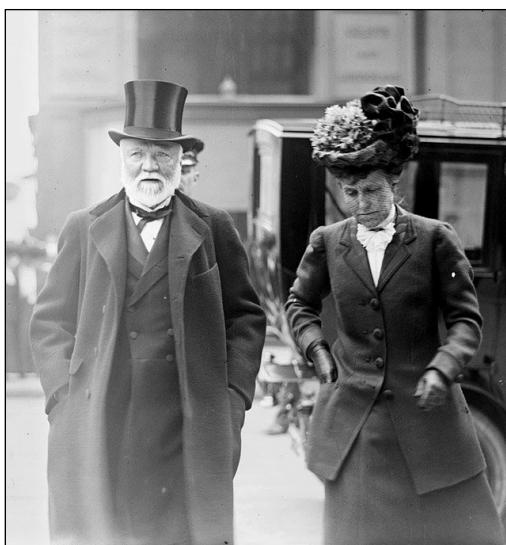
Telephone: 412-281-1302
Toll-free: 800-447-8900
Fax: 412-281-5751
E-mail: impulse@carnegiehero.org
Website: carnegiehero.org

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

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

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

HONORARY MEMBER
James M. Walton

THE QUOTABLE A.C.

Andrew Carnegie, left, and Louise Whitfield Carnegie on a city street at 1910.

*We should all prefer to start low
that we should rise than to begin
high that we should fall.*

— Andrew Carnegie in undelivered rectorial address at his installation, St. Andrew's University, Oct. 22, 1902

CONTINUUM

GRAVE MARKERS Bronze grave markers (below), cast in the likeness of the Carnegie Medal, are available at no cost to the families of deceased awardees. They are designed for mounting on stone or bronze memorials. Contact Susan Rizza (susan@carnegiehero.org).

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

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

ANNUAL REPORTS Copies of the Hero Fund's most recent annual reports (2017-2018) are available online or by contacting Jo Braun (jo@carnegiehero.org).

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

CARNEGIE HERO FUND COMMISSION

436 Seventh Ave., Suite 1101, Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1841
Telephone: (412) 281-1302 Toll free: (800) 447-8900
Fax: (412) 281-5751
E-mail: carnegiehero@carnegiehero.org
Website: carnegiehero.org

