



Impulse

A periodic newsletter of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission

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15:13

DANGEROUS LOW-HEAD DAM AT SITE OF 1987 RESCUE ATTEMPT TO BE REMOVED

An Ohio low-head dam responsible for numerous deaths, including two Carnegie heroes, will be removed as early as next year.

According to the [Times Reporter](#), the Twin City Water and Sewer District – the water utility company in Dennison and Uhrichsville, Ohio – awarded a contract to RiverReach Construction of Norton, Ohio, to remove a dam that spans Big Stillwater Creek.

The paper cites numerous drownings near the Uhrichsville dam, including the death of three people in 1987, when Carnegie heroes **Harold M. Starkey** and his nephew, **Richard Jon Starkey** also drowned there.

Three young teenage boys, who were reportedly good swimmers, were intending to swim in a natural pool upstream from the dam.

Two days of heavy rain had swollen the river to a point about 4 feet above its normal summer level.

Current was swift going over the dam, and a rolling boil was at its base.

As the boys made their way to the water's edge, its force dissuaded them, according to the report filed by Hero Fund investigator James Rethi, Jr.

One boy, 13, slipped, and his brother, 15, grabbed him. As he helped him back to the bank, the 15-year-old slipped into the water.

At the same time, their cousin, 14, lost his grip on a branch over-hanging the river and also entered the water.

Both boys were washed over the dam, the cousin repeatedly submerging and surfacing in the boil.

The brothers called for help and the Starkey men responded – Harold Starkey from his **►p.4**



Jane M. Mason with her son, Steve, in a canoe on Lake George.

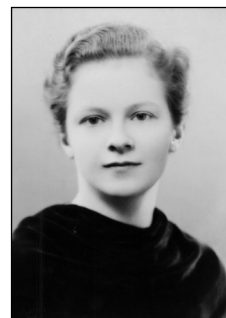
Children ensure mother's memory lives on

In the Lake George region of New York, **Jane M. Mason's** legacy lives on in her family's stewardship of a thriving cottage-rental business and a memorial scholarship named for her and her husband, Alger.

Lesser known is Mason's frightening 1951 rescue of her son's 5-year-old friend from drowning in frigid, iced-over Lake George outside her house, a feat that earned her the Carnegie Medal and the victim's enduring admiration. Although Mason, who died at age 77 in 1994, kept her medal on a living-room bookshelf while raising seven kids – and fostering two others – in Cleverdale, N.Y., she wasn't particularly boastful about it. That's not necessarily the case for Mason's children.

"She was a wonderful lady that we all respected a great deal, but she was not someone who bragged about the event," said son Steve Mason, 73, an attorney who now lives in Houston. "But we were all proud that she had the courage to do what she did."

It was Steve's friend, W. Reid Henderson, whom Mason saved from the bottom of the freezing lake on Feb. 21, 1951. Steve, then 4, was ice fishing with his grandfather – Mason's father – and another man near the Mason family **►**



Jane M. Mason



BOARD NOTES

CARNEGIE MEDALS CANNOT BE AWARDED WITHOUT FIRST A DISASTER

By Mark Laskow, Chair
Carnegie Hero Fund Commission



Mark Laskow

When I speak or write about the Carnegie Hero Fund, I note how blessed we are to deal with the best of human nature, that is, the splendid altruism of our heroic rescuers.

Organizations doing critical work with abused women, the homeless, or families

of those in prison share a heavy emotional burden with their clients. It is a burden that the Hero Fund is largely, but not totally, spared.

One of the paradoxes of our work is that every time we award a Carnegie Medal recognizing the best of the human spirit, it is because something very bad happened to someone else, namely, the victim our hero tried to rescue.

Yes, every one of our medals is awarded because a disaster of some sort befell another person, whom our hero then tried to rescue.

This may seem a bit jarring, and it can be to those working to gather and analyze the details of the rescues we recognize.

I know the members of the commission are concerned about the plight of the victims, and are often curious about how things turned out for them.

Our staff delves into each case in even more detail, and has even more exposure to sometimes distressing details.

Personally, I find it helpful to remind myself what is cause and what is effect.

While we — the rescuers, the Hero Fund, and even Andrew Carnegie — are associated with the calamities our victim have experienced, we are not the cause.

Indeed, we come into the picture as a result of the misfortune.

Another concern here is the powerful emotional impact that the rescues seem to have on the rescuers, the Carnegie Medal awardees.

Part of this might be due to the very real dangers that the heroes encounter in attempting their rescues. ►



In 1954, Jane M. Mason and her husband, Alger, bought 21 acres of land for a “cottage colony” they developed under the name Takumdeewide. The community now includes 32 homes, with some in private hands and others available for rent. Mason’s son, Bill, and daughter-in-law, Lynne, operate the rental business, and live on site, as do Mason’s daughter, Lu Lucas, and another son, Bob.

Mother’s memory lives on

home. It was about 37 degrees at the time, around 2:15 p.m.

Reid, who lived nearby, stopped over to play with Steve. Mason later said that she suggested that Reid call out to Steve but not go onto the ice, partly because there was an opening about 2.5 feet wide and 150 feet long, which had been sawed to try to keep the ice from crashing into a dock.

While Mason, 33, tended to some tasks inside her house, Reid ventured onto the ice and entered the water, falling about 7 feet to the bottom. Looking outside, Mason no longer saw Reid and rushed out. Kneeling at the gap in the ice, she saw Reid, facedown. Although Mason was wearing a blouse, skirt, and shoes, she went into the water, too, submerging to grab him.

Later, she claimed not to have given any thought to the chilly conditions in the water.

“I was so excited I couldn’t tell whether the water was hot or cold,” the (Albany) *Times-Union* quoted Mason in a story published two days later. “My only thought was to get the boy out of the water before it was too late.”

Even after snatching Reid, who was motionless, she struggled to resurface, as her head struck the underside of the ice, 16 inches thick. Supporting the boy with one hand, she then felt along the ice until she returned to the opening, emerging with him.

Mason received help to get him and herself out of the water. The boy regained consciousness that afternoon but suffered convulsions for nearly an hour afterward, according to an April 1951 letter Reid’s father wrote to the Hero Fund in praise of Mason. Her family still has its own copy.

“Of course, the fact that this happened to our own child makes us perhaps somewhat prejudiced in our praise of Jane Mason, but after relating this incident to many, many people, we find that each and every one feels that she has demonstrated rare courage in the face of dangerous and unusual circumstances.”

Mason’s resolve stuck with Reid, too. Upon learning about her death, he wrote to another of Mason’s sons, John, to pay his respect.

“I think you know that your Mom was a special person in my life and I think you probably know that it goes beyond her saving me from drowning so many years ago,” wrote Henderson, who passed away in 1999. “For all of my childhood I had the advantage of being welcome in the extended Mason family and the older I get ►



*An advertisement for the cottages that Carnegie Medal recipient **Jane M. Mason** and her husband, Alger ran in the area, including at the time of Mason's rescue of her son's friend from drowning.*

I realize the value of such precious memories.”

For Mason's children, their memories of their parents include not only their advocacy for a good education – helping all of them graduate from college – but also Mason's vital role in the couple's business. Initially, they owned and ran Mason's Cottages. Three years after the rescue, their vision expanded to include what is known in Cleverdale as the Takundewide community, which had its 65th anniversary last year.

Mason's husband ran the construction side, building the homes, while she was the “financial brain,” her daughter, Lu Lucas said.

“In an era when many moms were stay-at-home moms, she was very much an entrepreneur, and that was unusual when I was growing up,” said Lucas, 65, now retired after having been senior vice president for commercial lending for a local bank.

The community now includes 32 homes, with some in private hands and others available for rent. Mason's son, Bill, and daughter-in-law, Lynne, both 64, operate the rental business, and live at Takundewide, as do Lucas, and another of Mason's sons, Bob.

Bill earned a master's degree in computer science, but he concedes that he never really wanted to leave the property to work elsewhere long-term.

“It's priceless to me,” Bill said. “This is an amazing piece of property, and our family keeps coming back.” ☼

— *Chris Foreman, case investigator*

► from p.2

BOARD NOTES

Remember, about 20% of the Carnegie Medals have been awarded to heroes who died in their rescue attempts.

I suspect that our rescuers experience another kind of stress as well.

These are generally empathetic people, and I suspect they

suffer a real emotional impact when they see another human being in imminent danger of death or serious injury.

This phenomenon – the need for a catastrophe before a Carnegie Medal can be awarded – suggests this question for our curious readers:

Is the number of medals we award each year determined by the number of potential heroes in our population or by the number of catastrophes to which potential heroes can respond?

The question comes up because we have been awarding 80 to 100 Carnegie Medals per year for some number of years.

Yet the population of Canada and the United States has risen over those years.

Does that mean the number of potential heroes per capita is going down? How could we tell?

Fortunately, our staff is tightly focused on investigating cases and making awards, without being diverted by my idle speculations.

I do have a few ideas about how to explore the question, though, and you might read more about this here in the near future.

Meanwhile, do you have an opinion? ☼

“ Every one of our medals is awarded because a disaster of some sort befell another person. ”



Carnegie Medal



OVERHEARD

When you see this little round face screaming, that's something you just can't leave. I don't think there's a human in the world that would not jump out and grab him. — **John Gerard O'Rourke**, Carnegie Medal awardee #9993

I wasn't going to stand there and watch someone die in front of my eyes. The man was drowning, and I needed to act. — **M. Ross Klun**, Carnegie Medal awardee #10027

I wasn't thinking nothing when they just said Bryce is in the house. I just got up and went in. — **Brent Rudy Edwards**, Carnegie Medal awardee #10045

I didn't have time to think a lot. I just knew that child was needing help. — **Van L. Anderson**, Carnegie Medal awardee #10085

It was just the right thing to do for any human being stuck on a train track. How do you not attempt to save somebody? — **Julie K. Callaghan**, Carnegie Medal awardee #10086

I just seen someone that needed some help. I just acted upon just helping another human being. — **Marvin George Dixon**, Carnegie Medal awardee #10088

The last thing I wanted to do was see someone perish in a fire like that. — **Raul Carrillo**, Carnegie Medal awardee #10092

I couldn't have done otherwise. — **Troy Martin**, Carnegie Medal awardee #10093, saying he had no choice but to save a man from a burning car.

If we're put in a position to be a blessing to someone, I think we should take the opportunity. — **Andrea L. Harris**, Carnegie Medal awardee #10098

I'd sure hate to die burning alive. I figured he'd do the same thing for somebody else. — **Allen Sirois**, Carnegie Medal awardee #10109

Kind of glad that it happened when it happened and I was coming along, because, hey, some people don't stop, but I'm the one that will. — **Richard Thomas Krochta**, Carnegie Medal awardee #10111

I don't consider myself a hero. If I were in the same predicament, I hope someone else would help me. — **Nathan Scott Wanhala**, Carnegie Medal awardee #10114

I feel like I did yesterday when I woke up. We did what anyone else would do in the same position. — **Zachary Salce**, Carnegie Medal awardee #10133



PHOTO BY STEVE LONG, 1987 EDITION OF *TIMES REPORTER*
Rescue workers get ready to search the swift water at Urich dam for the bodies of three people who died there.

► from p. 1

Dangerous, low-head dam to be removed

nearby home and Richard Starkey from an auto parts shop about 200 feet away.

According to Harold Starkey's wife, Janice, Harold Starkey had rescued other people from the creek near the dam over the years, and then-Uhrichville Fire Chief Jim Golec reported that once Harold Starkey had to be restrained from attempting to rescue a drowning dog there.

Both men entered the creek and waded and swam to the boys struggling in the water.

The 15-year-old screamed at them to save his cousin who had by then failed to resurface from the boil.

As the men swam to a point about 10 feet from the 15-year-old, they were swept into the boil, submerged, and also failed to resurface. They drowned.

Others helped the 15-year-old from the water; Rethi reported that his shorts had been pulled off by the rough water.

Harold Starkey left behind his wife, five grown children, and seven grandchildren.

Richard Starkey was survived by his parents, Robert and Theoda Starkey.

Harold and Richard Starkey were posthumously awarded the Carnegie Medal in December 1987.

"I could never put into words how very much this has meant to me and my family receiving the Carnegie Hero award in honor of my late husband Harold. He was a very special person to so many people," Janice Starkey wrote to the Commission in 1988. ►

I could never put into words how very much this has meant to me and my family receiving the Carnegie Hero award in honor of my late husband Harold. He was a very special person to so many people.



*The Uhrichsville dam that spans Big Stillwater Creek will be removed. It is the site of numerous drownings including two Carnegie heroes **Harold M. Starkey** and **Richard Jon Starkey** who both drowned in 1987 while attempting to save two teenage boys. This photo was taken by Hero Fund investigator James Rethi, Jr., while he was in Uhrichsville investigating the heroic acts of the Starkey men.*

According to the *Times Reporter* article, removing low-head dams has become a statewide trend.

“Low-head dams pose a safety hazard for use of the river,” RiverReach project manager Patrick Rohr told the newspaper.

Rohr added that the company is hoping for a 2020 removal, but that “it’s way too early to have a timeline.”



Harold M. Starkey



Richard Jon Starkey

The project is being paid for by a \$615,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Dennison Water Supply Co. built the dam in 1904 to store about 160 million gallons of water for the utility’s water treatment plant, which closed in 2013, at which point the dam was no longer needed.

According to the *Times Reporter*, the Ohio EPA recommended removal of the dam in a 2012 study of the Stillwater Creek basin.

“The dam has caused drownings and remains a hazard for boating and recreational opportunities,” the report said. ☒

—Jewels Phraner, outreach coordinator

15:13 calls to mind those in the Hero Fund’s 115-year history whose lives were sacrificed in the performance of their heroic acts. The name identifies the chapter and verse of the Gospel of John that appears on every medal: “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” Of the 10,135 medal awardees to date, 2,060, or 20 percent of the total, were recognized posthumously. They are not forgotten.



GRAVE MARKERS AVAILABLE TO FAMILIES OF DECEASED AWARDEES

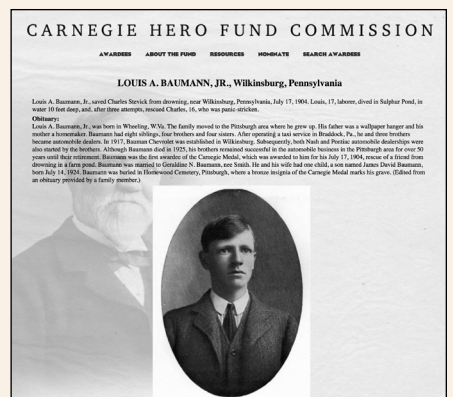
To further honor those who have been awarded the Carnegie Medal, the Hero Fund is pleased to offer at no cost a bronze grave marker to the families of deceased awardees.

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 susan@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



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.



Janet Thomas



Katherine Lewis

Administrative assistant and spring intern join Carnegie Hero staff

The Hero Fund has two new hires this year including part-time administrative assistant Janet Thomas and spring intern Katherine Lewis, a 22-year-old Fairfax, Va., native who graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in December. We asked them to introduce themselves in this edition of *Impulse*.

JANET THOMAS

I have always wanted to be an administrative assistant to help others in a practical way. Providing support and encouragement is part of my nature and something I have always enjoyed. My organizational skills have served me well in the many positions I have held, and my many years of experience have prepared me for what I consider to be the most important and meaningful job of my career.

In 2018, I made the decision to take an early retirement from 30 years of service in the banking and finance industry. Soon after, I realized I was not ready to stop working and obtained a series of unfortunate temporary assignments.

Thankfully, one of the agencies passed my resume along and I was called for an interview at the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission. Prior to my interview I did some research and was thoroughly impressed.

The moment I walked through the front door, I knew this was the right place for me.

I have become enthralled with Hero Fund since I began working as a temporary employee last spring. I am consistently amazed and often moved to tears as I read the countless stories of the brave, selfless individuals who rescued others without a moment's consideration of their own safety. My faith and hope in humanity is restored as I type letters each day regarding the heroic acts of these men, women, and children.

Along with the staff, I was invited to attend an awards ceremony which was held in Pittsburgh last fall. I was honored to attend, and it was an emotional day. ►

“Without a doubt, this is the most important and meaningful job of my career.”



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 2017 and 2018, including the extraordinary actions of seven children and teens.

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.

Meeting Carnegie Hero **Phillip H. DiLuca** and his family was both humbling and rewarding. Learning about DiLuca's actions and speaking with his parents and fiancée about the rescue was fascinating. The ceremony was impressive which confirmed my awe and admiration. I consider it an honor to be part of an organization which recognizes and honors such individuals.

My employment began Jan. 1, and I'm proud to be part of this remarkable team.

For the first time, I go to work each day knowing that my job makes a difference in people's lives which is very humbling. Without a doubt, this is the most important and meaningful job of my career. I have a newfound esteem for Andrew Carnegie and his wonderful principals and hope to enjoy a long, rewarding career.

KATHERINE LEWIS

I applied to the University of Pittsburgh on a whim during my senior year of high school. I knew little about the school, let alone the city of Pittsburgh.

Come August 2016, I found myself moving into my freshman-year dorm at the university. Three and half years later, I'm glad that I decided to take a chance on the City of Bridges.

After testing a few different academic fields in my first few semesters, I landed on media and professional communications. This field allowed me to develop key skills in digital media, writing, and research, which were put to use through several internships during my undergraduate career.

While experiencing a wide range of companies – both in style and size – I learned that I thrive best in an environment where the work makes an impact on the lives of others. In an increasingly despondent world, there is nothing more I want to do than bring positivity and hope. At the Carnegie Hero Fund, the work goes above and beyond to meet those objectives.

My university gave me a key to the city through my student ID. It allowed me to travel for free on Pittsburgh public buses. This connected me to the distinctly different neighborhoods of Pittsburgh.

As I traveled to each neighborhood, there was one common factor: a Carnegie Library. These public institutions are lasting signs of Andrew Carnegie's dedication to providing opportunity and access to the citizens of Pittsburgh.

In addition to free transportation, I received free admission to the Carnegie Museums of Art and Natural History. A mere five minutes from campus, I was able to experience Hero Fund founder Andrew Carnegie's generosity and influence first-hand. The widespread collections and exhibits gave me a chance to learn about not only the people and history of Pittsburgh, but the world. I have Andrew Carnegie to thank for that.

In addition to Carnegie's institutions, I have him to thank for my current position. As I neared graduation this past December, I was looking for a position that would allow me to continue developing the skills I gained during my undergraduate career. I wanted a role for an organization that made a positive impact in the city of Pittsburgh but found something greater at the Hero Fund.

The actions of the Carnegie heroes are inspiring, and the well-deserved recognition and reward through the work of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission is commendable. I look forward to playing a role in the impactful work of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission during my time as an intern.

I look forward to playing a role in the impactful work of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission.

TO THE HERO FUND

Thank you for sharing the news. It will be a nice gesture for the families. It will not bring **[Melissa Anne Lehw]** back but the family will know that she did one of the most honorable things that you can do with your life ... sacrifice yours for another human being.
– Lt. Wesley Forchion, Maryland State Police assistant commander in the special operations division

Thank you again for all that you and the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission do. The generosity and support I have received is such a blessing in my life. I am forever grateful for the opportunities that this help has allowed me to pursue. – **Summer N. White**, Carnegie Medal awardee #9558 and scholarship recipient

I am writing to say thanks to **[Case Investigator Joe Mandak]** and the entire staff at the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission. I received my medal today and when I opened the box I could only say WOW!! This has got to be one of the prettiest things I've ever seen. I will forever be a grateful recipient of this medal!!! – **Leon Wright**, Carnegie Medal awardee #10108

We are lucky to have people like **[Steven W. Fitzpatrick.]** – Thomas J. Maloney, Marysville Fire District deputy chief and fire marshal



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.



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 10,135 since the Hero Fund's inception in 1904. The latest awards were announced Dec. 16. The next announcement will be made in March.

During heavy rain, motorist Daniel E. Samis, 67, was stranded in his car on a flooded section of road Aug. 31, 2018, in Bel Air, Md. Driving nearby, 31-year-old **Kyle Bowman**, a tree trimmer of Aberdeen, Md., and his partner, **Melissa Anne Lebew**, 34, of Darlington, Md., saw Samis' car and stopped at the scene. Bowman backed his pickup truck to the water's edge about 100 feet away and, after tying a rope to his truck's rear, waded toward Samis' car holding the other end of the rope. Lebew, also holding to the rope, followed. Shortly, Lebew lost her footing and fell into the water. Bowman went to her and helped her to her feet, but they became separated. Lebew was carried downstream by the current and away from the scene, drowning. Samis' car, with him inside, was also washed away and his body was later recovered from his car. Bowman exited the water safely.

Retired laborer **Steven W. Fitzpatrick**, on April 18, 2018, responded to his neighbor's burning mobile home in Marysville, Wash. With fire extinguishers, Fitzpatrick entered the home's living room through the front door. Fitzpatrick crawled to 88-year-old Theodore Shockley, who was unconscious on the living room floor near a flaming couch. Fitzpatrick used a fire extinguisher near Shockley to suppress flames, then grabbed Shockley and moved him toward the front door. Forced to retreat by the blistering heat, Fitzpatrick exited the home briefly and then returned to Shockley. With difficulty, he moved Shockley to the threshold of the front door, where another man grasped Shockley and pulled him from the home. Fitzpatrick exited the house, which was shortly engulfed by flames. Shockley sustained smoke inhalation and extensive burns; he died later that day. Fitzpatrick sustained burns to his head, forearm, and hand, for which he received hospital treatment. He recovered.

Police Officer **Sean R. Dias**, 37, was first on the scene of a burning home Nov. 19, 2017, in Braintree, Mass. Dias located a 69-year-old man sitting in a wheelchair just inside the front door of the home. While Dias aided him outside, the man told Dias that his wife, Diane V. Gray, 70, and son, 45, remained inside the structure. Despite flames at the roof and window to the son's room, Dias entered the house and saw flames at that room's doorway. He called out for Gray, who answered. Dias followed her voice and located her sitting in the living room. Dias lifted Gray to his shoulder, but, disoriented by darkness and



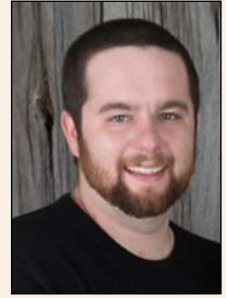
Kyle Bowman



Melissa Anne Lebew



Sean R. Dias



Tyler James Hance

smoke, he had difficulty retracing his path to the front door. Ultimately Dias found the door and exited with Gray. He went to his knees, while others aided Gray farther from the house. Their son could not be rescued and died in the fire. Gray was hospitalized for inhaling smoke, but she was not burned. Dias was treated at the hospital for smoke inhalation. He recovered.

A 30-year-old pizza delivery driver was returning to the pizzeria July 3, 2018, when he saw an overturned SUV off a two-lane highway in South Barrington, Ill. Smoke was issuing from the vehicle's engine, and the sole occupant, 61-year-old Mohanakumari Naidu, was trapped in the driver's seat. **Maciej Kosiarski** of Schaumburg, Ill., stopped his car and went to the scene, where he climbed onto the driver's side of the overturned car and opened the rear, driver's-side door. He entered the vehicle and stood on the inside of the rear, passenger-side door. Naidu tumbled down from the driver's seat and entered the rear seat area, while Kosiarski pulled himself out of the car. Kosiarski

reached down and grasped Naidu, pulling her up to the driver's side. He then climbed down the car and grasped Naidu, carrying her to safety.

Tyler James Hance, a 25-year-old laborer of Fort Covington, N.Y., spotted a sinking SUV in an ice-covered pond Dec. 11, 2018, in Kirksville, Mo. Undressing to his jeans, he waded into the 39-degree water and swam to Christian B. Perez, 62, who had been a passenger in the vehicle. Perez had left the sinking car and called for help at a point about 30 feet from the bank where water was 12 feet deep. When Hance reached Perez, he was non-responsive. Hance grasped his shoulder and, with difficulty, swam toward a point on the pond's bank, about 40 feet away. When Hance, still towing Perez, was within 15 feet of the bank, he submerged once. When he resurfaced, the nearly exhausted Hance called for help. Three other men waded into the pond about 5 feet, and Hance closed the remaining distance, so they could assist both men from the pond. Medical



An overturned, burning car about five minutes after Carnegie Hero **Maciej Kosiarski** rescued 61-year-old Mohanakumari Naidu from the vehicle, which, on July 3, 2018, had crashed along a suburban road in South Barrington, Ill.

personnel revived Perez who recovered. Hance was not injured.

A father died attempting to save his daughter from their burning home Nov. 20, 2018, in Lubbock, Texas.

David S. Turner, Sr., a 70-year-old retired parole officer, entered his burning home after learning that his disabled daughter, Priscilla Turner, 38, was still inside. As smoke issued through the front door, Turner entered the house. Conditions in the house worsened and the fire spread throughout two bedrooms on one side of the home. Firefighters found Priscilla and Turner a short distance apart. Priscilla suffered severe burns and died 11 weeks later. Turner suffered smoke inhalation and was burned. He died the following day.

On a family outing to the American River near Kyburz, Calif., on June 23, 2018, a Vacaville (Calif.) 9-year-old, Mir Zahed Ahmad, fell from a rock into the swift-moving river. Despite not knowing how to swim, Mir Zahed's father, **Mir Khaled Ahmad**, 41, store manager, jumped in after his son. Ahmad grasped Mir Zahed in a bear hug and lifted him so his head was above the surface of the water. Ahmad submerged and resurfaced many times before Ahmad pushed Mir Zahed toward the rock. Another man on the rock

held one end of a long stick out to Mir Zahed, who grasped it. The man pulled the boy to the top of the rock. Ahmad submerged and his body was recovered more than 600 feet downstream. He had drowned.

Arriving after a car crashed into the Passaic River in Belleville, N.J., on March 4, 2019, railroad signal maintainer **Michael Benjamin James**, 36, of Belleville, stopped at the scene and entered the 37-degree river. The driver, Mariam S. Egberongbe, had escaped from the sinking car and positioned herself on its trunk. Despite still recovering from neck surgery, James swam to Egberongbe, grasped her, and towed her toward the nearest bank, which had no egress from the water. James secured Egberongbe with a piece of wood as he attempted to move them closer to the bank. Those present at the scene, including three



Julius A. Ortenzo



Dylan M. Goetsch



Christopher W. Schmoker

police officers, threw pieces of rope to them and worked to pull them to safety.

A retired construction consultant, 68-year-old **Julius A. Ortenzo** of Prescott, Ariz., was inside a car on a remote highway in Ash Fork, Ariz., when he witnessed an SUV on fire after a violent collision with another vehicle on Aug. 30, 2018. Stopping nearby, Ortenzo heard children in the vehicle screaming for help. He ran to a backdoor, where he pulled 6-year-old Ava Castelhana through the window opening. Despite rapidly spreading flames and intense heat, Ortenzo then removed Axel Castelhana, a 5-month-old boy, and Addison Castelhana, 9. Aided by another motorist, they guided the children to safety. Ortenzo then saw the children's mother, 31-year-old Rebecca Castelhana, crawling toward the driver's window opening from the front, passenger seat. He returned to the car and helped her out of the window. An effort was made to remove the father of the family from the driver's seat, but it was not successful. The vehicle was shortly engulfed and the father and one child, a 3-year-old girl, perished. The mother and surviving children all recovered. Ortenzo was treated at a medical center for abrasions on an arm and both knees. He also sustained burns to fingertips on both hands.

After arriving at the scene of a burning Sturgis, S.D., house May 12, 2018, and learning that 47-year-old Jason R. McKee was still inside, police Officer **Dylan M. Goetsch**, 27, and Sgt. **Christopher W.** ▶



Mir Khaled Ahmad pictured with his sons Mir Yosuf, left, and Mir Zahed, during a trip to the American River in Kyburz, Calif., minutes before he died trying to save Mir Zahed from drowning.



Carnegie Hero Michael Benjamin James with his partner Cortney Skelding, left, and their son Nico Michael James.



PHOTO BY FIRE RESCUE LT. MIKE SCHUETZ.

The aftermath of an April 29, 2018, fire in which Carnegie Hero **Philip L. Hall** rescued 2-year-old Kierre Caldwell-Smith in Albuquerque, N.M. Kierre was trapped between the burning tent and the chain link fence. Standing on the other side of the fence, Hall bent down a small portion of the fence and then leaned his body onto and over the fence, putting his face and upper body into the fire, so he could reach down to grasp the boy.



Photo courtesy of Arizona Highway Patrol.

The wreckage of a fiery crash that killed driver Ian Castelhana and his daughter, Amelia, 3. **Julius A. Ortenzo**, a passing motorist, was awarded the Carnegie Medal for rescuing three other Castelhana children, Addison, 9; Ava, 6; and Axel, 5 months; and their mother, Rebecca Castelhana, 31, after the Aug. 30, 2018, crash near Ash Fork, Ariz.

LATEST AWARDEES

Schmoker, 37, entered the home. Filled with dense smoke and visible flames in the kitchen, Goetsch and Schmoker moved to the home's upper level where Goetsch went to his hands and knees, crawled to a bedroom, and searched it for McKee, who was not there. Goetsch retraced his steps and returned to the home's front door before returning upstairs to search another bedroom. Dense smoke made it impossible for Goetsch to see more than a few feet in front of him. He exited the house and from the exterior, he climbed a ladder that was below McKee's bedroom window. At the window opening, he heard McKee breathing. After confirming his location, Goetsch returned to the front door where he and Schmoker re-entered the house – this time with wet T-shirts over their mouths and noses. They ran to McKee's bedroom and, with difficulty, dragged him from the house as flames spread to the ceiling above them. McKee was hospitalized for smoke inhalation and inhalation burns to his lungs. Goetsch and Schmoker sustained minor smoke inhalation; they recovered.

Home remodeler **Philip L. Hall**, 22, was inside his Albuquerque (N.M.) apartment April 29, 2018, when he heard his neighbor scream for help and saw her 2-year-old great grandson, Kierre Caldwell-Smith, trapped between a burning tent and a fence. Wearing only shorts, Hall exited his first-floor window and quickly scaled two 6-foot, chain-link fences. With his course blocked by growing and spreading flames, ►

Hall then scaled two more fences to bring himself closer to Kierre, albeit on the opposite side of another 6-foot, chain-link fence. While standing on debris near the fence and pulling the top of the fence toward him, Hall reached over the fence and grasped Kierre's arm. Hall then lost his grip and Kierre fell back into the flames. Hall leaned over the fence farther, extending his upper body into the flames to grasp the boy and lift him over the fence and carry him to safety. Kierre suffered severe burns to 55 percent of his body and was hospitalized for nearly three months. He continues to recover. Hall was hospitalized and underwent rehabilitation for nearly four months for treatment of second- and third-degree burns to more than 55 percent of his body. He recovered.

After entering the Pacific Ocean from a beach in a cove in the early morning of Jan. 10, a man struggled to swim as high, surging waves washed him toward a rocky bluff in La Jolla, Calif. **Daniel Simonelli**, 53, a San Diego swim coach, saw the man in distress. As a bystander called 911, Simonelli removed his outer clothing and entered the 60-degree water, wearing swim fins. Navigating large, frequent waves, Simonelli grasped the man and guided him to a point away from the rocks. Simonelli stayed with the man, and arriving lifeguards took the man to the shore via personal watercraft. Simonelli returned to the beach without assistance. Simonelli was not injured.

North Sydney, N.S., resident Krista E. Grosskleg, 40, was wading with her daughter in the Gulf of St. Lawrence at a public beach July 22, 2017, in Inverness, N.S. The pair lost their footing and were carried into deeper water by a rip current. High winds and large waves hampered their return to shore. Grosskleg's husband entered the water, swam to them,

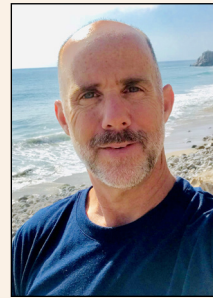
and took their daughter from his wife, as Grosskleg was carried farther out. **Christopher E. Lawless**, a 41-year-old manager, entered the water with a boogie board, which he gave to the husband and daughter. He then swam to Grosskleg, who was floating on her back and barely conscious at a point 300 feet from shore. Lawless grasped Grosskleg and towed her to shore, a lifeguard and others assisting once they reached wadable water. Another lifeguard assisted the husband and daughter to safety. Grosskleg was hospitalized for pneumonia and extreme exhaustion; she recovered. Lawless was not injured.

Neighbors **Zachary Salce**, 24, sheriff's department custody deputy, and **Maddison Henslin**, 21, animal welfare specialist, responded to a burning apartment located below theirs Nov. 13, 2018. Salce kicked open the front door, and they both entered, crawling under heavy smoke and flames. They found the woman, who was unconscious, lying on the floor, about 15 feet from the front door. Salce grasped the woman's upper body, and Henslin grasped her feet. Together, they dragged the woman to the front door and outside, where they were met by first-responders who took the woman away from the building to safety. She was taken to a hospital for treatment of smoke inhalation and burns.

Danny Lee Tiger, a 46-year-old administrator of Ada, Okla., saved Nathan P. Nolen, 43, from a burning truck after a head-on collision with another vehicle on a



Philip L. Hall



Daniel Simonelli



Christopher E. Lawless

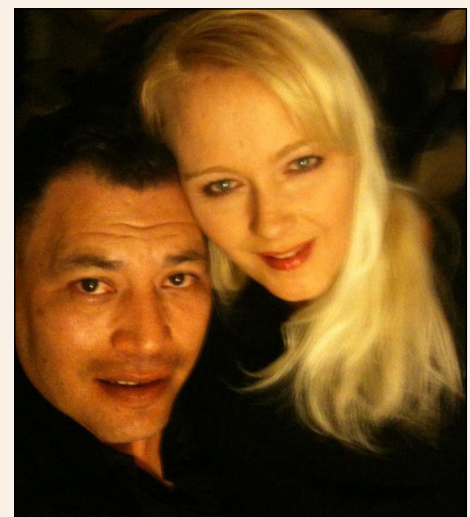
rural highway the night of June 26, in Ada. At home, Tiger heard the crash and drove to the accident scene. Unable to open the driver's door, Tiger gripped the top of the damaged door at a gap and bent it downward until he created an opening large enough to extend his arms inside to grasp Nolen's arms and head. Flames burned against the windshield as Tiger pulled Nolen through the opening. Despite hearing a small explosion at the truck's front end, Tiger continued to pull Nolen until he was fully free and fell to the pavement outside. Tiger dragged Nolen away from the truck. A medical helicopter flew Nolen to a hospital for treatment of serious leg injuries, but he was not burned. ❄



From left, Maddison Henslin and Zachary Salce



PHOTO BY DEB HOLLAND/BLACK HILLS PIONEER.
From left, Dylan M. Goetsch and Christopher W. Schmoker standing in front of the burned home from which they rescued a 47-year-old man from burning.



Danny Lee Tiger pictured with his wife, Amie Tiger



PRESENTING



The Rev. Ian Stamps, left, hugs Carnegie Hero **Angela Lynn McQueen**, of Mattoon, Ill., after presenting the Carnegie Medal to her at a private ceremony held Oct. 6 at Broadway Christian Church in Mattoon.

McQueen was honored for saving approximately 260 high school teachers, students, and staff when a 14-year-old student brandished a handgun and began firing in the Mattoon High School cafeteria on September 20, 2017.

One student was wounded before McQueen disarmed and subdued the student.

Several students took to the podium to thank McQueen for what she did that day.

One student, who was standing in the cafeteria when the firing started, said, "I saw an immediate threat to my peers, and I was shocked. I didn't know what to do. But then Ms. McQueen came out of nowhere and did the sickest side tackle I've ever seen in my life, and had the situation under control in a matter of seconds. It was amazing. ... My life had just been handed back to me."

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



Jason P. Maxwell, left, receives the Carnegie Medal from Hero Fund President Eric Zahren at a private ceremony held Dec. 14 at a restaurant in Tukwila, Wash. Maxwell, of Maple Valley, Wash., jumped from a Seattle dock into water that was 50 feet deep and 59 degrees upon seeing a man in the water near a large cargo ship about 150 feet away. Grasping the man's coveralls, Maxwell pulled the crewman to the water's surface and towed him to a life ring that a bystander had thrown into the water. At the life ring, Maxwell supported himself and the man until others arrived by boat to help.



Burnaby (B.C.) firefighters honored their former colleague, Carnegie Hero **Mark Oscar Tuura** of New Westminster, B.C., at the department's Nov. 2 Burnaby Firefighters Badge Ceremony and Retirees dinner. Pictured are Tuura, second from left, and, from left, firefighters Miles Richie, Paul Rushton, and Scott Alleyn. Chief Training Officer Bob Rossignol and Burnaby Mayor Mike Hurley presented the Carnegie Medal to Tuura at the annual event that Rossignol described as a "gala event rich in tradition with ... more than 200 attendees."

Tuura was awarded the Carnegie Medal in December 2018 after he saved an unidentified man from drowning in the Fraser River three years earlier. Tuura climbed down a 15-foot-long chain in search of flotation devices on boats docked at the river. Unable to find one, he ran along the pier to keep pace with the man being carried downstream. He quickly climbed down another chain to a boom log, jumped into the 50-degree water, and swam to the man, who was by then unconscious. Firefighters arrived and assisted the men from the water.

Tuura told the Hero Fund that he was willing to wait nearly a year to be presented the Carnegie Medal because he really wanted his former fire department to have a role in the presentation.

PRESENTING



Above: In a Dec. 12 ceremony held at the Suffolk County (New York) police headquarters, Chief Stuart Cameron, left, and Deputy Inspector David Regina, right, presented Officer **Richard J. Gandolfo**, center, with the Carnegie Medal.

Right: U.S. Rep. Susan Wild, left, shakes the hand of Carnegie Hero **Robert M. Hosey**, of Coplay, Pa., after a Nov. 7 presentation of the Carnegie Medal held in her office in Allentown, Pa. Wild represents Pennsylvania's seventh district.

Gandolfo and Hosey pulled a 19-year-old girl from a burning SUV after an April 20, 2018, accident in which the front of her vehicle became stuck under the rear of a tractor trailer in East Patchogue, N.Y.

"Officer Gandolfo's actions were nothing short of heroic. This young woman's decision to drive drunk could have ended tragically had it not been for the brave individuals who came to her rescue and saved her life," said Geraldine Hart, Suffolk County Police commissioner, in a Facebook post about Gandolfo's ceremony.

Gandolfo told *Newsday* in a Dec. 14 article how thankful he was that Hosey came to assist him during the rescue. "Thank God that civilian came when he came. You know how many people passed us and didn't stop," he said.



Photo courtesy of the office of Mike Lake.

Carnegie heroes **Sommer Marie King**, left, and **Rebecka Blackburn**, right, pose with Mike Lake, member of the Canadian Parliament. Lake presented the award to the duo Dec. 15 at his Edmonton, Alta., office.

In June 2018 the Leduc, Alta., residents entered the North Saskatchewan River near Devon, Alta., to rescue a man who was flailing in the middle of the river.

Blackburn, a trained lifeguard, reached the man first.

She later told Global News, "I never felt out of control and then having him panic and push down, plus trying to fight the current, was really scary."

King entered the river to assist Blackburn after seeing that Blackburn was having trouble towing the man to shore, she said.

Lake represents the Edmonton-Wetaskiwin region.



PRESENTING



Jose L. Casanova received his Carnegie Medal Oct. 10 at his home in New Britain, Conn., through arrangements by the office of U.S. Rep. Jahana Hayes, who issued a citation of special congressional recognition.

Casanova and **Marvin George Dixon** combined efforts to rescue a Hartford police officer from an assault inside an apartment building on May 17, 2018.

"Thank you for your fearlessness and assistance in rescuing a Connecticut police officer," Hayes states in the citation.

Casanova's wife, Jennifer, and daughters, Selina and Alina, were also home to share the moment. Hayes represents Connecticut's fifth district.



Carnegie Hero Fund President Eric Zahren, left, removes the Carnegie Medal from its case to show recipient, Carnegie Hero **Julie K. Callaghan**, of Chilliwack, B.C. Zahren presented the medal to Callaghan during a ceremony held Dec. 13 at the RCMP Upper Fraser Valley Regional Detachment headquarters in Chilliwack. Callaghan was awarded the Carnegie Medal for a 2018 act in which she attempted to rescue a 40-year-old man from being struck by a train after a wheel on his motorized wheelchair got caught on the track. Callaghan stood next to her firefighter husband, Darren, and expressed a tearful thanks.

"Thank you to everyone who has shown me love and support even when I don't feel like I deserve the love and support ... I don't really know what to say except thank you ... Just thank you, and I've got all your backs if you're ever in trouble. I would do it again," she said.



Hero Fund President Eric Zahren, left, and Chair Mark Laskow, right, presented the Carnegie Medal to **Phillip H. DiLuca** at a private ceremony held Nov. 15 at the Allegheny HYP Club in Pittsburgh, Pa. DiLuca, a Clinton (Maine) police officer, traveled to Pittsburgh with police Chief Stanley "Rusty" Bell; Bell's wife, Selena Bell; DiLuca's parents, Paul and Monica DiLuca; and DiLuca's partner Kendra Raven, for the presentation. "Being able to come down to just appreciate all the history and everything that (the Hero Fund) has done and Andrew Carnegie has done is very special to me. Thank you guys," DiLuca said.

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

PRESENTING



U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney, left, presents the Carnegie Medal to **Stephen Anthony Eberle**, center, in a private ceremony Oct. 25 at the Essex, Conn., Town Hall also attended by Connecticut Sen. Norm Needleman, right. Eberle, of Ivoryton, Conn., and James R. Carroll, of Middletown, Conn., were awarded the medal for rescuing an unconscious driver from a burning sedan on July 16, 2017, after it crashed on a highway in Middletown. In an Oct. 28 Facebook post about the presentation, Courtney lauded Eberle and noted that the Carnegie hero donated his grant money to Charity Water, a non-profit organization that works to bring sources of clean water to developing countries.

"Most of us will never be put into the situation that Stephen found himself in on that Middletown highway back in 2017 – we might not be called on to save anyone from a burning car, but we can still strive to follow Stephen's example of selflessness and charity in other ways. Stephen is an outstanding member of our eastern Connecticut community, he's deserving of this award, and I want to thank the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission, State Senator Norm Needleman and the town of Essex for coming together to celebrate a true, local hero," the post read.



Photo courtesy of Gov. Kay Ivey's office.

Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey honored **Andrea L. Harris** Oct. 9 in a ceremony in her office in Montgomery. Ivey presented Harris with the Carnegie Medal and a commendation. "Folks like you make Alabama special," Ivey told Harris.

On July 27, 2018, Harris, of Tuscaloosa, Ala., stopped at the scene of an overturned and burning car off a rural highway in Coker, Ala. Harris laid on his stomach at the rear, passenger-side door and broke its window with his hand. He then crawled through the window into the smoke-filled car, grasped a 7-month-old boy, and withdrew from the car with him. Flames grew and spread as Harris carried the boy to his mother.

"I think you called it 'ordinary,' but I'll tell you what, you're very impressive at what you did," Ivey said.



PRESENTING



Carnegie Hero **Heather Zabrowski**, right, is shown with Hero Fund President Eric Zahren after a Dec. 14 ceremony honoring her at the McLane Black Lake Fire Department in Olympia, Wash.

Zabrowski, of Olympia, was awarded the Carnegie Medal after responding to the scene of a burning sport utility vehicle July 30, 2018, in Olympia. Zabrowski extended her upper body inside the vehicle to unlatch the driver's seat belt. She then pulled him from the vehicle to the ground, where she called for others nearby to help her move him to safety.

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

Todd D. Lyford, formerly of the Dover-Foxcroft Police Department in Maine, was presented the Carnegie Medal Dec. 12 at an annual Christmas banquet organized by his new employer, the Piscataquis County (Maine) Sheriff's Office. Maine Sen. Paul Davis, right, who served 23 years as a Maine state trooper, presented Lyford with his medal for saving a 65-year-old woman from a burning vehicle after an accident in Dover-Foxcroft on July 30, 2018. The woman's vehicle left a roadway, travelled down a steep, wooden embankment, and came to rest against a tree trunk with its front end, burning, several feet off the ground. Lyford, then 54, was on duty. Arriving before firefighters, he emptied a fire extinguisher on the flames, then opened the front, passenger door, grasped the woman's upper body, and pulled her to the ground. Lyford and others dragged her up the embankment; she later died from injuries suffered in the crash. Lyford was treated for inhaling extinguisher chemicals. Davis represents Maine's fourth district.



Left: U.S. Rep. John Carter, right, re-met Carnegie Hero **Allen Sirois**, left, Dec. 23, when he presented the Carnegie Medal to him at Carter's office in Round Rock, Texas. Sirois responded to the scene of a May 26, 2018, highway accident in which a concrete mixer truck overturned onto its driver's side. The 60-year-old driver was trapped inside as flames burned in the engine area. Sirois climbed the truck, opened the passenger door, reached into the passenger compartment and, with difficulty, pulled the man partially out of the cab. Another man moved onto the truck and fully pulled the driver to safety.

Right: Carter and Sirois first met in 2008, when Sirois, around age 10, posed with him at a Boy Scouts of America Citizen of Distinction banquet for Longhorn Council.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

ANTLERS OF WHITE-TAIL BUCK
THAT FIGURED

PHOTO BY ANTOINE VASSE NICOLAS

Left: Case Investigator H.W. Eyman's sketch of the white-tailed buck that figured in the 1959 attack on Levi P. Yates at Volunteer Park Zoo in Pasco, Wash.
Right: A photograph of the type of deer involved in the incident.

The enraged deer, investigated by H.W. Eyman

On the morning of Nov. 23, 1959, Levi P. Yates, a 38-year-old park caretaker, made his way to the deer pen of the Volunteer Park Zoo in Pasco, Wash. The public recreation area was situated on seven acres of community land and also housed a peacock enclosure.

Through a tubular frame gate Yates entered the deer pen intending to feed the white-tailed buck that occupied the space. The enclosure measured 40 feet by 55 feet and it was surrounded by a 7-foot-high, heavy, chain-link fence. The space contained a feed shed in one of the far corners and a deer shelter in the other. In the middle of the pen, there was a salt block and wooden rubbing pole for the deer's use.

Initially, the animal seemed disinterested in Yates' entrance and the caretaker meandered toward the feed shed unacknowledged. However, as he set the bucket on the ground and went to open the shed, he experienced an ominous feeling of imminent attack, he told Hero Fund Case Investigator H.W. Eyman.

Three weeks prior, the buck, who had showed signs of viciousness brought on by the start of mating season, fatally gored a doe with its antlers.

When Yates whipped around he was confronted by the buck, its head lowered, charging toward him. The deer loomed 6-foot-tall including its antlers, and it weighed approximately 240 pounds. Its antlers, honed to powerful sharpness, extended upward and outward from its head, then curved inward and diverged into three main tines. In addition, there were two shorter, stouter

points at the base of its antlers that extended upward and inward.

With no time to change his course, Yates readied himself, hoping to grasp the buck's antlers and divert them on impact. However, the aggressive beast proved too strong, and forced its left tine into Yates' right knee, issuing it upward beneath his kneecap, while simultaneously thrusting the right tine into Yates' groin.

"Help!" Yates yelled in pain as the deer pinned him against the shed.

His efforts to wrestle against the offshoots of the buck's antlers and twist its head away proved fruitless and only enraged the animal further.

The beast rattled its head in retaliation and pushed Yates to the ground where he lay vulnerable.

Meanwhile, **James E. Simpson**, pastor of the Pasco Presbyterian Church, was driving by Volunteer Park on North Third Avenue after having dropped his daughter off at the local junior high school. He saw the buck's initial charge and stopped his car. Simpson raced toward the enclosure as the buck pinned Yates in the spread of its antlers.

"How do I get in?!" Simpson asked.

"There's a gate in the corner!" Yates managed to get out as he gripped the buck's antlers, attempting to force them upward.

As Simpson went to the gate, another man, **Joseph J. Kauer**, who had also dropped his daughter off at school, heard ►



*Modern-day entrance to Volunteer Park in Pasco, Wash., which was the site of a 1959 attack by an enraged deer. **James E. Simpson** and **Joseph J. Kauer** received Carnegie medals for the rescue of deer caretaker Levi P. Yates. The park zoo site was later replaced with the train (background) that still occupies the space today.*

Yates' cries for help and stopped at the scene.

Meanwhile, Simpson had reached the gate and noticed blood on the ground around Yates.

He was fearful for Yates' life and told the Hero Fund investigator that he was determined to enter the pen and wrestle the buck away from the injured man.

At that point, Kauer was emerging from his car.

Simpson was outfitted in woolen trousers, a cotton shirt, and a zipped-up Air Force jacket. He was familiar with the scene and had observed the deer at times when it was docile, but had no experience handling violent animals.

He had also read of the buck's violent goring of a doe a few weeks prior.

"Hit it with something!" Yates cried out as Simpson entered the enclosure.

Simpson, noting the salt block in the center of the enclosure, picked it up and moved to the side of the buck's lowered head. Holding the block at one end firmly, with both hands, he drove the opposite end down on the animal's skull behind the antler beams.

Regrettably, the blow failed to stun the buck as Simpson had hoped. Instead, the animal swung its head sharply upward and staggered away from Yates, who crawled toward the feed shed. The buck then charged at Simpson with its head lowered. The deer's sharp tines ripped through Simpson's jacket and into his abdomen.

Simpson grasped the antlers on his right and left side. Snorting and pawing, the enraged buck jerked his head, encircling Simpson with his antlers, and driving him into the fence. Fearing another blow to the abdomen, Simpson held to the offshoots and twisted himself away from the fence, but lost his footing and fell to the ground. The buck's antlers moved downward with his fall and he was imprisoned within the tines once again.

By now, Simpson's trousers were tattered shreds and the buck stood ominously above him. Yates was leaning against the fence, struggling to his feet, and Kauer had just reached the gate to the pen.



Without hesitation, Kauer raced toward the buck, grasped the buck's tines, and tried unsuccessfully to pull its head upward and away from Simpson.

Then, Yates hobbled over and grasped the other side of the buck's tines. Between him and Kauer, they were able to raise the buck's head slightly. In response, the animal rebelled, jerking its head upward to free its antlers from their grasp, which gave Simpson time to roll away and rise to his feet.

With Kauer and Yates still positioned on either side of the buck, Simpson gained hold of the main beams of the deer's antlers. As each man retained his two-handed hold on the buck, Kauer proposed they turn the beast's head in one direction to weaken it.

Kauer gestured and the three men forced their collective grip in the northwest direction. As they shifted the buck's head, the animal retained its footing by moving its hind legs to follow the course led by the trio's shifting grasp.

The men and the buck had reached a stalemate when Kauer offered his next idea: to work the animal close enough to the gate so they could release their hold and flee from the pen.

With great difficulty, they wrestled the resistant buck and, in short gains, moved it to a point about 10 feet from the opening.

Nearly exhausted and breathing heavily from their strenuous ►

efforts, Kauer proposed they release the buck's antlers simultaneously and make a run for the gate.

Before Kauer gave the signal, Simpson removed part of his tattered, fouled jacket sleeve that was caught on one of the antler spikes.

He freed it and, at Kauer's call, the men released their shared hold on the buck's antlers and raced toward the gate.

The furious buck immediately pursued its captors. The deer directed its charge at Simpson, encircling him at the waist with his antlers, and driving him against the trunk of an elm tree outside the gate of the pen.

Abruptly, the buck then backed away from Simpson and began peacefully grazing on the park lawn—the violent struggle was over.

"Are you alright?" Kauer and Yates inquired worriedly of Simpson. The former two had safely exited the enclosure while Simpson was being thrust against the elm tree.

Kauer ran to Simpson who indicated he had not been gored, but that most of his body felt sore.

Meanwhile, Yates was bleeding badly from his knee injury. He hobbled over to an administration building on the park's grounds and reported the accident before being taken to the hospital by truck.

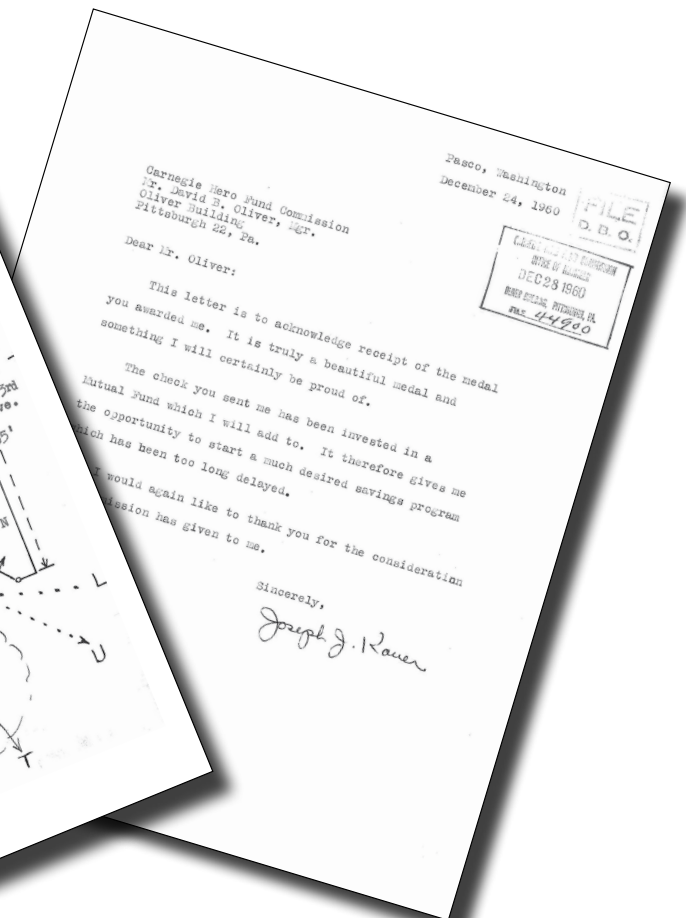
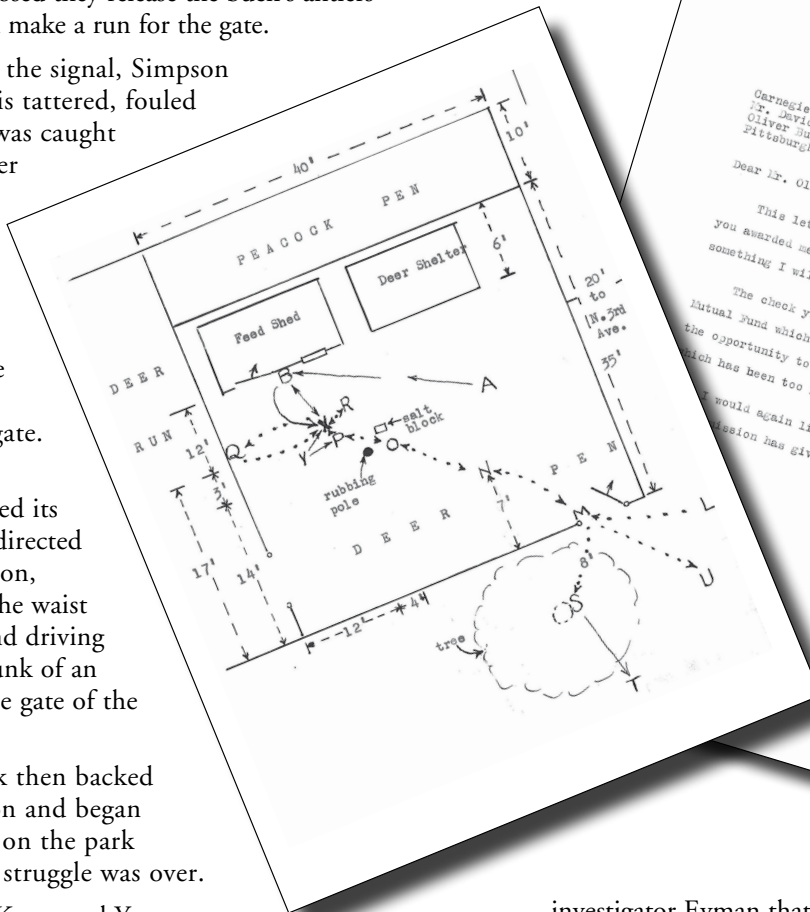
As Simpson went to his automobile to drive himself to the hospital, Kauer, fearing the enraged buck would attack school children, raced into North Third Avenue and asked the driver of a passing vehicle to notify police.

Kauer then got in his car and drove to the East edge of the park, intending to herd the deer away from any children who might enter the area. Guided by Kauer's automobile, the buck moved calmly in the southwest direction before stepping into Third Avenue.

Police arrived and, standing in the bed of a truck, lassoed the deer. A veterinarian tranquilized the deer and performed an operation rendering the buck impotent.

When the buck returned to Volunteer Park, it led a much more docile life.

At the hospital, Yates needed two stitches to close his groin injury and 12 stitches for his wounded knee. He was discharged and spent nearly two months recuperating at home before he could return to work. During the investigation, Yates informed



investigator Eyman that he experienced persistent back and knee pain.

Simpson was examined at the hospital and it was discovered he had superficial lacerations on his left upper arm and right hip. He also had scratches on his upper thighs. He experienced soreness for six weeks and remained black and blue with bruises for several weeks.

Kauer escaped the incident with no injuries.

Simpson and Kauer were each awarded the bronze medal and \$500 for rescuing Yates from the enraged buck.

After the rescue, Simpson and his family moved to Swarthmore, Pa., a borough outside Philadelphia, where he accepted a job as editor of a magazine of the National Presbyterian Board on Christian Education.

In his report, Eyman noted Simpson intended to use the financial award as a down payment on a new home.

Kauer worked for the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission as a pipefitter-welder. He lived with his wife Mary and six children in Pasco, Wash. Hero Fund files indicate Kauer invested his award money in a mutual fund.

Volunteer Park is situated on seven acres of community land. Today the space is home to a playground, walking trail, picnic areas, meditation garden, and historic train engine. 🚂

— Abby Brady, operations and outreach assistant/archivist

“Snorting and pawing, the enraged buck jerked his head, encircling Simpson with his antlers and driving him into the fence.”



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

Further information is available online or by contacting the Commission.

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

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Do your duty and a little more and the future will take care of itself.

— 1908 address before a graduating class in New York.

CONTINUUM

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

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).

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