Family of first Carnegie Medal awardee gathers on 106th anniversary of heroic act

One hundred and six years—to the day—that the first awardee of the Carnegie Medal performed his heroic act, on July 17, 1904, members of his extended family gathered at his gravesite to place a bronze marker signifying his distinction as a medal awardee. The markers, made in the likeness of the medal, are made available to the families of the deceased awardees by the Hero Fund.

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The Hero Fund’s attention was called to the lifesaving actions of Louis A. Baumann, Jr., by his father, Louis A., Sr., in a handwritten letter of Sept. 15, 1904, that included signatures of six witnesses to the rescue. The nomination was the 201st to be received by the Hero Fund since its founding the previous April 15. To date, more than 83,000 nominations for the award have been made.

The penciled note survives in the Commission’s files, as does the case investigator’s typewritten report, which details the heroic act. According to the report, Baumann was one of 10 young men who on “an ideal summer day” in July 1904 set out for a farm pond near his home “for an afternoon’s sport in the water.”

One of the youths, Charles Stevick, 16, dived into the pond from a springboard, but he shouted for help when he surfaced and then sank. Twice Baumann entered the water for him but each time had to break away from him and return to the bank to catch his breath. On his third attempt, Baumann grabbed Stevick by the hand and dragged him along the bottom of the pond until the other boys, forming a chain, helped remove him from the water. Stevick was unconscious when taken from the pond but was revived on the bank.

The informal event, attended also by members of the Wilkinsburg Historical Society and Hero Fund representatives Douglas F. Chambers and Walter F. Rutkowski, was put together by one of the nephews, Richard Bauman of Murrysville, Pa. The family dropped the second “n” from Baumann over the years.

“I first remember seeing the medal as a teenager,” Bauman said. “The inscription on the back of it impressed me, even at that age.” He was referring to the Bible verse from the New Testament, “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13), that rims each medal. The other nephews speaking to their heritage were brothers Ronald Hitchon of Lewisville, Texas, and Lawrence Hitchon of Washington, Pa. The fourth nephew is Fred Williams of Santa Monica, Calif. Baumann, the awardee, and his wife Geraldine had one child, James David Bauman, now deceased.

In addition to Baumann’s, Homewood Cemetery contains the grave of Selwyn M. Taylor, one of the two men who entered a stricken coal mine in Harwick, Pa., to attempt the rescue of any survivors of a massive explosion in early 1904. Taylor and the other rescuer, Daniel A. Lyle, both died in their attempts, prompting Andrew Carnegie to issue medals privately to their families. Within two months, he acted on a desire to see civilian heroism more broadly recognized by writing the Hero Fund’s “Deed of Trust.” The document established a commission to oversee the work of the new fund, and it stipulated that recognition was to include a medal.

The medal “shall be given...to recite the heroic deed it commemorates,” Carnegie wrote, “that descendants may know and be proud of their descent.” Proving Carnegie’s prescience, members of Baumann’s family had his medal on display, propping it against his headstone for the ceremony. The grave marker, cast in bronze, had been set in a sunken granite post atop the grave. The Hero Fund began distributing grave markers, at no charge to the awardees’ families, in 2007 and to date has issued 200 of them (see page 11).

Making the markers available was the idea of Commission President Mark Laskow, who is the seventh to hold that office. Four of his predecessors, in addition to Baumann and Taylor, are buried at Homewood: Charles L. Taylor (president from 1904 to 1922), Dr. Thomas S. Arbuthnot (1933-1956), Charles A. McClintock (1957-1968), and Stewart McClintic (1968-1978).
Adoptive father finds Carnegie Hero while tracing his son’s family history

By the Rev. Larry A. Shelley • Pastor, Chattanooga, Okla., Church of Christ

At three weeks old, Jason became our son in 1976. The state shared only the scantiest of details about his birth and family background. After he graduated and served his country in the armed forces, he and I decided it was time to learn more. The state where he was born and where we adopted him allows records to be opened upon proper petitioning and working through an intermediary. His birth mother gladly opened communication, as did his grandparents.

Jason had no objection to my further researching his natural family history, a work in which I have had many years’ experience. We began with the memories of the grandparents. After several phone interviews with the grandmother, she, as an afterthought, volunteered that she still had an uncle living in another state. Would I like his phone number? The uncle, it turned out, is more than 90 years old and quite weak. I interviewed him with his wife’s help.

As we concluded the interview, he referred to a medal he would look at as boy. It always hung on a piece of furniture in a prominent place in the house. On it was a Bible verse, the first scripture passage that he learned: “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13). So, what was the medal? “Oh, my father was awarded the Carnegie Medal. He saved a girl from drowning. He died not long after that. The family always said he died of a broken heart because he wasn’t able to save the second girl, too.”

Next day, I contacted the library in that town. The uncle was an infant at the time of his father’s heroic act, and his father died in 1920, so I had a time frame. The librarian found a newspaper article on the rescue, but she couldn’t find an article about the award. After a while, it came to me that, since the medal is still being awarded, maybe the Carnegie folks might have records. Finding the address online, I sent my inquiry.

The Hero Fund responded with copies of its 1922 “case minute” on the rescue and of four “account cards,” which monitored the payment of a $1,000 grant to the widow. So that’s why we couldn’t find the article. The award had been made after his death.

The packet I received was one of those treasure loads that family historians always want but rarely get. What was in it? My son’s great-great-grandfather’s address—the specific street address! His height, weight, occupation, relative health, and dress on that day. The date of the incident. The names of the girls involved, with their birthdates, physical descriptions and dress, and their home addresses. The report included a detailed account of what happened that day, down to our son in 1976. The state shared only the scantiest of details about his birth and family background. After he graduated and served his country in the armed forces, he and I decided it was time to learn more. The state where he was born and where we adopted him allows records to be opened upon proper petitioning and working through an intermediary. His birth mother gladly opened communication, as did his grandparents.

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(continued on page 4)
Adoptive father finds Carnegie Hero

(continued from page 3)

how the rescuer happened to be there and how he felt as he was involved in the rescue.

From the reports we learned that, besides his regular occupation, he was also a photographer, the reason for his being at the popular swimming hole. We learned that he died of tuberculosis of the throat in November 1920. His regular wages had been $125 a month, and his widow had already received an insurance settlement. In the report were also the financial status of the family left behind and an accounting of their assets. In the family? Five daughters, ages 23, 20, 17, 11, and 5, and three sons, ages 14, 10, and 3. That last one—there’s the uncle I interviewed—just 3 years old. What a fortunate circumstance for my research that he still remembered!

I learned that the rescuer’s oldest daughter was a bookkeeper. Two of the boys were in an institution because their mother could not care for them. Her debts already exceeded her assets. The four account cards indicated that the $1,000 grant went into very practical stuff. The house needed a new roof. The new grave needed a marker.

And the medal hung in a place of honor where a young boy marveled at the little he knew of his father. Decades later he is telling a stranger about the verse he remembered on the medal’s back side.

My son? Jason’s job title is writer/editor for the Office of the Federal Register, a division of the National Archives, in Washington, D.C. He lives in Baltimore, Md. (Jason’s great-great-grandfather was Thomas A. O’Brien of Latrobe, Pa. On Aug. 8, 1919, O’Brien saved a 16-year-old girl from drowning in Loyalhanna Creek at Darlington, Pa.)

THANK YOU…AGAIN AND AGAIN

The Hero Fund has had three reasons to be grateful over the past few months:

• Bill Few Associates of Pittsburgh is a 23-year-old wealth management firm that has begun providing consulting services to participants in the Hero Fund’s retirement plan. The Hero Fund makes monthly contributions to its employees’ tax-deferred retirement accounts, but it’s up to the employees to direct their accounts’ investment activities. Associates from Bill Few volunteered to provide their expert advice on investing, and in June two of the company’s principals—Michael K. Kauffelt II, president and chief investment officer, and Edward G. Snyder, senior vice president—spent the day with the staff to reviewing their accounts and other holdings.

Their work was donated to the Hero Fund. “We have been looking for an opportunity to provide some of our services on a pro-bono basis to an organization with an admirable mission that we feel is a right fit for us,” Kauffelt said. “After conducting due diligence on the Hero Fund, we think we have found a good fit which matches our resources with your needs.” He added, “Our contribution pales in comparison to the actual heroes.”

• Mullen is a Boston-based, full-service modern advertising agency whose Pittsburgh office has been handling the Hero Fund account for the past eight years. The firm designed the Hero Fund’s website (www.carnegiehero.org), and it hosts and maintains the site, incorporating changes as needed, such as the addition of new awardees when announced.

Alex Maurer, senior vice president and director of client services, recently informed the Hero Fund that Mullen’s routine work on the site would also be done on a pro-bono basis.

• Troika Entertainment out of Gaithersburg, Md., produces shows—such as The Sound of Music, Cats, 42nd Street, and Chicago—throughout the world for the touring, sit-down, casino, and leisure markets. In a recent promotion, the Hero Fund emerged as a favored charity, and Troika made a financial contribution toward the furtherance of its work. Gifts to the Hero Fund are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law, as the organization is classed as charitable under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code.
Heroes’ 1936 deaths off Oregon coast honored annually by ‘Fleet of Flowers’

Depoe Bay, Ore., is a community of just over a thousand and in most respects is like the many other small towns dotting the state’s northwest coast. But every Memorial Day it does something that distinguishes it from all the others, drawing hundreds, mostly its own citizens but also vacationers and residents from nearby towns.

The community sponsors the “Fleet of Flowers,” a ceremony that originally honored those who were lost at sea but has grown over the years to include honoring members of the armed forces as well as all others who gave their lives in service. In Depoe Bay, where so much of the economy relies on fishing, those others include local fishermen such as Ray Noel Bower and John Aldred Chambers, who died attempting to save three other fishermen on Oct. 4, 1936.

Rough seas and a dense fog hampered the three fishermen and their boat as they attempted to enter the harbor at Depoe Bay. Not wanting to risk entering the narrow passage into the harbor, the men set off for a whistle buoy nearly a mile from the mouth of the bay. Meanwhile, Bower, 40, and Chambers, 21, who were alerted to the men’s plight, feared that they would not be able to locate the buoy and went out to help them. It was nearly dark. When they reached the victims’ boat, they instructed the three fishermen to follow them to the harbor.

The boats, 50 feet apart, passed through one line of breakers. From their boat, the victims saw another breaker strike Bower’s and Chambers’s boat, and it disappeared from their view. The three fishermen returned to the buoy and moored there, and the next morning they returned safely to the inner harbor. Later that morning Chambers was found three miles offshore and five miles from the bay, and Bower was found on the wrecked boat. The Hero Fund awarded the family of each man a Carnegie Medal in January 1938 to mark the heroic lifesaving attempt.

Nine years following the accident, the first Fleet of Flowers took place, prompted mainly by the actions of Bower and Chambers. As then, many of the boats moored in Depoe Bay are decorated with cedar boughs and flowers and, following a ceremony at the harbor, set out to sea.

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The casket of the Rev. Frederick H. Winters is taken from the sanctuary of the First Baptist Church of Maryville, Ill., on March 13, 2009, following his funeral service. Winters was gunned down by an assailant five days earlier while preaching at the church. Two congregants, Keith E. Melton and Terry L. Ballard, were stabbed by the assailant after they left their pews to end the attack. (Photo by the St. Louis, Mo., Post-Dispatch.)

Friends Jared J. Champayne, 23, of Chicago, Ill., and Jeremy S. Cobb, 27, of Muskegon, Mich., saved Catherine A. Hamlin, 41, from drowning in Lake Michigan on Aug. 3, 2009. Hamlin was wading in the lake when she was pulled away from shore by a very strong current. Struggling against the current and five-foot waves, she shouted for help. Champayne and Cobb were swimming closer to shore and heard her. They swam to her, Champayne reaching (continued on page 7)

The next announcement of awardees will be made on Sept. 23.

The total number of recipients to 9,372 since the Hero Fund’s inception in 1904. The latest awards, which were announced on June 24, are detailed on the Commission’s website at www.carnegiehero.org. The next announcement of awardees will be made on Sept. 23.

**Timothy Lucas Gibson**

29, an air conditioning installer from Cape Coral, Fla., saved Kerrigan Lawhorn, 1, from her family’s burning house in Cape Coral on Feb. 15 last year. Kerrigan was in a bedroom of the one-story house after fire broke out in the kitchen and filled the room with dense smoke. Across the street, Gibson was alerted to the fire. He climbed through a window into the bedroom and, despite there being no visibility in the smoke, searched the room. After returning for air, he again penetrated the room and found Kerrigan at its opposite side. He took her to the window to safety. (See photo.)

**Edward Russell Nye** and Michael Rangus, both of Mechanicsville, Va., rescued Ronald A. Hairfield, Jr., from a burning pickup truck on June 13 last year. Hairfield, 37, was the sole occupant of the pickup, which left a rural road, turned onto its passengerside, and caught fire. The sound of the crash alerted Nye, 28, store clerk, and Rangus, 57, manager, both of whom lived nearby. They ran to the scene, where they saw Hairfield emerge through the driver’s door window and shout for help. Despite high and growing flames issuing from the vehicle, they grasped Hairfield and pulled him out of the cab and to the ground. Burned, Hairfield died 18 days later.

**Donald George Gough**, 60, an environmental monitor contractor from Summerland, B.C., helped to save Gordon R. Kingston, 83, from drowning in the Similkameen River at Manning Park, B.C., on May 23, 2007. Kingston’s car left the river, entered the river, and was swept downstream by the very swift current. It came to rest at a point about 35 feet from the bank in water about four feet deep. Gough, a motorist, tied one end of a fire hose around his waist and entered the river as men on the bank held the other end. He swam with the current to the car and tied his end of the hose around Kingston. The men on the bank pulled Kingston to the edge of the river. Untethered, Gough swam from the car, the current taking him farther downstream as he made his way to the bank. Kingston was hospitalized for treatment of hypothermia.

**Willard Van Fleet**, 36, a general laborer from Factoryville, Pa., died helping to save a 5-year-old girl from drowning in a pond in Dalton, Pa., on Feb. 21, 2009, and his stepfather, **Mark W. Keene**, 55, a builder from Dalton, died attempting to help save the girl and her mother. The girl went onto ice covering the pond but broke through at a point about 15 feet from the bank into 12 feet of water. Van Fleet, her mother’s friend, jumped into the water for her and held her up while Keene left to summon help. The girl’s mother went onto the ice, but she too broke through. Van Fleet handed the girl over to her before submerging. Keene, who had a history of significant heart disease, returned with an extension ladder. As a responding firefighter then used the ladder to remove both the girl and her mother from the pond, Keene suffered a fatal heart attack and collapsed. Van Fleet drowned. (See page 1.)

Retired mason **Edward Jay Fillingham**, 75, of Henderson, N.Y., saved Amanda L. Roberts, 22; Kiefer S. Hockey, 17; and Douglas Daury, 27, from drowning in Henderson Bay of Lake Ontario on April 17 last year. The paddleboat that the victims were operating overturned in water about 20 feet deep at a point about 1,500 feet from shore. They shouted for help as they struggled in the 41-degree water. At his home on the shore in that vicinity, Fillingham witnessed the accident. Despite suffering from Parkinson’s disease, which compromised his swimming ability, he launched a 12-foot aluminum canoe and rowed through choppy water to the victims. They grasped the sides of the canoe as Fillingham retracted his course to shore, towing them. (See photo.)
LATEST AWARD WINNERS (continued from page 6)

Edward Jay Fillingham, 75, of Henderson, N.Y., paddled a canoe 1,500 feet into the choppy, 41-degree water of Lake Ontario to rescue three young people whose paddleboat overturned. (Photo, by Justin Sorensen, is courtesy of the Watertown, N.Y., Daily Times.)

Alexander G. Glass, 33, a teacher from Newport, N.C., saved sisters Karrissa N., 18, and SuAnna L. Willis, 23, from drowning in the Atlantic Ocean at Cape Lookout, N.C., on May 25, 2009. The women struggled to stay afloat after a strong current took them out of the beach and thwarted their efforts at returning. Glass was in another party on shore. He waded and swam about 250 feet out to SuAnna, who then directed him to Karrissa. Glass went about 50 feet farther out to Karrissa and then swam back to SuAnna with her. SuAnna held to Karrissa as Glass, outweighed by the women, towed them toward shore. They were aided to the beach from washable water.

Branden L. Bonge saved Mallory and Megan Smith from a burning sport utility vehicle, and Cody L. Clemmons helped to rescue its driver, Lisa K. Bowdoin.

In a highway accident in Waco, Texas, on March 25 last year, the vehicle left the roadway, overturned onto its roof, and started to burn at its front end. Bonge, 28, a general manager from Valley Mills, Texas, drove upon the scene and, despite flames entering the vehicle’s front interior, kicked out a passenger-side window. Partially entering the vehicle head first, he pulled Mallory, 10, out. After taking her to safety, he returned and crawled inside again, farther, to grasp her sister, Megan, who was unconscious. He removed her from the vehicle. Clemmons, 44, a business operator from Crawford, Texas, also drove upon the scene and stopped. Clemmons obtained a knife, partially entered the vehicle through a passenger-side window, and gave the knife to Bowdoin, who freed herself of her safety belt. Despite a rush of flames then occurring at the vehicle, Clemmons grasped Bowdoin, who outweighed him, and pulled her out, others helping to take her to safety. Flames grew to engulf the vehicle shortly.

Nickolas J. Edwards, 19, a high school student from Salem, Ore., saved Destiny E. Edwards, 21, from her burning car after an accident in Salem on Oct. 17 last year. Destiny’s car left the roadway at night, overturned, and came to rest on its driver’s side. Flames broke out in the car’s engine area. Nickolas drove upon the scene and attempted to gain access to the car through its passenger door but was unsuccessful. Despite growing flames at the front end of the car, he kicked the windshield repeatedly, creating a small hole. He then enlarged the hole, extended his arms inside, and grasped Destiny. He pulled her from the vehicle, flames growing to engulf much of it.

Cameron T. Andersen of Mill Valley, Calif., and Gregory R. Thomson of Cortez, Madera, Calif., helped to save a girl from drowning in the Pacific Ocean at Stinson Beach, Calif., on May 16 last year. While swimming, a 16-year-old girl was pulled seaward by a very strong current and was unable to return against it. On the beach, Andersen, 23, a laborer, became aware of her situation and waded and swam out to her. He positioned himself beneath the girl, who was nearly exhausted, to keep her afloat. They were joined shortly by Thomson, 50, a tutor, who also swam out from the beach. The men attempted to return to shore with the girl but made no progress against the current. Supporting her, they were carried farther out as they awaited help. After several minutes, two lifeguards reached them. The girl was taken to the beach by one of the lifeguards, and the other remained with the men as they swam back to shore, resting en route with the aid of the lifeguard’s flotation device.

Donald Arthur Morrison, 43, a diamond driller from Dutch Valley, N.B., rescued a woman from a burning helicopter out of Norman Wells, Northwest Territories, on May 24, 2008. A 27-year-old woman was the pilot of the helicopter transporting Morrison and a co-worker to a remote work site. As the helicopter was descending to land, a mechanical failure sent it out of control, and it dropped 75 feet to the ground, crash landing on its side. The craft’s fuel tank was punctured, and flames erupted immediately and grew quickly, entering the cabin. Morrison kicked out the windshield and stepped from

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MEMORIAL STANDARD
I am the grandson of (Carnegie Medal) recipient John H. Simmons, 41, who died from suffocation Sept. 29, 1911, while attempting to save the life of John A. Rhine in Nebo, N.C.

The most kind benevolent award in 1911 is largely responsible for keeping alive the heroic memory of my grandfather. The scripture on the back, John 15:13, sets a wonderful memorial standard of behavior for my children and grandchildren.

James B. Simmons, Asheville, N.C.

OFTEN THE HUMBLE
Thank you so very much for your successful efforts in awarding Duane E. Vanlanham the distinguished Carnegie Medal for heroism. This man is certainly a hero. So often it is the ordinary, humble person who does selfless, brave acts of heroism.

Thanks again for your organization and especially for this tribute to this ordinary man who demonstrated extraordinary bravery and concern for his neighbor. Although I have never met him, I hold him in high esteem.

(continued from page 5)

They form a large circle near the location of the above buoy as a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter hovers in the center of the circle and lowers a wreath into the water. Those on the assembled vessels then cast the floral tributes into the sea.

At this year’s event, the 65th consecutive year it has been held, Chambers’s family donated his Carnegie Medal to the Chamber of Commerce for display, along with newspaper accounts of the rescue attempt and other material. Bower and Chambers are also honored for their rescue with a plaque set in a granite monument on the shore, and just beyond, those reading the plaque can see the whistle buoy still bobbing in the bay.

The Hero Fund was invited to participate in this year’s ceremony and was represented by Douglas R. Chambers (no relation to the awardee), director of external affairs, who addressed the gathering. Also in attendance were David and Deanna Barfuss of Aloha, Ore., parents of Carnegie Medal awardee Ross McKay Barfuss. Ross drowned March 8, 2008, at age 16 while attempting the rescue of an 11-year-old boy from drowning in the Pacific Ocean at Gleneden Beach, Ore., just a few miles north of Depoe Bay. He was posthumously awarded the medal a year later. His parents were on the Coast Guard boat that led the procession of boats out into the bay at last year’s ceremony.

‘Fleet of Flowers’ off Oregon coast

(continued from page 5)

A few months have passed since I was notified of your award, and I now realize that I have not taken the time to thank you and your staff. I am honored by your selection and humbled to be mentioned in the company of other award winners, both present and past.

I recently received a call from a local high school student who wanted to speak with me about heroism. I was at a loss to explain to him the mechanics of the moment since there is little consideration that takes place, save the attempt to save or rescue another.

I cannot express to you how important your award is to me, but I can only hope to share it in spirit with all those, both in uniform and out, who risk their lives every day to save and protect others. In my case most notably, the members of the Danbury Fire Department, the “cavalry” that worked so flawlessly to bring about our rescue.

Thank you once again. God bless you and God bless our country.

Rory Ahearne, Danbury, Conn.

Ahearne was cited in April for his efforts in behalf of a cross-country skier who had broken through thin ice on a lake near Ahearne’s home. He pulled the skier out of the way of the bank before he too broke through the ice. Arriving firefighters completed the rescue.

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If I thought being with my family was precious before yesterday, it’s a hundred times more precious today.—Catherine M. Hamlin of Muskegon, Mich., who was saved from drowning by Carnegie Medal Awardee J. Champayne, #9357, and Jeremy S. Cobb, #9358

‘Reach, throw, row, go’ is the motto. It was too far to reach, there was no rope to throw, no boat to row, so I had to go. There’s no way I could have lived with myself if I hadn’t tried. I never considered not helping.—Alexander G. Glass of Newport, N.C., Carnegie Medal Awardee #9364

I have no way to explain it, except to cry.—Gordon R. Kingston of Chilliwack, B.C., who was saved from drowning at age 83 by Donald George Gough, Carnegie Medal Awardee #9353

I’ve been told that what I did was heroic and have also been told I was stupid for going in the (burning) house. I feel like I only did what I hope someone else would do if it were my child trapped in the house. —Nathan Simpson of Medina, Ohio, Carnegie Medal Nominee #82763

It’s hard for me to put HERO in the same sentence as ME.—Richard Shawn Harper of Fort Worth, Texas, Carnegie Medal Awardee #9319

### SINK OR SWIM

A pre-eminent figure in Pittsburgh’s industrial, cultural, and educational history, Andrew Carnegie is also something of an icon in its pop culture. Latest iteration was a 20-foot inflatable sculpture displayed during the summer’s annual Three Rivers Arts Festival. Shown floating in the Allegheny River against the city’s skyline, the sculpture is the work of Carnegie Mellon University alumnus Stephen Antonson of New York. In discussing his work, he pointed out a quote from the subject as appearing in the 2006 biography, Andrew Carnegie, by David Nasaw. Referring to his investments in Pittsburgh-area industries, Carnegie said, “When Pittsburgh sinks, I sink with it, and when Pittsburgh swims, I shall swim with it.” (Photo Copyright©, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette 2010, all rights reserved. Reprinted with permission.)

### VETERINARY STUDENT: LUCKY AND GRATEFUL

Hard to top glad tidings such as these from Carnegie Medal awardee Hannah Lynn Goorsky of Pomona, Calif.: “I received a Carnegie Hero award in 2004 and since then have been nothing but lucky and incredibly grateful for the opportunities the award has afforded me. By including the award on my veterinary school applications, I believe it had a great hand in helping to be selected as an admitted member of the Western University Veterinary School (Pomona) class of 2013. As if that was not already enough, the Hero Fund also awarded me a scholarship toward the costs of my student loans—for this I am thankful beyond belief. You all do so many wonderful things for so many people, I can only hope that my future contribution as a veterinarian will come close to giving back for what you’ve given me.”

Goorsky, shown here with one of her patients, received the medal for rescuing a zookeeper from a tiger attack in Sacramento, Calif., in 2003. Then 23, she had just started her third day as a volunteer at the zoo when the 320-pound tiger took the zookeeper to the floor and began to maul him. Goorsky struck the tiger on the head with a shovel until it retreated.

### TO THE HERO FUND

(continued from page 8)

A WHOLE NEW LEVEL

I am overwhelmed with gratitude to the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission for considering and accepting me for one of your most prestigious awards.

The young man who needed my help has become a great friend. I honestly believe that this experience has changed his life, sending him in a positive direction. This experience has taken my life to a whole new level.

I thank you, the foundation, and all involved in this presentation.

Charles H. Monnier, Molalla, Ore.

On Christmas morning 2008, Monnier responded to aid a young man who was being attacked by two dogs outside Monnier’s home. He was awarded the medal in April.

PART OF THE FAMILY

I am writing to express my ongoing appreciation for the wonderful spirit and work of the foundation as you continue to recognize those men and women who put the lives of others ahead of themselves. I hope you remember me as I will never forget your trip to Hampton Roads, Va., to present my medal a few years ago, and I am still so honored to reflect on my wife’s father, Strickler Mullins, who was also an awardee. Further, I feel a very special honor to have been invited by you to participate in the Carnegie Hero Fund’s 100th anniversary dinner, and to offer the invocation for that very special occasion. I truly feel as if I am a member of your Carnegie family and would love to do more for the foundation when opportunity permits.

With the above being said, I have been inspired to be an ambassador for the foundation and to participate in whatever manner might be possible. I read in the June impulse that you are developing a volunteer presenter program. I would be honored to volunteer to present the medal if an occasion arises that would be beneficial to both you and the recipient. With great respect and appreciation,

Glenn S. (Steve) Bingham, Williamsburg, Va.

Bingham received the medal in 2002 for saving a 10-year-old boy from drowning in the James River at Williamsburg a year earlier, and his father-in-law, Mullins, was cited in 1980 for helping to save a miner from suffocation in a coal mine in Dante, Va., in 1978. Mullins, then 60, was the mine superintendent and worked with other rescuers, also cited by the Hero Fund.

AID ACKNOWLEDGED

I want to thank you for the generous scholarship toward my son’s education. It brings tears to my eyes because I know how wonderful it would make Mark feel to know he is, through you, contributing to John’s education.

Bonnie Thanos, Chesterton, Ind.

Ms. Thanos’ son, John, is a student at Purdue

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Harold E. Pulsifer, Jr., 81, of Falmouth, Maine, died May 4. He was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 1944 for helping to save a 12-year-old boy from drowning in the Mousam River at Springvale, Maine, on Dec. 4, 1943. The boy had been skating on the river when the ice broke beneath him, and Pulsifer, then 15, broke through in a rescue attempt. He took the boy a distance toward safety, and both were aided from the water by others. Pulsifer ran a real estate management company in Portland and leaves three sons and five grandsons.

Ronald E. Swartzlander, 75, of Slippery Rock, Pa., died April 29. Swartzlander joined the Hero Fund as a field representative—the former title of case investigator—in 1962 and in 1968 was named to head the investigative unit, a position he held until 1981. Swartzlander was an eight-year member of the U.S. Army Reserves and served in Frankfurt, Germany, and at NATO Headquarters in Paris.

TO THE HERO FUND
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University, West Lafayette, Ind., majoring in English education. His father, Mark John Thanos, and paternal grandfather, John Mikel Thanos, were awarded the medal posthumously for attempting to save a boy from drowning in a flooded ditch near their home on Sept. 14, 2008.

CONTINUING EFFECTS
I just got through reading the March issue of imPULSE—
I'm a little behind because of a fight up here to keep the Boston Public Library open in the neighborhoods that kept me occupied this spring and summer. Over the course of the fight I became very involved and only since the passing of the city budget on June 30 has it died down at all. Throughout the series of events this spring I did keep Mr. Carnegie and his commitment to the city of Pittsburgh in mind; in fact it was likely the recent issue with the Lawrenceville branch that pushed me to get involved. That and my mother was a school librarian for her second career.

In any case, the picture and caption you published of Mr. Carnegie at Princeton University reminded me of the broad mission of his philanthropy and that I am in some way helping to carry that out up here in Boston. Just another effect of the lives that were given for Adolph—it's a blessing to get to watch the effects of a single act.

Brandon Abb, Boston, Mass.

Abb is the great-grandson of Adolph Gouia, who was the only person rescued from effects of the 1904 coal-mine explosion in Harwich, Pa. Accounts of heroism at the mine following the explosion prompted Andrew Carnegie to establish the Hero Fund.

Remember this—“One good deed, dying tongueless, slaughters a thousand waiting upon that.” — Undated

LATEST AWARDEES
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the helicopter. Although severely bruised, he turned and reached back inside. He grasped the pilot, pulled her from the helicopter, and dragged her away. Rapidly advancing flames that consumed the cabin precluded his attempt to rescue his coworker, who died at the scene.

Akasha Witchey Traver, 14, a student from Lexington, Va., rescued her niece, Willow W. Scorpius, 1, from the family’s burning house in Hot Springs, Va., on Jan. 15, 2009. At night, Willow was in her crib in a bedroom on the first floor of the house after an accidental fire broke out in that room. After Akasha and other family members discovered the fire, Akasha entered the bedroom, in which dense smoke precluded visibility of everything except the flames. Repelled by deteriorating conditions, she left the bedroom but re-entered after a moment and went to the crib, which was by then aflame. Akasha took Willow from the crib and carried her outside. Flames spread throughout the structure, destroying it.

Gary DeWayne Vinson, Jr., 23, a business operator from Sylvester, Ga., died helping attempt to save Joshua Perry, 11, from drowning in the Flint River at Albany, Ga., on Aug. 3, 2008. Joshua and his brother had entered the swift water of the river while playing on the bank and were struggling against a man who then attempted to save them. In another party, Vinson responded to the scene with friends after being alerted to the incident. From the bank they first linked arms to try to aid the boys and their rescuer, and then they swam out when Joshua became separated from the man. As the man returned Joshua’s brother to the bank, Joshua struggled against Vinson’s friends, and he then struggled against Vinson and submerged him as Vinson attempted a rescue. They did not resurface, and their bodies were later recovered from the river.

Catherine A. Hamlin of Muskegon, Mich., thanks Jeremy S. Cobb, who with a co-rescuer saved her from drowning in Lake Michigan at Muskegon last summer. (Photo by Kendra Stanley-Mills of the Muskegon Chronicle.)
A Waterdown, Ont., man acted heroically on June 4, 1943, when he resisted his own fear of water to respond to cries of children struggling in a pond.

Antonio Benetti, 43, a laborer at a sand and gravel pit near Aldershot, Ont., was at the work site when he heard the children screaming. Covering about a half-acre, the pond was shallow except for a 12-foot-wide hole in its center. With the temperature in late afternoon at 84 degrees, noticeably above the month’s average, the idea of cooling off in the pond was compelling for the group of five girls and two boys. Children had waded into the pond on other occasions, but, because of its inherent dangers, officials at the sand and gravel pit ordered them away.

Three of the girls waded into the pond and unknowingly entered the hole, where they submerged and then surfaced and struggled. Their screams caught the attention of workers at the site, including Benetti, who was about 125 feet away. A known nonswimmer who had expressed a fear of deep water, Benetti was aware of the hole in the pond. He ran to the edge of the water and, without taking time to remove any of his clothing—despite the heat he was wearing a shirt, vest, pants, and bib overalls—waded into it.

Without stopping, Benetti approached the hole, where he submerged but then resurfaced. A coworker waded into the pond and reached out to Benetti. Benetti...
grasped the coworker by the hands but lost his grip and fell backward into the hole. He surfaced and submerged more than once before disappearing a final time.

Other coworkers entered the water, and 10 minutes after the girls had fallen into the hole, they and Benetti were located and removed from the pond. None of the victims appeared conscious. Despite resuscitation efforts by the coworkers, first-aid squads, and even local physicians, none of the girls or Benetti survived.

The following year, the Commission awarded a bronze medal and an ongoing monthly grant to Benetti’s widow, Anja. For the next 28 years, Hero Fund representatives visited her and the couple’s two children, Sonja and Rino. Mrs. Benetti died in 2006.

—Marlin Ross, Case Investigator