

imPULSE

A Periodic Newsletter of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission ISSUE 30 • JUNE 2012



Lily
Blanks
Clarke,
ca. 1917

MOTHER SAVING THREE CHILDREN WAS FIRST IN A FAMILY OF HEROES

By Wayne Stokes Goodall
Pittsboro, N.C.

To celebrate its centennial year, the Carnegie Hero Fund produced a series of 90-second radio broadcasts, each recounting a remarkable act of everyday courage drawn from its archives. Spanning a century of heroism and representing a broad range of individuals, these real-life accounts of selfless acts of courage are uplifting evocations of exceptional human behavior. The radio spots are archived on the Hero Fund's website: www.carnegiehero.org.

My mother, **Lily Blanks Clarke**, was one of the heroes chosen for a 90-second segment. The narrative describes her courage on March 9, 1917, in saving the lives of three children whose boat overturned on Lake Beulah near her home in Monroe, La. Mother, then 13, was sitting at the edge of the lake waiting her turn in the 14-foot boat when it overturned at a point about 260 feet from the bank. The three children—who included my mother's sister, 7, and a boy and a girl, both 14—were emptied into the cold water and screamed for help as they started to swim to the bank.

Mother immediately took off her sweater and shoes, waded out 15 feet, and swam toward the children. She first rescued her sister and the other girl, who

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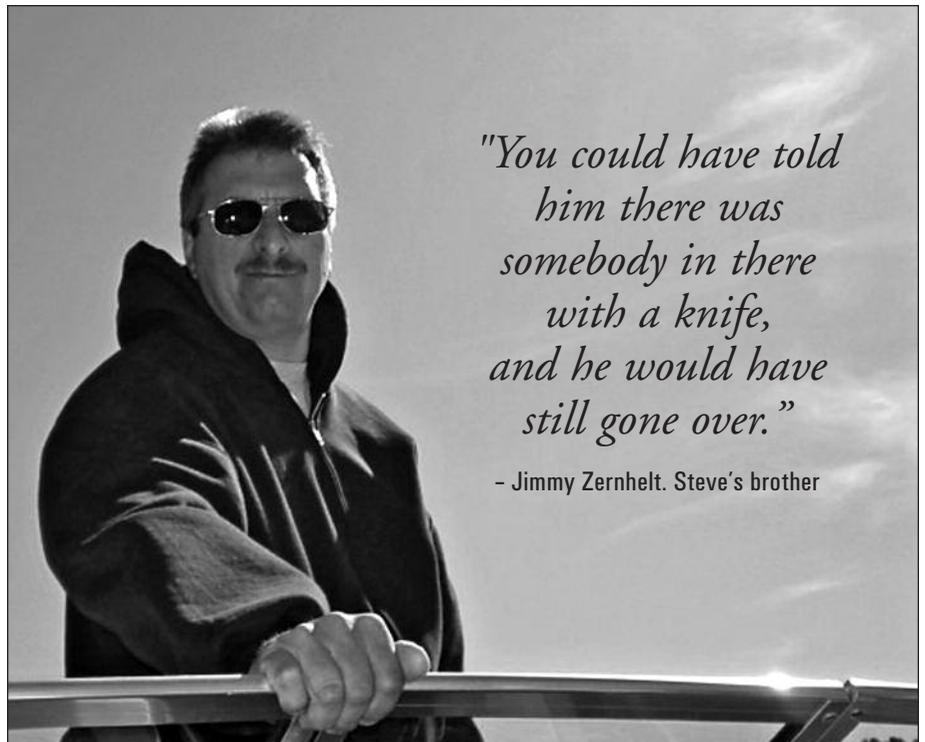
*'He was trying to help his neighbor.
That's how he was, how we were raised.'*

By Arlene Martinez and Andrew McGill
The Morning Call, Allentown, Pa.

Steve Zernhelt was a good father who drove three hours to fix his daughter's vacuum cleaner. A good brother, he lent hand and hammer to remodel a sibling's kitchen. A good husband, he traded the prospect of a military career for the woman he loved. Zernhelt never hesitated when someone needed help, but the Northampton, Pa., man's acts of kindness hadn't amounted to anything extraordinary until he responded to the piercing screams of his neighbors.

Zernhelt and his wife, Janet, were filling a lazy Saturday afternoon at home with a movie when they heard the cries next door, where three adults and two children lived. Instinctively, he ran to help. But he was too late. Police say Michael Ballard, a paroled killer, already had fatally stabbed Denise Merhi, 39; her father, Dennis Marsh, 62; and her grandfather, Alvin Marsh, 87. Zernhelt, 53, would meet the same fate.

(continued on page 2)



*"You could have told
him there was
somebody in there
with a knife,
and he would have
still gone over."*

- Jimmy Zernhelt. Steve's brother



MOTHER SAVING THREE CHILDREN

(continued from cover)

outweighed her by 60 pounds, and then without stopping to rest turned and swam out to the upended boat. She pushed the boat to the boy, who took hold of it, and then swam and pushed the boat to wadable water.



The Stokes Family in 1935: Carnegie Medal awardee Lily Blanks Clarke Stokes is shown with her husband, William M. Stokes, Jr., who is holding William M. Stokes III. The girls are Wayne, left, and Betty.

Mother was exhausted from the ordeal and had to be helped home. All the while her mother had been watching from the street nearby, begging for help. There came stories in the local papers, including bold headlines across the top of the *New Orleans Item* a few days later: *Three Saved from Death in Lake.*

Mother was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 1919. Years later when I heard the account of her heroism, I felt so tearful and at the same time so proud. Once, while visiting at

home with my four children, my father persuaded Mother to tell her grandchildren the story of the rescue and the honor of receiving the medal. Mother was not a shy person by any means, but she downplayed the story. Daddy persisted and brought out the velvet-lined box containing the medal with its profile of Andrew Carnegie on the front. I remember that Daddy dabbed tears from his eyes. Today, one of my children, my oldest son, is the custodian of the medal, and when he speaks of "Granny" and the Carnegie Medal, tears well up in his eyes, too.

Mother wasn't the only hero in the family. My father, William M. Stokes, Jr., a regimental commander with the 2nd Armored Division, spent more than two years overseas during World War II. His was the first tank on shore in the North African Invasion, and then he participated in the Normandy Invasion in 1944 followed by the year-long sweep across France, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Germany. For his selfless acts of courage, he was awarded the Silver Star, the Croix de Guerre with Palm and Bronze Star. On May 7, 1945, the German Army surrendered, and a month later my father was invited to fly home with other officers and enlisted men to a heroes' ticker-tape parade in Philadelphia.

Twenty years later, my brother, William M. Stokes III, a Green Beret, commanded a small Special Forces detachment dropped by parachute into Dong Xoai in the

(continued on page 3)

He was trying to help his neighbor

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"He knew there were small kids," his brother Jimmy Zernhelt said. "You could have told him there was somebody in there with a knife, and he would have still gone over."

Indeed, the seeds of that decision took root in a childhood marked by discipline and a deep belief in giving back. Zernhelt was born in a naval hospital at Groton, Conn., the "63" of the family—his father Theodore's shorthand for his sixth child and third son. His mother, Gloria, was petite but stern, a necessary quality for overseeing a household that would eventually grow to 10 children. The family moved to Allentown when Steve was in elementary school.

Theodore Zernhelt's Navy assignments took him away for up to six months at a time, but that didn't stop him from instilling a sense of duty in his children. Steve and his brothers Harry and Jimmy spent Sunday mornings with their dad on the church bus, helping elderly people on and off. Steve and Jimmy also regularly mowed the lawn at the cemetery where their father had volunteered their services. All were altar boys at Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

In their free time, the boys ran around the neighborhood, part of an informal group nicknamed the Green Street Gang. Steve would build go-carts with his older brother Harry and race them down a hill.

Everyone knew Steve had brains. He also had brawn, blessed with a linebacker's physique and an endless enthusiasm for a pickup game of football in the back alley.

And he had his grandfather's big nose, a feature his brothers and sisters never let him forget. "Can't you put your nose away for a little?" they'd rib.

But he also had a sensitivity that came out whenever he was scolded. Luckily, Steve had a friend in Rusty, the family's golden retriever. "He would go under the dining room table and tell the dog all his troubles," said Maryann Banko, his oldest sibling.

Two of the Zernhelt boys followed their father into the service, and Steve seemed poised to do the same. He'd been accepted into the Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md. But his plans changed when he fell in love with Janet, with whom he worked at a restaurant. Friends wondered how Steve managed to capture the heart of such a pretty brunette. He turned down a Navy career and married her in 1976, forgoing a honeymoon to save money.

The Zernhelts spent decades raising their children—Justin, Ryan, and Jaime—forming friendships, and building their lives in Northampton. Neighbors quickly learned they could count on the quiet man, who could build anything with his hands. With Jimmy's help, Steve installed a backyard pool that made the Zernhelts' home a favorite hangout for neighborhood children. With his kids pitching in, he labored after work expanding the kitchen into what had been a porch.

"Even if it took him a year to build that kitchen, he did it," Jaime said. "He'd work all day, play with his kids, and be up all night working on the house."

And he had patience. When neighbor Nick Politi asked him for the hundredth time how to restart his oil heater—he always let it run low—Steve would dutifully repeat the instructions. And when the auto body shop around the corner had problems with its heater, Steve—a former service manager for Weaver Fuel Co. in Allentown—would take a few hours after work to get it running.

A couple of years ago, the pool came out at Janet's request. It wasn't getting much use since the kids moved out: Jaime was teaching first grade in Maryland, Ryan was working for Estee Lauder in Philadelphia, and Justin was a few miles away at Lucent. Besides, Janet wanted a garden.

Steve and Janet had always put the kids first, making it to every game, buying them

(continued on page 4)



Elwin Geer kneels beside his grandfather's headstone as he decides where to place the bronze grave marker provided by the Hero Fund. Photo, by Kathryn Ross, courtesy of the Wellsville, N.Y., Daily Reporter.

N.Y. man searches roots of family tree, finds grandfather won Carnegie Medal

By Kathryn Ross
Wellsville, N.Y., Daily Reporter

Millions of people are researching their family trees (Ancestry.com had 1.7 million subscribers in 2011), and the family historian may find rich men, poor men, beggar men, or thieves.

One local man found a hero. Elwin Geer never knew too much about his paternal grandfather—after all, he was a little over a year old when **Raymond A. Geer** died in 1941.

“I wanted to know more about my grandfather, so in 2007 I put an ad in the *Good Old Days* magazine for help in finding out more and got a response from a woman in Houston, Texas, who offered her help. She does genealogy,” Geer recalled recently while standing on a patch of graveled road in Woodlawn Cemetery in Wellsville.

Under a warm, early-March sun, Geer recalled how the genealogist had led him to Avoca, where he learned his great-grandfather had owned land in the town of Wheeler. The Bath Historical Society then sent Geer even more information. Taking a step back in time, he read the tiny print on an aged page of the *Corning Telegram*, which reported in 1917, “Today Attorney Thomas F. O’Bryan of this city received from the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission a letter in regard to the award of \$1,000 and a medal to Raymond A. Geer, former Lackawanna (railroad) ticket agent and operator here, who is now a resident of Wellsville, N.Y.” Attorney O’Bryan submitted Geer’s name to the Hero Fund.

(continued on page 4)

MOTHER SAVING THREE CHILDREN

(continued from page 2)

highlands of Vietnam. Their camp was overrun by more than two regiments of Viet Cong on the foggy, rainy night of June 9, 1965. What followed was one of the bloodiest battles of the war, the enemy using everything it had—anti-aircraft, howitzers, recoilless rifles, mortars, rocket-propelled grenades, machine guns, flamethrowers, mortars and AK-47s. There were significant casualties, including my brother, who, severely wounded and unable to stand, crawled to where he could radio for help while at the same time giving orders—it seems to me like he got a double dose of our parents’ bravery DNA. The raid continued through the next day until the enemy, having accomplished its mission, moved on, and when the fog lifted, helicopters were able to evacuate the wounded.

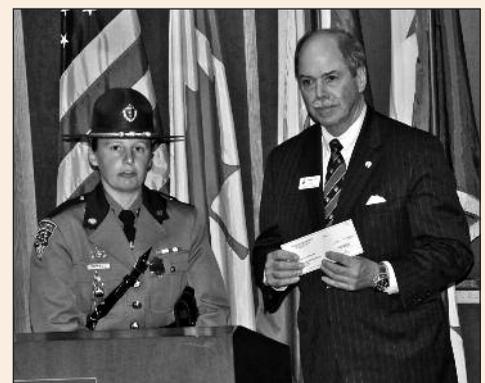
I’m proud of my sweet mother, my father, and my brother, proud of my family of heroes.



Ms. Goodall

HERO'S GRANT DONATED

State law and her employer’s policies kept Massachusetts State Trooper **Allyson Powell**, left, from accepting a financial grant from the Hero Fund, but she was free to donate it to a charity of her choice. She did so, selecting the Shriners Hospitals for Children, Boston, in recognition of the hospital’s work in treating children with severe burns, cleft lip and palate, and orthopaedic conditions regardless of their families’ ability to pay. Accepting the check for \$5,000 is John F. Sugden, Jr., the hospital’s senior director of public and community relations, who said the funds will be used in the construction of a new radiology suite. Powell was awarded the Carnegie Medal last September for her actions of July 21, 2010, by which she and two motorists saved the unconscious driver of a burning automobile after a nighttime highway accident in Swansea, Mass. Although she was on duty, the Hero Fund considered her actions to be well above and beyond its call. Her corescuers were brothers **George J. Flanagan** of Swansea and **Robert Hugh Flanagan** of Denver, Colo.





COMMEMORATION IMPORTANT TO HEROES, THEIR FAMILIES, SOCIETY

By Mark Laskow, President
Carnegie Hero Fund Commission



The Carnegie Hero Fund Commission discovers, recognizes, and commemorates heroes and their remarkable acts.

"Commemoration"—establishing a lasting memory of the heroism—is a lot more complicated than you might

think. It is also an aspect of our activity that, over time, has changed more radically than almost anything else we do.

Commemoration is important to the heroes, to their families, and to our society. Heroic acts are inherently lonely. They are often undertaken without benefit of an admiring crowd, but the loneliness remains even when a crowd is present. When an individual steps out of that crowd to attempt a rescue in an icy river, the dangers and consequences fall on the rescuer alone. No one who remains in the safety of the crowd will perish if the water is too cold, or the current too swift. Commemoration lifts the hero out of loneliness and makes the heroic act a part of the ongoing life of a family and the community.

The memory of the heroic acts of our citizens strengthens our culture by reaffirming the best of our values. Within a family, the memory of a heroic act is a source of warmth and inspiration across generations.

We shouldn't take for granted the task of keeping that memory alive, even within a family. Oral history can flicker and even be extinguished over generations. In the Commission's earliest days, it could offer the medal itself as a physical reminder of the act, a talisman to help the family maintain its memory of what happened. But medals are sometimes lost, and there is only one to share among multiple descendants of the hero. Today, we have other tools to help. Our website is as close as we can come to a universally accessible "eternal flame" honoring our heroes. A family can find a description of an ancestor's heroic act performed a century ago. In addition, we provide recipients with a DVD and a wonderful book describing the history of the medal and many of the remarkable acts of those who have earned it. It explains how remarkable the medal and those who win it really are. Both the book and DVD are readily available from the Commission.

(continued on page 5)

He was trying to help his neighbor

(continued from page 2)

cars, paying their way through college. Thirty-three years later, the honeymoon was still on hold, but they had recently bought a boat and enjoyed taking it to Beltzville Lake. The outings were a welcome rest from Steve's long workdays as an HVAC specialist for U.S. Supply in Conshohocken, Pa.

On the last weekend in June 2010, they talked about taking the boat out, but decided to stay home. When the screams started, Steve jumped up. Janet tried to follow him, but he stopped her. Call the police, he said. And guided by that ever-present sense of duty, he opened his neighbor's door and went inside.

Now his family wonders about the what ifs. What if they'd taken the boat out that weekend? What if Steve had called the police instead? But in the end, they say his actions were predictable.

"He was trying to help his neighbor," Banko said. "That's how he was. That's how we were raised."

(Reprinted with the permission of The Morning Call. All rights reserved. **Steven P. Zernbelt** was awarded the Carnegie Medal posthumously on March 14. See page 9 for details of his heroic actions.)

N.Y. man searches roots of family tree

(continued from page 3)

That's when Elwin Geer went to the computer and found the Carnegie Hero site and requested more information. They sent him the investigative report from 1917 and a parchment certifying Raymond A. Geer as a recipient of the Carnegie Medal.

The report explained what happened at 2:47 p.m. on Aug. 3, 1914, when 33-year-old ticket agent Raymond Geer bolted 30 feet in four seconds to snatch, from between the rails, 7-year-old, 50-pound Loretta L. Herr. She was in the path of an oncoming freight train which was traveling at 40 m.p.h.

Herr, of Baltimore, Md., was deaf in her left ear and did not hear the train or her 9-year-old sister calling to her. The newspaper account states that the train brushed Geer's coat tails as he vaulted across the tracks, and Carnegie investigators reported that a pale and shaken Geer said at the time, "I would not want to try it again."

The report, dated 1917, also includes that Geer was married to Nellie, had three sons, aged 12, 8, and 3, earned \$23 as a shipping clerk, owed \$351, and had only \$2 or \$3 in the bank. The Commission awarded him \$1,000 and a medal for his act of heroism. At that time Geer was working in Wellsville for the B&S Railroad, according to his grandson.

Geer's grandson Elwin had never heard the story nor had he ever seen Raymond's medal.

"On the back of the newsletter the Carnegie Commission sent was an article about how you could get a grave marker. They sent me one to put on Grandpa's headstone. I am going to try to have it on there by Memorial Day," Geer said.

Bronze medal in hand, Geer knelt on the still-frozen ground in front of the headstone shared by Nellie and Raymond Geer in Woodlawn Cemetery. Geer first placed the medal in the middle, then toward Raymond's side, then back to the middle, trying to decide where it will look best. "I think Grandpa deserves to have his medal," he said.

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Renaissance man, friend of Carnegie became Hero Fund's second president

By Mary Brignano

Special to the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission

2 SECOND IN A SERIES

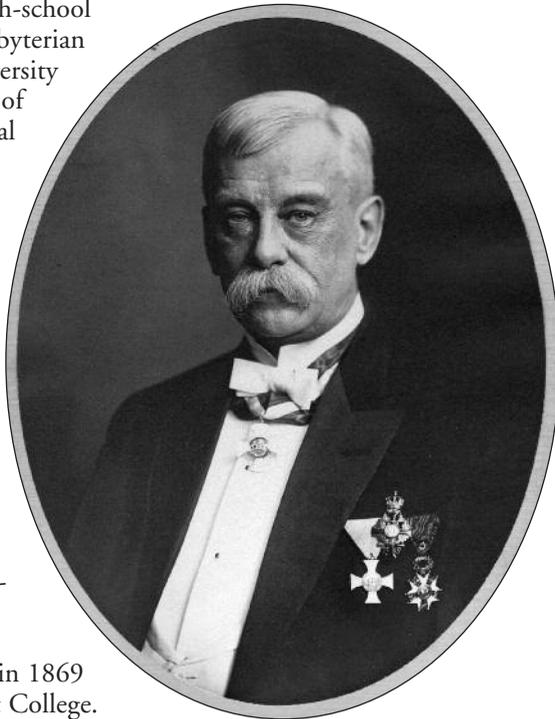
Just as Charles L. Taylor, the first president of the Hero Fund (1904-1922), advanced Pittsburgh as a great industrial center, its second president, the amazingly multifaceted William J. Holland (1923-1932), worked incessantly to raise the city's stature in science and education—and to translate the philanthropic vision of his friend Andrew Carnegie into action.

A Renaissance man who studied natural science, languages, art history, literature, theology, architecture, law, economics, and education, Holland wrote three books and more than 130 articles about butterflies and moths; read Greek, Latin, Hebrew, Arabic, Japanese, and all the romance languages (many of which he also spoke); and was at various times during his long life (1848–1932) a teacher, high-school principal, medical student, Presbyterian minister, chancellor of the University of Pittsburgh, and first director of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. On his academic robes he wore medals he had received from kings and emperors. The walls of his office were hung with oils and watercolors he had painted. He was “there at the creation” of the Carnegie Hero Fund and, with Taylor, understood better than anyone how best to bring it to life.

William Jacob Holland was born in Jamaica, where his parents were missionaries and naturalists. Before the age of 18, he completed studies at Moravian College at Bethlehem, Pa., and in 1869 he was graduated from Amherst College. Hard put to channel his many interests into one profession, he studied medicine while working as a school principal in Massachusetts.

After earning a degree at Princeton Theological Seminary in 1874, he was assigned to Pittsburgh's new Bellefield Presbyterian Church. Among the many wedding ceremonies Holland would perform in Pittsburgh was that of Adelaide Childs and Henry Clay Frick, who later became Carnegie's partner in steelmaking.

In 1879 Holland married Carrie Moorhead, youngest daughter of wealthy iron manufacturer John Moorhead. Through this union and the prominent members of his church, he moved in Pittsburgh's leading social circles. Summering with the Moorheads in Cresson, Pa., for example, he got to know Andrew Carnegie, who liked the ambitious young minister's zeal for learning. On walks through the woods around Cresson, Holland taught the industrialist the names of plants and birds. Their friendship would continue for the rest of Carnegie's life—perhaps especially because Holland knew how to flatter the older man, addressing him in one letter alone as “our Maecenas” and “the agent of Providence” and referring to his “more than royal bounty.”



Dr. Holland

(continued on page 6)

TO THE HERO FUND

GOOD DEED ITS OWN REWARD

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your tremendous gift. A good deed is its own reward, so we are awestruck to be honored in this way. To be placed among such amazing and selfless people is humbling. May God bless you in your endeavors. You have real and lasting impact on our family and we thank you.

Abigail and Arthur Zuehlke, Earlysville, Va.

Ms. Zuehlke was awarded the Carnegie Medal in March for helping to save two men from drowning in the Atlantic Ocean off Hunting Island, S.C., last summer. See page 9. A 2003 graduate of *The Citadel*, she is a former Marine.

The Charleston, S.C., *Mercury* had this to say about Ms. Zuehlke in an editorial published July 26, 2011: “As things these days appear to be falling apart with the center not holding, we have among us courageous, trained people prepared to show us a higher way. The attention paid these days to our esteemed and modest military personnel and veterans reminds us that more and more persons like Abigail Webber Zuehlke walk the earth. Well, almost like her.”

TUITION AID APPRECIATED

I cannot begin to describe to you how thankful I am for all the Hero Fund has been able to do for me. I am completely excited to be almost done with my third year of university. I am excited to also begin my fourth year and everything that will follow, such as finding a job. I am truly blessed, and I thank God every day that I have been able to make my own way through school. I could not have been doing this without your support.

Camille Ferrier, Durham, Ont.

Ferrier, a nursing student at the University of Western Ontario, receives tuition assistance from the Hero Fund. She is the daughter of **Gary George Ferrier**, one of two men who died Aug. 15, 2000, attempting to save a third man from suffocating in a tank on a farm in Durham. He and **Erich Schultz**, of Aytton, Ont., were each awarded the medal posthumously in 2002.

BOARD NOTES

(continued from page 4)

This very issue of *imPULSE* provides great evidence of the importance of these memories in families. You will find stories of the descendants of **Fleming C. Bower** (1909), **Lily Blanks Clarke** (1917), **George L. Bruun** (also 1917), **Raymond Geer** (1914), and **J. Harold Reid** (1934). Even if a family momentarily loses a thread in its history, we are here waiting for them, keeping safe for them the memory of their hero.



**PARENTAL INFLUENCE,
REHEARSAL, GRATITUDE:
BLOGGER FINDS COMMON TRAITS IN HEROES**



Ms. Armstrong

A refreshing view of Carnegie Medal awardees was provided by Jennifer Armstrong of Saratoga Springs, N.Y., who is a writer for the blog, "Lion's Whiskers." Armstrong is a parenting coach and a children's book author who on the blog discusses raising children to have courage for the challenges on the path ahead. The

blog—at www.lionswhiskers.com—had this to say on April 12:

If you ever want to give your faith in humanity a boost, take a look at the hero profiles on the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission's website.

Reading these profiles is truly inspiring, and you may begin to notice some themes running through these stories of ordinary citizens who performed extraordinary acts of courage—usually on behalf of strangers. Many of these heroes credit their family relationships with giving them the core belief that every life is worth saving. The influence of parents is clear in profile after profile. Some of the younger medal recipients of 2011, three teenage Florida boys who saved a woman from drowning, explicitly credit their parents. "I grew up with my dad helping people," one of the young heroes told reporters. This is the influence of family connection and strong attachment.

6 A second theme is the influence of rehearsal, either mental rehearsal or actual practice. Another teen medal recipient credited the self-discipline he learned in baseball practice with helping him rescue a drowning man. Other recipients cite safety drills in childhood, or hearing stories of courage and service to others with inspiring them and encouraging them to act. It is because of this rehearsal that heroes are able to act "without thinking." The thinking happens *ahead* of time.

A third theme I observed in these profiles was gratitude—not the gratitude of the people whose lives were saved, although of course that's there!—but the gratitude of each of these heroes to have been able to help! That is a truly beautiful thing, in my opinion.

So do yourself a favor and read a few of these profiles. Share them with your kids. Who knows? Maybe one day the Carnegie folks will be honoring *you*.

Reprinted with permission. Ms. Armstrong is an award-winning author of more than 100 books for children and teens. She visits schools around the country to talk with kids about writing and books and is a frequent speaker at professional conferences for writers, teachers, and librarians. Occasional articles by her appear in the top journal of children's literature, the Horn Book. She grew up reading traditional stories—myths, legends, fables, folk tales—and believes strongly in the power of story to act as a guide. At age 46 she adopted an 8-year-old girl from Ethiopia and started a whole new chapter in her own story.

Renaissance man, friend of Carnegie

(continued from page 5)

Holland's curiosity and quick-moving mind often made him impatient and restless. In 1887 he leaped at an invitation to join a National Academy of Sciences expedition to Japan to observe a total solar eclipse. Serving as the expedition's naturalist, he collected nearly 4,000 plants and 6,000 insects, mostly butterflies and moths—and, an early environmentalist, he also noted the value of birds in protecting Japan's crops from the ravages of insects. Two years later he accompanied another Eclipse Expedition, this time to Angola, West Africa.

By 1891 Bellefield Presbyterian Church could no longer contain this polymath. At a time when Carnegie was helping Pittsburgh put its cultural and civic life on a par with its industrial achievements, Holland became chancellor of the Western University of Pennsylvania (today the University of Pittsburgh). Over the next 10 years, he "worked unceasingly to make others see, as he did, what the intellectual force of the university should be in the community," according to Agnes Lynch Starrett's history of "Pitt." As chancellor, Holland helped transform this undergraduate men's college into a coed university and laid the groundwork for its move to Oakland. Added during his tenure were schools of medicine, law, mines and mining engineering; colleges of pharmacy and dentistry; and a department of electrical engineering.

Then, while he was still chancellor, Carnegie appointed him as the first director of the new Carnegie Museum of Natural History. Serving as director until 1922 and director emeritus until his death, Holland more than fulfilled Carnegie's desire that his museum be a dynamic cultural force that would reach out, educate, and take its place among the great museums of the world. He turned a raw, virtually empty building into a world-class institution and launched one of the four or five most important dinosaur collections in the U.S.

Holland had hardly started as director of the museum when, legend has it, he received a newspaper clipping from Carnegie. The 1898 article announced the discovery in Wyoming of the bones of "the most colossal animal ever on earth"—a giant sauropod dinosaur as long as a tennis court. Carnegie, with his interest in Charles Darwin and the developing science of paleontology, had torn out the page and written on it, "Dear Chancellor, Buy this for Pittsburgh." Thus backed by Carnegie's vision and money, Holland launched the museum's paleontological

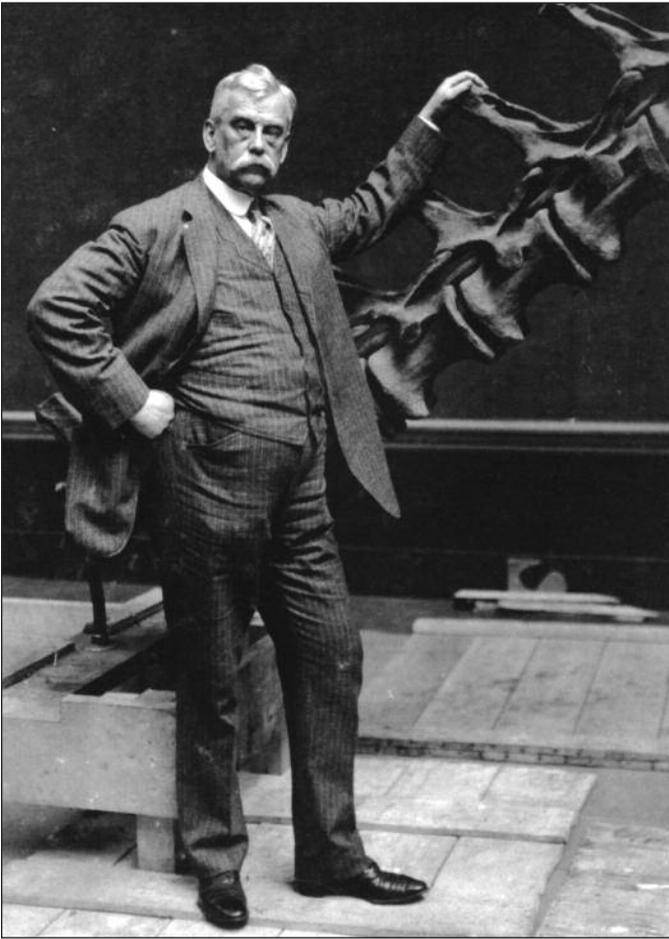
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Dr. Holland, in a sitting for portraitist Leopold Seyffert in the Commission's offices, 1925.

Renaissance man, friend of Carnegie

(continued from page 6)



Holland's agenda: To promote America's scientific honor. Photo courtesy of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.

Holland's agenda: To promote America's scientific honor. "This was more than personal vanity," argues historian Robert Gangewere. "Holland, like Carnegie, had an agenda to promote America's scientific honor."

A founding trustee of Carnegie Institute and an internationally known entomologist, Holland also started the scientific publishing program of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. He served as trustee of a number of colleges and universities, was a member of numerous national and international scientific societies, and took the initiative in founding the American Association of Museums. A leader as well in public health, he headed the initiative to build a water purification system for Pittsburgh that lowered the city's typhoid fever death rate from 65 per 100,000 in 1908 to 2.7 by 1920.

Holland was among the first people to whom Carnegie revealed his ideas for the Hero Fund. He was the Commission's first vice president, and he was perhaps the foremost torchbearer for Carnegie's unprecedented, wide-ranging philanthropic vision. During a lifetime of extraordinary accomplishment, when the Commission asked, "What would Carnegie do?" the remarkable William Holland could readily supply the answer. ☒

(Profiles of the presidents of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission were compiled by prominent Pittsburgh historian Mary Brignano last year in honor of the 10th anniversary of the election of Mark Laskow, the Hero Fund's seventh and current president. Charles L. Taylor, the first president, was featured in the March issue of imPULSE, and the September issue will continue the series with the profile of the third president, Thomas S. Arbuthnot [1932-1956]).

excavations that continue today to yield new scientific knowledge about the earth's ancient history, and he developed a program to prepare the full-size plaster casts of the wisely named *Diplodocus carnegii* that can still be seen in major museums on four continents.

Holland personally supervised the installations of *Diplodocus carnegii* in Germany, France, Austria, and Italy, collecting medals for the museum's research from European rulers. Returning to Pittsburgh, he would paint each new medal with his own hand on an existing por-

SACRIFICE NOT FORGOTTEN

Priscilla Reynolds Thomas, a granddaughter of George L. Bruun, who is shown here at age 26, stands by her grandfather's grave in St. Maries, Idaho, after the installation of a bronze grave marker on the headstone that indicates Bruun was an



awardee of the Carnegie Medal. Bruun's heroic act took place on May 26, 1917, when he jumped into the nearby St. Joe River and attempted to save a 9-year-old girl from drowning. The river was flooding and at the scene had a swift undercurrent. A strong swimmer, Bruun, 49, who was a farmer, made it to the girl and supported her, but the current carried them away. They submerged and drowned, Bruun leaving a widow and three dependent children. Bruun was awarded a silver medal posthumously in 1918, and his family received a monthly grant from the Hero Fund until Mrs. Bruun remarried in 1920. Great-grandson Wendell L. Thomas of Montesano, Wash., secured the marker from the Hero Fund and installed it this spring.





LATEST AWARDEES
OF THE CARNEGIE MEDAL

SINCE THE LAST ISSUE OF *imPULSE*, THE FOLLOWING 21 INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN AWARDED THE CARNEGIE MEDAL, BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS TO 9,516 SINCE THE HERO FUND'S INCEPTION IN 1904. THE LATEST AWARDS, WHICH WERE ANNOUNCED ON MARCH 21, ARE DETAILED ON THE COMMISSION'S WEBSITE AT WWW.CARNEGIEHERO.ORG. THE NEXT ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARDEES WILL BE MADE ON JUNE 27.

Daniel Harrison Haley, 25, a trooper with the Colorado State Patrol, was off duty when he saved Brendan Daviet, 10, from drowning in Greeley, Colo., on Nov. 27, 2010. Brendan broke through ice on a pond about 60 feet from the bank. Haley, of Greeley, was nearby. He lay on the ice and crawled toward Brendan but also broke through. He then began to break a path through the ice toward the bank, instructing Brendan to follow him. When Brendan began to submerge, Haley secured him and heaved him onto solid ice, and Brendan crawled to safety. Haley hoisted himself onto solid ice but was unable to gain traction and had to roll to the bank, where he stood briefly before collapsing from exhaustion. Both Brendan and Haley were treated at the hospital, Haley for hypothermia and abrasions.

Kevin Patrick Boyle, 39, of Saint Joseph, Mich., saved Norman K. Ketchman, 77, from his burning house in Stevensville, Mich., on Dec. 18, 2010. Ketchman lay on the floor of the family room on the lower level of the house after fire broke out in an adjacent bedroom. Flames spread into the family room, and it filled with dense smoke. On duty, Boyle, a police officer, responded, and he and other officers accessed the house through its front door, but flames blocked their course. They went to the rear of the structure and broke out a door that opened to the family room. With virtually no visibility, Boyle crawled into the burning room and found Ketchman. He dragged him to the door and outside to safety. Flames grew to engulf the lower level and spread to the rest of the structure.

John F. Morris, Jr., died attempting to save Angela E. Velasco from drowning in the Gulf of Mexico at Navarre, Fla., on April 4 last year. Velasco, 40, was swimming with her 6-year-old daughter when she lost her footing and became caught in a strong current in water beyond her depth. A friend of the family, Morris, 23, a tree service employee from Mobile, Ala., was nearby. He took Velasco's daughter to shore and then turned back for Velasco, the current taking him beyond her. Velasco struggled toward shore and was aided to safety by others. Responding firefighters located Morris at a point about 150 feet out. They removed him from the water and attempted to revive him, but he had drowned.



Thomas H. Porter, 52, a disabled business operator from Cleveland, Texas, saved Lyndzie L. Lucius, 1, from a burning pickup truck after an accident near Porter's home on Jan. 6, 2011. After the vehicle struck a feral hog and then left the roadway, flames broke out at its front and spread. Lyndzie's father escaped the pickup but was immobilized by injuries. Porter heard the accident and drove to the scene, where he climbed into the bed of the truck. Despite flames in the passenger compartment, he leaned through the rear window and worked to free Lyndzie from her seat while shielding her with his body. He then cut the seat's straps with a pocketknife, lifted Lyndzie, and backed through the window to safety with her. Flames grew to destroy the vehicle. Lyndzie was taken to the hospital for treatment of minor injuries, and she recovered. (See photo.)

Robin DeHaven, 28, a glazier from Austin, Texas, saved Lisa L. Alexander and five others from a burning office building in Austin on Feb. 18, 2010. Alexander, 45, and five coworkers were trapped on the second floor of a four-story building after a man intentionally crashed an airplane into the structure, causing an explosion that set fire to the building and filled it with smoke. Blocked by heavy smoke and fire in a corridor outside their office, Alexander and the others went to broken-out windows for air and to shout for help. En route to a job, DeHaven had seen the plane's descent, and, tracing smoke to the scene, he was alerted to the victims' plight. He took a 17-foot ladder from his truck, propped it against the building, and climbed to the second floor. Entering the building, he cleared glass from a window that provided for better egress. DeHaven then aided Alexander onto the ladder, and she descended to safety, followed by her coworkers and DeHaven. (See photo.)

Cara A. Ellis, 21, a homemaker from Little Egg Harbor Township, N.J., died attempting to rescue Bryan H. Mueller from an assault by a gunman near her home on Oct. 4, 2010. Mueller, 52, fell to the ground after a



SueLynn Panter, right, returned to the cornfield near Franklin, Idaho, where she was attacked last September by a mule deer. With her are Michael Craig Vaughan and his daughter, Alexis Renee, who saw the attack and fought the deer off, but not before it gored Panter and Vaughan with its antlers. A spokesman for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game said that mule deer attacks are rare and that the deer that attacked Panter was probably raised or tamed by humans. Photo, by Rodney D. Boam, is courtesy of The Preston Citizen. Mule deer (inset) are named for their large ears.

man on the second floor of a nearby townhouse shot him with a semi-automatic rifle. Ellis was in her townhouse two doors away and heard the shots, as did other neighbors. She left her residence, saw Mueller, and was overheard asking him if he needed help as she approached him. The assailant fired again, striking Ellis and mortally wounding her. The assailant turned the weapon on himself and inflicted a fatal wound. Mueller also died at the scene.

Construction worker **Ryan B. Phillips** of Cincinnati, Ohio, saved a neighbor boy, Necardo King, 3, from his family's burning house on Feb. 28 last year. Necardo was in a second-floor bedroom of the two-story house after fire broke out in that room at night. Phillips, 43, who lived across the street, ran to the scene. Learning that Necardo was inside the burning structure, he entered and ascended to the second floor. The stairs opened to the bedroom, which was filled with dense smoke that severely restricted visibility. Phillips saw Necardo about halfway into the room, the walls of which were aflame. He lay on the floor and reached for

(continued on page 9)

LATEST AWARDEES

(continued from page 8)

and grasped him. Phillips then pulled the boy to himself and slid down the stairs with him. Regaining his footing, Phillips carried Necardo outside to safety. (See photo.)

Steven P. Zernhelt of Northampton, Pa., died attempting to rescue his neighbor, Denise M. Merhi, 39, and others from an assault on June 26, 2010. A man entered Merhi's home and stabbed and killed her father, grandfather, and then Merhi herself. Zernhelt, 53, technical service advisor, was at his home in the adjacent unit of the house. Hearing Merhi scream, he went to her front door but returned to his unit when no one responded, and he checked the back of the property. A female friend of Merhi then arrived at the residence and, entering, found Merhi on the kitchen floor. She fled the home screaming, which alerted Zernhelt, and she told Zernhelt to call police. Instead, he entered the residence and was heard struggling with the assailant. The assailant stabbed Zernhelt, inflicting fatal wounds, and fled the scene but was arrested shortly by police. (See cover.)

A tire technician from Tiltonsville, Ohio, **Billy Higgins**, 35, saved Marion Veneri from his burning car after an accident in Shadyside, Ohio, on Dec. 8, 2010. Badly injured and unconscious, Veneri, 89, remained in the driver's seat as flames broke out at the rear of the vehicle and began to spread inside. Traveling nearby, Higgins witnessed the accident. He ran to the burning car and broke out the window of the front passenger door with a hammer. Opening the door, he completely entered the vehicle and cut Veneri's safety belt with a pocketknife. As Veneri was trapped, Higgins pulled on him and freed him. He then pulled Veneri through the



Awakened at night, Ryan B. Phillips of Cincinnati, Ohio, raced into his neighbor's burning house and rescued a 3-year-old boy from a second-floor bedroom. Photo, by Carrie Cochran, is courtesy of The Cincinnati Inquirer.

passenger door to the ground and with others dragged him farther from the vehicle as flames grew to engulf and destroy it. Veneri died later that day of his injuries. Higgins required hospital treatment, for burns to his face and a hand.

Louis Charles Rosso, 70, a business operator from Egg Harbor Township, N.J., helped to save two children from drowning in the Atlantic Ocean at Atlantic City, N.J., on July 4 last year. A boy and a girl, 10 and 12, were in the ocean about 300 feet from shore when the

girl called out for help. Rosso had just arrived on the beach and heard her. He ran into the water and swam out to the children, who grasped him by the arms and submerged him. Disengaging himself, he oriented the children toward shore and pushed on them while working to keep the girl at the surface. He became fatigued. A police officer swam out to them and started back to shore with the children, and lifeguards towed Rosso to shore with a personal watercraft. Exhausted, he was taken to the hospital, where he was kept overnight for treatment of having nearly drowned. He recovered.

Douglas D. Killingbeck, 48, a manager from Milford, Mich., died attempting to save John M. Przydatek, 16, from drowning in the Huron River at Milford on May 21, 2011. John and a friend were canoeing on the river when their craft was caught in turbulent water at the base of the spillway of a dam. The canoe overturned, throwing them into the water. John's friend emerged to safety, but John became caught in the boil of water at the base of the dam. Killingbeck had been canoeing on the river and was nearby when alerted to the accident. He carried his racing canoe to a point below the dam, launched it, and paddled toward the dam, en route donning a lifejacket. Reaching the area of turbulent water, Killingbeck got out of the canoe but was immediately submerged, and he too became caught in the boil. Rescue personnel arrived shortly and recovered John and Killingbeck from the river, but both had drowned.

Abigail R. Zuehlke, 30, a homemaker from Earlysville, Va., helped to save Brandon, 18, and Daniel Santiago, 20, from drowning in the Atlantic Ocean at Hunting Island, S.C., on July 8 last year. While swimming, the brothers were caught in a rip current that prevented their returning to shore. Zuehlke had just arrived at the beach and was alerted to their plight. She waded and swam about 300 feet to Brandon, finding him nearly exhausted. She hooked him by the arm and started back toward shore, swimming against the current

(continued on page 10)



After a small airplane was intentionally flown into a four-story, glass-faced building (inset) in Austin, Texas, smoke and flames trapped six office workers in their second-floor suite. Well-equipped to effect their rescue was Robin DeHaven, a glazier, who was among the first to respond to the scene. DeHaven propped one of his ladders against the building, cleared glass from a window, and aided the victims down the ladder to safety.



LATEST AWARDEES

(continued from page 9)



Thomas H. Porter was outside his rural Texas home one evening when he heard the crash of a pickup truck nearby. He responded to the scene, finding that the truck was aflame and that a year-old girl was trapped inside. Porter got into the bed of the truck, leaned inside, and freed her. Photo by J. Patric Schneider.

while towing him. Halfway in, Zuehlke met up with a man and turned Brandon over to him. She then turned and swam out to Daniel, guided by those on the beach. Reaching him also about 300 feet out, Zuehlke grasped him and started back toward shore. A responding park ranger took Daniel from her, and all three returned to safety.

Jason W. Thurston of Northport, Maine, rescued his neighbor, Nina Tyutyunyk, from her burning house on Christmas Eve, 2010. Tyutyunyk, 71, was inside her one-story home after fire erupted in a bedroom and sent smoke throughout the house. Thurston, 30, responded to the scene. He entered the structure through a side door opening off a deck and found Tyutyunyk fighting the fire. He pulled her outside, but she re-entered and returned to the bedroom. Again Thurston entered the house and pulled her out, but she repeatedly broke away from him to re-enter the structure, during which she inhaled smoke and sustained burns to her face, arms, and back. Thurston re-entered the house a final time and took Tyutyunyk to the deck. His hair singed, Thurston was given oxygen at the scene and treated at the emergency room for smoke inhalation. (See page 13.)

A graduate assistant from Lawrence, Kan., **James Lee Smith Bowen**, 32, saved Alice J. Ahlers, 68, from drowning in a flooded field in Ames, Iowa, on Aug. 11, 2010. Ahlers remained in the driver's seat of her car after it was swept off a roadway by floodwaters from the South Skunk River. The vehicle began to submerge in water about five feet deep covering a field, at a point about 100 feet from the roadway. Bowen drove upon the scene and witnessed the accident. He entered the floodwaters and waded and swam to the vehicle as it started to sink. With difficulty, he opened the driver's door, reached inside, and pulled Ahlers

from the vehicle as it settled. Holding her, he waded across the current toward a roadway, having to swim across a flooded ditch before reaching it. Bowen and Ahlers then waded to safety.

Angela M. Pierce of Dayton, Ohio, helped to rescue Jonathan C. Seiter from an assault in Dayton on Dec. 11, 2010. At night, Seiter, 43, a police officer, stopped a male motorist and was attempting to pat him down on the highway shoulder when the man started to struggle against him. During the intense scuffle that followed, the assailant attempted to remove Seiter's weapon, and at one point he pinned the officer against the trunk of his car. Pierce, 29, a cashier, was a passenger in a vehicle that drove upon the scene. She left the vehicle and ran to where the men were struggling.

Over the course of several seconds she repeatedly struck the assailant about the head, giving Seiter the opportunity to gain control of him. Another officer then arrived and took the assailant to the pavement and secured him.

Shane D. Scott, 33, a deputy sheriff from Bishop, Calif., rescued Drew C. Delis, 22, from an overturned and burning sport utility vehicle after an accident in Bishop on Aug. 9, 2010. Scott was driving nearby when he saw flames from the scene in his vehicle's rearview mirror. He responded to the vehicle, which was then engulfed by flames, and while using his fire extinguisher, he saw Delis moving in the cargo area. Scott knelt beside a rear window and extended his upper body through its opening. He grasped Delis but lost his grip during a burst of heat. In a second attempt, Scott pulled Delis through the window and moved him to the highway shoulder. Delis required extensive hospitalization for treatment of severe burns, and Scott received hospital treatment for smoke inhalation.

Craig R. Espenshade, 50, a business operator from Jensen Beach, Fla., saved Sophie S. McConnell, 67, from drowning in the Atlantic Ocean at Stuart, Fla., on Feb. 18 last year. While swimming, McConnell became fatigued as she battled rough surf and strong currents that kept her from returning to shore. At a point about 300 feet from the beach, she waved for help. Espenshade was walking his dog on the beach when he saw her. He obtained a four-foot body board from another beachgoer and swam out to McConnell with it. McConnell by then was nearly unconscious as Espenshade positioned her atop the board. Holding her in place, he started to return toward shore against the current, but it impeded his progress. With difficulty, Espenshade made his way to the beach with McConnell, who had swallowed water and was exhausted. (See photo.)

(continued on page 11)



Nathan Yassen of Brockton, Mass., was a life-long neighbor of Nina L. Sullivan and on Jan. 28, 2011, he saved her life. Then 19, Yassen saw fire at the back of Sullivan's house, and, knowing she would be home, he broke into the structure, found the 97-year-old woman in dense smoke, and removed her. Both needed hospital treatment.



1909 HERO REMAINS SOURCE OF FAMILY PRIDE

At five-foot-four—about the same stature as Andrew Carnegie—**Fleming C. Bower** was not a big man, but, also like Carnegie, he was a giant in terms of accomplishment. Bower’s legacy, which includes having been awarded the Carnegie Medal more than a century ago, is very much a part of the lives of his surviving children and following generations. The silver medal, one of only 620 awarded by the Hero Fund, is held by grandson Delbert D. Hughes of Waynesfield, Ohio, and it is a bit dulled by the years, very much unlike the memory of Bower’s Jan. 21, 1909, heroic act.

Bower was ice skating that day on the Susquehanna River, not far from his home in Lewisburg, Pa. Lewisburg is also home to Bucknell University, where Bower, then 26, was studying law. Already a veteran of the U.S. Navy, having served from 1903 to 1907, he would shortly withdraw from the university to work as a machinist in order to help out with his parents’ obligations.

As he skated, Bower saw 12-year-old Stoner F. Watts accidentally skate into a 100-foot-long hole in the ice. Stoner attempted to swim against the river current back to the edge of the ice but made no progress. Bower quickly skated to the hole, where he lay on the ice and attempted to grasp Stoner, but the boy was beyond his reach. Standing, Bower backed up a pace or two and jumped into the open water. He grasped Stoner and allowed the current to carry them to the opposite end of the hole, where he secured the boy against solid ice to await help. Five minutes later, two men put a boat into the water and pulled both Bower and Stoner aboard. Others pulled the boat onto the ice and to safety.



Commander Bower

The Carnegie award the following year came with a grant of \$2,000, which Bower applied to the resumption of his studies at Bucknell and then at Cornell University, where he studied mechanical engineering. During World War I, he served in the U.S. Merchant Marine as first assistant engineer aboard the *Armenia*, a German ship that had been seized. On a voyage to England the vessel was torpedoed twice but remained seaworthy. Bower was then an ord-

nance inspector in Findlay, Ohio, before entering the U.S. Maritime Service, which was established in 1938. During World War II, he served as chief engineer on ships carrying ammunition to American forces in North Africa or airplanes and trucks to forces in England. He rose to the rank of commander.

Along the way, Bower married Catherine Ruth Haldeman. The union, which bore 11 children, four of whom survive, lasted until Bower’s death in 1973 at age 91. “All of us are deeply proud of him,” says granddaughter Cathy Hughes Atkinson of Palm Coast, Fla. “My grandfather was and remains a great source of family pride and forever remains a man of honor. What he did inspires us all and will continue to inspire his descendants.”



The Bower Family: Christmas in the early 1950’s

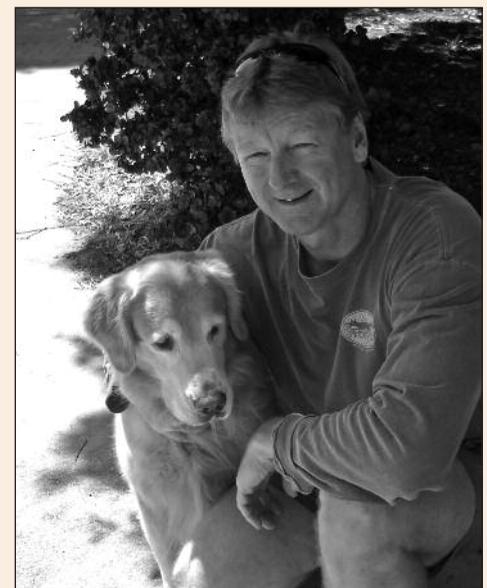
LATEST AWARDEES

(continued from page 10)

Charles V. Worden of North Garden, Va., saved Adrian G. Rowe from drowning in a flooded creek in Waynesboro, Va., on April 16 last year. Adrian, 9, and two others were attempting to walk across a low water crossing that was inundated to a depth of about 2.5 feet by surging floodwaters. The rushing water forced them against a rail that extended along the edge of the crossing. A passing motorist, Worden, 44, maintenance engineer, saw them and stopped at the scene. Shouting for them to return, Worden waded through the flooded area and onto the near end of the crossing. Reaching Adrian, he grasped the boy and put him under an arm as he then tried to secure the others. They were washed from his grasp and carried downstream. Worden waded from the floodwater with Adrian to safety and then ran after the others, but they submerged and drowned.

Nathan Yassen, a high school student from Brockton, Mass., saved his neighbor, Nina L. Sullivan, from her burning house on Jan. 28 last year. Sullivan, 97, was alone in her one-story frame house after fire broke out in a back room at night and filled the structure with dense smoke. Yassen, 19, was outside and discovered the fire. Responding to the house, he kicked open the front door and entered, despite intense heat inside and visibility that was restricted by the smoke. Yassen made his way through the living room and a hall toward Sullivan’s bedroom, en route passing the kitchen, which was aflame. After finding Sullivan outside her bedroom doorway, he guided her past the

(continued on page 12)



Craig R. Espenshade was walking his dog, Marley, on an Atlantic Ocean beach at Stuart, Fla., when he saw a woman drowning in the surf. Both entered the water, Espenshade then returning the woman to safety against a strong current. Photo, by Keona Gardner, is courtesy of Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers.



LATEST AWARDEES

(continued from page 11)

burning kitchen, and they exited the house to safety. Flames grew to engulf and destroy the house. Both Sullivan and Yassen were taken to the hospital for treatment of smoke inhalation. (See photo.)

Alexis Renee Vaughan, 17, and her father, **Michael Craig Vaughan**, 38, now of Fullerton, Calif., rescued SueLynn Panter from an attacking deer in Franklin, Idaho, on Sept. 30 last year. Panter, 44, was jogging on a rural road when a 175-pound, three-point, mule deer started to follow her. She tried to scare it off, but it took her to the ground and pushed her into an adjacent cornfield, where it mauled her, inflicting puncture wounds with its antlers. Alexis, a high school student, and her father, an electrician, drove upon the scene. Alexis jumped from their car and ran to Panter. She kicked and punched the deer, but to no effect. Vaughan then responded, grasped the deer by its antlers, and pulled it away from Panter. The deer turned on Vaughan, taking him to the ground and mauling him. Alexis returned to the cornfield with a hammer from the car and struck the deer repeatedly about its head and neck. It retreated and left the scene. Alexis then drove her father and Panter to the hospital, where both were treated for puncture wounds that required suturing. (See photo.)



Memory of his father's heroic act 78 years ago remains clear for Edmond H. Reid of Cumming, Ga. Photo by Autumn McBride Vetter of Cumming.

Farmer's rescue act in 1934 is lesson for descendants: 'Do the right thing'

Edmond H. Reid was only 8 years old when he witnessed his father, **J. Harold Reid**, enter a well on the family's farm in Cumming, Ga., 78 years ago to save a man who had been overcome by fumes. His memory of the rescue remains clear, and he has kept the account of it alive by sharing it with his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. "It's important for them to know to do the right thing," he says. His father, "Pa" Reid, was humble about the experience.

The rescue took place on July 5, 1934, as Edmond's father, 32, a farmer, and another farmer from Cumming, John B. Chumbley, 26, worked to deepen the Reid well. Chumbley was working at the bottom of the 38-foot-deep pit when he was overcome. J. Harold Reid, who was working at ground level, descended steps in the wall of the well to reach him and, with difficulty due to the gas, tied a rope around him. Chumbley was pulled to the surface by other men who had been called to the scene, J. Harold following him out. Both men were affected by the gas, but they recovered.

Edmond recalls not knowing if he would see his father alive again when he disappeared into the well. "I was hoping he would come back out, but I really wasn't sure," he said.

J. Harold was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 1935 and later a \$1,000 grant, which he used to purchase 120 acres of farmland. The award money was a blessing that came at the right time, according to Edmond. His father had lost the land earlier because of a missed payment by a friend, and the grant was used in 1938 to regain the property after it was put up for sale.

Edmond still runs the farm—the well is still there—living in the house that was built in 1907 by his father's parents, Jeter and Laura Reid. He and his 11 siblings were raised on the farm, with Edmond, being one of the older children, helping to care for the younger ones. Eight of his siblings survive. Edmond went on to raise his own four children on the farm.

Now 86, Edmond continues to do farm work, including driving the tractor and baling hay. He is helped by sons Danny and Edmond, Jr., "but I still do a lot of work." His daughter, Brenda Reid Johnson, also pitches in. The farm used to

(continued on page 14)

OVERHEARD

12

I was overcome with tremendous energy and overwhelming responsibility.—Carnegie Medal Awardee #9507 **Abigail R. Zuehlke**, who saved two men from drowning in the Atlantic Ocean.

I was very lucky.—Carnegie Medal Nominee #84286 **Kirk D. Haldeman**, who rushed a gunman head on after the man, armed with a semi-automatic assault rifle, entered a barroom and killed a patron.

I struggle with the medal. I'm getting an award for something I would do on any given day.—Carnegie Medal Awardee #9513 **Charles V. Worden**, who saved a boy from a flooded creek.

In a moment of decision, people who have made a heroic choice often have a hard time explaining it.—Dr. Alex Lickerman of the University of Chicago, who studies altruism.

To tell the truth, anyone would have done it. I just got there first. They shouldn't make a big deal of it. If you see someone who needs help, you should do it.—Carnegie Medal Awardee #9504 **Billy Higgins**, who sustained second-degree burns while pulling an unconscious motorist from a burning car after a highway accident.

FRIENDS REMEMBERED

John R. Bazella, 66, of Rossiter, Pa., died Feb. 10. A U.S. Army veteran who served in Vietnam, he was working as a mechanic for a coal mine in Penn Hills, Pa., on Feb. 8, 1977, when a cave-in occurred, burying a fellow miner alongside a mining machine. Bazella and four other miners dug a tunnel by hand through fallen debris alongside the machine until they reached the trapped man, freeing him to be pulled to safety. Bazella and the four other miners were each awarded the Carnegie Medal in 1978.

Mary Holt Johnson Boswell, 79, of Fernandina Beach, Fla., died Feb. 3. She was awarded the medal in 1953 for saving four people from drowning in the Atlantic Ocean at Fernandina Beach on Aug. 18, 1951, when she was 19-year-old student. Forty-three years later, she was re-acquainted with one of the victims over lunch, through a mutual friend. When Boswell's medal was stolen in 1998, the Hero Fund replaced it. "If possible," Boswell wrote at the time, "the replacement was even more meaningful and thrilling to receive than the original. It brought back so many good memories of that time in my life." She indicated that the medal would go to a great-nephew, Robert Holt Johnson, with whom she shared family names.



Mrs. Boswell. Photo, by Beth Jones, is courtesy of the News-Leader, Fernandina Beach, Fla.

William David Cheatham, 76, of Pine Grove, Ala., died Jan. 20. He was awarded the medal in 1960 for saving three people from drowning in the Warrior River at Northport, Ala., on May 27, 1959. The victims were in a 14-foot motorboat that went over a dam and spilled them into turbulent water. Fishing from the dam, Cheatham, then a 24-year-old milk salesman, jumped into the river and swam repeatedly into the turbulence to effect the rescues. After the third rescue, he collapsed from exhaustion.

James C. Kirkendall, 80, of Logan, W. Va., died March 20. A plumber by trade, Kirkendall used his skill and experience to save a worker from suffocating in a 32-foot-deep sewer shaft in Logan on May 16, 1961. The man had been overcome at the bottom of the narrow shaft by fumes while trying to clear a sewer line, and rescue efforts by responding emergency personnel were unsuccessful. Kirkendall, then 29, volunteered to be lowered, headfirst and tied by the ankles, into the shaft. Hanging upside down, he grasped the victim as men at the top pulled them to the surface.

John R. Kolthoff, 88, of San Ramon, Calif., died Feb. 26. On Jan. 2, 1949, he rescued two men from the wreckage of an airplane after it crashed at Boeing Field in Seattle, Wash. Then 25, Kolthoff was an aircraft mechanic who responded to the crash site from a nearby hangar. Despite flames covering the side of the airplane, Kolthoff reached inside through a door, grasped one of the men, and pulled him out. He returned to the plane, entered, and found the second man 15 feet into the burning wreckage. He dragged the victim, who was seriously burned, to the doorway, jumped from the plane with him, and carried him to safety. For his actions, Kolthoff was awarded the Carnegie Medal later in the year. "My father didn't discuss (the rescue)

(continued on page 14)

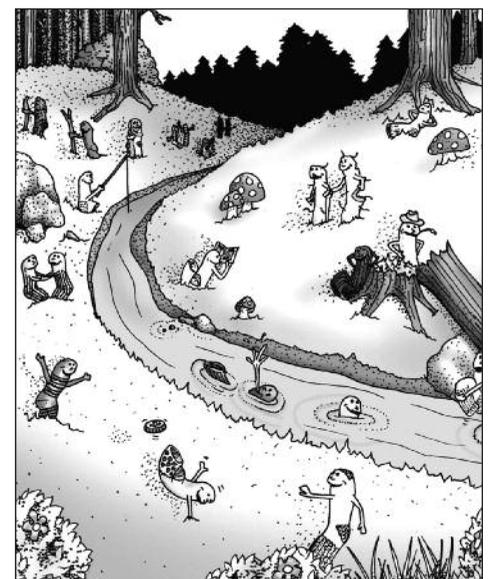


CHARMED

Each award of the Carnegie Medal is accompanied by a lapel pin made in the image of the medal. When **Cody L. Clemmons** of Crawford, Texas, was cited by the Hero Fund in 2010 for his heroic act, his wife Cheri had the lapel pin fashioned into a charm for her bracelet. "I am thrilled each time I look at it," she writes. Cheri was on hand March 25, 2009, when Clemmons partially entered an overturned and burning sport utility vehicle to free the trapped driver after a bad accident in Waco, Texas. The vehicle was shortly engulfed by flame. An account of the rescue, *The Miracle on Highway 6*, was aired in April on "The 700 Club" (the segment is archived at www.cbn.com), and another account appears in print in the spring 2012 issue of *Life Beautiful* magazine.

MYSTERY SOLVED

In case you've ever wondered where missing socks go on laundry day, Carnegie Medal awardee **Jason W. Thurston** of Northport, Maine, has solved the mystery: They escape through the vent to cavort in the land of the free, just past the plant, hidden by trees. Or so he posits in his first children's book, *The Missing Sock*, which he wrote and illustrated this year. The eBook is available on Amazon.com. Thurston, who has a background in graphic design, illustration, and art history, was awarded the medal in March (see page 10), for rescuing his elderly neighbor from her burning home on Christmas Eve in 2010.





NEW STAFFER IS INTRIGUED BY WHAT HAPPENED NEXT

By Lydia S. Morin
Carnegie Hero Fund Commission

Growing up, I loved stories of adventure and mystery and was always asking, "But what happened next?" In college, I enjoyed asking the same question as a news writer for the student paper. Last summer, after the realization that working in Hollywood in film production was completely uninspiring and was not something I wanted to make a career, I had to ask myself, "What happens next?"

I soon found the answer during my interviews with Hero Fund managers Walter Rutkowski and Jeffrey Dooley. They described to me what the Commission was all about and what I would be doing as a part of it. On the way out of the interview, Walter showed me some of the earliest original case reports done on legal-sized, yellowed, and crinkly typing paper from 1905. As a history geek, I was engrossed; the file, which also contained personal accounts in elegant handwriting from an eyewitness, gave me goose bumps. I knew that I wanted to be a part of this process.

Now that I've been here almost a year and have read through many more case files, I still get a shivery feeling of human connection when I read a handwritten letter from someone who was rescued, or from the loved one of a fallen hero detailing the events that transpired. I love how personal and in-depth the correspondence can be with our beneficiaries, throughout the investigation phase and sometimes long after an award has been made.

This value placed on each individual's experience is how we get the full story—"a snapshot" of what happened. Then, in addition to honoring these otherwise ordinary citizens, we are recording their extraordinary acts into a greater piece of American and Canadian history. To me, this is much more inspiring than anything Hollywood could produce and I love coming to work each day to read new stories of adventure and helping to solve the mystery of what happened.

FRIENDS REMEMBERED

(continued from page 13)

much," writes daughter Abigail Kolthoff, "but when he did, he was very proud to have been given the medal, especially in his later years."

Bobby Jack McGuire, 79, of Tallahassee, Fla., died April 14. At age 70 on Jan. 27, 2003, McGuire and his son, Scott, 28, teamed up to save the driver of a pickup truck that crashed into a tree near McGuire's home at night and caught fire. After attempting to douse the flames with a fire extinguisher, McGuire, a retired military officer who served during the Korean War, joined his son in the bed of the pickup. They reached through the rear window and pulled the driver out as flames were starting to enter the cab. McGuire and his son were each awarded the medal in 2004 for their actions.

Harvey Randolph, 67, of Palm Bay, Fla., died Feb. 17. A U.S. Navy veteran and retired master plumber, Randolph was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 1998 for rescuing a woman from attack by four pit bull dogs in Palm Bay on Sept. 18 of the previous year. The woman was jogging when the dogs attacked. They took her to the pavement and mauled her, inflicting extensive bite wounds. Unarmed, Randolph, then 53, attempted to fight the dogs off. He pulled the woman into a nearby van and then climbed in himself. Both Randolph and the victim required medical treatment for their wounds.

Lucien G. Virgile, 87, of West Hempstead, N.Y., died March 10. On May 15, 1965, Virgile, then an engineering supervisor, 40, witnessed a two-car crash in the Bronx. The vehicles caught fire. Virgile pulled an 11-year-old boy from one of the cars and then returned to it and, timing his moves to avoid gusts of flame, pulled the driver out with help from another man. In a third rescue, he helped to remove a 15-year-old boy from the burning wreckage. Virgile sustained burns on his hands and forehead, but he recovered.



Mr. Cheatham Mr. Kirkendall Mr. McGuire Mr. Randolph Mr. Virgile

Farmer's rescue act in 1934

(continued from page 12)

produce crops like beans and peas, but now the crop is mainly hay for sale to horse farmers and straw for making mulch. "We make between 40,000 and 50,000 bales of hay each year," Edmond said.

In addition to his farm work, Edmond remains active in the community. He's been a supervisor for the county's soil and water conservation group for the past 40 years.

Tragedy struck the Reid family in the late 1980s when Edmond's son Tony and his wife Kathy were killed. Edmond used some of the Carnegie-funded farmland to honor their memory by making it available to Lanier Technical College as the site for a satellite campus. "It was so tragic to lose them," Edmond said, "but I was happy to help the school." Johnson finds it fitting that the campus memorializes her brother and sister-in-law: "They always wanted to encourage young people to learn." As did, incidentally, Andrew Carnegie, himself a technical school founder.

-Melissa McLaughlin, Case Investigator

FROM THE ARCHIVES

HERO MARKS ANNIVERSARY OF RESCUE WITH SOMBER REFLECTION

December 7, 1941. November 22, 1963. September 11, 2001. There are dates, marked indelibly in our minds, of events that impacted and perhaps even altered our lives and that we could not forget if we tried. Not surprisingly, many Carnegie Medal recipients tell us that the date, and of course the details, of their particular rescue act remains vivid for decades.

That is certainly true of Carnegie Medal awardee **Victor Carl Edwards**, 56, of Calumet City, Ill. On Feb. 27, 1974, the air temperature in Chicago had risen few degrees above freezing, enough to entice young men to go to the city's 60-acre Sherman Park to play basketball. Among them were Leon Walker, 17, and his brother, John E. Walker, 16, and their cousin, John Hamilton, Jr., also 17.

About mid-afternoon they heard a young boy yell that someone had fallen through the ice of the park's lagoon.

The Walker brothers and Hamilton ran to the scene and saw 9-year-old Luther D. Tillman in the lagoon, attempting to pull himself onto the ice. Brothers and cousin went onto the ice in a rescue bid, but each in turn broke through the ice and struggled in the frigid water.



Mr. Edwards with Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley.

Meanwhile, Edwards, then 17, was riding a bus nearby. When he saw people struggling in the lagoon, he exited the bus and responded to the scene. Edwards succeeded in pulling all

three young men to safety, but Luther had submerged and was no longer visible. Edwards crawled on the ice, near where Luther had broken through, and reached into the water in an attempt to locate him, but he too broke through. An arriving police officer helped Edwards to safety. Luther's body was recovered later that day.



Mr. Edwards, center, holding Carnegie Medal at the scene of his heroic act in Sherman Park, Chicago. With him are two of the victims he saved from drowning in the lagoon, John Hamilton, Jr., left, and Leon Walker.

rescue, Edwards, the Walkers, and Hamilton resumed their lives and went their separate ways, and it would not be until 34 years later that they met again. By then the men had reached middle age, and each had carved out his own future. Edwards, Leon Walker, and Hamilton returned to Sherman Park and its lagoon on a late winter's day and had their photograph taken at the scene. Despite the temporary smiles, frozen forever on paper, the men's thoughts are of course impossible to discern. In recent years, Edwards and his wife—and anyone who accepts his invitation—have returned to the lagoon each Feb. 27, and at precisely 3:15 p.m. they pray for the family of the boy who would never see middle age.

Edwards's contact with the Hero Fund did not end with the award. The Commission gave him a grant to learn cardiopulmonary resuscitation (he renews his certification every two years), and in 2004 he attended the Hero Fund's centennial observance in Pittsburgh. By remaining in contact, the Commission has learned of his civic involvement, charitable work, and pastoral work within the state's correctional system—"pastor" is just one of his titles. For those efforts, he has been recognized by local government and private organizations. Photographs he has shared with the Hero Fund show him with then-mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago and other notables. 

—Marlin Ross, Case Investigator

For his heroism, the Commission awarded the Carnegie Medal and \$1,000 to Edwards in 1975. When he is asked about the incident today, Edwards's words still flow easily and swiftly: "I saw (the victims) in the water and knew they needed help..." and when he broke through the ice, "I thought my own life was in danger."

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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 may include 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 on-line or by contacting the Commission.

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

Address change? Please keep us posted!

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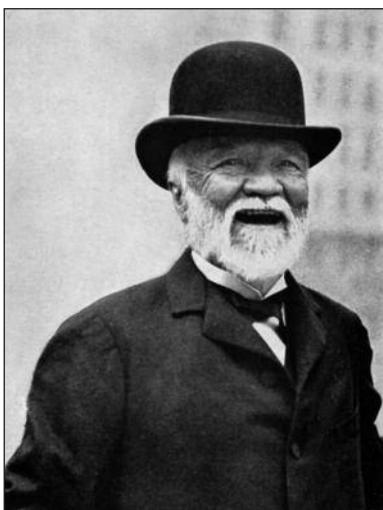
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✧ THE QUOTABLE A.C. ✧



A sunny disposition is worth more than fortune. Young people should know that it can be cultivated; that the mind like the body can be moved from the shade into sunshine.

—From *The Autobiography of Andrew Carnegie*, 1920, p. 3

✧ 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) or write her at the address given below.

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 Myrna Braun (myrna@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 Doug Chambers (doug@carnegiehero.org).

ANNUAL REPORTS Copies of the Hero Fund's most recent annual reports (2008-2009) are available, as are those of the centennial report of 2004, which lists the names of all awardees from 1904 through 2004. Contact Gloria Barber (gloria@carnegiehero.org).

A CENTURY OF HEROES The centennial book describing the first 100 years of the Hero Fund is available through the Commission's website (www.carnegiehero.org).

COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL A silver medal struck in the likeness of the Carnegie Medal to commemorate the 2004 centennial of the Hero Fund is available for purchase through the Commission's website.

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