



# imPULSE

A Periodic Newsletter of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission ISSUE 39 • SEPTEMBER 2014



## FIREFIGHTER'S RESCUE 'ABOVE AND BEYOND'

John M. Curley, Sr., of Bellmore, N.Y., is a professional firefighter with the New York Fire Department and a member of the volunteer fire department of his Long Island hometown. But he did not have the resources of either department when, off duty, he initiated the rescue of a 92-year-old woman who was trapped in her Bellmore home after it caught fire.

Flames spread quickly in the house, blocking access to the woman's bedroom from inside. In an attempt to gain access to the room, her son dragged a filing cabinet from the garage and put it under her window, and then he positioned a stepladder atop the filing cabinet. Without help, he was unable to climb to the window, which was about 12 feet off the ground.

Enter Curley, who was alerted to the fire while driving nearby. He scaled the cabinet and ladder, broke out the bedroom window, and saw the woman lying unconscious on the floor. Although flames had breached the room by then, Curley crawled inside, lifted the woman through the window, and started down the ladder with her. Others responding took her to safety.

For his actions in going above and beyond the call of duty, Curley was awarded the Carnegie Medal. Details and another photo are on pages 7 and 9.



*Paul F. Frontiero III, shown here on a medical mission to the Dominican Republic in 2010, died defending his housemates from an assault in Nashua, N.H., on Oct. 9, 2011. He was awarded the Carnegie Medal posthumously in June.*

## *Hero's mother: "That's the way he was, putting others' needs ahead of his own"*

*By Catherine Frontiero  
Gloucester, Mass.*

In June 1983 my husband Paul and I found out we were expecting our first child. We were so excited, nervous, and very much surprised, for only six months earlier I was told that I would not be able to have children without medical intervention. On Feb. 23, 1984, we were blessed with a healthy baby boy, whom we named Paul after his grandfather and father. Not only were we blessed with Paul, but in the following years we were blessed three times over with more sons.

From that June moment until today, everything my husband and I do is for our sons. When the boys were Cub Scouts, we were den leaders. When they were in

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### LOCAL INTEREST CONTRIBUTES TO PRESENTATION OF MEDAL

By Mark Laskow, Chair  
Carnegie Hero Fund Commission

On a bright, sunny July day in the “four corners” area of New Mexico, the Hero Fund presented its 24th Carnegie Medal to a resident of that state. **Steven L. Rogge**, 42, of Farmington received the medal for his rescue of a 12-year-old boy from the tumultuous waters of the Animas River in Farmington’s Berg Park a year earlier. In this he followed in the footsteps of New Mexico’s first awardee, **C. William Lewis, Jr.**, who at age 14 successfully rescued an 18-year-old from the Pecos River in 1912. Indeed, six of the 24 medals awarded to New Mexicans involved water rescues. When you think of the beautiful, desolate landscape of the state, drowning risk is not the first hazard that comes to mind.



Mark Laskow, left, Commission chair, presented the Carnegie Medal personally to Steven L. Rogge, shown with his wife, Diana, and daughter, Esther. At right is Robin Loev, a park ranger who assisted the Hero Fund in its investigation of Rogge’s case.

It is a special treat to present a Carnegie Medal in person since it just isn’t practical to present every medal that way. What makes it even more special is when local interest in a presentation has us packing a bag and hitting the road. (Key packing tip: You may forget your toothbrush, but don’t forget the medal!)

About 35 members of the Farmington community turned out to honor Steve at a ceremony in the town’s gleaming new National Guard facility. The mayor was present, along with a representative

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## Florida man gets second Carnegie Medal, “but you don’t do it for the recognition”

For only the fifth time in its 110-year history, the Hero Fund has awarded a second Carnegie Medal to an individual for having performed another act of outstanding heroism.

**Charles T. Carbonell, Sr.**, 57, of Tampa, Fla., was one of 22 awardees of the medal announced in July (see pages 6-9). He is being cited for rescuing a woman from her overturned and burning sport utility vehicle after it left Interstate 4 between Orlando and Tampa, overturned in a muddy field, and caught fire. Witnessing the accident, which occurred Nov. 14, 2011, Carbonell ran from his vehicle, struggled to open the burning car’s driver’s door, and pulled the woman out. Neither was injured.

Carbonell’s first Carnegie Medal was awarded in 2007 to recognize his rescue of a Tampa police officer who was struggling to arrest a man on Feb. 12 that year. The men were fighting for control of the officer’s gun when Carbonell intervened and helped to subdue the assailant.

“I won’t hesitate to help anybody,” Carbonell said. “But you don’t do it for the recognition, you do it because you want to.” Or in Carbonell’s case, because your wife wants you to: In both instances, Carbonell said, his wife, Fonda, was present and urged him to act. “She gets 100 percent of the credit.”

Carbonell joins these other double awardees of the Carnegie Medal:

- **Daniel Elwood Stockwell**, of Keene, N.H., who freed 15 seventh-grade students who were being held at gunpoint in a classroom on Oct. 25, 1991. Stockwell was the principal of the school where the assault took place. In 1963, when he was a 20-year-old college student, Stockwell rescued a man from drowning in the Atlantic Ocean at Phippsburg, Maine.
- **Rudell Stitch**, a professional boxer from Prospect, Ky., who helped to save a man from drowning in the Ohio River at Louisville, Ky., on Sept. 16, 1958. Less than two years later, on Jan. 5, 1960, Stitch, then 27, died attempting to save another man from drowning at the same spot. Stitch left a widow and six small children.
- **John J. O’Neill, Sr.**, of Yonkers, N.Y., a highway maintenance employee, who twice rescued women who had fallen into the Hudson River from the Yonkers City Pier. The rescues occurred May 5, 1954, and Dec. 29, 1956.
- **Henry Naumann**, a railroad crossing watchman from Hammond, Ind., who was struck by a train each time he acted to rescue women who were attempting to cross the tracks in Hammond. The first rescue act, on June 16, 1924, was successful, but Naumann lost his right leg in the second incident, on March 30, 1927, in which the victim died of her injuries. ☒



Charles T. Carbonell, Sr., center, of Tampa, Fla., was given his first Carnegie Medal in 2008 by Mark Laskow, then president of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission, and Priscilla J. McCrady, then vice president. Carbonell was cited for rescuing a police officer from assault in 2007, and in 2014 he receives his second medal, for saving a woman from her burning car in 2011.

## That's the way he was

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religious education, I taught second grade, volunteered in the office, and helped with the confirmation students. When the boys played sports—and they played every sport every season—I was the “team mom,” and when my husband’s schedule allowed, he would help coach. I was a room mother at school and active in the PTA. We did all of this because we wanted to, as we were given the gift of four healthy sons and wanted the best for them. We weren’t perfect, but to me, my life was perfect.

*At 4:30 a.m. on Oct. 10, 2011, a knock on our door changed our lives forever. We learned that, hours earlier, Paul, 27, was killed while saving his housemates from an unprovoked attack by a man armed with a knife.*

We were devastated. Paul’s death left a hole in our hearts and a void in our lives and the lives of so many that can never be filled. We learned how many lives Paul touched when 500 came to his wake and more than 300 came to his funeral. Paul was escorted to the church the morning of his funeral by members of the police department, the fire department, and several ambulance companies, and his co-workers saluted him as he was carried inside, all in tribute to a hero. I had one person tell me that I should have taught my son to walk away. My response was, what if that was your mother, your sister, your daughter, or your granddaughter being attacked? Would you want my son to walk away? That’s the way Paul was, always putting other people’s needs ahead of his own. I am so proud of the man my son was.

Paul and I often talked on the phone. An emergency medical technician, he would tell me about his day, how he did cardiopulmonary resuscitation on someone, how he would sit in the neonatal intensive care unit and rock little tiny babies. Once he waited for a woman who was 28 weeks pregnant to deliver her preterm baby. When the baby didn’t make it, he helped the nurse wash the tiny body, wrap it in a receiving blanket, and carry it to the grief-stricken parents. He was the kind of man who would sit with parents while they waited to hear how their sick child was. He helped a little girl when she fell off her bike and landed on her face, and he held old ladies’ hands while he escorted them to the hospital so they wouldn’t be afraid. He had respect for all people.

At the time of his death, Paul was scheduled to start a paramedic program with the goal of becoming a paramedic/registered nurse and ultimately working with a med-flight team. A year before he died, Paul went to the Dominican Republic on a medical mission to serve the poorest of the poor. He came back in awe of how the people lived with nothing and how they appreciated everything, and he couldn’t wait to go on the next mission, which was scheduled for the week after his death. The people in the Dominican Republic loved him. They sent us cards and videos and dedicated a special service in his honor. That touched our hearts.

My wish, my prayer, my hope is that our three surviving sons and Paul’s friends and housemates will be able to move on with their lives and do all the great things they are destined to do. I know that Paul will never be forgotten. He continues to amaze me every day. I would say to him that we are so proud of him—we really did raise a true gentleman. I love you Paul and miss you so much. Until we meet again. ☞

*The Gloucester Daily Times had this editorial comment about Frontiero’s award in its July 7, 2014, issue: “The award is significant not just because it recognizes Paul’s actions that night. In an era when we all too often heap accolades on athletes and film ‘heroes,’ it is an honor that should remind us all what true heroism is all about.*

*“It’s frankly hard to imagine the courage that Paul Frontiero III summoned that night—when he had to know he was very much risking his life to help someone else. Yet his actions and his capacity to put others first were indeed in line with the attitude he had carried throughout his young life. And the Carnegie Foundation could not have made a better choice than to select him for one of these honors.*

*“It is a fitting tribute for a true American hero—and it’s only appropriate that he and his legacy be recognized on a national scale.”*

## BOARD NOTES

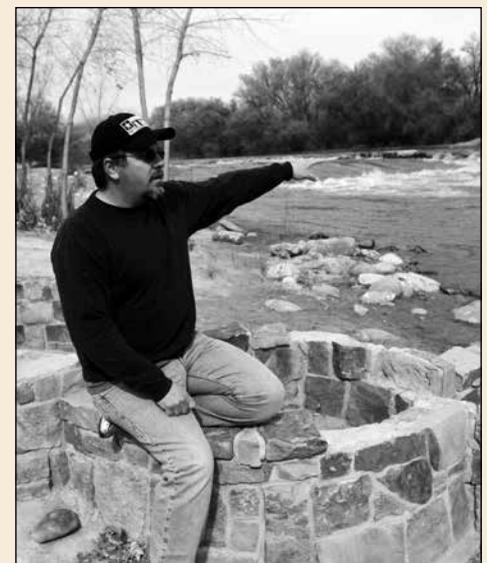
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of the local U.S. Congressman and the leadership of the 226th Military Police Battalion, who kindly hosted the event.

The center of attention, of course, was Steve Rogge himself, along with his wife Diana and daughter Esther. Steve, like most of our awardees, was most modest about what he had done. His modesty was delightfully balanced by the evident pride and enthusiasm of his wife and his daughter. There was no doubt about who their hero was.

One other participant vividly described the high stakes involved in Steve’s rescue act. Local park ranger Robin Loev arrived on the scene just after the rescue. He described the turbulent water Steve entered and the terror on the face of the rescued, retching victim. Loev impressed on all present the risks Steve faced when he decided to act . . . and the consequences for the victim if he had not. Steve himself said water rescues aren’t like they appear in the movies. “There’s no dive in, come out, and slick your hair back,” he told a reporter from *The Daily Times* of Farmington. “You come out like a sack of potatoes.”

As modest as he was, a year later Steve pulled two more children from the Animas River during the spring runoff and resulting high water. He entered the water to his neck, grabbed both kids, and fought his way back to the bank with them, Diana helping him the last few feet. Steve banged up a knee in the process and needed emergency-room treatment. Some of the National Guard officers joked that they were forming a rescue team to go with him whenever he visits the riverside park. At least, I think they were kidding.



*Medal awardee Steven L. Rogge on the bank of the Animas River in Farmington, N.M., site of his 2013 rescue act and another one a year later. Photo, by Jon Austria, is courtesy of The Daily Times, Farmington.*



## FALLEN EDUCATORS MEMORIAL INCLUDES CARNEGIE HEROES

A memorial dedicated to fallen educators, including Carnegie Medal awardees **Forrest L. Willey** and **John A. Klang**, was unveiled June 12 on the grounds of Emporia, Kan., State University, home to the National Teachers Hall of Fame (NTHF).

Intended to be a permanent tribute to U.S. educators who “gave their all” for their profession, the memorial was conceived, according to Carol Strickland, NTHF director, after six educators were murdered in Newtown, Conn., in December 2012, and an Alabama teacher was murdered the following month. Comprising two black granite “books” on which the fallen educators’ names are engraved, the monument is the only national tribute to education professionals who were killed on the job.



4 Currently there are 113 individuals named on the memorial, many of whom lost their lives to violence. NTHF members will continue to research names of fallen educators to add to the memorial and are raising money for an outdoor kiosk that can be used by visitors at the memorial to look up information on each person listed.

Earliest of the educators listed is Enoch Brown, who with 11 students was massacred by Indians on July 26, 1764, in Franklin County, Pa. One of the more recent educators added is Carnegie Medal nominee Michael Landsberry of Sparks, Nev., who died Oct. 21, 2013.

Although Willey and Klang died 40 years apart, their heroic actions are quite similar.

On Oct. 5, 1966, in Grand Rapids, Minn., Willey, 58, director of secondary education, left his office and went to the parking lot of a high school on getting word that a 15-year-old boy had shot someone. He approached the boy from behind, remarking that he was going to try to get the gun before someone was killed. The boy turned and faced him and shot at him. The bullet missed Willey, who continued forward. The boy fired two more shots, striking and mortally wounding Willey. When police arrived, the armed boy fired the remaining bullets at them before surrendering.

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## The measure of a man: Hero turns 90, celebrated for life of kindness, service

By Phyllis Britt  
North Augusta, S.C.



*Carnegie Medal awardee Charles E. Britt turned 90 in May. Photo is by his daughter, Deborah Brinkley.*

What is the measure of a man's life? His career? His family? His Carnegie Medal? Or is it the sum total of all that goes into a life well-lived?

**Charles Edward Britt** of Norfolk, Va., celebrated his 90th birthday among family and friends on May 10. The party was representative of the measure of the man that Charlie is. Gathered at the celebration were folks, young and old, from all phases of his life, all of whom are better for knowing him.

This nonagenarian was in the U.S. Navy during World War II, serving in the Pacific campaigns, including being among those who moved into Tokyo when the Japanese surrendered. He returned home, met and married Marian Wilkins, and became a firefighter for the Norfolk Fire Department, ultimately becoming a captain in charge of one of the fire stations. Honoring him at the party were fellow firemen—some he's known since the '50s, others whom he trained from the beginning, and many who, like Charlie, have continued to work for the betterment of the fire department and for greater benefits for the firemen through the local firemen's association.

His influence has had an extensive reach, considering he retired 25 years ago when his wife became ill. Family has always been

very important. His mother and his uncle lived on the same block, so much of his free time in years past was spent helping them maintain their yards and homes and transporting them to the grocery store or doctor's office. Charlie and Marian had four children and then raised their first grandson, Chris, who contracted spinal meningitis and lived his life profoundly deaf. In addition to Chris, who died two years ago, Charlie has seven more grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

When his wife became terminally ill, he took care of her, and after she died, he continued to check on her sisters, taking them to lunch or the doctor. In recent years, he has continued to assist his kids when they were in need, and he has helped with their in-laws, serving as chauffeur to doctors' appointments and providing a respite for caregivers. He has branched out to friends and neighbors who became his “family,” and, unlike many of us who tend to lose touch with folks we don't see often, he has maintained a close relationship with relatives and high school friends.

Neighbors young and old keep in touch due to his great kindness over the last 60 years. For example, Rose moved into the neighborhood about 25 years ago with two little kids. Her husband was in the Navy and away a lot, so Charlie became a surrogate granddad to her children, babysitting to give her a break on a regular basis. Then there's the couple who literally owe their son's life to Charlie. When he was 73—and long retired from the fire station—a house across the street caught fire. The parents and two of their children got out, but their 5-year-old was nowhere to be seen.

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## The measure of a man

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Charlie went into the home, by then engulfed by flames and smoke, and managed to find the boy and bring him to safety. "He's the angel of the neighborhood," read the newspaper headline. For his bravery, Charlie Britt received the Carnegie Medal.

The final testament to his life is his attitude. He has spent his 90 years being an optimist, not letting anything get him down for long and firmly believing that you are indeed as young as you feel. Evidence of the latter is that at 80 he reroofed his two-story home by himself, climbing a ladder with pallets of shingles slung over his shoulder. His daughter decided the only way to protect him from himself was to steal the ladder so he couldn't do it again. He is that dad, granddad, and now even great-granddad for whom three generations have asked, "Can Charlie come out and play?"

Folks talk about making the most of "the dash" between the dates of your birth and death. Charles Edward Britt is making the most of his dash. 

*Phyllis Britt writes for The Star of North Augusta, S.C., from which this article on her father-in-law is adapted.*

### K-9 OLYMPIANS

Connecticut State Trooper **Nicholas P. Leary**, an awardee of the Carnegie Medal, and his 3-year-old K-9 partner Elvis apprehend criminals, locate missing persons, and serve as ambassadors to school groups and other organizations. In July they placed first in the annual Connecticut Police K-9 Olympics, held at the University of Connecticut.



The day-long event, involving 34 teams from the state police, local police departments, the state's department of corrections, and the greater Boston, Mass., area, included competition in obedience, obstacles, building search, marksmanship, and apprehension/bite drills. The top placement by Leary, 45, and Elvis, who are based at Troop D in Danielson, was a first for the Connecticut State Police in the 23-year history of the Olympics. Leary received his Carnegie Medal in 2008 in recognition of his rescuing a woman from her burning second-floor apartment in Danielson on Aug. 9, 2007. He was on duty at the time of the early-morning fire but was not trained or equipped to effect a rescue of the type. After crawling into the woman's burning bedroom, Leary dragged her from the unit and, as flames breached the apartment's walls, took her downstairs and outside with help from another trooper. Leary donated the financial grant that accompanied the medal to The Jimmy Fund of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Brookline, Mass.



### MEDAL AWARDEE ORDAINED

Carnegie Medal awardee **Brian J. Phillips**, of Cary, N.C., shown third from left in the front row, was one of 14 men ordained to the office of deacon in the Catholic Church on June 28 in Raleigh, N.C. "It was a spectacular event," Phillips said, admitting that he "cried with joy through much of the ceremony." Present were Phillips's wife, Mary Beth (shown to right of Phillips) plus their two children, Phillips's three siblings and their families, his in-laws, and his godfather, Paul Hewitt, 86 (first row, right), who came from Ottawa, Ont., for the event. Other special guests were the two women whom Phillips saved from drowning in the Atlantic Ocean at Topsail Beach, N.C., Savannah Knowles and Kaitlyn Baker (first row, left). The rescue, for which Phillips was awarded the medal, took place 15 years earlier—to the day—on June 28, 1999, when the women were each 6. As Phillips wrote in the June 2014 issue of *imPULSE*, the rescue heightened his awareness for the well-being of others, prompting him to greater service in the church. Photo by and courtesy of friend Bob Witchger of Raleigh.

### FALLEN EDUCATORS

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Forty years later, on Sept. 29, 2006, in Cazenovia, Wis., a 15-year-old boy entered his school with a loaded shotgun and handgun. A school employee removed the shotgun from him, after which the boy produced the handgun. Klang, 49, the school's principal and district administrator, confronted the boy in a hallway. He and the boy struggled, during which time the boy fired the gun repeatedly, striking Klang. Although he was mortally wounded, Klang disarmed the assailant, casting the gun through the hall, and detained him. A teacher and two students left a nearby classroom and secured the assailant until police arrived shortly and arrested him. Klang died several hours later of his gunshot wounds.



LATEST AWARDEES  
OF THE CARNEGIE MEDAL

SINCE THE LAST ISSUE OF *imPULSE*, THE FOLLOWING 22 INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN AWARDED THE CARNEGIE MEDAL, BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS TO 9,697 SINCE THE HERO FUND'S INCEPTION IN 1904. THE LATEST AWARDS, WHICH WERE ANNOUNCED ON JULY 2, ARE DETAILED ON THE COMMISSION'S WEBSITE AT WWW.CARNEGIEHERO.ORG. THE NEXT ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARDEES WILL BE MADE ON SEPT. 30.

Emergency medical technician **Paul F. Frontiero III** of Nashua, N.H., died rescuing Kathryn A. Libby from an assault outside his home on Oct. 9, 2011. At night, a man armed with a knife exited an automobile that stopped in front of the house where Libby, 29, and others lived. Libby and others were outside the house when the man confronted them in a menacing fashion, and he stabbed Libby repeatedly when she intervened between him and one of her housemates. Frontiero, 27, another housemate, immediately responded from the house, rushed the assailant, and fought against him, freeing Libby. The assailant stabbed Frontiero repeatedly about the arms and torso before fleeing in the car.



*Lee Kenneth Murray was enjoying a day along the riverbank in Courtenay, B.C., with his kids and friends when he saw a woman who was tubing on the river get thrown into the water. When she did not surface, Murray swam across the river, dived, and found that she was snagged by a rock on the floor of the river. He freed her, took her to the surface, and floated her to safety. Photo, by Erin Haluschak, is courtesy of Comox Valley Record, Courtenay.*



*Upper Southampton, Pa., police officers Albert Costantini, center, and Frederick S. Williamson, right, were named "Real Heroes of Bucks County" (Pa.) by The American Red Cross for saving a man from his burning house. The officers also received the Carnegie Medal for the rescue, which the Hero Fund considered to be well above and beyond the call of their duty. Photo, by Aaron Castro, is provided as a courtesy by Aaron Mitchell Photography of Perkasie, Pa.*

Frontiero collapsed to the ground, mortally wounded. Libby required hospital treatment for her wounds, from which she recovered.

**Daniel R. Thibeault** of Edwards, Ont., rescued his neighbor and friend, Donald O. Bickerton, from a burning house on Nov. 8, 2012. Bickerton, 65, was in his two-story house after fire broke out there at night and spread. At his home next door, Thibeault, 43, supervisor, was alerted to the fire. He ran to the burning house, kicked open the front door, the frame of which had flames on it, and dumped a large barrel of water from nearby through the doorway. Thibeault entered the living room, finding dense smoke and flames throughout much of the room. Despite the intense heat, Thibeault proceeded toward a sofa bed in that room, finding Bickerton partially beneath it, on the floor. Thibeault lifted the bed, picked Bickerton up, and returned to the front door and exited. Flames grew to engulf and destroy the house. Bickerton was taken to the hospital for treatment of injury. (See photo.)

Upper Southampton, Pa., police officers **Albert Costantini**, 59, and **Frederick S. Williamson**, 46, saved Andrew J. Reilly from his burning house in Southampton, Pa., on Dec. 23, 2012. Reilly, 71, was in the family room of the house after a fire broke out there. Alerted to the fire, Costantini, of Levittown, Pa., responded to the scene and entered the room through a

window. Despite intense heat, dense smoke that severely restricted visibility, and growing flames along one wall, Costantini crawled forward to search for Reilly and found him on the floor near the far wall. He began to drag Reilly toward the window, but about halfway there he became disoriented. Responding about then, Williamson, of New Hope, Pa., entered through the window and located Costantini in the dense smoke. Together the officers dragged Reilly to the window and lifted him outside to others. As Costantini and Williamson were exiting the house, a flashover occurred in the room, exacerbating conditions and sending flames through the window. (See photo.)

**Marcos Diaz**, a trooper with the Florida Highway Patrol, helped to save Rolando Riverón from drowning in the Atlantic Ocean off Key Largo, Fla., on July 19, 2012. While fishing, Riverón, 47, was thrown into the water when his small boat capsized at a point about 800 feet from shore. Tangled in fishing line that kept him from swimming, he held to a plastic cooler. Diaz, 29, of Homestead, Fla., responded to the shore and began to swim toward Riverón, but the rising tide, choppy water, and current impeded his efforts. From arriving emergency medical personnel, Diaz obtained a body-immobilization board and, using it as a surfboard, swam to Riverón. He gave Riverón a

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**LATEST AWARDEES***(continued from page 6)*

knife, which Riverón used to cut himself free of the fishing line. Both men held to the board and attempted to return to shore but tired against the current. They were rescued by a responding Coast Guard boat.

**Jose Alvarado**, 48, a heavy equipment operator from Kandiyohi, Minn., saved siblings Jason W. and Julia G. Hoffman from a burning minivan after an accident in Kandiyohi on Aug. 17, 2012. Jason, 5, and Julia, 8, remained in the back seat of the vehicle, which caught fire at its front end. Alvarado stopped at the scene and removed the window of the rear door on the driver's side. Despite growing and spreading flames, he leaned through the window opening, unbuckled Jason's safety belt, and backed from the vehicle with him. He then went to the passenger side, where the window of the rear door was missing. Although flames had entered the front of the vehicle by then, he leaned inside again, unbuckled Julia's safety belt, and pulled her out. Jason recovered from injury, but Julia died shortly after her rescue. Alvarado sustained lacerations to his arms and hands.

Rogers, Ark., police officer **Waseng Xiong** saved Betty Edwards from her burning mobile home in Rogers on March 7 last year. Edwards, 76, was trapped in the structure by flames that had spread near its front door, blocking it. On duty, Xiong, 31, of Rogers, responded to the scene and broke out the glass of a sliding door. As the base of the door was a few feet off the ground, he removed a chair from the structure and then stood on it to enter the smoke-filled dining area. Although his visibility was severely restricted, Xiong made his way to Edwards, finding her in the adjoining kitchen. He positioned her on her back and then pulled her as he crawled to the door. Another officer took Edwards from the mobile home and with help moved her to safety. Xiong then exited. Edwards and Xiong required hospital treatment for ill effects of the fire, Xiong's including lacerations to a leg.

**Kenneth Brandon Cowart**, 38, a food preparer from Denison, Texas, died attempting to save two boys from drowning in the Red River at Cartwright, Okla., on June 30, 2012. The boys, aged 13 and 11, were wading in the river below a hydroelectric and flood-control dam after a warning from the dam that water was to be released from Lake Texoma. Upon release, the water rose quickly and became turbulent and swift, trapping the boys at a point about 100 feet from the nearer bank. Cowart, who was not in the boys' party, was fishing from



*Flames were consuming the interior of this raised-ranch house on Long Island, N.Y., as John M. Curley, Sr., left, climbed a stepladder atop a filing cabinet to reach the bedroom in which a woman was trapped. The photo was taken just after rescue as the woman lay in front of the cabinet. For his actions, Curley was named firefighter of the year in 2013 by the Firemen's Association of the State of New York, and he was given a Gold Medal of Valor by the Nassau County, N.Y., Fire Commission.*

that bank. He entered the water and moved toward the boys but also became trapped by the rough water conditions. Tethered by a line, a responding firefighter waded into the river and rescued the younger boy, the older boy making it to safety on his own. Cowart submerged about then. His body was later recovered from the river; he had drowned.



*Daniel R. Thibeault had been a friend as well as neighbor of Donald O. Bickerton since moving to the rural neighborhood southeast of Ottawa, Ont. When a pre-dawn fire broke out in Bickerton's house, Thibeault kicked in the front door, entered the burning structure, and pulled Bickerton to safety. Photo by Mike Carrocetto of the Ottawa Citizen.*

**Michael D. McNally**, 51, of Marstons Mills, Mass., rescued Kadi A. Wells from a burning car after an accident near his home on June 5 last year. Wells, 25, was the passenger in a car that left the roadway, struck a tree, and caught fire at its front end. McNally, a disabled electrician, heard the crash and ran to the scene, where he leaned through the window opening of the front passenger door. He pulled on Wells but lost his grip. With flames entering the passenger compartment from the front, Wells moved her legs to the back-seat area. McNally re-positioned himself through the window opening of the rear door. He grasped Wells by the ankles, pulled her through the window, and then set her on the ground and extinguished flames on her. The car was shortly engulfed by flames. Wells sustained severe burns, and McNally recovered from minor burns to his wrists. (See photo.)

**Steven David Pippin**, 20, a trade school student from Royal Palm Beach, Fla., rescued Bruce E. Barkdoll, a police officer, from an assault in Royal Palm Beach on May 27 last year. Responding to the scene of an automobile accident, Barkdoll, 55, learned that the driver had fled on foot. Pippin, another motorist, had followed the driver and directed Barkdoll to him. The driver, a large, muscular man, was then thrashing about in pooled water on the

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## LATEST AWARDEES

(continued from page 7)

ground. Recognizing that he was exhibiting signs of excited delirium, Barkdoll approached him calmly, but the man lunged at him, took him to the ground, and, striking him, removed his radio and telephone. He then pulled at Barkdoll's holster, which held a fully loaded service weapon. Witnessing the attack, Pippin jumped on the assailant and held down one of his arms as Barkdoll worked to secure him, and he retrieved Barkdoll's radio, enabling Barkdoll to call for help. The assailant continued to struggle against the men until other responding officers secured him with handcuffs and a leg restraint.

**Mitchell L. McLean**, 54, a chief district court judge from North Wilkesboro, N.C., died July 3 last year after attempting to save Maryanne Galway and others from drowning in the Atlantic Ocean at Sunset Beach, N.C. While swimming, Galway, 55, and several others were caught by a strong rip current that took them farther from shore. Galway's husband supported her as he shouted for help. In another party, McLean had just arrived at the beach. He and his wife joined others in entering the surf in rescue attempts, but his wife returned to shore after struggling against the high waves. Galway was returned to the beach by one of the rescuers as others retrieved her husband and McLean, who had been overcome by conditions. Unconscious, all three were taken to the hospital, where Galway and McLean were pronounced dead. Galway's husband recovered. (See photos.)

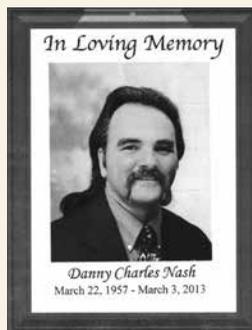
High school teacher **Richard Irvin Moore** of Laguna Niguel, Calif., rescued Jana Lutteropp, 20, from a shark attack at Wailea, Hawaii, on Aug. 14 last year. Lutteropp was snorkeling in the Pacific Ocean at a point about 150 feet from shore when a shark, thought by authorities to be a tiger shark about 12 feet long, attacked her, severing her right arm near the shoulder. From the beach, Moore, 57, heard her scream and saw that she was in bloodied water. He ran into the water and then swam out to her. Securing a hold of her, Moore backstroked toward shore and then in wadable water handed her over to another man, who returned her to the beach. Moore and others then carried Lutteropp to an access road, from which she was taken to the hospital. She died there a week later of effects of her injury.

**Alexander Lias Travis**, 17, a high school student from Kirkville, N.Y., saved Stuart E. DeLand, 93, from drowning in Bradley Brook Reservoir at Eaton, N.Y., on Aug. 15, 2013. DeLand remained in the driver's seat of his



*High school student and wrestler Alexander Lias Travis saved a man from his submerging car after it entered a reservoir and started to sink. Then 17, Travis was untrained in water rescue. "It was the right thing to do," he told a reporter. "It doesn't make me a hero." Photo by Kevin Rivoli and used with permission of Syracuse, N.Y., Media Group.*

car after it entered the reservoir and began to sink nose first in water about 12 feet deep at a point about 35 feet from the bank. Alexander was in a vehicle that stopped at the scene. He immediately swam to the car and opened the rear door on the driver's side, but water then rushing into the car forced him inside. After he released DeLand's safety belt but was unable to pull him from his seat, he exited the vehicle and broke out the window of the driver's door. Reaching inside, he grasped DeLand and pulled him head first out of the car. They both submerged, but Alexander took DeLand to the surface and then back to the bank. DeLand required hospitalization, and Alexander sustained lacerations on his hands, from which he recovered. (See photo.)



*Mr. Nash*

Robert, 83, and his wife, Barbara, 72, and her sister, Crockarell, 66, were inside their home after a fire erupted at the back of the structure. Seeing the flames, Nash went to the house, forced open a side door, and entered.

From outside the house, he was seen guiding Barbara and Robert toward the front door and then proceeding to the end of the house that contained the bedrooms. Flames grew quickly. Firefighters responded shortly and found Robert and Barbara near the front door, but attempts to revive them were unsuccessful. Deteriorating conditions delayed the search for Crockarell and Nash, whose bodies were found in the basement of the structure, after it had collapsed.

A commercial fisherman from Comox, B.C., **Lee Kenneth Murray**, 44, saved Betty-Lou H. Nadelko, 60, from drowning in the Puntledge River at Courtenay, B.C., on July 23, 2013. While tubing, Nadelko was thrown into the swift water of the river. A loose tow rope from the tube became wrapped around her and caught in rocks on the bed of the river, keeping her submerged. In another party at the scene, Murray saw the accident. When Nadelko did not surface, he swam across the river to the point at which he last saw her. Diving, he located her and then traced her body and the extended rope to where it was snagged. He dislodged the rope, freeing Nadelko, and took her to the surface. Positioning Nadelko atop him, Murray floated downstream to a beach, where a man helped him remove her from the water. Nadelko required hospital treatment, and she recovered. (See photo.)

**Charles T. Carbonell, Sr.**, saved Denise C. Guzman from her burning car after an accident in Lakeland, Fla., on Nov. 14, 2011. Guzman,

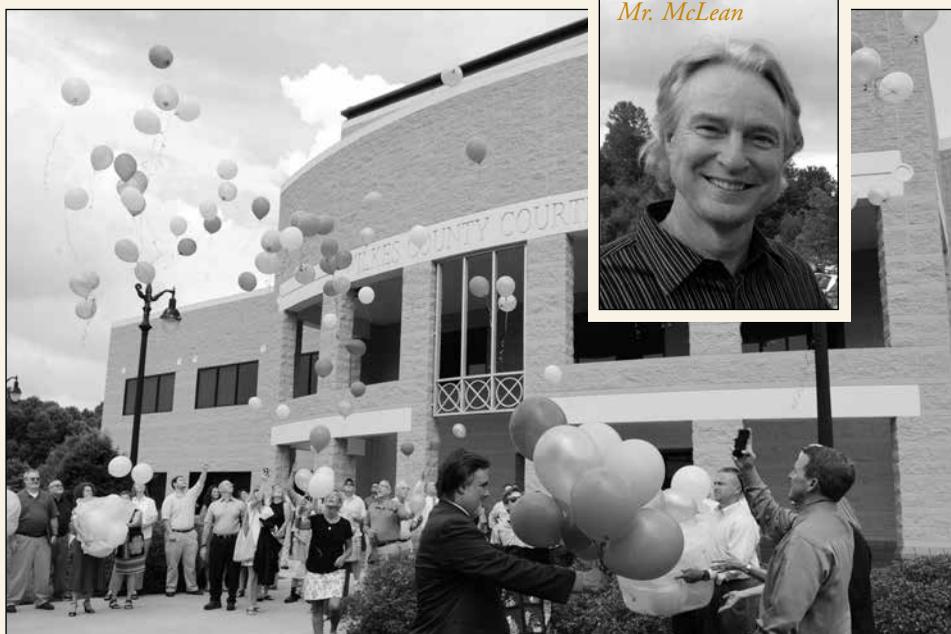
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## LATEST AWARDEES

(continued from page 8)

41, was trapped in her sport utility vehicle after it rolled off the highway and came to rest upside down in a stretch of wetland. Fire erupted in the engine compartment and spread to the exposed underside. Carbonell, 54, a furniture restorer from Tampa, Fla., had been traveling behind Guzman and witnessed the accident. He ran to the burning vehicle, his footing compromised by the wetland mud. Carbonell pulled on the driver's door, but the mud prevented him from opening it appreciably. After a struggle, he succeeded in opening the door wider, and then he leaned head first inside despite flames spreading on the vehicle's undercarriage and entering it at the dashboard. Carbonell grasped Guzman, pulled her from the vehicle, and carried her back to the highway. (See page 2.)

Friends **Tyler P. Feagan**, 18, of Dallas, Ga., and **Dillon Humphries**, 17, of Hiram, Ga., saved Melvin Todd and Tatiana Nelthrope from drowning in the Gulf of Mexico at Panama City Beach, Fla., on April 10 last year. Todd, 28, and Nelthrope were swimming when they were taken into deeper water farther from the beach by a strong current. They called for help at a point about 200 feet from shore. Feagan and Humphries, high school students, were in wadable water atop a sandbar at the scene. They swam to Todd and Nelthrope. Feagan grasped Todd, who had submerged, and swam with difficulty toward shore with him. He submerged en route but then separated himself from Todd and calmed him before proceeding. Humphries, meanwhile, had Nelthrope on his



*One year after he died while trying to save others from drowning in the Atlantic Ocean, friends and family released balloons at the Wilkes County, N.C., Courthouse in memory of Mitchell McLean, a judge. McLean had feared water since he was a child but entered the ocean with his wife after seeing swimmers in trouble. Photo, by Bruce Chapman, is provided as a courtesy by the Winston-Salem Journal of Winston-Salem, N.C.*

back as he slowly swam out of the current to wadable water at shore. He then joined Feagan to help with Todd, as did a lifeguard who responded with a rescue device.

**Bruce Edward Smoot**, 43, saved his neighbors, Jeffrey L. and Catherine B. Laudermilk, from their burning house in Front Royal, Va., on Feb. 5, 2012. Jeffrey, 58, was in a second-floor bedroom of his and his wife's duplex after flames erupted in that room. He attempted to flee but collapsed in the bedroom doorway, and

his wife, Catherine, 59, tried without success to move him. When Smoot saw flames issuing from the house, he ran to the front door and entered, finding that smoke severely restricted visibility. Hearing Catherine yelling, Smoot ascended the stairs and found Jeffrey. He picked him up, started down the stairs with him, and then handed him over to a responding police officer. Smoot returned to the second floor and, despite having no visibility in the dense smoke, found Catherine in a room opposite the burning one. He picked her up and carried her downstairs and outside to safety.

New York City Firefighter **John M. Curley, Sr.**, of Bellmore, N.Y., rescued Evelyn Ross from her burning house in Bellmore on Nov. 12, 2012. Ross, 92, was in her bedroom after fire broke out in the house's living quarters and spread. Blocked by flames from reaching her from the inside, her son placed a six-foot-high stepladder atop a five-foot-high metal cabinet beneath her bedroom window. Off duty, Curley, 43, was alerted to the fire by the local fire department, of which he was a volunteer member. Responding without protective gear, equipment, or backup, he climbed atop the cabinet and ladder, the top of which fell just short of the window. He broke out the window glass, climbed inside, and crawled about five feet to Ross, flames by then breaching the room through its doorway. He lifted Ross through the window, started down the ladder with her, and passed her off to other responders moments



*A 25-year-old woman was the passenger of this car as it uprooted a fire hydrant, sheared off a utility pole, and crashed into trees near the home of Michael D. McNally of Marstons Mills, Mass. Although the front of the demolished vehicle burst into flame, McNally freed the woman from the wreckage and took her to safety. Photo courtesy of neighbor June McDonald.*

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## Over 100 years, heroes have grown older, while other factors show little change

By Thomas Dixon, Ed.M., and Frank Farley, Ph.D.  
Temple University, Philadelphia, Pa.

Rarely do we see what heroism looks like. We are far more likely to see someone in peril on the silver screen than on our walks in our neighborhoods or on our drives to work, and we are likely to be dumbfounded if we were to come across such a situation. If we were to act, chances are it would be to run in the opposite direction, for fear of our own lives.

These are typical reactions, and they make sense to us because we know that in our society there are individuals trained to respond in these settings. We expect police officers, firefighters, and others charged with the safety of the general public to show heroism on a regular basis in light of their training. Since we see them as having an obligation to act, we do not expect ordinary citizens to be called upon to face life-threatening odds to save those in danger.

And yet, civilian heroism does exist, and although stories of civilian heroism have existed for millennia, a general understanding of it is not well-formed. We therefore sought to gain insight into the nature of civilian heroism, and in particular, we wanted to understand if heroism has changed over time. In this regard, we were fortunate to be in contact with the Hero Fund, which provided us the data we used in a study to explore the change of demographics of civilian heroism over time.

*What have we gained from this exploration of unobligated heroism? Gender expression has remained unchanged. Heroes have become significantly older. Saving someone from drowning remains the most common form of heroic act.*

The Hero Fund's sheer number of awarded individuals—9,697 over 110 years—provided a wealth of data from which to choose to answer our questions. In order to reduce the total number of cases to work with in the most sensible way, since our interest lay in the changing nature of heroism over time, we chose to focus on both the first two and the last two decades of the Hero Fund's first 100 years. The rationale for choosing those timeframes, 1905-1924 and 1992-2012, was that change is more likely to be seen and more likely to be dramatic in light of the wide range of the intervening years. The total number of awardees for the earlier period was 1,930, and for the later period, 1,972.

The variables we reviewed from both periods included the year of the award, the awardee's age, occupation, and gender, and the type of heroic act performed by the awardee. Many of the listed variables—gender, type of act, age—were straightforward enough to explore to our satisfaction, but the question of how to handle the occupational information was harder to address. There were many occupations listed for the awardees, and they were given by type rather than by a ranking system indicative of presumed income. The overwhelming majority of the occupations were represented only once in each data set. Therefore, occupations having 10 or more listings were chosen for presentation for both time periods.

A few results:

**Gender:** For the 1905-1924 time period, 161 females (8.34% of the total) and 1,769 males (91.66%) received the Carnegie Medal. For the 1992-2012 period, 185 females (9.38%) and 1,787 males (90.62%) were recipients. This difference was discovered to be insignificant: We see that, over the course of nearly 100 years, there has not been a huge difference in the gender composition of recognized heroes. Men comprise over 90% of the Carnegie Medal awardees for both time periods. We see

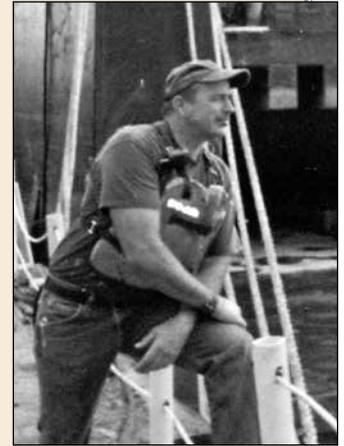
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15:13

### 'RIVER MAN'S CODE' PROMPTS RESCUE ACT

**Kyle Robert Hardman** was a seasoned mariner whose love was working the rivers of mid-America. On June 12, 2012, while a deckhand on a towboat plying the waters of the Mississippi River near St. Louis, Mo., he gave his life in an attempt to save five stranded boaters.

Hardman, 55, a native of Ukiah, Calif., was one of the crew of the *Richard A. Baker*, which was pushing 25 barges. They came across a disabled, 16-foot boat containing three men and two small children that was drifting directly toward a

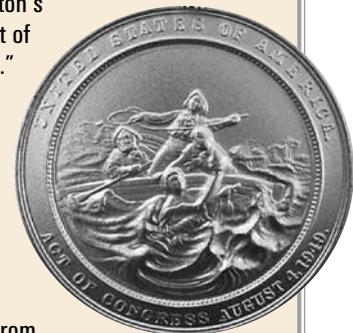


fleet of barges moored along the side of the river. Hardman and another crewman, **Jarvis Shelton**, launched their boat's rigid, inflatable craft, a Zodiac, and set out to rescue the stranded boaters, Hardman having volunteered to take the place of another crewman, who had young children.

The strong current, meanwhile, pushed the stranded boat against the lead edge of one of the stationary barges and threatened to force it under. Hardman and Shelton positioned the Zodiac close by, but it flipped during the maneuver and sent both men into the water. Shelton surfaced and pulled himself back to the Zodiac, but Hardman was swept downstream. When recovered, he could not be revived. The occupants of the stranded boat were rescued by the crews of other tugs that arrived.

"We respond because of our heritage," said Hardman's and Shelton's employer. "It's a part of the river man's code."

Both Hardman and Shelton were awarded the Carnegie Medal in March, and earlier they were named recipients of Gold Life Saving Medals from the U.S. Coast Guard. Hardman's medals went to his mother, Natalie



*U.S. Coast Guard Gold Life Saving Medal*

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## Changes in heroes over 100 years

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a shift of one percentage point towards greater female presence among the medal recipients.

**Age:** For 1905-1924, the demographic information regarding age showed that the heroes' average age was 29.5 years, with 27 being the median age (that is, having an equal number of heroes above and below that year). The oldest hero was 76, and the youngest was 8, representing a 68-year range. For 1992-2012, the heroes' average age was 37.4 years, with the median age being 36. The oldest hero during the period was 86, and the youngest, 7, presenting a 79-year range. Difference between the two periods: The average age of awardees changed considerably, from the earlier value of 29.5 years to the present-day value of 37.4 years. The difference in age may be considered highly significant.

**Occupation:** The top five most frequently listed occupations for 1905-1924, shown with their total numbers represented: Student, 308; farmer, 113; laborer, 105; school-boy, 77; and clerk, 59. For 1992-2012: High school student, 74; college student, 68; police officer, 64; student, 49; and unemployed, 46. Differences between the periods: Students presented, as a single category, with the largest number of awardees in both datasets. As expected, given the huge gulf of time which passed between the two periods, many types of occupations no longer exist and/or their descriptions may have become gender-neutral, with many fewer instances of the suffix "-man" (brakeman, fireman) in their titles. Also, some occupations listed in the recent time period did not exist in the prior, either at all or to the same degree of prevalence, or had different names previously (perhaps as in the case of "none" in the earlier dataset instead of "unemployed" in the present dataset). Given that the population was less between 1905-1924 than between 1992-2012, we are not at liberty to quickly or easily make a comparison between the two time periods' employment profiles.



*Thomas Dixon has graduated this spring with his masters of education within the educational psychology program at Temple University. A native of Philadelphia, Pa., he regularly spends his new year's eves in a different country each year. He may be reached at [mrthomasdixon@gmail.com](mailto:mrthomasdixon@gmail.com).*

**Type of rescue:** The six most frequently listed types of rescue for 1905-1924, with their totals, are: Drowning, 826; suffocation, 282; moving vehicle, 228; ice, 177; boat, 123, and burning building, 66. For the latter period: Drowning, 457; burning vehicle, 417; burning building, 409; assault, 233; moving vehicle, 82; and submerging vehicle, 70. While saving another from drowning has remained the most frequently occurring form of recognized heroism in both periods, a few differences have emerged. First, the greater presence of vehicles is seen in the later dataset, as represented by the change in the totals of the burning-vehicle and moving-vehicle categories. Second, assault has risen dramatically in representation, moving from the 14th type of rescue in the early dataset to the fourth in the later.

Third, suffocation has dropped considerably as a category, falling from the second in the earlier dataset to ninth in the later. Lastly, a few of the types of rescue have not appeared to change drastically in terms of their positioning: drowning, elevation, pending explosion, and exposure.

What have we gained from this exploration of unobligated heroism? In brief, the gender expression has remained unchanged, remaining predominantly male. Heroes have become significantly older (from 29.5 to 37.4 years of age). Saving someone from drowning remains the most common form of heroic act.

Seen another way: In 1904-1924, heroes were younger, far more likely to be male than female, more likely to be listed as working in positions which involve greater degrees of manual labor (such as farmer, laborer, miner, farmhand, carpenter, brakeman), more likely to have performed rescues that were less likely to involve a vehicle, and most likely to have attempted to save someone from drowning instead of from

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15:13

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Foucault of Ukiah. "He was a gentle soul," she told a reporter. "He was absolutely selfless...and had the biggest heart. He really did a wonderful, noble thing. We miss him a lot."

**15:13** calls to mind those in the Hero Fund's 110-year history whose lives were sacrificed in the performance of their heroic acts. The name identifies the chapter and verse of the Biblical quote from the Gospel of John that appears on every medal: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Of the 9,697 medal awardees to date, 1,994, or 21% of the total, were recognized posthumously. **They are not to be forgotten.**

### OVERHEARD

**I just did it. I had no thought about not doing it.—Michael D. McNally**, Carnegie Medal awardee #9684, who saved a woman from a burning car.

**I owe him my life, for he risked his to save mine.—**Woman rescued by McNally.

**I've never taken lifeguard lessons, but I've seen a lot of action movies.—Alexander Lias Travis**, 16, Carnegie Medal awardee #9688, on saving a man from a submerging car.

**I thought I had witnessed a miracle.—**Neighbor who saw **John M. Curley, Sr.**, Carnegie Medal awardee #9695, enter a burning house and rescue a woman through a window as flames advanced into the room.

**I'm just a dad with a canoe who is grateful everything turned out the way it did.—Rick Blessen**, Carnegie Medal nominee #86267, who helped to save two boys who had fallen through the ice on Christmas Day.

**My conscience punched me in the gut and yelled, "Seriously? You're going to leave?" I high-tailed it back to the scene.—Shawn Williams**, Carnegie Medal nominee #86100, who saved a woman from drowning.

**It was a very real and dangerous situation but at that moment you are completely unselfish. Your needs do not matter. All that matters is doing what needs to be done and doing it the right way.—**Carnegie Medal nominee #86538 **George Thomas Ward, Jr.**, one of three New Jersey State Troopers who entered the cab of a burning truck to remove its driver.



### HIS 'GOOD HANDS' SERVE HIM WELL

A major undertaking was completed with major success during the spring when 1999 Carnegie Medal awardee **Aaron M. Hall**, 32, was graduated by Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, with a master of science degree in nurse anesthesia. His two-year program ended with this recommendation from the chief certified registered nurse anesthetist at Ministry Saint Mary's Hospital: "...he is one of those students who clearly "just gets it," seamlessly applying strong didactic understanding with good hands and instinctual decision-making." The Hero Fund provided scholarship funding for his training at both Saint Mary's and Montana State University, Bozeman, where he received a bachelor's degree in nursing in 2006. Hall has accepted employment with Minneapolis Children's Hospital.

Hall is pictured above with his family, from left: son Luke, 2; wife Lindsey; daughter Audrey, 4; brother Aaron, and parents Sue and Bruce Hall of Milltown, Mont.

On July 31, 1998, Hall, then 16, was a counselor for a children's day camp. He and two adult counselors were accompanying a group of children on

*(continued on page 13)*



## Changes in heroes over 100 years

*(continued from page 11)*



*Frank Farley, Ph.D., is a psychologist and L. H. Carnell Chaired Professor at Temple University. He is a former president of the American Psychological Association, the world's largest society of psychologists, and other national and international scholarly societies. He has been studying and speaking on the topic of heroism for more than 30 years. He may be reached at frank.farley@temple.edu.*

any other type of threat. In 1992-2012, heroes were older, far more likely to be male than female, more likely to be listed as working in positions which involve greater degrees of manual labor (carpenter, mechanic, laborer, contractor, electrician), more likely to have performed rescues involving a vehicle in some sense or related to assault, and most likely to have attempted to save someone from drowning than from any other type of threat.

We should hasten to be aware that perhaps the similarities we see may speak to other variables that have yet to be assessed. We should also be aware that differences between datasets may reflect differences between the two time periods overall, affecting all parts of the population rather than only the heroic actors.

How may we proceed from this presented information? There are more calculations that could be done with the data we had available. We focused on demographics but could just as easily have considered any of the following questions: How do women compare with men as relates to these heroic acts? For example, do men or women trend towards specific types of heroism, and not others, should they choose to be heroic? What is the relationship between socio-economic status and heroism? The age of the heroes is a variable that could be explored in greater depth. For example, we could have chosen to view the heroes by each decade of age to see how the other variables change among the awardees from the two time periods studied. We might very well have chosen to view results in light of specific cultural

phenomenon happening at that particular time in history, which may explain certain changes in heroic behavior to some extent.

These and other questions are worthy of exploration, given how much more we have to learn about the nature of heroism. With the richness of the data we have accessed at the benevolence of the Hero Fund, we may well answer these and other questions in future work. ☒

### FIRST LADY

Twenty-five years of service to the Hero Fund by board member Priscilla J. McCrady, center, was marked at the Commission's 110th Annual Meeting in June. Known by "Sibby," she was given a framed copy of a resolution that the Commission passed in her honor. It cited her unbroken service over a quarter-century that included active participation on the Executive Committee, which she served as chair. In 1995, McCrady was elected vice president of the Commission, a position, now changed to vice chair, that she continues to hold. "We have every expectation and hope that the Hero Fund will continue to be Sibby's beneficiary for years to come," said Mark Laskow, right, board chair. At left is Sybil P. Veeder, current chair of the Executive Committee. McCrady became the first woman to join the Commission when she was elected to the board on June 22, 1989.



## FRIENDS REMEMBERED



Firefighters from across New Jersey joined members of the Union Beach, N.J., community in paying tribute to **Robert C. Meyer**, a volunteer with the Union Hose Fire Co. No. 1 who died June 8 while fighting a four-alarm fire in Union Beach. His casket borne on a fire truck as bagpipers played "Amazing Grace," Meyer, an eight-year member of the department, suffered cardiac arrest at the scene of the fire. He was 54 and for the past 27 years worked for United Parcel Service. A resident of Union Beach, Meyer was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 2005 for helping to save the driver of a tractor-trailer that caught fire after it collided with a dump truck on an interstate highway in East Brunswick, N.J., on July 8, 2004. Meyer drove upon the scene, stopped, and teamed up with New Jersey State Trooper **Alexander Tezsla** in prying open the driver's door of the truck and pulling the driver free. Both Meyer and Tezsla needed hospital treatment for smoke inhalation, as did the truck driver. Tezsla was also awarded the medal. Top photo, by Mark R. Sullivan of the Asbury Park Press, was provided as a courtesy



Mr. Davanzati

**Enrico S. Davanzati**, 82, of Butler, Pa., died March 29. A sign contractor, Davanzati was awarded the medal in 1969 for his actions of Nov. 20, 1968, by which he broke the fall of a friend who was helping him to work on a sign in Butler. The friend, 32, was on a ladder about 30 feet above the sidewalk when the sign swayed, knocking him from it. Standing on the sidewalk, Davanzati, then 37, ran to a point beneath his 180-pound friend, who was falling head first, to catch him. Though struck on the shoulder and chest, Davanzati threw both arms around his friend, the impact knocking him to sidewalk. Davanzati sustained severe bruising and his friend required sutures for a cut on his head, but both men recovered. In 2004, Davanzati attended the Hero Fund's centennial observance, where the accompanying photo was taken.

**William F. Goldstrom**, 81, died May 26 in Las Vegas, Nev. He was awarded the medal in 1981 for rescuing a firefighter from electric shock at the scene of a house fire in North Vandergrift, Pa., on April 25 of that year. The firefighter was operating an aluminum ladder from a fire truck when it came into contact with a 25,000-volt line overhead, sending electricity through the truck to the firefighter, who had one foot on the ground. Goldstrom, then 48, a tire store proprietor, was standing nearby. He immediately ran to the firefighter and, without breaking stride, knocked him free of the truck. The firefighter sustained severe electrical burns but recovered.

**Lowell E. Kayser**, 94, of Quincy, Ill., died May 27. In the summer of 1935, Kayser saved one 15-year-old boy from drowning in a pond in Prairie du Rocher, Ill., and attempted to save another.

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## TO THE HERO FUND

## A CALLING OF HUMANITARIANISM

I thank the Commission and the hard working staff for recognizing that moment when a person steps forward to help someone in need. The world is made a better place when we all have a calling of humanitarianism.

Carl Loando, Honolulu, Hawaii

Loando was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 2012 for saving a woman from her burning house in Honolulu. He wrote the above on getting word of the award of the medal to **Richard Irvin Moore**, who rescued a woman from a shark attack in Hawaii. Details of that act are on page 8.

## DESERVING OF RECOGNITION

I just received word that **Shane M. Robinson** was awarded the Carnegie Medal. He is deserving of the recognition and has been very humble throughout all the recognition he has received. As fire chief and incident commander that night, I am pleased that his unselfish actions have not gone unnoticed. My thanks to the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission for recognizing the heroic actions of all these individuals!

Mike Wetherbee, Wellington, Ohio, Fire District

Robinson was awarded the medal in June. Details on page 15.

## 'NOBEL' FOR HEROISM

I first became aware of the Carnegie Hero awards as a young teen delivering the daily *Pittsburgh Press* newspaper in Donora, Pa. For me, it's like the Nobel for extraordinary acts performed by everyday folks. That the award comes from my birthplace, Pittsburgh, gives me great pride.

Martin Loftus, Apache Junction, Ariz.

## 'GOOD HANDS'

(continued from page 12)

a hike on the grounds of a ski resort in Missoula when a 92-pound mountain lion attacked one of the children, a 6-year-old boy, taking him to the ground and biting his neck. Hall, who was nearby, approached and, screaming, kicked the animal until it released the boy. With his "good hands," Hall then applied pressure to the boy's puncture wounds and took him back to the lodge. The boy's injuries required suturing, but he recovered. Both he and Hall are shown on page 12 a few days after the attack, when Hall was given a citation by the City of Missoula for "bravery and quick thinking."



## LATEST AWARDEES

(continued from page 9)

before flames filled the bedroom and ultimately destroyed the house. (See photo.)

**Dion C. Lefebvre**, 36, a moving company operator from Westlock, Alta., rescued Faith E. M. Kondusky-Sennett, 11, from a burning pickup truck after an accident in Wandering River, Alta., on April 27, 2012. Faith was trapped in the back seat of the pickup after it collided head on with another vehicle and caught fire at its front end. Lefebvre witnessed the accident and stopped at the scene. Despite flames that had entered the passenger compartment of the pickup and were rapidly progressing, Lefebvre forced open the back door on the passenger side. He reached over Faith, who was unconscious, and untangled her from her safety belt. With flames beginning to issue into the back-seat area from under the front seats, Lefebvre freed Faith's feet and then, cradling her, removed her from the vehicle and carried her to safety. She was taken to the hospital but later died of her injuries.

(continued on page 15)



Vacationing Richard Irvin Moore had just arrived at White Rock Beach, Wailea, Hawaii, to snorkel when he heard the screams of a swimmer who had just been attacked by a shark. Moore swam through the bloodied waters to her and returned her toward the beach, then tended to her wound. At home in Laguna Niguel, Calif., Moore is a high school teacher and pastor. "I've discovered when you're operating in compassion," he said, "you can and will do heroic things you never dreamt possible." Photo by friend Nicholas Grisaffi of Laguna Beach, Calif.



Members of the Carnegie Hero Funds World Committee meeting in Rome, Italy, on May 15 included, from left: Claudio Pecenko (Italy), Walter Rutkowski (U.S.), Gaetano Melini (Italy), Luciano Luciani (Italy), Gabor Toth (Italy), Mark Laskow (U.S.), Alberto D'Errico (Italy), Bart Van Santen (Belgium), Linda Hills (U.S.), William Thomson (U.K.), Theo Van Santen (Belgium), Agneta Ahlbeck (Sweden), and Nora Rundell (U.K.)

## 'World Committee' of Carnegie hero funds strengthens union at May meeting in Rome

Representatives of the hero funds that Andrew Carnegie established in the U.S., the U.K., Sweden, Italy, and Belgium gathered in Rome on May 15 to continue work on forming a collaboration that would help each of the funds pursue its mission of recognizing civilian heroism in their respective countries. The remaining four funds—nine of the 11 that Carnegie established from 1904 to 1911 are still in existence—are based in the Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, and Switzerland, and all were in contact but were unable to be present.

The group was hosted by the Italian fund, *Fondazione Carnegie per gli Atti di Erosimo*, and met in that fund's offices in the Viminale Palace, home to Italy's Ministry of the Interior. The Fondazione, established by royal decree on Sept. 25, 1911, has been located in the palace since it was opened by Prime Minister Benito Mussolini in 1925 and was a neighbor to the prime ministers until that office was relocated in 1961.



Italy's Carnegie Medal

One of Carnegie's great-grandchildren, William Thomson of Bonar Bridge, Scotland, chaired the meeting, during which each of the funds represented had the opportunity to update the others on its activities. Also on the agenda were discussion of a set of operating guidelines for the group, which is forming under the name *Carnegie Hero Funds World Committee*, and the debut of a secure intranet site on which each of the funds has been asked to share pertinent data with the others. The initiative of forwarding the work of the hero funds is being aided by a grant of \$150,000 made in 2013 by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, but each of the funds is largely responsible for the traveling and accommodations costs of its delegates.

(continued on page 16)



*Holding his Carnegie Medal, John Nash Hale is pictured with other members of The Hill School Class of '71, from left, Doug Schutte, Doug Henning, Hale, David Hillman, Tom Moore, Sandy Groff, and Jeff Puff. Hillman is a member of the Commission.*

## Medal awarded in dog-attack rescue; victim lauds hero for taking action

Mortgage banker **John Nash Hale**, 59, was up early on Jan. 14, 2013, so early it was still dark outside, and further, there was a heavy fog in his neighborhood of Toms River, N.J. That was the setting as he ventured outside on hearing aggressive barking and screams for help.

Two pit bull dogs, weighing 85 and 65 pounds, were attacking his neighbor, Jeffrey E. Lenox, 49, as he was taking his pre-dawn walk. As Hale left his home, calling out to see if help was needed, Lenox, although fighting the dogs, was able to make it to a neighbor's house and gain safety. Hearing Hale's voice, the dogs approached and attacked him.

Hale recounted the attack more than a year later to students at a Hero Fund assembly at Rae Kushner Yeshiva High School in Livingston, N.J. "The head of the male pit bull was the size of a concrete block," he said. "Both dogs viciously rammed their heads against me, repeatedly biting and ripping out chunks of flesh." Hale fought back, kicking and punching the dogs, but his efforts were largely in vain. After the dogs took him to the ground twice and then backed him into a driveway and pinned him against a garage door, Hale had "a surreal awareness of the distinct possibility that I could die right there."



*Mr. Lenox*

Fortunately, voices called out from the darkness at that moment, along with the sound of metal banging against concrete. It was Lenox and the neighbor distracting the dogs, allowing Hale to escape to his home. Both he and Lenox required hospital treatment for their bite wounds, the dogs were put down a few days later, and Hale was named an awardee of the Carnegie Medal in September 2013.

Hale's heroic actions were brought to the attention of the Hero Fund by Commission member David McL. Hillman, who was a classmate of Hale at The Hill School, Pottstown, Pa., Hillman having heard of the rescue attempt from another member of their class of 1971. Last May, Hale, Hillman, and several others of the class reunited at the Merion Cricket Club, Haverford, Pa., for the presentation of Hale's medal. Also in attendance were Hale's family, including his wife, Suzan, and Lenox, who was by then a friend of Hale.

*(continued on page 16)*

### FRIENDS REMEMBERED

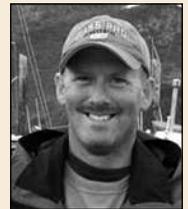
*(continued from page 13)*



*Mr. Kayser*

Although he was a poor swimmer, Kayser, also 15, entered the pond and pulled one of the boys to wadable water, and then he swam back out for the second boy. That boy slipped from Kayser's grasp, sank, and drowned. Grant funds accompanying the medal sent Kayser to trade school, and he went on to be a die maker. Kayser was featured in the September 2010 issue of *imPULSE*, following his 91st birthday, when his family arranged for mementoes from the Hero Fund as gifts. Photo taken then.

**Richard D. Lockwood**, 42, of Grosse Ile, Mich., died Jan. 24. He was awarded the medal in 2004 for helping to save a teenager whose personal watercraft went over a low-head dam on the Great Miami River in West Carrollton, Ohio, on June 22, 2003. The



*Mr. Lockwood*

youth became caught in the rolling boil of water at the base of the dam in the center of the river. Then 32, Lockwood waded and swam out to the youth although he could not see him. Finding him, Lockwood pulled him to the surface of the water. A man who had also entered the river, **Robert Hays**, then pulled Lockwood and the youth from the boil by a line that was secured to Lockwood. Hays was also awarded the medal.

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### LATEST AWARDEES

*(continued from page 14)*

**Shane M. Robinson**, 23, a trash collector from Spencer, Ohio, saved Alyssa M. Hovinetz, 24, and Jeffrey W. Burgos II, 23, from a burning car in Huntington Township, Ohio, on Sept. 2 last year. Hovinetz and Burgos were incapacitated inside their car after it left the roadway, struck a culvert, and broke into flames at its front end. Robinson came upon the scene and stopped. He went to the front passenger door, removed pieces of broken glass from that window, and bent the top of the door frame down to enlarge the opening. Despite flames entering the passenger compartment from the dashboard, he reached inside, grasped Hovinetz, and pulled her out and carried her to safety. Robinson ran back to the car, reached inside again despite growing flames, and pulled Burgos out. As Burgos outweighed him, Robinson lowered him to the ground and dragged him to safety, flames growing to engulf the vehicle.



### OFFICIAL PRESENTATION

The Carnegie Medal for **Christopher Jon Ihle** came special delivery in the form of a personal presentation by fellow medal awardee **John P. Williams**, right, a deputy with the LaCrosse County, Wis., Sheriff's Department. Williams presented the medal to Ihle at the July 14 meeting of the Ames, Iowa, Rotary Club. Ihle, 39, a banker from Ames, was cited by the Hero Fund for pushing an elderly couple's stranded car from a railroad track in Ames as a train bore down on them—and then missed them "literally by seconds or feet," according to Ihle. Williams, who was awarded the medal in 2012 for helping to save a man from drowning in the Mississippi River, is one of a dozen awardees throughout the U.S. who volunteer their services to the Hero Fund by making such presentations. Accompanied by his teenaged son on the 3.5-hour road trip to Ames, Williams said he was "greeted like a VIP." He wore his Carnegie Medal lapel pin (below), as a part of his honor guard uniform. "I've had several people ask about it," Williams said. "When I tell what it signifies, they are in shock."



## Medal awarded

(continued from page 15)

Douglas R. Chambers, the Commission's director of external affairs, presented the medal, and Lenox shared a few remarks. "I appreciate the invitation and feel honored to have been a part of the ceremony," he later wrote to the Hero Fund. "The Commission's work to recognize true heroism is a noble and worthwhile cause. People like John, and the recipients who have gone before him, deserve to have their stories told and to be acknowledged publicly. In a society that is plagued by indifference, it is refreshing to know that there are those who will still step up and take action for no other reason than it is the right thing to do, even at their own peril."

## World Committee

(continued from page 14)

"Our goal for the committee is to strengthen the Carnegie Hero project across Europe," said Mark Laskow, chair of the U.S.-based Carnegie Hero Fund Commission. "We hope to see all nine Carnegie hero funds work together for their mutual benefit." Laskow is the primary architect of the operating guidelines.



*Board members of Fondazione Carnegie per gli Atti di Eroismo include, from left, Gabor Toth, secretary; Alberto D'Errico, president; Gaetano Melini, Luciano Luciani, and Claudio Pecenko. Members not pictured include the U.S. ambassador to Italy. Photo taken in the offices of the Fondazione Carnegie, Viminale Palace, Rome.*

Meetings of the hero funds have been regular events since 2005, when they got together in Edinburgh, Scotland, during the biennial presentation of the Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy, an event that calls together members of the greater "family" of Carnegie's 20-plus foundations and other institutions. Subsequent meetings were held in Pittsburgh; New York City; Bern, Switzerland; Stockholm, Sweden; and Brussels, Belgium.

At the meeting in Rome, the Italian fund was represented by five of its nine board members, including its president, Alberto D'Errico, retired chief of the national fire brigade, and secretary, Gabor Toth, a human resources officer with the Ministry of the Interior. Toth, who represented the Italian fund at the previous meeting of hero fund delegates, held in Edinburgh last October, said the fund remains active, with seven silver and 11 bronze medals given at the time of the most recent award announcement. Gold medals are also awarded, as are diplomas.

Any language barrier at the meeting—not everyone was fluent in Italian—was softened by an interpreter and, above all, an abundance of goodwill, which was enhanced by the generosity of the hosts in providing a luncheon on a rooftop overlooking The Eternal City. Carnegie himself was apparently taken with Italy, which he called "beloved of the nations as the motherland of art and the home of the beautiful." That description was penned by him in a June 17, 1911, letter to the president of Italy's Council of Ministers in announcing his gift of \$750,000 to start the hero fund.

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

*Heroes emerged in 1910 Montana river ferry disaster*

The settlement of Libby, on the Kootenai River in northwest Montana, was a hub for prospectors and ranchers at the turn of the 20th century. At that time Libby was limited to the south bank of the river; north of the river was mainly unsettled forest. There were no bridges crossing the river at Libby, but a ferry provided a less hazardous way to cross than by horse.



*The Libby ferry, which was replaced in 1910 by the figuring one. Photo courtesy of The Heritage Museum, Libby, Mont.*

On June 15, 1910, the river was high and its current swift from the melted snows of the surrounding mountains. Mattie Roderick, 46, whose family lived on a ranch north of the river, had taken a wagon and its team of two horses to Libby for provisions and in late afternoon prepared to cross the river on the ferry to return home. With her was her grandson, Frank Murray, 6, and they joined four other passengers and the ferry operator.



*Mr. Kuphal, who died in 1965*

The figuring ferry, newly built, had been inaugurated that day, although a ferry had been in operation there for almost 20 years. The ferry consisted of a wooden deck atop three wooden pontoons. An operating wheel on the deck was connected by line to an overhead steel cable that was anchored to each of the river's banks at the scene. By turning the wheel, the operator used the river's current to guide the ferry.

The ferry moved north about 225 feet to the midpoint of the river when it tilted, permitting water to flow onto the deck. Despite the efforts of the operator and another man, the wheel could not be maneuvered, and the ferry remained stuck in place. The river that day was about nine feet deep.

One of the passengers unhitched the horses from Roderick's wagon and forced them off the ferry. Water continued to swamp the ferry, and finally it tipped, sending the operator and passengers into the water. Roderick's grandson submerged and drowned, as did the ferry operator. One man was able to swim to the bank, and two others held to planks that had been aboard the ferry. They were rescued downstream.

Roderick alone remained on the ferry. Unable to swim, she held

to a railing and was pummeled by the cold water, which at times flowed over her head. Logs floating down the river to lumber mills battered the ferry. People gathered quickly on both banks to watch.

**Henry E. Kuphal**, 29, a mining engineer who lived in Missoula, had just arrived in Libby after a 28-mile hike from a mining camp. While in a saloon "to refresh himself with a glass of beer," he heard a boy yelling that the ferry was sinking and its passengers drowning. Kuphal

ran to the south bank, arriving about 10 minutes after the accident happened. Although the crowd was "much excited," in the words of the Commission's investigator, no one was making an effort to rescue Roderick.

The steel cable to which the ferry was connected was about 25 feet above the ground. Kuphal climbed a ladder to the cable, positioned a leg around it, and then pulled himself along the cable to the ferry. Lowering himself to the deck, he attempted without success to work the wheel. To make matters worse, a log struck him from behind and pinned him against the wheel. He remained caught for about 30 minutes.

Among the gathering crowd was a forest ranger, **Charles E. Marshall**, 36. Repeating Kuphal's course along the cable, he too lowered himself to the deck, but before he could free Kuphal, the tree stump on the south bank to which the cable was attached split. The cable sprang free, striking two men on the bank and increasing that afternoon's death toll. From the *Kalispell Bee* two days later: "Women and children hid their eyes in horror as life after life was snuffed out, and friends passed to the great beyond before their eyes."

Freed by the loosened cable, Kuphal was pulled off the ferry, and Marshall supported Roderick as the ferry was pulled downstream to where it was grounded on a rock. Libby merchant **William E. Dawson**, 35, had launched a rowboat upstream of the swamped ferry, but two attempts to reach it failed. He abandoned that rowboat for another and was able to recover Kuphal from the water and then Roderick and Marshall.

Kuphal and Marshall were awarded silver Carnegie Medals and Dawson a bronze medal for their rescue acts. Each of the three men was also given \$1,000. Kuphal went on to become a master bridge designer, his work to include the Russian Gulch Bridge in Mendocino County, Calif.  —*Marlin Ross, Case Investigator*

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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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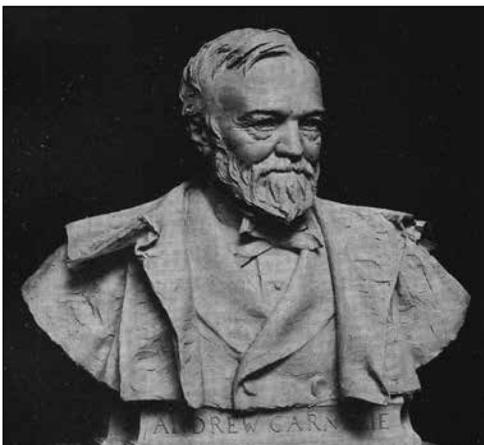
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## ✧ THE QUOTABLE A.C. ✧



*...the thought that fills your heart and appeals to mine is of what value is material compared with moral and intellectual ascendancy—supremacy not in things of the body, but in those of the spirit!*

—From "A Rectorial Address," delivered to the students of the University of St. Andrews, Oct. 22, 1902

## ✧ CONTINUUM ✧

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

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