



CARNEGIE HERO FUND COMMISSION

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**E**stablished April 15, 1904, by Andrew Carnegie, the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission was created to recognize outstanding acts of selfless heroism performed in the United States and Canada. The single event that stimulated Mr. Carnegie to organize the Fund was the Harwick mine disaster near Pittsburgh on January 25, 1904, which claimed 181 lives. The victims included an engineer and a miner who went into the stricken mine in valiant attempts to rescue any survivors.

The tragedy and sacrifices so moved Mr. Carnegie that he promptly took action on his then-novel idea of honoring and helping the “heroes of civilization.” Writing in the Commission’s founding Deed of Trust (see page 5), he specified that each hero to be recognized, or the next of kin, was to receive a medal reciting the heroic deed it commemorated. The Commission was empowered also to make monetary gifts. Given to the heroes or their families, the grants include continuing support, scholarship assistance, and death benefits. More than \$38 million has been given to the awardees or their survivors over the life of the Fund.

Recommendations for awards may be made by anyone having knowledge of such outstanding acts of bravery. Awards are open to all civilian citizens of and visitors to the two countries under regulations presented in detail on the subsequent pages of this report. Each act is investigated as to fact and degree of risk involved and is evaluated by the Commission on the basis of the results of the investigation.

The Commission is a private operating foundation, classed as a charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code. Visit the Commission’s website for further information: [www.carnegiehero.org](http://www.carnegiehero.org)

HEROIC SPIRIT PERSISTS

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**I**n 1904 Andrew Carnegie created the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission to recognize and reward those who voluntarily put their own lives in danger to rescue another human being in “the United States of America, the Dominion of Canada, the Colony of Newfoundland, and the waters thereof.” It is remarkable that such a small organization could pursue this task with such constancy for the 112 years since.

*Commission Chair Mark Laskow, left, cited Frank Brooks Robinson for 50 years’ service as a Hero Fund board member. Robinson joined the Commission in 1966.*



Far more remarkable is the source of that constancy—the persistence of the heroic spirit among human beings. As nearly as we can tell, that heroic spirit has never flickered or faltered in the century-plus that we have been observing and recording the acts of these heroes.

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The Hero Fund publishes these reports periodically at Andrew Carnegie's direction to create a lasting memorial to the heroes and their acts. If you pass through these pages, however, and read the acts of heroism described in them, you will surely realize that the real memorial is in the lives of those rescued. Will any of them forget the person, most often a stranger, who took such a risk to save their lives? Even when a rescue was unsuccessful, the victim's survivors can go forward knowing that when their kinsman was at greatest peril, another human being recognized their common humanity and risked all in an attempt to avert the disaster. This we too will always remember.

With deepest respect,



Mark Laskow  
Chair

DEED OF TRUST

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TO THE HERO FUND COMMISSION

**GENTLEMEN:** We live in a heroic age. Not seldom are we thrilled by deeds of heroism where men or women are injured or lose their lives in attempting to preserve or rescue their fellows; such the heroes of civilization. The heroes of barbarism maimed or killed theirs.

I have long felt that the heroes and those dependent upon them should be freed from pecuniary cares resulting from their heroism, and, as a fund for this purpose, I have transferred to the Commission five million dollars of First Collateral Five Per Cent. Bonds of the United States Steel Corporation, the proceeds to be used as follows:

**FIRST.** To place those following peaceful vocations, who have been injured in heroic effort to save human life, in somewhat better positions pecuniarily than before, until again able to work. In the case of death, the widow and children, or other dependents, to be provided for until she remarries, and the children until they reach a self-supporting age. For exceptional children exceptional grants may be made for exceptional education. Grants of sums of money may also be made to heroes or heroines as the Commission thinks advisable — each case to be judged on its merits.

**SECOND.** No grant is to be continued unless it be soberly and properly used, and the recipients remain respectable, well-behaved members of the community, but the heroes and heroines are to be given a fair trial, no matter what their antecedents. Heroes deserve pardon and a fresh start.

**THIRD.** A medal shall be given to the hero, or widow, or next of kin, which shall recite the heroic deed it commemorates, that descendants may know and be proud of their descent. The medal shall be given for the heroic act, even if the doer be uninjured, and also a sum of money, should the Commission deem such gift desirable.

**FOURTH.** Many cities provide pensions for policemen, firemen, teachers, and others, and some may give rewards for acts of heroism. All these and other facts the Commission will take into account and act accordingly in making grants. Nothing could be further from my intention than to deaden or interfere with these most creditable provisions, doubly precious as showing public and municipal appreciation of faithful and heroic service. I ask from the Commission most careful guard against this danger. The medal can, of course, be offered in such cases. Whether something more can not judiciously be done, at the request of, or with the approval of, the city authorities, the Commission shall determine. I hope there can be.

**FIFTH.** The claims upon the Fund for some years can not exhaust it. After years, however, pensioners will become numerous. Should the Commission find, after allowing liberally for this, that a surplus will remain, it has power to make grants in case of accidents (preferably where a hero has appeared) to those injured. The action taken in the recent Harwick Mine accident, where Heroes Taylor and Lyle lost their lives, is an illustration. The community first raised a fund of forty thousand dollars, which was duplicated by me after waiting until the generosity of the community had full scope. Here again the Commission should be exceedingly careful, as in this case, not to deaden, but to stimulate employers or communities to do their part, for such action benefits givers themselves as well as recipients.

**SIXTH.** It seems probable that cities and employers on this continent will ultimately be placed under similar conditions to those of Britain, Germany, and other European States, and required to provide against accidents to employees. Therefore, the Commission, by a two-thirds vote, may devote any surplus that accrues beyond providing for heroes and their dependents (which provision must never be abandoned) to such other modes of benefiting those in want, chiefly caused through no fault of their own (such as

drunkenness, laziness, crimes, etc.) but through exceptional circumstances, in such manner and to such extent as the Commission thinks advisable and likely to do more good than if such sums were given to those injured by accident, where the latter may be suitably provided for by law, or otherwise.

**SEVENTH.** The field embraced by the Fund is the United States of America, the Dominion of Canada, the Colony of Newfoundland, and the waters thereof. The sea is the scene of many heroic acts. No action more heroic than that of doctors and nurses volunteering their services in the case of epidemics. Railroad employees are remarkable for heroism. All these and similar cases are embraced. Whenever heroism is displayed by man or woman in saving human life, the Fund applies.

**EIGHTH.** No personal liability will attach to members for any act of the Commission. The Commission has power to fill vacancies.

**NINTH.** The Commission has full power to sell, invest, or reinvest all funds; to employ all officials, including Secretary, traveling agents to visit and oversee beneficiaries, etc. and to fix their compensation. Members of the Commission shall be reimbursed all expenses incurred, including traveling expenses attending meetings. The President shall be granted such honoraria as the Commission thinks proper and as he can be prevailed upon to accept.

**TENTH.** An annual report, including a detailed statement of sums and medals granted and the reasons therefor, shall be made each year and published in at least one newspaper in the principal cities of the countries embraced by the Fund. A finely executed roll of the heroes and heroines shall be kept displayed in the office at Pittsburgh.



NEW YORK, MARCH 12, 1904

WITNESS, LOUISE WHITFIELD CARNEGIE

THE CARNEGIE MEDAL

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*The Carnegie Medal is awarded to one who,  
at the risk of his or her own life, saves or  
attempts to save the life of another person.*

Mr. Carnegie's embossed profile dominates the front of the medal. On the reverse side in low relief is the geographical outline of the United States and Canada, the countries to which the Fund applies. In higher relief the seals of these countries are shown, with that of the United States below the inscription plate, and that of Canada above it.

Relief work surrounding the inscription plate reveals a sprig of laurel, typifying glory, and above are sprigs of ivy, oak, and thistle, for friendship, strength, and persistence. Encircling the relief work is a quotation from the New Testament (John 15:13): "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

#### REQUIREMENTS FOR A CARNEGIE MEDAL

- There must be conclusive evidence that the person performing the act voluntarily risked his or her own life to an extraordinary degree in saving or attempting to save the life of another person, or voluntarily sacrificed himself or herself in a heroic manner for the benefit of others.
- The act of rescue must be one in which no full measure of responsibility exists between the rescuer and the rescued.
- The act must have been performed in the United States, Canada, or the waters thereof and must be brought to the attention of the Commission within two years of the date of rescue.
- Persons *not* eligible for awards are: those whose duties in following their regular vocations require them to perform such acts, unless the rescues are clearly beyond the line of duty; members of the armed services; children considered by the Commission to be too young to comprehend the risks involved; and members of the same family, except in cases of outstanding heroism where the rescuer loses his or her life or is severely injured.

#### AWARDS

- A medal is presented to the person performing the act or, in case of death, to the widow, widower, or the next of kin.
- When a rescuer loses his or her life in the performance of an act, contributions may be made toward the livelihood of the dependents. If the rescuer is disabled in the performance of the act, periodic contributions may be made to his or her livelihood. If the rescuer is not injured, a monetary grant may nevertheless be made, should the Commission deem such gift desirable. Awardees and the dependents of posthumous and disabled awardees are eligible for scholarship assistance.
- The benefits to be paid and the manner of payment are determined by the Commission after consideration of the circumstances of each awardee. Continuing benefits are paid only if there is clear need for such assistance and only if such benefits are soberly and properly used and the recipients remain respectable members of their communities.



*After witnessing a gas explosion in a neighbor's house, Michael D. Campbell of Hamilton, Ohio, ran into the burning and collapsing structure and removed a man from the second floor. Both required hospital treatment, Campbell for acute smoke inhalation. For his efforts, Campbell was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 2015. Photo, by Greg Lynch of the Journal-News, Hamilton, is provided as a courtesy.*



*Golf pro Joshua J. Gardner of Calgary, Alta., was giving lessons on a course in Calgary when a sport utility vehicle left the adjoining roadway and entered a pond on the golf course. Seeing that the driver was making no effort to leave the submerging vehicle, Gardner swam to it and, partially entering, removed the man's safety belt and pulled him out. Gardner towed the man to the bank and then returned to the car to look for any others. He too was awarded the medal in 2015. Photo courtesy of Calgary Sun/Postmedia Network.*

HEROIC ACTS RECOGNIZED DURING 2015

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*The following 84 individuals were cited by the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission in 2015 for having performed outstanding acts of heroism. In each case, a Carnegie Medal and a financial grant were awarded.*



WILLIAM AYOTTE

*Churchill, Manitoba*

**William Ayotte** rescued Erin A. Greene from an attacking polar bear, Churchill, Manitoba, November 1, 2013. Greene, 30, was walking in the dark through a residential neighborhood when a 275-pound, male polar bear approached and attacked her, taking her to the ground and biting her about the head. From his house nearby, Ayotte, 69, retired water treatment plant operator, heard Greene's screams. He opened his front door and saw the bear thrashing Greene about. Taking a snow shovel with him, Ayotte advanced to Greene and the bear and struck the bear once, hard, about the face. The bear released Greene, who then fled to safety inside Ayotte's house. As Ayotte retreated, the bear took him to the ground and began to maul him. Neighbors attempted without success to scare the bear away until one of them approached in his pickup truck. The bear then left the scene. Ayotte and Greene were taken to the hospital, where Greene was detained a day for treatment of numerous bite and claw wounds. Ayotte was detained a week for treatment, including surgery, of extensive lacerations, including a nearly severed ear. He fully recovered. 86909-9783



MICHAEL D. BATES

*Durand, Illinois*

**Michael D. Bates** helped to save Roger W. Bates from suffocation, Rockton, Illinois, January 31, 2014. While working atop corn in a nearly full grain bin on his farm, Roger, 78, became buried to his neck in corn kernels at a point about 16 feet from the wall of the bin, which was 48 feet in diameter. He could not extract himself as the settling corn was being removed by an auger from the base of the bin. Roger's grandson, Michael, 20, farmhand, witnessed the accident from a ladder extending into the bin from its top. He immediately left the bin, descended an exterior ladder to ground level, and turned off the auger. Directing that 911 be called, Michael ascended the ladder with a sheet of plywood, entered the bin, and descended about 8 feet to the level of the corn. Although he was not secured by a safety line, Michael walked on top of the corn along the wall of the bin to the point closest to Roger. He then advanced to Roger and partially sank the plywood into the corn banked above him to keep it from falling on them. Using a shovel and his hands, Michael moved corn away from Roger's chest, allowing him to free his hands. Firefighters and medics arrived shortly, and Michael remained in the bin initially to direct them on the unstable corn. Extracting Roger from the corn was a tedious effort over five hours involving rotating teams of rescuers from numerous agencies, but, once freed, Roger was able to leave the bin on his own. He was taken to the hospital for observation but suffered no significant injury. 86497-9747



CLINTON D. BLACKBURN

*Morehead, Kentucky*

**Clinton D. Blackburn** rescued Darrell L. Herndon from assault, Bardstown, Kentucky, March 12, 2014. A jailer, Herndon, 56, was transporting a male prisoner in a police cruiser when the prisoner, who was in the back seat, slipped from his handcuffs and partially entered the vehicle's front-seat area

through a small opening in the passenger compartment partition. Extending an arm around Herndon's neck, the prisoner began to choke him, but Herndon was able to maintain control of the vehicle as he pulled it from the highway partially onto the grass median. Approaching the scene from the opposite direction, Blackburn, 44, truck driver, saw Herndon's vehicle lurch from the highway and come to an abrupt stop, and he then witnessed the assault. Blackburn pulled his truck off the highway, exited, and ran to the driver's side of the police cruiser. By then, the assailant had completely entered the front-seat area and was continuing to choke Herndon. Partially entering the vehicle, Blackburn pushed the assailant away from Herndon, breaking his chokehold, but the assailant then removed Herndon's gun from its holster and threatened to kill them both. Blackburn grabbed the barrel of the gun and struggled against the assailant for control of it as Herndon dropped from the vehicle to the ground. Able to twist the gun from the assailant's grasp, Blackburn held him at gunpoint until Herndon recovered and secured him. Herndon sought hospital treatment for minor injury, and Blackburn sustained bruising and a cut. Both recovered. 87218-9771



TERRY BROWN

*Brookings, Oregon*

**Terry Brown** helped to save Joshua A. Peterson from drowning, Brookings, Oregon, June 2, 2014. Joshua, 14, was in the surf near shore at a state park beach along the Pacific Ocean when he was swept farther out, into deeper water, by a strong current. He shouted for help. First responders included Brown, 33, sheriff's deputy. Donning a life jacket and attached to a 100-foot length of rope, Brown entered the 54-degree water and backstroked toward Joshua. Reaching the limit of the rope, Brown detached himself from it and continued to Joshua, who by then was about 240 feet from shore. They attempted to swim back together but made no progress against the current. As they waited for help, Brown supported Joshua to keep his head out of the water, and they were pulled farther out. Meanwhile, rescue efforts were being effected by the Coast Guard, local firefighters and police, and the county's search and rescue team. About 35 minutes after Brown entered the

water, a member of the rescue team made his way out to the victims and took Joshua from Brown, who by then was hypothermic and losing consciousness. A second team member responded with a line that was held by those on shore. The four held to each other as they were pulled to safety. Joshua and Brown were taken by ambulance to the hospital, where they were detained overnight for treatment of hypothermia, and Brown for related issues. Both fully recovered, Brown returning to work in a week. [86638-9746](#)



NEIL C. BURKHARDT

*Portland, Oregon*

**Neil C. Burkhardt** rescued Allen H. Bricker from assault, Vancouver, Washington, February 4, 2014. Bricker, 45, was at work in a suite on the fourth floor of a four-story office building when a woman entered the premises and at close range fired a .38-caliber revolver three times at him, striking him twice in the back. The assailant followed Bricker as he fled through a hall. Burkhardt, 32, health systems specialist, was in a room at the end of the hall when he heard the shots. Seeing the assailant pursuing Bricker, Burkhardt ran after her and tackled her, taking them through an interior window in the hall as Bricker escaped to another part of the floor and collapsed. Burkhardt restrained the assailant until he secured possession of her gun, and then he held her at gunpoint until a security officer arrived and handcuffed her. Bricker was hospitalized 30 days for treatment of his gunshot wounds, and Burkhardt required overnight hospitalization for treatment, including surgery, of wounds to his right hand. He recovered. [87077-9813](#)



MICHAEL CAMPANELLA

*Clifton Park, New York*

**Michael Campanella** helped to rescue a man from burning, Clifton Park, New York, August 8, 2014. A 54-year-old man remained in the driver's seat of a station wagon that was aflame on the inside after the vehicle left the road-

way and came to rest in mud at the edge of a pond. Driving nearby, Campanella, 40, general contractor, witnessed the accident and ran to the scene, as did another male motorist. They found flames virtually filling the vehicle's passenger compartment, spreading toward its front end, and issuing from the partially opened window of the driver's door. The driver's hair and shirt were aflame. After the man was removed through the driver's door to the mud beside the vehicle, Campanella and the other motorist, each grasping a wrist, dragged him a short distance to the pond. As the other motorist used mud and water to extinguish flames on the driver's body and clothing, Campanella left the immediate scene to retrieve a bucket. Upon returning, he found that the driver was attempting to re-enter the burning vehicle, the inside of which was fully engulfed by flame. Campanella pushed him to the mud. First responders arrived and secured the man, who was then taken to the hospital. Medics at the scene treated Campanella, who sustained minor burns to a hand and other slight injury. He fully recovered. 87069-9803



MICHAEL D. CAMPBELL

*Hamilton, Ohio*

**Michael D. Campbell** rescued Danny J. Carroll from burning, Hamilton, Ohio, June 6, 2014. Carroll, 30, was in a second-floor bedroom of a two-story house when natural gas that had leaked into the structure exploded. Walls of the house and a portion of its roof were blown away, and the structure caught fire. Badly injured, Carroll was pinned to the floor by concrete debris from the chimney, which had collapsed. A neighbor, Campbell, 21, delivery truck driver, was driving nearby and witnessed the explosion. He went to the open front door of the house and entered a few feet, but smoke repulsed him and he exited. Hearing Carroll yelling for help, he re-entered and, guided by Carroll's cries, advanced to a spiral staircase, ascended, and found Carroll in the bedroom. He removed the debris from Carroll and dragged him to the top of the stairs. Supporting Carroll in a standing position, Campbell descended the stairs backward with him, passing flames that were issuing from a wall vent. When they reached the first floor, the second story partially collapsed. Campbell then hoisted Carroll over one shoulder and started toward the front door with him but fell to the floor en route. As he started

to drag Carroll to the door, another man entered the structure and took Carroll outside to safety, Campbell following. Carroll and Campbell required hospital treatment, Carroll for significant burns and other injuries and Campbell for acute smoke inhalation. 86662-9765



ALAN CAVENER

*Nampa, Idaho*

**Alan Cavener** rescued a man from an out-of-control vehicle, Meridian, Idaho, August 11, 2013. An elderly man was driving a sport utility vehicle the wrong way on an interstate highway, the speed limit on which was 65 m.p.h. Driving on the same highway, Cavener, 54, an off-duty police officer from another municipality, came upon the scene and saw other motorists swerving around the vehicle. He drove to a point ahead of the vehicle and parked on his lanes' inner shoulder. Exiting his car, Cavener climbed over a concrete barrier and ran across three lanes of traffic to meet the man's vehicle, which was approaching at a speed of less than 5 m.p.h. When he shouted at the man to stop, the man rolled down the window of the driver's door but continued. Running alongside the car, Cavener reached through the opened window and grasped the steering wheel. After continuing for about 75 feet, Cavener saw a break in the oncoming traffic and steered the vehicle off the highway to safety on the shoulder. 86642-9774



STUART CHAFFIN

*St. Cloud, Florida*

**Stuart Chaffin** saved John K. Kristich from burning, Orlando, Florida, December 22, 2014. Kristich, 50, was the driver of a car that, in a highway accident, collided with a truck occupied by three men. Both vehicles burst into flames, as the truck's fuel tank was ruptured in the collision. Kristich remained in the driver's seat of his badly damaged car as flames issued from its exposed engine area, and the men in the truck were able to escape that

vehicle on their own. Another motorist, Chaffin, 45, asset protection manager, witnessed the accident and stopped at the scene. He ran to Kristich's car and found Kristich unresponsive and his driver's door jammed shut. Chaffin then opened the rear door on that side of the car and entered. Despite flames starting to enter the passenger compartment underneath and around the dashboard, he climbed partially over the front seat, dislodged Kristich, and pulled him into the back-seat area. Stepping from the car, Chaffin dragged Kristich out of the vehicle to the nearby median and then farther away, to safety. Chaffin returned toward the burning vehicles to find one of the men from the truck aflame. He held the man down in the median to roll him in the grass and pat out the fire on him. Kristich required hospital treatment for his injuries, as did Chaffin, who sustained burns, up to third-degree, to his hands and legs. The man from the truck whom Chaffin aided died four days later. 87098-9818



KYLE CHRISTENSEN

*Perry, Utah*

**Kyle Christensen** helped to rescue Paul E. Phillips from burning, Roy, Utah, January 11, 2014. Phillips, 50, was in the basement of his family's one-story house after a fire broke out there. On duty nearby, Christensen, 30, police officer, responded to the scene, where he saw smoke issuing from the house and heard ammunition that was stored in the basement going off. Told that Phillips was in the basement, Christensen entered the house through a side door but had to exit because of dense smoke. Re-entering, he found himself at the top of the stairs extending to the basement. Christensen went to his knees, looked into the basement, and saw Phillips lying on the floor at the base of the stairs, flames nearby. Despite intense heat in the stairway that singed his hair, Christensen slid down the stairs in a seated position and grasped Phillips underneath the arms. He then pulled himself backward, dragging Phillips, up the stairs. Another officer who had responded to the scene entered the house and helped Christensen carry Phillips outside to safety. Flames spread quickly, soon filling and destroying the structure. Phillips required hospital treatment for burns, and Christensen was treated at the hospital for smoke inhalation. He recovered. 86303-9738



BOYCE COLEMAN

*Yonkers, New York*

**Boyce Coleman** died after helping to save Stephen Jones from drowning, Yonkers, New York, September 7, 2014. Stephen, 5, was seen floating away from the bank of the Hudson River while attending a community event at a municipal park. Alerted to the situation, Coleman, 43, delivery driver, who was attending the same event, climbed over a fence along the bank, descended to the level of the water, and entered the river. He swam to the boy, grasped him, and attempted to return to the bank with him against a swift tidal current. Others were entering the water in rescue attempts, including a woman who swam out to them. Reaching them, the woman shouted for Coleman to give her the boy, as Coleman appeared to be struggling. As the woman returned Stephen to the bank, Coleman continued to struggle, and he shortly submerged and was not seen alive again. A dive team recovered his body at a point about 50 feet from the bank, not far from where he was last seen. He had drowned. Stephen was not injured.

86844-9819



JASON CONNERLEY

*Spokane, Washington*

**Jason Connerley** helped to rescue Craig Randleman from attacking dogs, Spokane, Washington, April 3, 2014. While helping to rescue a young girl from two attacking dogs near his home, Randleman, 50, was mauled by one of the dogs, a 50-pound pit bull. He fought the dog off and, running away, climbed over a chain-link fence to a neighbor's backyard, where he went to the ground, nearly exhausted. The dog followed, and as it tried to scale the fence, another man from the neighborhood, Connerley, 28, nutrition services employee, responded with a shovel. Connerley struck the dog repeatedly but was bitten by it and the other dog. Both dogs fled the scene. Randleman required hospital treatment, including sutures, for numerous lacerations,

puncture wounds, and tears, to his face and both arms. Connerley sustained puncture wounds to his left leg and right hand. Both men recovered.

86553-9763



KEVIN PATRICK COTTER

*Palos Verdes Estates, California*

**Kevin Patrick Cotter** attempted to save a man from drowning, Rancho Palos Verdes, California, July 6, 2014. An 18-year-old man jumped from a cliff into a narrow cove off the Pacific Ocean and became caught in the turbulent water created there by the surge and retreat of series of large waves. After another man was swept into the cove during a rescue attempt, Kevin, 17, high school student, who was in another party at the scene, jumped into the water and swam to the victim. They were swept into a cave beneath the cliff, where Kevin grasped the man, who was unconscious by then, and submerged with him to avoid being thrown against the cave's back wall. Kevin swam with the victim before they were separated by waves, and he was repeating the effort when separated again. Tiring as they were buffeted by the wave activity, Kevin and the first rescuer were able to reach safety at opposite sides of the cove. The larger waves subsiding momentarily about then, a friend of the first rescuer dived into the cove, swam to the victim, and towed him to the edge of the water, where he was revived. Kevin suffered cuts while climbing out of the water, but he did not seek medical treatment, and he recovered.

87338-9781



HUNTER O'NEIL CRASS

*Harriman, Tennessee*

**Hunter O'Neil Crass** helped to save three boys from drowning, Harriman, Tennessee, February 1, 2014. Three boys, each 14, broke through ice covering the Emory River at a point about 130 feet from the nearer bank. Holding to a buoy anchored in the frigid water, they shouted for help. First responders,

including firefighters and a rescue squad, promptly arrived, on both banks, but efforts to reach the boys were thwarted by the ice. Alerted to the situation at their home about 2 miles away, Crass, 19, college student, and his father responded to the farther bank at the scene, their three-person, 15-foot, aluminum boat in tow. Placing the boat in a path of open water that was being made through the ice by a firefighter, Crass and his father motored to the firefighter, took him aboard, and continued to the boys, breaking through ice, for a total of about 270 feet. Reaching them, the men leaned from the side of the boat to haul the boys in, the edge of the boat coming close to the surface of the water. After they redistributed their weight, Crass and his father worked together in taking the boys aboard, and the three rescuers then gave up their coats for them. The boat's capacity then exceeded, the rescuers continued breaking through ice to cross the river to the nearer bank, where medics and a helicopter were waiting. The boys required overnight hospitalization for treatment of hypothermia, and they recovered. 86328-9756



NEIL CRASS  
*Harriman, Tennessee*

**Neil Crass** helped to save three boys from drowning, Harriman, Tennessee, February 1, 2014. Three boys, each 14, broke through ice covering the Emory River at a point about 130 feet from the nearer bank. Holding to a buoy anchored in the frigid water, they shouted for help. First responders, including firefighters and a rescue squad, promptly arrived, on both banks, but efforts to reach the boys were thwarted by the ice. Alerted to the situation at their home about 2 miles away, Crass, 43, pastor, and his son responded to the farther bank at the scene, their three-person, 15-foot, aluminum boat in tow. Placing the boat in a path of open water that was being made through the ice by a firefighter, Crass and his son motored to the firefighter, took him aboard, and continued to the boys, breaking through ice, for a total of about 270 feet. Reaching them, the men leaned from the side of the boat to haul the boys in, the edge of the boat coming close to the surface of the water. After they redistributed their weight, Crass and his son worked together in taking the boys aboard, and the three rescuers then gave up their coats for them. The boat's

capacity then exceeded, Crass continued breaking ice to cross the river to the nearer bank, where medics and a helicopter were waiting. The boys required overnight hospitalization for treatment of hypothermia, and they recovered.

86327-9755



CHERYL A. CRECELIUS

*Gaston, Oregon*

**Cheryl A. Crecelius** saved Jason K. Eaton and helped to save Mark A. Vanleck from burning, Gaston, Oregon, March 29, 2014. Eaton and Vanleck, both 25, were unconscious in the front seats of a sport utility vehicle that caught fire in a highway accident at night. Off duty, Crecelius, 46, sheriff's deputy, responded from nearby, finding that both front doors of the vehicle were jammed shut. Despite flames issuing from the vehicle's engine compartment and growing, Crecelius fully entered the passenger compartment through the vehicle's rear, passenger-side door. After releasing both men's safety belts, she reclined Eaton's seat and, in repeated attempts, was successful in freeing and pulling him into the backseat area. She backed from the vehicle, pulling Eaton out. Re-entering, with flames by then reaching the floor at the front of the passenger compartment, Crecelius pulled Vanleck from the driver's side to the passenger side, but he remained trapped by the feet. A motorist who had stopped at the scene took Crecelius's place inside the vehicle, and he was successful in freeing and removing Vanleck. Crecelius and the motorist then moved Vanleck and Eaton farther away to safety. Vanleck and Eaton required hospital treatment, and Crecelius suffered minor smoke inhalation, from which she recovered. 86471-9767



KIRBY CRUMP

*West Jordan, Utah*

**Kirby Crump** helped to save Steven G. Sedlacek from burning, West Jordan, Utah, August 10, 2014. Sedlacek, 56, was the pilot of a six-seat airplane that partially lost power shortly after taking off. It crash landed not far from the runway in a soccer field of a park, coming to rest upright and starting to smoke at its engine area. Semiconscious and severely injured, Sedlacek remained secured in his seat. Crump, 53, was traveling in his vehicle nearby and saw the plane descend. He immediately drove to the scene, as did another man, and both responded to the right side of the plane and stepped onto its wing. A door to the fuselage opened off the wing, which held one of the plane's fuel tanks. After the other man removed Sedlacek's wife from the front passenger seat and was taking her to safety, Crump fully entered the fuselage, knelt on the seat, and searched for the release of Sedlacek's safety belt. By then, flames 2 feet high were issuing from the engine area and advancing to the cockpit. Crump released Sedlacek's safety belt and with difficulty pulled his upper body onto the passenger seat as Crump backed from the plane. Standing on the wing, he pulled hard on Sedlacek, inching him closer to the door. The other man returned to the wing and aided in pulling Sedlacek from the plane. Together they carried and dragged him about 20 feet away as flames grew, soon to engulf most of the plane, including the cockpit. Sedlacek was hospitalized for treatment of extensive injuries, but he was not burned.

86782-9790



JONATHAN MICHAEL DAVIS

*South Euclid, Ohio*

**Jonathan Michael Davis** died helping to save Christian J. Davis from drowning, Cleveland, Ohio, August 25, 2013. While fishing from a pedestrian causeway, Christian, 9, fell 12 feet into an inlet off Lake Erie and floundered

in the 15-foot-deep water. Despite his limited swimming ability, his father, Davis, 29, sales associate, immediately jumped into the water after him. Davis grasped Christian and, although a struggle ensued, supported him at the surface of the water. A woman who was on a break wall that extended into the lake at the scene entered the water and swam to them. She took Christian from Davis, after which Davis submerged, and swam him back to the break wall and safety. Christian required hospital treatment, and he recovered. Davis was shortly removed from the lake by responding firefighters, but he could not be revived, as he had drowned. 86612-9744



WILLIAM J. DRISCOLL

*Middleboro, Massachusetts*

**William J. Driscoll** stopped a runaway vehicle containing Jeffrey W. Finch, Lakeville, Massachusetts, September 15, 2014. Finch, 46, was driving a sport utility vehicle on a two-lane highway when the vehicle went into the opposing lane of traffic and continued, at a speed of about 45 m.p.h. Driscoll, 34, mortgage broker, was driving a pickup truck behind Finch. Thinking that Finch was distracted, he sped to a point alongside his vehicle and saw that Finch was slumped over. As other vehicles were approaching in Finch's lane, Driscoll struck Finch's vehicle with his pickup, taking it off the highway to the shoulder and stopping it against the guide rail. Driscoll then exited his truck and entered Finch's vehicle and secured it. Finding Finch unresponsive, Driscoll attempted to revive him but was unsuccessful. Finch was taken to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead. 86922-9807



MICHAEL ELGAS

*Henderson, Nevada*

**Michael Elgas** rescued Ronald G. Reed from assault, Las Vegas, Nevada, March 21, 2014. Reed, 38, a police officer, had escorted a man from a restaurant and was trying to place him under arrest in the parking lot when the

man became aggressive and turned on him. The man, who outsized Reed, took him hard to the pavement, punched him repeatedly, and attempted to remove his gun from its holster. Dazed, Reed fought back, but the assailant remained aggressive. A customer at the restaurant, Elgas, 48, delivery driver, had followed the men outside. He approached the assailant and, shouting at him, helped to keep him from removing Reed's gun. Elgas then put the assailant in a choke hold and pulled him off Reed. Although he was significantly injured, Reed recovered his position immediately and secured the assailant. 86607-9743



JENNA FANELLI

*Elmsford, New York*

**Jenna Fanelli** helped to save Stephen Jones from drowning, Yonkers, New York, September 7, 2014. Stephen, 5, was seen floating away from the bank of the Hudson River while attending a community event at a municipal park. Alerted to the situation, Fanelli, 23, recreational therapist, who was attending the same event, climbed over a fence along the bank, descended to the level of the water, and entered the river. She swam to the boy and took him from a man who also had swum out but who was struggling in the water. Fanelli wrapped an arm around the boy's chest and used her free arm to swim toward the bank against a swift tidal current that carried them farther up the river. At the bank, she was helped in getting Stephen out of the water. Stephen was not injured, and Fanelli was nearly exhausted and sustained some cuts to her feet, but she recovered. The other man submerged and drowned. 86845-9820



MICHAEL THOMAS FRAWLEY

*Hamburg, New York*

**Michael Thomas Frawley** helped to save Robert Kehoe III and attempted to save Robert Kehoe, Jr., from drowning, Scranton, Pennsylvania, November 23, 2014. While on a late-afternoon outing at a municipal park with his father and siblings, Robert, 9, fell from a rock ledge into a deep pool of water at the base of a Roaring Brook waterfall. The pool, within a gorge, was not accessible from its steep, rocky banks. As Robert struggled to stay afloat in the 38-degree water, his father, Kehoe, 29, jumped in after him, but he too struggled. Frawley, 18, college student, was in another party nearby. He and a friend went to a rock at the edge of the pool about 20 feet above the water, the friend then jumping into the pool for Robert. Frawley removed items of attire, and then he too jumped, feet first, into the pool, for Kehoe. Kehoe having submerged, Frawley swam to where Robert was struggling against his friend, submerging him. Frawley took Robert from his friend, allowing him to make his way to a log at the edge of the water, where he rested. Supporting Robert, Frawley swam downstream to an accessible point on the bank and left the water, soon joined by his friend. A hiker tended to them, giving them items of his attire, and responding firefighters threw blankets down to them. In falling darkness, they were removed, with difficulty, by first responders to the top of the gorge and then taken to the hospital for treatment, Frawley suffering from cold exposure. He recovered. Kehoe was removed from the water later that evening. He had drowned. 87015-9799



CESAR ANDY GARCIA

*Ronkonkoma, New York*

**Cesar Andy Garcia** helped to save Robert Kehoe III and attempted to save Robert Kehoe, Jr., from drowning, Scranton, Pennsylvania, November 23, 2014. While on a late-afternoon outing at a municipal park with his father

and siblings, Robert, 9, fell from a rock ledge into a deep pool of water at the base of a Roaring Brook waterfall. The pool, within a gorge, was not accessible from its steep, rocky banks. As Robert struggled to stay afloat in the 38-degree water, his father, Kehoe, 29, jumped in after him, but he too struggled. Garcia, 18, college student, was in another party nearby. He went to a rock at the edge of the pool about 20 feet above the water and, after removing his outer attire, jumped feet first into the pool for Robert. He swam across the pool to the boy, grasped him, and then swam toward where Kehoe was struggling. One of Garcia's friends also jumped into the pool, for Kehoe, but Kehoe then submerged. Robert was struggling against Garcia, submerging him, and Garcia swallowed water. Garcia's friend took Robert from him, allowing Garcia to make his way to a log at the edge of the water, where he rested. Garcia then swam downstream to an accessible point on the bank and joined his friend and Robert out of the water. A hiker tended to them, giving them items of his attire, and responding firefighters threw blankets down to them. In falling darkness, they were removed, with difficulty, by first responders to the top of the gorge and then taken to the hospital for treatment, Garcia suffering from cold exposure. He fully recovered two days later. Kehoe was removed from the water later that evening. He had drowned. 87014-9798



JOSHUA J. GARDNER

*Calgary, Alberta*

**Joshua J. Gardner** saved a man from drowning, Calgary, Alberta, July 5, 2014. A man remained in the driver's seat of a sport utility vehicle after it left the roadway and entered a pond on a golf course. Floating upright at a point about 90 feet from the closer bank, the vehicle started to submerge nose first. Gardner, 36, golf professional, was on the course not far from the pond and witnessed the accident. Seeing that the driver of the vehicle was dazed and making no effort to leave it, Gardner entered the pond fully clothed and swam to the vehicle's driver's side. Water by then had reached the bottom of the window of the driver's door. Gardner reached through the partially opened window, opened it completely, and then released the man's

safety belt. Confused, the man moved into the front passenger seat. Gardner entered the vehicle farther, to his waist, and grasped the man under his arms. Pulling the man with him, Gardner backed through the window. He then assumed a hold on the man and swam to the bank with him. Unable to learn from the man if others remained in the vehicle, Gardner swam back to it, but it had submerged and Gardner could not see inside. He returned to the bank. The man required hospital treatment. 86826-9816



KYLE V. GIBBS

*Morenci, Arizona*

**Kyle V. Gibbs** helped to save Diane S. Baxter from burning, Duncan, Arizona, August 17, 2013. Baxter, 69, was in a bedroom at one end of her mobile home after fire broke out at the opposite end, at night. Flames spread quickly and filled the structure with dense smoke. On duty in the vicinity, Gibbs, 36, deputy sheriff, responded to the scene minutes after being alerted; by then, flames had breached the roof of the house. Hearing Baxter scream, he ran to a point outside one of her bedroom's windows and was joined shortly by two other officers from his department. Although Baxter was on a bed close to that window, the officers failed in their rescue attempts through the window. Gibbs and one of the other officers then broke another of the room's windows, and Gibbs, aided by the officer, climbed through it into the burning structure. Despite dense smoke that precluded visibility in the room, Gibbs located Baxter, who was then unconscious, and lifted her from the bed. With difficulty, he dragged her to the window he had entered and maneuvered her head first through it, to the other officers. They lowered her to the ground and then aided Gibbs through the window to safety. Flames spread quickly to engulf the house. Baxter, Gibbs, and the other officers all required medical treatment for smoke inhalation, and they recovered. 86008-9757



JASON WILLIAM GINGRAS

*Seminole, Florida*

**Jason William Gingras** helped to rescue Kevin R. Reed from burning, St. Petersburg, Florida, February 11, 2014. Reed, 46, was unconscious in the driver's seat of a burning cargo van transporting pool chemicals after it struck a tree head on. Gingras, 34, boilermaker, was the passenger of a vehicle, driven by a coworker, that had just parked nearby. Witnessing the accident, the men ran to the scene, finding that flames were filling the van, having spread from its rear to the driver's seat. The coworker reached into the van through the opened driver's door and felt for Reed's safety belt release, but flames caused him to withdraw. Gingras pulled Reed's safety belt away from his left shoulder and cut it with a pocketknife. As Gingras then grasped Reed, who was aflame, about the upper body, his coworker extended his arms around Reed's legs, and together the men lifted him from the van and carried him to safety as the van filled with flames. They used Gingras's shirt and their hands to extinguish the flames on Reed. Reed required lengthy hospitalization for treatment of burns to 30 percent of his body and inhalation injuries. Gingras sustained minor burns to an arm, and he fully recovered. 86487-9750



GARY A. GOLDING, JR.

*Redondo Beach, California*

**Gary A. Golding, Jr.**, attempted to save a man from drowning, Rancho Palos Verdes, California, July 6, 2014. An 18-year-old man jumped from a cliff into a narrow cove off the Pacific Ocean and became caught in the turbulent water created there by the surge and retreat of series of large waves. In another party at the scene, Golding, 46, self-employed, stepped to the water line at the rocky edge of the cove and twice tried to reach for the man, but a surging wave swept him into the cove. Golding struggled against the rough water as it carried him into a cave beneath the cliff and then washed him from it. Buffeted by the wave activity, he was able to reach safety, at the

opposite side of the cove, as was a male teenager who also entered the cove in a rescue attempt. The larger waves subsiding momentarily about then, a friend of Golding dived into the cove, swam to the victim, who was unconscious by then, and towed him to the edge of the water. Golding joined them there and worked with his friend to revive the victim. Nearly exhausted after the rescue, Golding had ingested water and sustained minor cuts and bruises. He recovered. 86710-9780



HELEN GOULET  
*Courtenay, British Columbia*

**Helen Goulet** rescued Rose E. Downing from burning, Courtenay, British Columbia, January 25, 2015. Downing, 89, was in her one-story house after fire broke out in the living room and filled the structure with dense smoke. A friend, Goulet, 72, retired cashier, was in the house's attached garage, which was at one end of the structure. Hearing a scream, she exited the garage to the outside and saw smoke issuing from the living room area, which was at the other end of the house. Goulet entered the house's back door and was confronted by intense heat and a wall of black smoke. She closed her eyes, held her breath, and, following the sound of moaning, moved about 12 feet through the kitchen toward the fire. Goulet found Downing on the kitchen floor, face up, at the kitchen's entrance to the open living and dining area. She grasped Downing's arms near the shoulders and dragged her through the kitchen and to the back door and outside to safety. Both women required hospital treatment, Goulet suffering smoke inhalation. She recovered.

87193-9801



PHILLIP ASHLEY GRIGG  
*Phoenix, Arizona*

**Phillip Ashley Grigg** rescued Scott B. Sefranka from assault, Phoenix, Arizona, December 31, 2013. Sefranka, 34, a police officer, was pursuing

armed-robbery suspects in a vehicle when that vehicle collided with a pickup truck driven by Grigg, 63, construction truck driver. Grigg's truck was stopped at an intersection, and the impact jammed shut its driver's door. Sefranka pulled up to the scene, exited his vehicle, and, drawing his pistol, ordered the driver of the suspects' vehicle out. Raising his hands, the driver exited his vehicle. When Sefranka approached him, the driver began to struggle against Sefranka. Grigg exited his truck from the passenger side, approached the assailant and Sefranka, and attempted to restrain the assailant, who was larger than both Sefranka and Grigg. At some point the assailant obtained control of Sefranka's gun. He fired three shots, striking Grigg in the chest and Sefranka in the abdomen, felling them. The assailant then fled the scene but was later arrested. Both Sefranka and Grigg were hospitalized for treatment of extensive injuries, Grigg requiring numerous surgeries. 86288-9779



KIMBERLY LYNN GROVES

*Winter Springs, Florida*

**Kimberly Lynn Groves** helped to rescue a woman from assault, Winter Park, Florida, June 16, 2014. After her husband struck her, forced her into his pickup truck, and then threatened her with a handgun, a 40-year-old woman opened the vehicle's passenger door and screamed for help as the assailant attempted to drive from the parking lot of an office complex. At work in one of the nearby buildings, Groves, 52, company vice president, and a coworker witnessed the attack. They left the building and approached the truck, the coworker going to its passenger side, where he pulled the woman from the assailant's grasp and out of the vehicle. The assailant left the truck and, pointing the gun at Groves and the coworker, threatened to shoot the coworker if he did not release the woman. Groves and her coworker, with the woman, ran back to the office building, the assailant in pursuit. Groves took the woman into the building and locked themselves in a private office as the coworker locked the building's front door. The assailant broke through the door, using the butt of his gun. He proceeded to the private office and, threatening Groves with the gun, demanded that she release his wife. Groves

refused him. The assailant left the building and fled the scene in his truck but later turned himself in to police. 86752-9769



MCKENZIE MCKAY GUFFEY  
*Gainesboro, Tennessee*

**McKenzie McKay Guffey** saved Jeffrey Hakner from burning, Rye, New York, July 17, 2014. Hakner, 45, was trapped inside his sport utility vehicle after a nighttime accident on an interstate highway in which the vehicle overturned onto its driver's side and caught fire at its front end. Traveling on the same highway, Guffey, 39, truck driver, came upon the scene and stopped. He took a fire extinguisher to the vehicle and emptied it on the flames but did not extinguish them and they grew, entering the passenger compartment. Seeing Hakner inside the car, Guffey used the fire extinguisher to break out the window of the front passenger door, which was then atop the vehicle. As Hakner stood and reached toward the opening, Guffey, despite flames at his feet, stepped onto the wreckage at the windshield, reached into the opening, and grasped him. Stepping back to the pavement, he pulled Hakner through the opening, taking him to the pavement, and then dragged him to safety. Flames grew quickly to fill the vehicle, destroying it. Hakner required hospitalization for treatment of his injuries, but he was not burned. Guffey suffered minor burns to his feet as well as cuts and scratches but did not require medical treatment. Both recovered. 87044-9772



MATTHEW RAY HATTAWAY  
*Bossier City, Louisiana*

**Matthew Ray Hattaway** died after attempting to save Reid Richardson from drowning, Fort Morgan, Alabama, June 9, 2013. While swimming in the Gulf of Mexico, Reid, 14, was caught by a strong current that took him farther from shore and kept him from returning. A member of his party, Hattaway, 25, construction supervisor, swam to him from wadable water on becoming

aware of his situation. He instructed Reid to grasp him by the arm, and Reid did so, but they both submerged and were soon separated. Reid was able to make his way to wadable water and next saw Hattaway also in wadable water, where he then collapsed. Reid and others carried him to the beach, and from there he was taken to the hospital. Hattaway could not be revived, as he had drowned. 85814-9752



KENPHENYEEHU HAWJ

*Ham Lake, Minnesota*

**Kenphenyeehu Hawj** saved Calvin Yang from drowning, Taylors Falls, Minnesota, May 25, 2014. Calvin, 11, was on a family fishing outing along the St. Croix River when he fell into the water. Swollen from recent rains, the river had a very strong current, and Calvin was carried away from the bank and downstream. His uncle jumped into the river after him but did not reach him and was also carried away by the current. In another party on the bank at the scene, Hawj, 44, truck driver, saw Calvin and his uncle in the water. Removing his outer attire, Hawj ran along the river to reach a point downstream of Calvin. From atop a cliff, about 30 feet above the water, Hawj jumped into the river, although he did not know its depth, swam to Calvin, who was about 60 feet from the bank, and grabbed the back of his shirt. He started to swim toward the bank with Calvin, but halfway there he tired. After resting on a submerged boulder, Hawj towed Calvin the rest of the way to the bank and aided him from the water. Calvin was uninjured. Hawj was tired and sore, and he recovered. The uncle's body was removed from the river five days later at a point about 7 miles downstream. He had drowned.

86635-9785



RUSSELL ALLEN HILL

*Indianapolis, Indiana*

**Russell Allen Hill** rescued Jalon J. Lewis from attacking dogs, Indianapolis, Indiana, November 2, 2014. Jalon, 12, was walking through a residential neighborhood when two pit bulls, weighing about 65 and 70 pounds, attacked and pinned him against a fence. The dogs bit him repeatedly. Hill, 60, handyman, was seated in his truck, parked at a property about 110 feet away, when he heard screaming and growling from the scene. He grabbed a log from the property, ran to Jalon, and swung the log a few times, striking the dogs until they stopped attacking the boy. Hill then grabbed Jalon by the shoulders and pulled him toward the nearby street intersection. The dogs then attacked Hill, knocking him to the street, and repeatedly bit him about the arms and legs, chewing off most of his clothing. A police officer responded about four minutes after the attack on Hill commenced and halted it by shooting one of the dogs, dispatching it. Jalon was hospitalized a day for treatment of multiple puncture wounds and cuts. Hill was hospitalized 15 days for treatment, including surgeries, of significant bite wounds to his extremities, resulting in tissue loss. He recovered. 86966-9797



MARK JAMES HOFFMAN

*Aristes, Pennsylvania*

**Mark James Hoffman** helped to save Virginia B. Lindenmuth from drowning, Catawissa, Pennsylvania, August 14, 2014. Lindenmuth, 79, was in the front passenger seat of a car parked by a lake in a private campground when the vehicle started to roll down the bank toward the lake. From nearby, Hoffman, 50, ran to the car as it was moving and crawled into it through the opened window of the driver's door. The car entered the lake and began to fill with water as it drifted to a point about 100 feet from the bank, where the lake was about 9 feet deep. After Hoffman released Lindenmuth's safety belt, she held to him about the neck as he maneuvered through the window,

pulling her. Requiring repeated attempts, during which he surfaced for air, Hoffman pulled Lindenmuth through the window and took her to the surface of the water. She was unconscious by then, and the car was completely submerged. Holding to her by an arm, Hoffman started to swim back to the bank and about halfway there was met by a woman who took Lindenmuth farther in. Others joined in removing her from the lake. Hoffman followed, nearly exhausted. Revived at the scene, Lindenmuth was taken to the hospital, where she died several hours later. Hoffman bruised a knee. 86794-9786



WAYNE L. HOFFMAN

*Spring Green, Wisconsin*

**Wayne L. Hoffman** died attempting to save Evan A. Johnson from drowning, Tofte, Minnesota, December 23, 2014. Johnson, 40, called for help after entering the frigid water of Lake Superior from a rock ledge about 6 feet above the surface of the water. Walking nearby, Hoffman, 66, technical services director, responded to the ledge. Although 5-foot waves were crashing against the shoreline and onto the ledge, Hoffman lay on the ledge and reached for Johnson but was pulled into the water. He and Johnson drifted from shore together as those responding to the scene repeatedly threw a life ring toward them. Separated, both men then floated face down in the water, the waves carrying Johnson back to shore at a point about 3,500 feet from where he entered. Others pulled him from the lake and attempted unsuccessfully to revive him. Hoffman drifted farther out and was recovered from the lake by the Coast Guard about seven hours later. He too had drowned.

87102-9808



MARTIN V. HOHENSTEIN

*Dakota City, Nebraska*

**Martin V. Hohenstein** saved Fermin Urenda from burning, Dakota City, Nebraska, May 25, 2014. Urenda, 40, was trapped in the driver's seat of a

sport utility vehicle after a nighttime accident in which the vehicle left the highway, struck a pole, and broke into flames at its front end. Hohenstein, 51, contractor, was driving on the highway and came upon the scene just after the accident. Responding to the passenger side of the burning car, he opened the front door and saw that Urenda's legs were trapped under the dashboard. When Hohenstein then approached the driver's door and tried to open it but found it jammed shut, he leaned through the window opening and pulled on Urenda, but Urenda did not move. Making repeated entries through both front doors, entering the vehicle at least partially each time, Hohenstein struggled to free Urenda as flames on the vehicle grew. Successful in freeing only one of Urenda's legs, Hohenstein stepped back from the vehicle to shield himself from the intense heat. He then returned to the driver's door and, despite flames by then entering the vehicle, leaned inside, pulled hard on Urenda, and freed him. He took Urenda from the car to a point of safety as flames grew to engulf and destroy it. Urenda required hospital treatment, and Hohenstein was sore for a few days but recovered. 86749-9759



DENNIS C. HUNKE II

*Plainfield, Illinois*

**Dennis C. Hunke II** died after attempting to rescue a woman from an out-of-control vehicle, Aurora, Illinois, October 8, 2014. An 84-year-old woman left the driver's seat of a minivan after a minor accident on a residential street. When the minivan continued to reverse, she re-entered, but the vehicle proceeded quickly and erratically off the street and through the front yards of two properties. Standing at another property across the street, Hunke, 51, carpenter, witnessed the accident and ran to the open driver's door of the minivan as it was moving back onto the roadway. Running alongside the vehicle, he attempted to enter it in what witnesses concluded was an attempt to arrest it. The van accelerated quickly again, and the inside of the driver's door struck Hunke, knocking him to the pavement, badly injured. The van came to a stop on the opposite side of the street. Hunke was taken to the hospital, where he died two days later of blunt force trauma. 86919-9821



LUZ A. JIMENEZ

*Hackettstown, New Jersey*

**Luz A. Jimenez** helped to save Alyson B. Machigua from drowning, Hackettstown, New Jersey, June 16, 2014. While playing in the yard of a residence, Alyson, 3, broke through the ground atop an abandoned cesspool and dropped 11 feet into the dark pit, the bottom of which contained water 30 inches deep. Jimenez, 26, restaurant server, who was inside the nearby house, was alerted. She looked through the small hole created by Alyson's fall but could not see her, although she could hear her. Jimenez obtained an extension cord and, holding to one end of it, started to lower herself into the pit as another person held the other end. A responding police officer aided by lowering Jimenez into the pit, and then she dropped into the water, which was cold and muddy. Jimenez grasped Alyson and held her for several minutes until firefighters arrived and lowered a ladder into the pit. Jimenez climbed the ladder holding Alyson and handed her out to the officer. She was then assisted out of the opening to safety. Alyson was taken to the hospital for observation but was not injured. Jimenez was cold after the rescue and suffered from skin irritation; she recovered. [86688-9754](tel:86688-9754)



CHARLES DAVID JORDAN

*Houston, Texas*

**Charles David Jordan** rescued Monica M. Garza from attacking dogs, Houston, Texas, March 5, 2014. Garza, 34, was jogging on a trail through a residential neighborhood when she was attacked by two adult pit bull dogs, one weighing about 70 pounds and the other about 85. She screamed for help as the dogs took her to the ground and mauled her. At his home nearby, Jordan, 63, retired telecommunications database manager, was alerted to the attack. He went to the trail, where he saw one of the dogs biting Garza about one of her legs and the other biting her opposite arm. Jordan ran to her, positioned himself between her and the dogs, and worked to fight them off, kick-

ing and punching them and at one point twisting the collar of one of the dogs to choke it. Garza fled to a nearby electrical box and got on top of it, but the dogs pursued her there to continue their attack. Jordan again positioned himself between Garza and the dogs and from atop the box maintained kicking and hitting them. After one of the dogs was distracted and left the immediate scene, the other dog stopped its attack. Garza was hospitalized more than a month for treatment of extensive and severe bite wounds, and Jordan was treated by a doctor for lesser injuries, to his face and a hand. He recovered. 86348-9740



THOMAS JOY  
*Spokane, Washington*

**Thomas Joy** helped to rescue Diamond D. White and Craig Randleman from attacking dogs, Spokane, Washington, April 3, 2014. Diamond, 8, was walking in an alley through a residential neighborhood when two dogs escaped from a nearby yard. One of the dogs took her to the ground, and the other, a 50-pound pit bull, began to maul her. Randleman, 50, was in his yard in that neighborhood and heard screaming. He ran to the scene, joined by another neighbor, Joy, 28, customer service representative. The men kicked and punched the attacking dog, removing it from Diamond, but when Randleman bent over her, that dog lunged at him, inflicting a severe bite wound to his face. As Randleman fought the dog, Joy took Diamond to safety and then returned and helped free Randleman of the dog before leaving for a weapon. A third man from the neighborhood responded with a shovel and struck the dog. Both dogs fled the scene. Diamond and Randleman both required hospital treatment for numerous lacerations, puncture wounds, and tears, Randleman requiring sutures for the wounds to his face and both arms. He recovered. 86554-9762



CHRISTOPHER BROOKS KING

*Roswell, New Mexico*

**Christopher Brooks King** rescued Kimberly N. Rodriguez from burning, Roswell, New Mexico, January 31, 2014. Rodriguez, 38, was inside her one-story house after fire broke out at night in a bedroom and filled the structure with dense smoke. On duty, King, 29, police officer, responded to the scene. Learning that the house was occupied, he kicked open the front door, entered the living room, and, calling out, searched for Rodriguez. Unsuccessful in the deteriorating conditions, King exited the house, ran to its back door, which was open, and re-entered. Going to the floor in the dense smoke, which precluded visibility, King crawled through the kitchen, again calling for Rodriguez. He heard her reply and then found her, at a point about 12 feet into the house, lying on the floor near flames that were advancing from the bedroom. King stood and grasped Rodriguez, who was by then unconscious, but found that he could not lift her. Nearly overcome by smoke himself, he dragged Rodriguez by the arm through the kitchen and outside to safety. He collapsed there. Both Rodriguez and King were taken to the hospital for treatment of smoke inhalation, Rodriguez requiring admission. 86340-9758



KORY KERN KOCHER

*Waialua, Hawaii*

**Kory Kern Kocher** helped to save Isa I. Degener from burning, Waialua, Hawaii, August 16, 2014. Degener, 90, was on the second floor of her two-story house after fire broke out on the first floor and sent smoke throughout the structure. Kocher, 37, refuse truck driver, who lived nearby, was alerted to the fire. He responded to the scene, entered the house, and searched the first floor in light smoke for Degener before climbing the stairs to the second floor. Smoke was denser there, limiting Kocher's visibility and impeding his breathing, but he saw Degener standing a few feet from the top of the stairs. Kocher put her over his shoulder and started to descend the stairs, backward,

but he stumbled and fell with Degener to a landing halfway down. Kocher's wife also had responded to the scene, and she climbed to the landing to help with Degener. Regaining his footing, Kocher dragged Degener down the remaining steps, the base of which was just off the front door. With flames by then advancing quickly toward the door, Kocher and his wife removed Degener from the house. Flames shortly engulfed the wooden structure, destroying it. Both Degener and Kocher required hospital treatment, Kocher for carbon monoxide exposure and smoke inhalation, from which he recovered. 86795-9787



JAMISON S. KOCZAN

*Winter Park, Florida*

**Jamison S. Koczan** helped to rescue a woman from assault, Winter Park, Florida, June 16, 2014. After her husband struck her, forced her into his pickup truck, and then threatened her with a handgun, a 40-year-old woman opened the vehicle's passenger door and screamed for help as the assailant attempted to drive from the parking lot of an office complex. At work in one of the nearby buildings, Koczan, 38, video editor, and a coworker witnessed the attack. They left the building and approached the truck, Koczan going to its passenger side. He reached into the vehicle, grasped the woman, and pulled her from the assailant's grasp. The assailant left the vehicle and, pointing the gun at Koczan and the coworker, threatened to shoot Koczan if he did not release the woman. Koczan ran with the woman away from the vehicle and circled back to his office building, the assailant in pursuit. At a point about 4 feet from the building's front door, Koczan fell to the pavement, the assailant about 15 feet behind him. The coworker, who had arrived about then, took the woman into the building and locked themselves in a private office. Koczan regained his footing, fled into the building, and locked the door behind him, but the assailant broke through the door, using the butt of his gun. He proceeded to the private office and, threatening the coworker with the gun, demanded that she release his wife. The coworker refused him. The assailant left the building and fled the scene in his truck but later turned himself in to police. 86754-9768



JOEL KEVIN KYLE, JR.

*Tyrene, Pennsylvania*

**Joel Kevin Kyle, Jr.**, saved Giovanni A. Bongiorno from burning, Altoona, Pennsylvania, May 4, 2014. Giovanni, 23 months, was in his crib in a bedroom on the second floor of his family's two-story house after fire broke out in the adjacent bedroom, grew quickly, and filled that floor with dense smoke. Kyle, 29, cable construction employee, was visiting on the first floor when he was alerted to the fire. Knowing that Giovanni was on the second floor, Kyle ran up the stairs and made his way through a smoke-filled hall, having to pass the room of origin, which was nearly engulfed by flame. He entered Giovanni's bedroom, located the crib, and, tucking the boy under an arm, retraced his course through the hall as flames were starting to breach the burning room. Kyle ran down the stairs to safety with Giovanni as flames spread to enter the attic and burn through the roof, destroying the structure. Giovanni and Kyle were both taken to the hospital, where Giovanni was found to be uninjured and Kyle was treated for smoke inhalation, from which he recovered. 86593-9794



MICHAEL T. LANDSBERRY

*Reno, Nevada*

**Michael T. Landsberry** died attempting to save an indeterminate number of people from assault, Sparks, Nevada, October 21, 2013. A 12-year-old boy armed with a 9-millimeter handgun entered the play yard at the rear of his middle school before the start of classes. Of the many students who were gathered there, the boy shot one of them in the shoulder. Landsberry, 45, and another teacher were at the opposite end of the yard supervising the students. They heard the gunshot and advanced toward where it originated as students were fleeing. At the same time, the assailant was walking in Landsberry's direction, the gun in his right hand at his side. At a point about 15 feet from the assailant, Landsberry stopped and then slowly approached

him with his hands up. He was heard asking the assailant to put the gun down. When the assailant told Landsberry to back away, Landsberry took one step backward, but the assailant pointed the gun at him and fired, fatally wounding him. The assailant then approached one of the wings of the school, fired twice into it, and then shot another student, in the stomach. Walking away, the assailant shot himself, inflicting a fatal wound. The two wounded students required hospital treatment, and they recovered.

86120-9791



PATRICK J. LAROSE

*Brooklyn, New York*

**Patrick J. LaRose** saved a boy from drowning, Shelby Township, Michigan, November 28, 2013. When an 11-year-old boy walked onto ice covering Crystal Lake, which was in the apartment complex where he lived, the ice gave way beneath him. Shouting for help, he struggled to climb from the open water. The water was frigid, and the air temperature was in the low 20s. In an apartment overlooking the lake, LaRose, 38, heard the boy. He ran from the building to a point on the bank closest the boy, taking with him a lawn rake from one of the units. LaRose then stepped onto the ice and walked to a point just short of the boy, who was about 40 feet out. As LaRose extended one end of the rake to the boy and told him to grasp it, the ice gave way beneath him, and he too fell into the water, which was beyond his depth. Telling the boy to hold to him, LaRose started to break a path through the ice toward the opposite bank, 60 feet away, where others were assembling with a line. They threw the line toward LaRose, but it initially fell short. LaRose continued toward the bank with the boy, others then removing him from the water as LaRose left the lake. Both the boy and LaRose were treated by emergency medical personnel at the scene, LaRose sustaining cuts and scrapes to his hands. The boy was hospitalized overnight for being exposed to the cold water. 86224-9739



RONALD LARUE

*Mayfield, Kentucky*

**Ronald LaRue** died attempting to save Aiden A. Bulkley from drowning, Bucksport, Maine, August 8, 2014. Aiden, 5, and his grandfather, LaRue, 54, disabled truck driver, were fishing from a floating dock just off the bank of the Penobscot River with other family members when Aiden fell into the water. A very swift tidal current started to carry him away. LaRue immediately jumped into the river, swam to Aiden, and grabbed him. He held to Aiden with his right arm as he tried to swim toward the bank with his left arm, of which he only had partial use. Struggling in the water, LaRue was pulled downstream while holding Aiden and was seen floating on his back lifting Aiden with both arms. Both then submerged twice and were separated. First responders removed Aiden from the river at a point about 300 feet downstream of the dock and attempted unsuccessfully to revive him. LaRue's body was recovered from the river in the same vicinity a few hours later. He too had drowned. [86798-9789](tel:86798-9789)



STEVEN A. MARTIN

*Northern Cambria, Pennsylvania*

**Steven A. Martin** rescued Larina L. Hoppel from burning, Patton, Pennsylvania, September 6, 2014. Hoppel, 36, was the driver of a car that, in a highway accident, left the roadway and struck a wooden utility pole. The car came to rest on a grassy embankment, upright and against the pole. The top of the pole broke off in the accident, taking down wires, including a 12,470-volt line, and fell between the car and the base of the pole. Fire broke out immediately inside the car, burning Hoppel, who, trapped in the wreckage, screamed for help. Another motorist, Martin, 39, financial services associate, witnessed the accident. He ran to the driver's side of the car and touched it lightly to see if it was energized. He then leaned toward Hoppel, who was reaching out through the broken windshield, and grasped her by the arms while avoiding the downed lines. Martin pulled on Hoppel, but

without success, as he had insufficient leverage because of the car's positioning. With Hoppel then grasping Martin around his neck, he moved backward, pulling her from the vehicle to the ground beside it. Martin and another man carried Hoppel to safety, after which flames grew on the car to engulf it, the downed lines sparking and popping. Hoppel was hospitalized for two months for treatment of severe burns. Martin was not injured.

86855-9812



ROBERT MCNULTY

*Burbank, California*

**Robert McNulty** saved a man from drowning, Rancho Palos Verdes, California, July 6, 2014. An 18-year-old man jumped from a cliff into a narrow cove off the Pacific Ocean and became caught in the turbulent water created there by the surge and retreat of series of large waves. Two males from other parties at the scene entered the cove in rescue attempts but were buffeted by the waves, which washed them into and out of a cave below the cliff. Tiring, they were able to reach safety at opposite sides of the cove. The larger waves subsiding momentarily about then, McNulty, 39, broadcast systems technician, dived into the cove and swam to the man, who, unconscious by then, was about midway across the 30-foot-wide cove. McNulty wrapped his left arm around the man and swam with his right to tow him to the opposite side of the cove. The first rescuer joined them there and worked with McNulty to revive the man. McNulty suffered cuts to his right leg that took a month to heal. He missed about five days of work and fully recovered.

86711-9782



JON CHRISTOPHER MEIS

*Renton, Washington*

**Jon Christopher Meis** saved an indeterminate number of people from assault, Seattle, Washington, June 5, 2014. A man armed with a 12-gauge,

double-barrel shotgun entered the lobby of a university classroom building after fatally wounding a man outside the building. He ordered those in the lobby not to move and then fired, striking a student in the arm. Meis, 22, college student, was working as a security monitor about 15 feet away, in an office adjacent to the building's entry. When he saw what he concluded was the assailant reloading his gun, Meis approached him, from behind, with a container of pepper spray that he had taken from his backpack. Meis sprayed the assailant in the face with the pepper spray and then grasped his gun and took it away from him. After placing the gun in the security office, Meis again approached the assailant and took him to the floor, the assailant removing a sheathed knife from his person. The knife dropped to the floor, and Meis directed another student to remove it from the assailant's reach. Meis and the other student then secured the assailant on the floor until police arrived shortly and arrested him. Meis received medical treatment for minor injuries, and he recovered. 86646-9811



GREGORIO V. MONGE

*San Bernardino, California*

**Gregorio V. Monge** attempted to rescue Jack D. Stine from burning, San Bernardino, California, May 4, 2014. Stine, 91, was in a bedroom of his one-story house after fire broke out in that room at night and filled it with dense smoke. He collapsed to the floor beside his bed. At his nearby home, Monge, 35, was alerted to the fire, and he responded to the scene, where he learned that Stine was still inside the structure. Monge entered the house through its front door, which opened to a hall that accessed Stine's bedroom, but after proceeding a few feet he was repulsed by the smoke and retreated outside for air. After using a lawn chair to break out windows in the bedroom, to vent it of smoke, he sprayed water into the room to fight the flames. He then re-entered the house, reaching the door to Stine's room, where he saw Stine on the floor. Again repelled by the smoke, Monge retreated outside, where he removed his sweater, soaked it with water, and held it to his face. Again he re-entered the house. He proceeded to Stine's room, entered, and, grasping Stine by an arm, pulled him to the hall and then to the front door. Stine died

at the scene, and Monge suffered smoke inhalation, for which he later sought treatment. He recovered. 86585-9796



ADAM MATTHEW MYERS

*Ballston Spa, New York*

**Adam Matthew Myers** helped to rescue a man from burning, Clifton Park, New York, August 8, 2014. A 54-year-old man remained in the driver's seat of a station wagon that was aflame on the inside after the vehicle left the roadway and came to rest in mud at the edge of a pond. Driving nearby, Myers, 21, graduate student, witnessed the accident and ran to the scene, as did another male motorist. They found flames virtually filling the vehicle's passenger compartment, spreading toward its front end, and issuing from the partially opened window of the driver's door. The driver's hair and shirt were aflame. After the man was removed through the driver's door to the mud beside the vehicle, Myers and the other motorist, each grasping a wrist, dragged him a short distance to the pond. Myers used mud and water to extinguish flames on the driver's body and clothing, after which the driver attempted re-entry of the vehicle, the inside of which was fully engulfed by flame. First responders arrived and secured the man, who was then taken to the hospital. Medics at the scene treated Myers, who sustained minor burns to a hand. He recovered. 86799-9804



DEAN RONALD NELSON

*Mondovi, Wisconsin*

**Dean Ronald Nelson** rescued Molli R. Ellis from burning, Gilmanton, Wisconsin, February 8, 2014. Molli, 5, was in a second-floor bedroom of a two-story house after fire broke out at night on the first floor, below her room. Awakened by a smoke alarm, Nelson, 31, laborer, who lived at the house, exited the structure, having sustained severe burns. With rapidly deteriorating conditions precluding access to the second floor from inside,

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he placed a stepladder against the house, beneath Molli's bedroom window. Molli's mother, who also lived there, climbed to the window and broke it out, but escaping smoke repelled her. Nelson then climbed to the window, entered the bedroom, and crawled through dense smoke to Molli's bed. He picked Molli up and, placing her under his arm, returned to the window. They dropped through it to ground level and with Molli's mother sought refuge, at a neighbor's, from the flames and an air temperature that was well below zero. The house was destroyed by the fire. Molli was hospitalized a week for treatment of smoke inhalation and burns to her face, and she recovered. Nelson was hospitalized four days for treatment of second-degree burns to his face, hands, and back, plus smoke inhalation, lacerations, and mild frostbite to his feet. 86355-9741



RYAN THOMAS NELSON

*Eagan, Minnesota*

**Ryan Thomas Nelson** rescued Matthew J. Heisler from burning, Grand Forks, North Dakota, March 16, 2014. Heisler, 21, was alone in the one-story house he rented with three other college students after fire broke out in the kitchen at night. One of his roommates, Nelson, 21, discovered the fire as he was returning home. He opened the front door to dense smoke and entered, shouting for Heisler, but the smoke forced him back outside. Nelson then ran to the rear of the structure and broke out a window to Heisler's bedroom. He climbed through the window, searched the room, and then exited the house after not finding Heisler there. Returning to the front of the house, he re-entered again, crouched, and in dissipating smoke saw Heisler lying unconscious on the floor of the living room, several feet from the door. Nelson went to Heisler, grasped him under the arms, and dragged him to the front door and to safety, where he worked to resuscitate him. Heisler was taken to the hospital and died there of smoke inhalation. Nelson also required hospital treatment for smoke inhalation, and he fully recovered. 86469-9773



LAURENCE T. NORTON III

*New Orleans, Louisiana*

**Laurence T. Norton III** rescued a woman from assault, New Orleans, Louisiana, October 27, 2014. A 38-year-old woman screamed when a man with a large kitchen knife began stabbing her repeatedly in the parking lot of the office building where she worked. Alerted by his assistant to the attack, Norton, 47, a dentist whose office was in the building, responded to the scene, approaching the assailant from behind. He grasped the assailant's shoulders and pulled him away from the woman. The assailant then knocked Norton to the pavement, dropping the knife as he too fell to the ground. As both the assailant and Norton were starting to regain their footing, the assailant pushed Norton to the pavement again and then fled from the scene. Norton assisted the woman into his office, where other personnel administered first aid while Norton guarded the door against any return of the assailant. The woman required hospitalization for treatment of her stab wounds, and Norton sustained scrapes to his arms and knees but did not need medical attention. He fully recovered. [86986-9809](tel:86986-9809)



KEVIN MICHAEL O'CONNOR

*Ottawa, Illinois*

**Kevin Michael O'Connor** saved a man from drowning, Geneva, Illinois, April 19, 2014. While kayaking, a man went over a low-head dam spanning the Fox River and was carried downstream by the swift current. O'Connor, 40, librarian, was in a park on the bank of the river about 250 feet downstream of the dam when he was alerted to the situation. He entered the 49-degree water and waded out to look for the man, having to go beneath a low bridge that blocked his view downstream. Clearing the bridge, he saw a life jacket being swept downstream about 150 feet ahead of him and then swam to it. Finding that the life jacket was attached loosely to the man, who was submerged, O'Connor lifted the man's head to the surface of the water,

grasped him under the arms, and swam him toward the bank, en route effecting attempts to get him to breathe. Those at the bank assisted in pulling the man from the water, and O'Connor exited to safety also. The man required hospital treatment, and O'Connor was tired after the rescue. He recovered.

86567-9805



GARY OLSON FAMILY

*Jefferson, South Dakota*

**The Gary Olson Family** rescued a woman from assault, North Sioux City, South Dakota, May 10, 2014. A 38-year-old woman who was being threatened with a gun by her husband in a parking lot walked onto the adjacent highway and waved her arms. Inside the sedan that immediately stopped were Gary Olson, 64, off-duty deputy sheriff transporter; his wife, Mary, 54, medical biller, who was driving; and their daughter, Shelby, 20, college student, who was in the backseat. The woman approached them and asked for help, telling them that the assailant was going to kill her. Shelby opened the back door on the driver's side for the woman, who then entered the car as Gary stepped from the front passenger seat and began to circle the vehicle. The assailant drove up in a pickup truck, stopped beside the car, and pointed the gun at the woman. When Gary then approached him and showed his deputy's badge, telling him to leave, the assailant pointed the gun at Gary. Gary told Mary to drive off, and she did so, leaving him with the assailant. The assailant then turned his truck around and pursued the three women. The high-speed chase went through a residential neighborhood before both vehicles entered an interstate highway and reached speeds estimated by police at 100 m.p.h. During the pursuit, the assailant shot at the car at least three times, with one bullet penetrating it and striking Shelby in the lower back. Police by then had joined in the pursuit, and Mary exited the interstate at the scene, having made a 5-mile loop. After his truck was disabled by police, the assailant was found inside, dead of self-inflicted gunshot. Shelby was taken to the hospital for treatment of her wound, from which she recovered. 86613-9800



MEGHAN O'REILLY-GREEN

*Perth Amboy, New Jersey*

**Meghan O'Reilly-Green** helped to save Thomas J. Wadkins, Jr., from drowning, Hatteras, North Carolina, July 14, 2013. While swimming in the Atlantic Ocean, Wadkins, 26, and a friend attempted to return to shore but made no progress against a very strong current, which took them farther out. They shouted for help. In another party at the scene, O'Reilly-Green, 31, student, was walking on the beach and heard them. Although she was seven months pregnant, she took a boogie board from nearby, entered the water, and swam out to the men, who were about 300 feet from shore. After giving Wadkins the board, which was then lost to the surf, she attempted to position him for towing, but a struggle between them ensued, during which O'Reilly-Green was submerged. Freeing herself, O'Reilly-Green swam to another responding rescuer, took a boogie board from him, and returned to Wadkins. Securing Wadkins to the board, she pushed him out of the strong current and toward shore, reaching water atop a sandbar. Fatigued, O'Reilly-Green returned to the beach as arriving first responders entered the water to take Wadkins, and others who had been caught by the current, to safety. Wadkins and O'Reilly-Green swallowed water, and O'Reilly-Green was extremely fatigued. Both recovered. [85948-9770](tel:85948-9770)



CLIFFORD W. J. PETERSON

*Ajax, Ontario*

**Clifford W. J. Peterson** helped to save a man from falling, Toronto, Ontario, December 8, 2013. At night, a distressed 26-year-old man sat atop a bridge abutment at its outside edge, that point being about 100 feet above the floor of a wooded valley. On being alerted to his presence there, Peterson, 40, police constable, and his partner responded to the bridge deck at the abutment. As the concrete structure was 6 feet across and its top 5 feet above the level of the bridge deck, Peterson boosted himself up to the top of the abut-

ment, which was covered with an inch of snow and ice. When the man then moved closer to the edge and pushed himself off, Peterson lunged across the abutment, grasped the man from behind, and, lying unsecured on his stomach, held the man against the outside face of the abutment. The man began to struggle against Peterson, pulling him partially off the abutment. Peterson's partner had advanced on the deck to the abutment, grasped Peterson by the ankles and then the legs, and pulled on him as Peterson backed from the edge, dragging the man. Peterson and his partner took the man to the deck of the bridge and secured him. Peterson sustained scratches and bruises on his arms and legs but fully recovered. 87355-9806



ISAAC G. PINSONNEAULT  
*Chatham, Ontario*

**Isaac G. Pinsonneault** helped to save Joshua B. Martin from drowning, Goderich, Ontario, August 15, 2014. Martin, 21, was swimming in Lake Huron when he found he was unable to return to shore against rough water and a strong undertow. On the beach in another party, Isaac, 16, student, was alerted to his situation. Isaac entered the lake and went out to a man who had taken two boogie boards into the water in a rescue attempt. He took one of the boards from the man and continued out to Martin, who, at about 200 feet from shore, was struggling to stay afloat. Martin joined Isaac atop the board, but it started to sink under their weight. He then lay across it as Isaac held to it. After resting, Isaac and Martin attempted to kick toward shore but made little progress until they timed their efforts to take advantage of the momentum of the advancing 4-foot waves. After several minutes they reached wadable water, meeting up with two men who were responding with a small inflatable boat. They returned Martin to shore, where he collapsed, exhausted. Nearly exhausted himself, Isaac followed. Martin was given oxygen at the scene and taken to the hospital for further treatment. He recovered, as did Isaac. 86802-9788



TITIANA L. PORTIS

*Cleveland, Ohio*

**Titiana L. Portis** helped to save Christian J. Davis from drowning, Cleveland, Ohio, August 25, 2013. While fishing from a pedestrian causeway, Christian, 9, fell 12 feet into an inlet off Lake Erie and floundered in the 15-foot-deep water. His father jumped into the water after him and grasped him, supporting him at the surface, but a struggle ensued. Portis, 22, who was on a break wall that extended into the lake at the scene, entered the water and swam about 100 feet to them although she was wearing an ankle-length dress. She took Christian from his father, who then submerged, and swam back to the break wall with him. En route, Christian became panicky and Portis was tiring. Others helped them from the water at the break wall. Christian and Portis required hospital treatment, and they recovered. Christian's father drowned. 86014-9745



FRASER A. POTTS

*Limoges, Ontario*

**Fraser A. Potts** helped to save a woman from drowning, Fairford, Manitoba, May 10, 2013. In a suicide attempt, a 22-year-old woman drove her car into the Fairford River. She exited the vehicle before it submerged and was then carried downstream by the swift current. On duty, Potts, 28, police officer, and his partner had responded to the scene. Potts ran along the bank after the woman and at a point opposite her entered the river for her, but he returned to the bank on encountering the river's current and 37-degree water. Potts then continued along the bank following the woman, at one point wading through chest-deep water of a river inlet. He encouraged the woman to swim back to the bank, but to no effect, as the woman submerged as she continued downstream at about the center of the 300-foot-wide river. At a point about 1,200 feet from where the woman entered the river, Potts again waded in from the bank and, reaching his depth, swam to the woman

and grasped her. He attempted to swim with her toward the bank as they were carried farther downstream, but he had difficulty moving his legs, as hypothermia was taking its effect. Potts's partner and two other men responded in a small boat and reached Potts and the woman at a point about a mile downstream. By then, Potts and the woman were barely above the surface of the water, and Potts was almost completely immobilized. Those in the boat pulled them aboard, worked to warm them, and returned them to the bank. Potts and the woman were taken to the hospital for treatment of hypothermia, and they recovered. 87356-9810



ROBERT A. PRITCHARD, JR.  
*Jacksonville, Florida*

**Robert A. Pritchard, Jr.**, saved Hattie Fowler from burning, Jacksonville, Florida, June 17, 2014. Hattie, 6, was in a bedroom of her family's mobile home after flames erupted in that room. Standing at the bedroom window, she attracted the attention of Robert, 13, student, who was in the immediate vicinity. Robert advanced to the front door, opened it, and entered the structure, finding visibility inside obscured by smoke. Hearing Hattie cry, he proceeded to a hall that accessed the bedroom and, standing in the bedroom doorway, called to her. She ran into his arms. He picked her up and, carrying her, retraced his steps to the front door and exited the house to safety with her as flames spread rapidly in the structure. Four members of Hattie's family died in the fire. Hattie required hospitalization for treatment of smoke inhalation. Robert was checked at the scene by medics for minor smoke inhalation, from which he fully recovered. 86722-9764



PETER TODD RADKE  
*Medina, Ohio*

**Peter Todd Radke** died attempting to save Angel Rodgers from drowning, Bay Village, Ohio, May 31, 2014. Angel, 16, was in wadable water of Lake Erie

not far off the beach when she was struck by a wave and pulled farther from shore. Rescue attempts were made by those at the scene, but rough water conditions, including 4-foot-high waves, thwarted their efforts. Radke, 43, social media specialist, was in another party on the beach in the vicinity. He removed his shirt, entered the 61-degree water, and swam to Angel, reaching her at a point about 225 feet from shore. Radke grasped Angel and pushed her away from the rocks of a nearby jetty, but they were separated and submerged by a wave. Angel resurfaced and was carried away by the current. Radke also resurfaced but was then struck by another wave and submerged again. First responders removed Angel from the lake, and she was taken to the hospital for treatment. She recovered. Radke was removed from the lake about three hours later; he had drowned. 86641-9802



CRAIG RANDLEMAN

*Bend, Oregon*

**Craig Randleman** helped to rescue Diamond D. White from attacking dogs, Spokane, Washington, April 3, 2014. Diamond, 8, was walking in an alley through a residential neighborhood when two dogs escaped from a nearby yard. One of the dogs took her to the ground, and the other, a 50-pound pit bull, began to maul her. Randleman, 50, was in his yard in that neighborhood and heard screaming. He ran to the scene, joined by another male neighbor. The men kicked and punched the attacking dog, removing it from Diamond, but when Randleman bent over her, that dog lunged at him, inflicting a severe bite wound to his face. As Randleman fought the dog, Joy took Diamond to safety and then returned and helped free Randleman of the dog before leaving for a weapon. Randleman ran to a neighboring yard, but the dog followed him there and resumed its attack. Breaking free again, he climbed over a chain-link fence to where he went to the ground, nearly exhausted. The dog followed, and as it tried to scale the fence, another man from the neighborhood responded with a shovel and struck it repeatedly but was bitten by it and the other dog. Both dogs fled the scene. Diamond and Randleman both required hospital treatment for numerous lacerations,

puncture wounds, and tears, Randleman requiring sutures for the wounds to his face and both arms. He recovered. 86552-9761



JOHN REED, JR.

*Seminole, Florida*

**John Reed, Jr.**, helped to rescue Kevin R. Reed from burning, St. Petersburg, Florida, February 11, 2014. Kevin, 46, was unconscious in the driver's seat of a burning cargo van transporting pool chemicals after it struck a tree head on. A motorist who had just parked nearby, John, 35, boilermaker, and his passenger, a coworker, witnessed the accident. They ran to the scene, finding that flames were filling the van, having spread from its rear to the driver's seat. John reached into the van through the opened driver's door and felt for Kevin's safety belt release, but flames caused him to withdraw. His coworker pulled Kevin's safety belt away from his left shoulder and cut it with a pocketknife. As the coworker then grasped Kevin, who was aflame, about the upper body, John extended his arms around Kevin's legs, and together the men lifted him from the van and carried him to safety as the van filled with flames. They used the coworker's shirt and their hands to extinguish the flames on Kevin. Kevin required lengthy hospitalization for treatment of burns to 30 percent of his body and inhalation injuries. John sustained a minor burn to a leg, and he fully recovered. 86486-9749



PHILIP SCHOLZ

*Pleasanton, California*

**Philip Scholz** died attempting to save a man from being struck by a train, Santa Clara, California, January 20, 2014. A man went to a point between the rails of a track at a commuter train station, just off the raised platform, as an express train traveling at 70 m.p.h. approached the station on that track. A commuter, Scholz, 35, technology marketer, was standing on the platform not far away. Scholz sprinted toward the man, advancing to a point at the

edge of the platform opposite him as the man moved toward the platform. Scholz extended his arms around the man as the train, then in emergency braking, bore down on them. Both men were struck by the train. Scholz died at the scene, but the man, having sustained significant injury, survived.

86319-9748



CORY ALAN SIMONSON

*Maquoketa, Iowa*

**Cory Alan Simonson** helped to save Harvey L. Untiedt from burning, Maquoketa, Iowa, December 14, 2014. Untiedt, 48, who was confined to a wheelchair, was in his one-story house when fire broke out in the living room near the live Christmas tree. Blocked by deteriorating conditions from exiting the house by way of the accessible front door, Untiedt attempted to move toward a side door. A wheel that then malfunctioned on the chair stranded him between the living room and the kitchen as flames spread in the living room and smoke filled the house. A man who lived nearby, Simonson, 29, production worker, responded to the scene, joining another man who had arrived and was forcing entry through the side door of the burning structure. Both he and Simonson entered the house, going to the floor in the dense smoke. With little visibility, they crawled across the kitchen and found Untiedt. Then discovering that the wheelchair was immobile, they turned it around and maneuvered it through the kitchen to the side door. Others who had responded helped to remove Untiedt from the porch and to safety. Untiedt was taken to the hospital for treatment of smoke inhalation, and Simonson experienced respiratory problems from the smoke, but he fully recovered. 87087-9815



S. ALEXANDER SMITH

*Aloha, Oregon*

**S. Alexander Smith** died attempting to save Christian G. Smith from drowning, Dorena, Oregon, July 1, 2014. Christian, 13, slipped and fell into the Row River while trying to wade across it at a point above 15-foot-high Wildwood Falls, and the swift current carried him toward the brink of the falls. Alerted, his brother, Alexander, 16, high school student, who was on the bank, immediately ran about 35 feet to the river and entered it at a point just above the falls. He grasped Christian's wrist when Christian came within reach, but the current pulled them both downstream. Separated, they were carried over the falls. Christian surfaced in a pool below the falls and made his way to safety, but Alexander became lodged in the falls by a log submerged there. His body was recovered five hours later, when the log was removed. He had drowned. 86738-9766



BRYON SNYDER

*Topeka, Kansas*

**Bryon Snyder** saved a woman from assault, Topeka, Kansas, June 30, 2014. A 44-year-old woman ran toward a convenience store in an attempt to escape her ex-boyfriend, who, armed with a handgun, had abducted and threatened her. The assailant followed her. Snyder, 36, computer application analyst, was entering the store when he saw the woman approach, shouting for help. He held the door for her, and she ran into the store and locked herself in the store's office. From inside the store, Snyder then saw the assailant approach, and he remained at the door and held it shut against the assailant. After a brief verbal exchange with Snyder, the assailant produced his gun and at point-blank range fired into the glass door, the shot striking Snyder in his right hand and torso. Snyder fell to the floor. Two men in the store were in a bullet-resistant cashier's enclosure, and the assailant, entering the store, demanded of them and Snyder to know the woman's location. He then fired

two shots at the enclosure and threatened to shoot Snyder again if the men did not cooperate. As the assailant searched the store, Snyder crawled through the front door and shouted for help, attracting the attention of those who then aided him. The assailant exited through the front door shortly and fled the scene, but he was later apprehended by police. The woman was not injured. Snyder was hospitalized eight days for treatment, including surgery, of his injuries, including to his right thumb, which was permanently damaged. 86750-9775



LESTER J. TRAFFORD III

*Hampton Bays, New York*

**Lester J. Trafford III** saved Scott C. Finne and attempted to save Stian Stiansen from drowning, Hampton Bays, New York, May 12, 2013. Finne, 42, and Stiansen, 85, were aboard a 45-foot commercial fishing boat when it capsized in rough surf of the Atlantic Ocean as it approached the mouth of an inlet leading to Shinnecock Bay on Long Island. Thrown into the 51-degree water, Finne grasped debris from the boat and stayed afloat as he drifted to a point about a mile off shore. Learning of the accident by radio, Trafford, 55, captain of a 24-foot towing boat, left mooring in the bay and proceeded to the inlet. Steady and gusting winds engendered 5-foot seas with waves reaching 9 feet breaking in the inlet and just off its mouth as a strong ebb current was emptying the bay. Although first-responding boats turned back, Trafford proceeded through the inlet and, spotting the wreckage of the fishing boat, proceeded toward it. He searched for survivors in the debris field before being directed to Finne's position by a responding police helicopter. Proceeding toward Finne, Trafford positioned his boat about 18 feet from him and then drew him to the boat by means of a life ring attached to a line. The men returned to the wreckage and looked for Stiansen until they were relieved by a Coast Guard vessel, and they then traversed the inlet to return to safe harbor in the bay. Finne required hospital treatment for hypothermia. Stiansen drowned. 86251-9760



MATTHEW L. TRANEL

*Maquoketa, Iowa*

**Matthew L. Tranel** helped to save Harvey L. Untiedt from burning, Maquoketa, Iowa, December 14, 2014. Untiedt, 48, who was confined to a wheelchair, was in his one-story house when fire broke out in the living room near the live Christmas tree. Blocked by deteriorating conditions from exiting the house by way of the accessible front door, Untiedt attempted to move toward a side door. A wheel that then malfunctioned on the chair stranded him between the living room and the kitchen as flames spread in the living room and smoke filled the house. Tranel, 39, loan officer, was en route to the fire station in response to the call as a volunteer firefighter when he came upon the scene. With flames visible to him through the living room window, Tranel went to the front door but found it locked. He responded to the enclosed side porch and forced entry, and then he broke open the door leading to the kitchen. Another man had arrived by then, and both he and Tranel entered the house, going to the floor in the dense smoke. With little visibility, they crawled across the kitchen and found Untiedt. Then discovering that the wheelchair was immobile, they turned it around and maneuvered it through the kitchen to the side door. Others who had responded helped to remove Untiedt from the porch and to safety. Untiedt was taken to the hospital for treatment of smoke inhalation. 87088-9814



TOU HU VANG

*Coon Rapids, Minnesota*

**Tou Hu Vang** died attempting to save Calvin Yang from drowning, Taylors Falls, Minnesota, May 25, 2014. Calvin, 11, was on a family fishing outing along the St. Croix River when he fell into the water. Swollen from recent rains, the river had a very strong current, and Calvin was carried away from the bank and downstream. His uncle, Vang, 21, college student, jumped into the river after him and swam toward him but did not reach him. At a point

about 15 feet from the bank, Vang began to struggle in the water and turned back as Calvin continued to drift downstream. Vang was swept from his party's view, and by the time those in his party accessed the river downstream, he could not be found. A man from another party on the bank jumped into the river, swam to Calvin, and towed him back to the bank. Calvin was uninjured. Vang's body was recovered from the river five days later at a point about 7 miles downstream. He had drowned. 86629-9784



MATTHEW R. WARD

*Westfield, New York*

**Matthew R. Ward** saved Tyler Stefan from drowning, Westfield, New York, July 9, 2014. While playing in Lake Erie off a small beach, Tyler, 9, and a friend were carried by currents to an area of shore comprising steep cliffs. As they attempted to scale one of the cliffs to safety, Tyler fell back into the water, which was rough with waves reaching from 3 to 5 feet in height. Tyler's friend ran for help as Tyler was swept back out into the lake. Ward, 22, managerial assistant, who lived in the vicinity, was alerted to the situation by first responders. After he spotted Tyler floating on his back far into the lake, he made his way down the cliff to the waterline and then entered the water, as no boats were immediately available. The waves presented difficulty for Ward as he swam about 400 feet to reach Tyler. Ward grasped Tyler, who was barely conscious, and side stroked back toward shore, growing increasingly tired. As he approached, others helped him remove Tyler from the lake. Tyler was taken to the hospital for treatment. Ward was nearly exhausted after the rescue, and he recovered. 86715-9742



BRIAN WARGO

*Kailua-Kona, Hawaii*

**Brian Wargo** rescued McKenzie N. Clark from an attacking shark, Kapa'au, Hawaii, October 31, 2014. Clark, 34, was surfing in the Pacific Ocean about 450 feet from shore when a shark, about 12 feet long and later determined by authorities to be a tiger shark, bit her left hand and that part of the surfboard to which she was holding. She freed her hand from the shark, falling into the water, but the shark kept its bite on the board, taking it a short distance and towing Clark, who remained tethered to the board by an ankle. Clark's friend, Wargo, 45, fisherman, was surfing nearby and saw the attack. As he paddled his surfboard toward Clark and was closing in on her, Wargo saw the shark swimming alongside him. He yelled to Clark to get back on her board and then grabbed the shark's dorsal fin with both hands to stop the shark. Pulled off his board, which then came between him and the shark, Wargo kicked and punched the shark repeatedly until it turned and swam away. Clark and Wargo returned to shore atop their boards. Clark required hospital treatment, including suturing, for injuries to two fingers. Wargo recovered from soreness. 86964-9792



KAREN WESSEL

*Arlington Heights, Illinois*

**Karen Wessel**, died after helping to save a boy from drowning, Star Lake, Wisconsin, July 22, 2014. While swimming in Star Lake, an 8-year-old boy struggled in deep water just off a submerged sandbar while trying to return to the bank. A woman from his party swam out to him, but a struggle ensued between them. The woman's sister, Wessel, 47, administrative assistant, then entered the water and swam out to them, reaching them at a point about 100 feet from the bank. She grasped the boy, allowing her sister to return to safety, and repeatedly pushed him up to keep him at the surface of the water until both submerged. A man responded to the scene in a pontoon boat,

located the boy, and entered the water for him. He revived the boy and had him hold to the boat as he recovered Wessel, who was floating nearby, just beneath the surface of the water. The man took Wessel to the boat and attempted to revive her. Another boater responded to the scene and took Wessel, and then the boy, to a dock, where first responders continued resuscitation efforts on Wessel. She was taken to the hospital but could not be revived, as she had drowned. The boy was hospitalized for observation, and he recovered. 86756-9795



EARL HEATH WICKLINE

*Londonderry, New Hampshire*

**Earl Heath Wickline** rescued Robert S. Braley from burning, Londonderry, New Hampshire, January 26, 2013. Braley, 58, lay unconscious on the front seats of a sport utility vehicle after an early-morning accident in which the vehicle left the roadway, struck a tree, and broke into flames at both its front and rear ends. Wickline, 62, postal supervisor, soon drove upon the scene and stopped. He approached the vehicle and attempted to open further its driver's door, but the door was jammed. Wickline then attempted to gain access to the vehicle through its cracked windshield but again was unsuccessful. Using a fire extinguisher provided by a bystander, Wickline fought flames at the rear of the vehicle, the flames by then extending to its soft top and entering its passenger compartment. Seeing that the vehicle's rear wheels were still turning, Wickline went again to the driver's door, reached inside, and turned the ignition off. He proceeded to the passenger side, opened the front door, and, leaning inside, patted out the flames that were burning on Braley's shirt. He then grasped Braley by the arms and pulled him from the vehicle, taking him to the ground. A police officer who had arrived then helped take Braley to safety, flames spreading quickly on the vehicle. Braley required extensive hospitalization for treatment of burns and significant injuries. Wickline too was burned, on his right hand, and received medical treatment. He recovered. 85498-9778



CHRISTINE ALICIA WILSON

*West Henrietta, New York*

**Christine Alicia Wilson** saved Marianna S., Annaleigh G., and Maddox N. Fontanez from burning, Henrietta, New York, November 23, 2013. Siblings Marianna, 6; Annaleigh, 6 months; and Maddox, 2, were passengers in a minivan driven by their mother when it caught fire at its front end in a highway accident. Wilson, 42, an off-duty police officer from another municipality, was nearby and witnessed the accident. She ran to the van and, seeing the children inside, opened the sliding door on its driver's side and entered. Wilson stepped to the back row of seats in the vehicle, which was filling with smoke, and unbuckled Marianna's safety belt. After exiting the van with Marianna, Wilson re-entered and moved across the middle row of seats to Annaleigh. Attempting without success to release Annaleigh's car seat, Wilson pulled it free and carried it, with Annaleigh, outside the vehicle to safety. Re-entering the van a second time, despite intensifying smoke and spreading flames, Wilson moved again to the back row and worked to free Maddox's car seat. In the deteriorating conditions, she grasped Maddox, pulled him from the seat, and left the vehicle with him, flames by then having entered the van, at its front. The van was quickly engulfed by flames. Wilson was observed at the hospital but was not significantly injured, nor were the children. 86210-9753



PETER DAVID WOIT

*Carlos, Minnesota*

**Peter David Woit** rescued Richard J. Klein from burning, Carlos, Minnesota, April 8, 2014. Klein, 70, was overcome in the kitchen of his one-story house after fire broke out at night in the adjoining family room, which was in one end of the structure. At his home about 300 feet away, Woit, 54, video producer, saw flames issuing from Klein's house and called 911. He ran to the

scene and, concluding that the house was occupied, went to the end opposite the flames and pounded on a door there, screaming. Thus alerted to the fire, Klein's wife opened the door and escaped the smoke-filled house, informing Woit that Klein was still inside. Woit took a few steps into the structure, but the smoke repulsed him and he retreated outside. He re-entered, that time on his hands and knees, and crawled toward the sound of Klein's voice. After going about 20 feet, Woit was in the kitchen, where he felt Klein's hand on the floor. He grasped Klein about the arm and shoulder and, still crawling, dragged him back toward the door and aided him out of the house. Flames engulfed the family room and spread to two vehicles parked outside it. Klein required hospitalization for treatment of smoke inhalation and minor burns. Woit was observed at the hospital for minor smoke inhalation, and he recovered. 86539-9751



DANIEL MARVIN WOOD

*Frankford, Ontario*

**Daniel Marvin Wood** helped to save Megan J. Barr from drowning, Frankford, Ontario, February 6, 2013. Megan, 13, was trapped inside her family's compact sport utility vehicle after a nighttime accident in which the vehicle entered the Trent River and, overturned, was carried a distance by the strong current. It lodged against a rock in water about 3.5 feet deep at a point about 13 feet from the bank, which at the scene was a retaining wall. Wood, 43, minister, and his wife were alerted to the accident from nearby. After he and Megan's father placed a ladder into the river at the wall, Wood's wife descended it and, despite the air temperature of 13 and the water temperature of 32, entered the river. In the darkness, she waded about 33 feet to the passenger side of the vehicle, which was submerged at its front end. Unsuccessful in opening the front door, she returned to the ladder for a tool to break one of the vehicle's windows. When she went back to the car, she fell but quickly regained her footing. Although he was recovering from a recent shoulder injury, Wood then descended into the river and waded to the car. Feeling their way along the vehicle in the darkness, he and his wife went to its rear end, finding that its hatch was opened. They called for Megan to

move toward them, and she did so. Wood entered the rear of the vehicle, and he and his wife aided Megan from it to a point along its passenger side, where both Megan and his wife fell. As his wife held to the vehicle, unable to move on her own, Wood carried Megan to the ladder and then returned for her. He supported his wife as both waded back to the ladder and ascended it to safety. Megan required hospital treatment for minor injury, and Wood had symptoms of hypothermia and difficulty breathing, for which he later sought treatment. Both recovered. 86931-9777



LIANE HEATHER WOOD

*Frankford, Ontario*

**Liane Heather Wood** helped to save Megan J. Barr from drowning, Frankford, Ontario, February 6, 2013. Megan, 13, was trapped inside her family's compact sport utility vehicle after a nighttime accident in which the vehicle entered the Trent River and, overturned, was carried a distance by the strong current. It lodged against a rock in water about 3.5 feet deep at a point about 13 feet from the bank, which at the scene was a retaining wall. Wood, 42, insurance broker, and her husband were alerted to the accident from nearby. With the air temperature at about 13 degrees, she descended a ladder that had been placed into the river at the wall and entered the 32-degree water. In the darkness, Wood waded about 33 feet to the passenger side of the vehicle, which was submerged at its front end. Unsuccessful in opening the front door, she returned to the ladder for a tool to break one of the vehicle's windows. When she went back to the car, she fell but quickly regained her footing. Her husband, who was at the ladder, then descended into the river and waded to the car. Feeling their way along the vehicle in the darkness, Wood and her husband went to its rear end, finding that its hatch was opened. They called for Megan to move toward them, and she did so. Wood's husband entered the rear of the vehicle, and he and Wood aided Megan from it to a point along its passenger side, where both Megan and Wood fell. As Wood held to the vehicle, unable to move on her own, her husband carried Megan to the ladder and then returned for her. He supported Wood as both waded back to the ladder and ascended it to safety. Megan required hospital

treatment for minor injury, and Wood had symptoms of hypothermia and difficulty breathing, for which she later sought treatment. Both recovered.

86930-9776



CLIFFORD A. WRIGHT

*Sarasota, Florida*

**Clifford A. Wright** saved Patricia Cothorn and Gildo V. DiLoreto from drowning, Sarasota, Florida, January 13, 2015. Cothorn, 82, and DiLoreto, 86, were in the front seats of a sport utility vehicle that, in an accident, left the roadway, entered a pond, and started to sink in water about 12 feet deep at a point about 23 feet from the bank. Wright, 72, retired electrician, witnessed the accident from his nearby home. He immediately ran to the bank of the pond and, removing his shirt, entered the water and swam to the passenger side of the vehicle. Water by then was rushing into the car as Wright reached through the window of the front door, grasped Cothorn under the arms, and pulled her out. She swam to the bank as Wright proceeded to the driver's side of the vehicle. By then, water in the car had reached DiLoreto's mouth. Wright reached through the window of the driver's door, grasped DiLoreto under the arms, and pulled but succeeded in removing him only partially. Wright held DiLoreto at the surface of the water as the vehicle continued to sink, falling away from them. He then towed DiLoreto toward the bank, both of them submerging en route and were then assisted from the water. Neither Cothorn nor DiLoreto was injured. Wright was nearly exhausted and suffered from chest pains for a few hours after the rescue, but he fully recovered.

87153-9817



CHARLES E. WYANT

*New Bethlehem, Pennsylvania*

**Charles E. Wyant** rescued Michael L. Wiant from burning, Rimersburg, Pennsylvania, January 2, 2015. Wiant, 53, was the driver of a tri-axle dump truck that, in a highway accident, left the roadway, struck a guide rail and a utility pole, and then went down an embankment and overturned onto its passenger side in a shallow creek. One of the vehicle's fuel tanks ruptured in the accident and soaked Wiant's clothing with diesel fuel, and flames broke out in the engine compartment and grew and spread. Wiant's safety belt released after he struggled with it, and he then attempted to climb through the opened window of the driver's door. Wyant, 39, equine dentist, drove upon the scene and responded to the truck. Despite flames 9 feet high issuing from its engine area, he climbed 8 feet up the exposed underside of the vehicle and then advanced to the driver's window, where Wiant was supporting his upper body outside the vehicle as his lower body remained suspended inside, amid flames that had entered the cab. Wyant grasped Wiant by an arm and pulled but could not lift him. Pulling again, hard, he lifted Wiant onto the side of the truck, although Wiant outweighed him. Wiant's coat was aflame, and Wyant pulled it off him to find that flames had spread to Wiant's shirt. Both men then jumped into the creek, where Wyant splashed Wiant to extinguish the flames. He then helped Wiant away from the truck and, with assistance from two other men, took him up the embankment to safety as flames grew to engulf and destroy the cab. Wiant was hospitalized for treatment of significant burns and other injuries.

87011-9793

HEROIC ACTS RECOGNIZED DURING 2016

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*The following 93 individuals were cited by the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission in 2016 for having performed outstanding acts of heroism. In each case, a Carnegie Medal and a financial grant were awarded.*



ASHLEY MARIE ALDRIDGE

*Auburn, Illinois*

**Ashley Marie Aldridge** saved Earl C. Moorman from being struck by a train, Auburn, Illinois, September 15, 2015. Moorman, 75, was attempting to cross a railroad track at a crossing in his motorized wheelchair when the chair became caught against one of the rails. He could not free it and called for help. Aldridge, 19, homemaker, saw him from her nearby home and left to check on him. When she was about 160 feet from the crossing, its gates and lights were activated, indicating that an approaching train, traveling at about 78 m.p.h., was about 2,600 feet away. Barefoot, Aldridge ran to the crossing, crouched behind the back of the wheelchair, and attempted unsuccessfully to lift it. With the train bearing down on them, she then grasped Moorman underneath the arms from behind and pulled on him. Requiring a second attempt, she lifted him enough to clear the chair and backed away from the track with him. Within seconds, the train, at only slightly diminished speed, struck the wheelchair, destroying it, before stopping well beyond the crossing. 87706-9857



*Ashley Marie Aldridge, 19, saved Earl C. Moorman from being struck by a train in Auburn, Ill., after Moorman's motorized wheelchair became caught on the track at a crossing. Aldridge, who lived nearby, ran to the crossing as a train was approaching at 78 m.p.h. and pulled Moorman from his chair seconds before the train struck and destroyed it. Aldridge was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 2016. Courtesy photo is © The State Journal-Register, Springfield, Ill.*



*Shei'Londa S. Brooks of Houston, Texas, sustained extensive burns while pulling a man from his car after it left the roadway, struck a concrete wall, and caught fire. "If I had to do it again knowing what I know now, I would do it," she said. For her efforts, Brooks was awarded the medal in 2016. Photo by Karen Warren/© Houston Chronicle and used with permission.*



MATTHEW R. BARTHOLOMEW

*Midlothian, Virginia*

**Matthew R. Bartholomew** helped to save Joyce A. Byrd from drowning, Midlothian, Virginia, February 16, 2015. Byrd, 65, remained in the driver's seat of a sedan after it left the roadway in wintry conditions and entered a retention pond that at the time was covered with thin ice. The vehicle floated upright, its rear about 10 feet from the closer bank, and then started to submerge nose first in the 10-foot-deep water. Driving by, Bartholomew, 44, physician, saw the car in the water, stopped at the scene, and, descending the bank, learned that the car was occupied. Despite the air temperature of 18 degrees, with a wind-chill in the single digits, and the water at freezing, Bartholomew removed his shirt, entered the pond, and swam to the vehicle's driver's door. He tried unsuccessfully to open it and break out its window. When the door submerged, he was able to open it, but he could not locate Byrd, nor could he find the rear door's interior handle. Bartholomew then swam toward the bank, where a responding police officer gave him a police baton and one end of a rescue rope. Returning to the vehicle, much of it having submerged by then, Bartholomew broke out the rear window with the baton, and when Byrd's head then emerged through the opening, he grasped her by the jacket and pulled her from the vehicle. He supported her as the officer pulled them to the bank with the rope. Byrd required hospital treatment for hypothermia and a cut to her hand. Bartholomew also received hospital treatment, for cuts to an arm and to a finger, which required suturing. He and Byrd recovered. [87711-9881](https://www.carnegiehero.com/87711-9881)



JAMESON BARTSCHER

*Aberdeen, South Dakota*

**Jameson Bartscher** helped to rescue Cassidy J. Wanna and rescued Gabrielle G. Wanna and Rebecca L. Stoughton from burning, Summit, South Dakota, June 9, 2015. Cassidy, 2 months, and his great-aunt, Stoughton, 53,

were passengers in a sport utility vehicle that their relative, Wanna, 23, was driving on an interstate highway when fire broke out at the rear of the vehicle. As the car lost power, Wanna pulled onto the shoulder, and flames rose several feet above the rear of the vehicle and spread toward its front. Thick smoke filled the car. Bartscher, 30, public works employee, and another motorist stopped at the scene. Using a fire extinguisher from his work truck, Bartscher pushed the flames away from the passenger side of the vehicle until the extinguisher was emptied. He then used the bottom of the extinguisher to strike the window of the rear, passenger-side door, breaking it. Together, Bartscher and the other motorist freed Cassidy through the window, with the other man unbuckling the baby from his car seat and carrying him away. Bartscher then opened that door, partially entered the vehicle, and, grasping Wanna, pulled her to safety. Re-entering, he aided Stoughton to escape after freeing her from an entanglement. Fire quickly engulfed the vehicle, destroying it. Cassidy, Wanna, and Stoughton required hospital treatment for burns and smoke inhalation. Bartscher recovered from minor cuts to his arms. 87644-9878



ANDREW BAUGH

*Mason City, Illinois*

**Andrew Baugh** saved Chase W. McDermund from burning, Lincoln, Illinois, June 12, 2015. Chase, 14, was driving a midget-chassis race car during a race at a speedway when a fire broke out in the engine. He pulled onto the grass infield and released his safety belt as flames grew quickly to engulf and surround the car's open driver's compartment. While a volunteer firefighter fought the flames with a fire extinguisher, another racer, Baugh, 28, sales manager, stopped his car and ran to Chase's. Wearing a fire-retardant race suit that afforded protection, albeit time-limited, Baugh stepped onto a bumper bar along the driver's side of the car to access Chase, who was effectively pinned in place by the steering wheel. Through flames, Baugh reached over the car's roll cage and into the car, grabbed Chase under both arms, and lifted him, thereby moving the steering wheel and freeing him. Baugh pulled Chase from the car and carried him a short distance before falling to the grass with him. Chase suffered only a minor burn to an elbow. 87543-9851



GLEND A CLEMENT BEECH

*Borger, Texas*

**Glenda Clement Beech** died attempting to rescue Adonica J. Clement and others from burning, Borger, Texas, December 3, 2014. At night, Adonica, 12; her sister, Ameria, 6; and their great-uncle, Aubrey Clement, 69, were in their family's one-story house after a fire broke out in one of the bedrooms. One of the neighbors who discovered the fire responded to the front door and was banging on it when Beech, 61, homemaker, who was the girls' grandmother and Clement's sister, approached him from the rear of the structure. When she told him that the house was occupied, the neighbor kicked in the front door, which opened to the living room. Beech entered the house there. The neighbor followed her but retreated because of the smoke, and when he reached for her, she was beyond his grasp. Arriving police also entered the structure, but they too were repelled by deteriorating conditions. Firefighters removed Beech, Adonica, Ameria, and Clement from the house. All had died of smoke inhalation. [87139-9823](#)



DAMIAN BELL

*Pleasant Hill, Iowa*

**Damian Bell** helped to save Richard G. Rauzi from drowning, Indianola, Iowa, February 14, 2016. Rauzi, 57, was snowshoeing on ice atop Lake Ahquabi near an area of open water when, at a point about 150 feet from the closer bank, the ice broke beneath him, plunging him into the frigid water. Unable to lift himself back onto solid ice, he yelled for help. Across the lake, an ice fisherman, Bell, 35, technology manager, was alerted to Rauzi's shouts. Bell drove around the lake to access the closer bank. Taking a 17-foot canoe that was stored there and a length of rope, Bell went onto the ice and skirted the open water to reach Rauzi. At the hole that Rauzi's fall had created, Bell entered the canoe and reached for Rauzi, the front of the canoe then breaking through the ice. Unable to lift Rauzi aboard, as the canoe was threaten-

ing to tip over, Bell helped him hold onto one of its seats and secured him to the canoe with the rope. Bell then stepped from the canoe onto solid ice and attempted to pull Rauzi from the open water with the rope, but again his efforts were not successful, and Bell was tiring and cold in the 20-degree air temperature. Firefighters responding about then launched a rescue boat, made their way across the open water, and with help from Bell, who entered the boat, took Rauzi aboard. Others on the bank used a rope to pull the boat to safety. Rauzi was hospitalized two days for treatment of hypothermia, and he recovered. Bell was nearly exhausted. 88096-9911



KENYA D. BETTY

*New Hudson, Michigan*

**Kenya D. Betty** helped to save Dorothy J. Bell from burning, Hale, Michigan, August 8, 2014. Bell, 79, was in the kitchen of her one-story house when a massive explosion occurred in the structure. Walls of the house were blown away, and portions of the roof collapsed into it. Bell was pinned to the floor, trapped by debris, near the center of the house. Driving nearby, Betty, 38, truck driver, responded to the scene after hearing the explosion. Joining a neighbor who had responded, Betty helped Bell's daughter escape the house through a window. Learning that Bell was still inside, Betty and a second responding neighbor entered the house through the front door and found her, trapped under the partially collapsed roof, at a point about 10 feet from the door. They could not pull her from the debris. By then the back of the house was on fire, with flames quickly growing and spreading. The first neighbor had entered the house through the garage, and he lifted the partially collapsed roof so that Betty and the second neighbor could free Bell. Each grasping her by a hand, Betty and the second neighbor dragged Bell to the front door and outside. As the men fled to safety with her, a wall of the house collapsed, and the interior became engulfed by flames. Bell required four days' hospitalization for treatment of lacerations and a head injury, and she recovered. 88032-9888



KEONI BOWTHORPE

*Haleiwa, Hawaii*

**Keoni Bowthorpe** rescued Colin W. Cook from a shark attack, Haleiwa, Hawaii, October 9, 2015. Cook, 25, was surfing in the Pacific Ocean at a point about 600 feet from shore when a tiger shark about 11 feet long attacked him, severing his left leg above the knee and inflicting severe hand injury. Standing on a paddle board in the water about 500 feet away, Bowthorpe, 33, filmmaker, witnessed the attack and immediately went to Cook, who by then had gotten back onto his board in the bloodied water. As he neared Cook, Bowthorpe saw that the shark was still in the immediate vicinity. When the shark approached them, Bowthorpe thrust one end of his paddle against it to push it away. Cook moved to Bowthorpe's board but ended up in the water, and Bowthorpe then lay prone atop the board and pulled Cook onto his back. With Cook holding to him as best he could, Bowthorpe paddled about 1,300 feet over an indirect course to shore, having to stop a few times to secure Cook. In wadable water, another man helped pull Bowthorpe and Cook to the beach. Bowthorpe and others then carried Cook to the highway, from which he was taken to the hospital. Cook was detained there for treatment of severe injuries and was later fitted with a prosthetic leg. Bowthorpe was fatigued but uninjured. [87776-9877](tel:87776-9877)



SHEI'LONDA S. BROOKS

*Houston, Texas*

**Shei'Londa S. Brooks** helped to rescue Austin I. Stoney from burning, Houston, Texas, February 29, 2016. Stoney, 39, was the driver of a compact sport utility vehicle that, in a nighttime accident, left the roadway, struck a concrete wall, and came to rest on a grassy berm. He lay face down across the front seats as a small fire broke out under the hood on the passenger side of the vehicle. Another motorist, Brooks, 25, office manager, witnessed the accident. She stopped at the scene, ran to the vehicle, and opened its driver's

door. Brooks put one foot on the floor at the driver's seat, leaned inside to grasp Stoney by his attire, and then pulled on him, getting his legs outside the vehicle. An explosion at the car at that time set fire to her clothing and forced her back. Others responding to the scene fully removed Stoney before the vehicle burned completely. Stoney and Brooks both required hospital treatment for their burns, Brooks sustaining burns of up to second degree to her face, arms, chest, and legs. They recovered. 88143-9905



CHRISTOPHER CANALE

*Farmingville, New York*

**Christopher Canale** saved Grace Robertson and John F. Weber, Jr., from burning, Manorville, New York, October 8, 2015. Robertson, 70, was the passenger of a small school bus that, driven by Weber, 67, caught fire at its front end in an accident on an interstate highway. Off duty and out of his department's jurisdiction, Canale, 33, police officer, drove upon the scene and responded to the bus. Despite flames 12 feet high issuing from its engine area and heavy smoke inside the bus, Canale pried open the bus's passenger door and entered the vehicle. At a point about halfway toward the back, he found Robertson on her hands and knees in the aisle. Canale pulled her to her feet and backed from the bus, pulling her. He lifted her from the vehicle and guided her to safety on the highway shoulder. Canale then returned to the bus and forced the driver's door open. He reached for Weber and, locking arms with him, worked about a foot from the spreading flames to free Weber, who was pinned by the steering column. Pulling on him repeatedly, Canale freed Weber as flames were reaching the interior of the bus. The men stepped away from the vehicle moments before flames engulfed it. Robertson and Weber required hospital treatment for their injuries, but they were not burned. Canale was treated for smoke inhalation at the scene and coughed for about a week, but he fully recovered. 87781-9866



CHRISTOPHER CHMIELNICKI

*Henryville, Pennsylvania*

**Christopher Chmielnicki** helped to save Brenda D. Jelley from burning, Mount Pocono, Pennsylvania, September 18, 2015. Jelley, 50, was asleep in the bedroom of a 37-foot motorhome that her boyfriend was driving through a business district. Alerted to smoke issuing from the motorhome's engine, which was at the rear of the vehicle, the boyfriend pulled over and exited to look at the engine and then returned toward the door for a fire extinguisher. Jelley woke up to smoke in the room, which also was at the rear of the vehicle. She went to the floor because of the heavy smoke but then lost consciousness. At a business nearby, Chmielnicki, 34, was alerted, and he ran to the scene, where he learned that Jelley was still inside the vehicle. He entered, went to the floor, and crawled toward the rear of the motorhome until he located Jelley. Securing a hold on her, Chmielnicki took her to the door, where with help he took Jelley down the motorhome's steps and outside to safety. Meanwhile, flames that had broken out on the motorhome grew quickly, spreading to engulf the vehicle, set fire to a car it was towing, and reach overhead power lines. Both Jelley and Chmielnicki suffered smoke inhalation that required hospital treatment. [87708-9893](tel:87708-9893)



TODD D. CLAUSEN

*Sioux City, Iowa*

**Todd D. Clausen** helped to rescue Cassidy J. Wanna from burning, Summit, South Dakota, June 9, 2015. Cassidy, 2 months, was in an infant car seat in the back seat of a sport utility vehicle that a relative was driving on an interstate highway when fire broke out at the rear of the vehicle. As the car lost power, its driver pulled onto the shoulder, and flames rose several feet above the rear of the vehicle and spread toward its front. Thick smoke filled the car. Clausen, 44, sales representative, and another motorist stopped at the scene. The other motorist used a fire extinguisher to strike the window of the rear,

passenger-side door, breaking it. Together, he and Clausen freed Cassidy through the window, with Clausen unbuckling the baby from his car seat and carrying him away as the other motorist removed the other occupants of the vehicle to safety. Fire quickly engulfed the vehicle, destroying it. Cassidy required hospital treatment for burns and smoke inhalation, and Clausen sustained minor burns to his arms. They recovered. [87643-9879](#)



JOHN D'ALONZO

*Glenolden, Pennsylvania*

**John D'Alonzo** helped to rescue Lee D. Silverman from assault, Darby, Pennsylvania, July 24, 2014. Silverman, 52, was in a session in his office with a male patient and the patient's caseworker. The office, one in a suite, was located off a secured hall that extended from a waiting room. A few minutes into the session, the patient, who was distressed, produced a handgun and at close range shot the caseworker, mortally wounding her. He then turned the gun on Silverman as he crouched behind his desk. D'Alonzo, 42, mental health case manager, was seated in the waiting room when he heard the gunfire. He climbed through the window opening to the reception area and then ran through the hall to Silverman's office door, finding it locked. He remained in the hall, where he heard additional gunfire. Wounded and bleeding, Silverman ran into the hall, the assailant following. D'Alonzo grabbed the assailant and wrestled him to the floor, where he pinned an arm behind his back. Another man who responded removed the gun from the assailant and secured it. Police arrived shortly and arrested the assailant. Silverman required hospital treatment for his gunshot wounds, and D'Alonzo recovered from minor abrasions. [86757-9827](#)



ANTHONY F. DELLAMONICA, JR.

*Madison, Connecticut*

**Anthony F. DellaMonica, Jr.**, helped to rescue Edward S. Popadic and another man from burning, Milford, Connecticut, June 7, 2014. Popadic, 61, and two deckhands were working on a 40-foot clam boat in Long Island Sound, about a mile off shore, when fire broke out in the boat's cabin and grew quickly. All three men jumped into the water, with one of the deckhands securing flotation devices for Popadic and the other deckhand before swimming to the safety of a responding boat. Popadic and the other deckhand struggled to stay afloat alongside the burning vessel, the fuel tanks of which contained about 500 gallons of diesel fuel. DellaMonica, 57, veterinarian, and his cousin were in the cousin's 20-foot fishing boat in the vicinity. They responded to the clam boat, which by then was heavily involved with flame and was issuing thick, dark smoke. As his cousin took his boat to within 10 feet of the burning one, DellaMonica threw one end of line to Popadic and the deckhand. They held to the line but were drawn toward the stern of the cousin's boat. Not wanting them to be injured by his boat's propeller, the cousin maneuvered his boat to reposition the men, taking it even closer to the burning one, as DellaMonica guided the rescue line. The cousin then backed slowly away, pulling the men to safety as small explosions on the burning boat threw debris into the water. Popadic was hospitalized two weeks for treatment of burns, and he recovered. [87093-9826](#)



CHRISTOPHER T. DEPAOLI

*Irvington, New York*

**Christopher T. DePaoli** rescued Deborah Henry from assault, Irvington, New York, April 8, 2015. Henry, 36, was on the platform of a commuter train station when a man approached and stabbed her repeatedly. DePaoli, 53, parks foreman, was driving on the adjacent street and witnessed the assault. At first thinking it was a robbery, DePaoli left his vehicle and started to inter-

vene, but on seeing the knife, he returned to his vehicle for a softball bat. Wielding the bat, he ran toward the assailant, threatening him. When the assailant then turned his attention to DePaoli, DePaoli stepped between him and Henry and forced the assailant about 10 feet away from Henry. An off-duty police officer arrived about then and ordered the assailant to drop the knife. He did not. A second responding officer immobilized the assailant, after which he was taken into custody. Henry required hospitalization for treatment of serious stab wounds. 87312-9867



CHRISTIAN E. EUCHENHOFER

*Greene, New York*

**Christian E. Euchenhofer** rescued Roger G. Quinn from burning, Greene, New York, September 1, 2014. Quinn, 70, was piloting a light-sport airplane when it crash-landed shortly after take-off at a private airport. It came to rest upright in a grassy field and caught fire. Witnessing the crash from the airport, Euchenhofer, 47, airplane mechanic, drove to the scene and ran to the plane, where he found flames engulfing the right side of the craft. He saw Quinn lying partially outside the plane, one leg trapped by the landing gear and the other stuck inside the cabin. Despite fuel leaking from the wing over Quinn, Euchenhofer approached him and freed his leg from the landing gear. He then reached into the cabin with his right arm and freed Quinn's other leg. Euchenhofer pulled Quinn completely from the plane and dragged him away, flames growing to consume the plane. Quinn required hospital treatment for his injuries, and Euchenhofer sustained minor burns to an arm, from which he recovered. 87169-9870



CODY FIELDS

*Silver Spring, Maryland*

**Cody Fields** helped to rescue Rashad X. Isreal from burning, Silver Spring, Maryland, September 1, 2015. Isreal, 33, was unconscious in the driver's seat

of a burning car after an interstate highway accident in which the car came to rest in the emergency lane, its driver's side flush against the concrete medial barrier. On duty, Fields, 24, county police officer, responded to the scene. Flames by then covered the front end of the car and, burning intensely, were moving toward its passenger side. Finding both passenger-side doors locked, Fields broke out the window of the rear door with his service baton and leaned inside and unlocked both doors. He then opened the rear door and entered but withdrew and advanced to the front door. Another officer arrived, and he entered the car through its rear door as Fields leaned in through the front door. The car was filled with smoke, and the intense heat was compromising the windshield and dashboard. Both officers grasped Isreal and with difficulty pulled him over the center console to the front door. The other officer exited the vehicle and, next to Fields, who was standing among flames, assisted Fields in pulling Isreal from the car. The officers dragged Isreal to a point of safety moments before firefighters arrived. Isreal required hospital treatment, and Fields was treated at the scene for heat exposure and smoke inhalation. He recovered. 88138-9903



CALINDO C. FLETCHER, JR.

*Huntsville, Alabama*

**Calindo C. Fletcher, Jr.**, died after attempting to save Buddy W. Johnson from drowning, Athens, Alabama, July 4, 2015. Johnson, 37, called for help after failing to re-enter a kayak that had overturned at the center of Montgomery Lake. He started to swim toward the bank but submerged and did not resurface. In another party at the scene, Fletcher, 20, removed his shoes and entered the water. He swam toward the point where Johnson was last seen but en route began to struggle. He turned to face the bank, and then he too submerged and did not resurface. Police and firefighters arrived shortly and pulled the men from the water. Both were taken to the hospital, where Johnson was pronounced dead of drowning. Fletcher was transferred to another facility, where he died two days later, also of drowning. 87533-9868



RONALDO J. FREITAS

*Somerville, Massachusetts*

**Ronaldo J. Freitas** saved Soraya A. Alivandi from burning, Somerville, Massachusetts, March 20, 2015. Alivandi, 26, unconscious and badly injured, remained in the driver's seat of her car after an accident in which the vehicle was struck from behind by another car and broke into flames at its rear end. Freitas, 45, contractor, was stopped in traffic nearby and witnessed the crash. He immediately ran to Alivandi's car and tried to open its driver's door as flames were issuing along that side of the vehicle. Unsuccessful, he ran to the passenger side of the car but likewise was unable to open that door. A small window behind the door was broken out, and Freitas reached through it and unlocked the door and then opened it. Despite flames having reached the interior of the vehicle from the rear and spreading forward, Freitas leaned into the car and unbuckled Alivandi's safety belt. Entering it completely, he knelt on the front passenger seat, grasped Alivandi about the shoulders, and, backing, pulled her from the car. He dragged her to safety moments before an increase of flames engulfed the vehicle. Alivandi required hospitalization for treatment of her injuries, but she was not burned. [87267-9842](tel:87267-9842)



JOHN W. GALLIE

*Toronto, Ontario*

**John W. Gallie** saved Kevin and Sean Murphy and others from burning, Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, May 13, 2014. Brothers Kevin, 43, and Sean, 47, both disabled, were in bedrooms on the first floor of a 1.5-story house after a fire broke out in the kitchen at night. Also in the house were their sister and her boyfriend, who were asleep on the upper floor, and the sister's son, Gallie, 28, customer service representative, who was sleeping in the living room. Awakened to the fire, Gallie entered Kevin's bedroom, which was off the living room. He hoisted Kevin over a shoulder and took him out the nearby front door to safety. Gallie then re-entered the house and, crossing the burn-

ing kitchen, advanced to Sean's adjoining bedroom. By then, flames in the kitchen had grown to the ceiling and were spreading along the walls, and smoke extended from the ceiling halfway to the floor. Gallie forced open the bedroom door, advanced to Sean, and guided him to the doorway, where Sean fell. Gallie then dragged Sean outside to safety through the front door. He again re-entered the house and crossed the kitchen, passing within 3 feet of intense flames, to bang on a ladder extending to the upper floor to alert his mother and her boyfriend. Assured that they were awake, Gallie fled the house, passing through flames to reach the front door. His mother and her boyfriend also fled to safety as flames intensified, destroying the structure. Gallie and Sean needed hospital treatment, Gallie requiring a stay of nine days for treatment of serious smoke inhalation and first-degree burns on about 6 percent of his body. 86609-9833



ADRIAN GALLO

*Tucson, Arizona*

**Adrian Gallo** helped to save Lyndelle H. Watkins from burning, Tucson, Arizona, May 16, 2015. Watkins, 69, was the driver of a pickup truck that was struck head on by another pickup. Both vehicles left the roadway, came to rest on the shoulder only a few feet apart, and broke into flames in their engine areas. Severely injured and unconscious, Watkins remained in her driver's seat, trapped in the wreckage. On duty, Gallo, 34, deputy sheriff, responded to the scene. Entering the space between the burning vehicles, he tried to open the driver's door of Watkins's pickup, but it was jammed shut. He then reached through the window, cut off Watkins's safety belt, and pulled on her but could not free her. Gallo then went to the passenger side of the vehicle and opened that door. Entering, he pulled on Watkins but again could not move her, as her legs were trapped. He exited the vehicle and returned to its driver's side, where with another responding deputy sheriff he again tried to open the driver's door. The other deputy then attached a winch line to the door and, using his patrol car, forced it open. He and Gallo reached through the doorway, grasped Watkins, and pulled her from the

vehicle, flames then burning at the dashboard. Watkins required hospitalization for treatment of her injuries, from which she died four days later. Gallo was taken to the hospital for treatment of smoke exposure and a minor burn, and he recovered. [87763-9891](#)



MATTHEW J. GEPPI

*Baltimore, Maryland*

**Matthew J. Geppi** helped to save two boys from burning, Baltimore, Maryland, January 13, 2015. Two brothers, ages 3 and 4, were on the second floor of their family's three-story row house after a fire broke out on that floor, in the front bedroom. Geppi, 25, fuser and pipefitter, was at a worksite nearby and became aware of the fire. He and a coworker ran to the scene, where they learned that children were inside the burning house. They entered the structure through its front door, Geppi with a fire extinguisher, and started up the nearby stairway, shouting for the children. The boys responded verbally. Despite flames that were spreading from the front room on that floor toward the top of the stairway, the coworker made his way to the bedroom at the back of the floor as Geppi used the fire extinguisher to keep the advancing flames at bay. After the coworker found the boys, Geppi called out to him to guide him back to the stairs. He then took one of the boys from the coworker and with him fled downstairs and outside to safety with the boys, both of whom sustained smoke inhalation. Geppi had discomfort in his lungs and was given oxygen at the scene; he recovered. [87207-9847](#)



CHARLES G. GLUCKLEDER

*Steger, Illinois*

**Charles G. Gluckleder** rescued Tyree Miller, Sr., and Tyree Miller, Jr., from burning, Chicago Heights, Illinois, October 14, 2015. Miller, 88, and his son, 64, were in second-floor bedrooms of their 2.5-story house after fire broke out in Miller's bedroom. The second floor quickly filled with smoke, and Miller

collapsed just inside his bedroom doorway. Alerted to the fire, his son started to drag Miller to the top of the stairs, but he too collapsed in the thick smoke. On his way to work, Gluckleder, 56, maintenance worker, came upon the burning house and, not seeing anyone about, stopped to see if it was occupied. He gained entry through the front door and ascended the nearby stairs to the second floor, where dense smoke precluded visibility and the heat was intense. Groping, he found both men on the floor near the top of the stairs. Miller's son was barely conscious, and although he greatly outweighed Gluckleder, Gluckleder maneuvered him to the top of the stairs and stumbled down them with him. Gluckleder returned to the second floor, grasped Miller, who was unconscious, by the legs, and dragged him downstairs. At some point others had arrived, and they helped take Miller and his son from the house to safety. Miller and his son were hospitalized for treatment of their burns, and Miller died 11 days later. Gluckleder also required hospital treatment, for smoke inhalation, and he recovered. 87770-9865



GLENN L. GRAHAM

*Detroit, Michigan*

**Glenn L. Graham** died attempting to rescue Tanisha L. Lowe from burning, Detroit, Michigan, April 26, 2015. Lowe, 27, was in a bedroom on the second floor of a 2.5-story house after a fire broke out at the front of the structure at night. Her great-uncle, Graham, 56, customer service representative, and a young cousin were in other bedrooms on that floor. Awakening to smoke, Graham and the cousin went to the first floor, where they found flames in the living room, near the front door. After they exited the house through a side door off the basement stairs, Graham sent the cousin to alert help and said that he was returning to aid Lowe. Graham re-entered the house through the basement door as flames quickly spread, soon engulfing the structure, causing much of it to collapse, and extending to the house next door. Firefighters found Lowe's and Graham's bodies in the debris. 87389-9843



DANIEL PATRICK GREENE

*Uxbridge, Ontario*

**Daniel Patrick Greene** saved Reinhold Pentzek from drowning, Trent Lakes, Ontario, January 30, 2015. Pentzek, 54, was riding an all-terrain vehicle when he broke through the ice atop Buckhorn Lake, creating a hole about 100 feet from the nearer bank. He attempted without success to climb back onto solid ice. Witnessing the accident from his cottage on that bank, Greene, 54, hospital administrator, grabbed an extension cord and a household mop with a 4-foot-long handle and immediately responded out onto the ice. Daylight was waning, and the air temperature was 4 degrees with a wind chill below zero. Extending the sponge-end of the mop to Pentzek, who outweighed him, Greene made repeated attempts to pull him out of the open water, on two occasions Pentzek again breaking through the ice. After successfully pulling Pentzek atop the ice, Greene returned to his cottage to alert help. He went back onto the ice with blankets for Pentzek and waited with him there until firefighters responded shortly and removed him to safety. Greene recovered from a bruised knee. 87184-9841



JUSTIN LEE GREENWALD

*Calabasas, California*

**Justin Lee Greenwald** saved Ronald L. Lallone from burning, Calabasas, California, November 29, 2015. Lallone, 81, was asleep in a bedroom in one end of his mobile home after fire broke out at night, at the opposite end. Flames spread quickly, blocking the front door, and filled the structure with smoke. A neighbor, Justin, 17, high school student, responded to the scene from his nearby home. He approached the burning structure's side door and, finding it locked, punched out the glass and then forced the door open with his shoulder. Justin entered the house to flames that were spreading in the living room and, assuming that Lallone was in his bedroom, turned into the hall that accessed the bedrooms. He entered Lallone's bedroom, pulled

Lallone to his feet, and, supporting him, guided him to the side door and outside to safety. Flames grew and destroyed the house. Justin suffered cuts to his right hand and feet but did not require medical treatment. He recovered.

88092-9876



WILLIAM JAMES GRIEP, JR.

*St. Francis, Minnesota*

**William James Griep, Jr.**, helped to save Lillian R. Anderson from burning, Oak Grove, Minnesota, September 7, 2015. Anderson, 80, was asleep in her bedroom, on the upper level of her split-level house, after a fire broke out in the kitchen, on the main level. Requiring a walker, she attempted to flee but fell in the hall outside her bedroom, from where she called 911 for help. Griep, 54, paramedic, and a coworker, dispatched to be on standby at the scene, arrived before firefighters, finding dense smoke issuing from the house. While Griep entered the house through the front door and passed the burning kitchen en route to the stairs leading to the upper level, his coworker went to the side of the structure, climbed the stairs to a deck off Anderson's bedroom, and entered the house. The men made their way through dense smoke that severely compromised visibility and found Anderson in the hall. With difficulty, they maneuvered her back into her bedroom and toward the door to the deck. A responding sheriff's deputy entered through that door and helped Griep drag Anderson the remaining distance to the deck as Griep's coworker, nearly overcome by smoke, exited the house for air. Anderson required hospitalization for treatment of smoke inhalation. Griep also inhaled smoke and was treated at the hospital. He recovered. 87683-9855



JOSHUA GARY GRIMMETT

*Boise, Idaho*

**Joshua Gary Grimmatt** saved a woman from drowning, Boise, Idaho, May 25, 2016. Severely injured, a 23-year-old woman was floating on her back in

the approximate center of Mores Creek, or at a point about 275 feet from either bank. His attention having been attracted to her earlier, Grimmatt, 33, business operator, descended the steep bank to the water's edge, where he removed his shirt and shoes. He entered the 50-degree water and, navigating among large boulders at the bank, waded and then swam to the woman. Grasping her by the back of her shirt, Grimmatt towed her toward the bank. Halfway there, he stopped and, floating on his back, attempted to catch his breath. Unable to do so, Grimmatt resumed towing the woman the remaining distance to the bank, where he was met by others who were responding. The woman was evacuated from the scene by boat and then flown to the hospital, where she was detained for treatment of her injuries. She recovered. Grimmatt was tired and cold after the rescue but fully recovered. 88319-9913



KENNETH ARNOLD HANSEN

*Crystal, Michigan*

**Kenneth Arnold Hansen** rescued Ethan L. Nokes from attacking dogs, Riverdale, Michigan, May 4, 2015. Ethan, 8, was being attacked by four large Rottweilers in the fenced-in backyard of a house he was visiting. Hansen, 46, construction company operator, was working about 300 feet away, on an adjoining property. Alerted to the attack, Hansen scaled the fence and then ran to where the dogs were surrounding Ethan as they kept up their attack. Screaming at the dogs, Hansen reached among them, grasped Ethan, and picked him up. He carried Ethan up the stairs to a deck at the back of the nearby house, the dogs following and attempting to continue their attack on the boy. Hansen attempted to open one of two doors leading to the house but found it locked. Successful in opening the second, he took Ethan inside the house, but the dogs followed them. Hansen secured Ethan in one of the rooms of the house and then got the dogs back outside. Ethan was flown to a hospital for treatment of numerous bite wounds about his body. Hansen sustained scratches to his face, arms, and legs, and he recovered. 87380-9848



DUNCAN O. C. HARRIS

*Buffalo Grove, Illinois*

**Duncan O. C. Harris** helped to save a boy from drowning, Emerald Isle, North Carolina, July 28, 2015. While swimming in the Atlantic Ocean, a 13-year-old boy was caught by a strong current that took him farther from shore and kept him from returning in the choppy water. At a point about 350 feet from shore, he called for help. From a house along the beach where he was vacationing, Harris, 21, construction worker, was alerted to the boy's plight. He ran to the water and entered, wading, joining another man who was responding. Together the men swam a diagonal course of about 450 feet to the boy, who was then floating on his back. The other man had the boy hold to a rescue tube that he had taken with him, and Harris grasped the boy and helped him maintain his hold. Swimming against the current at first, the other man towed the tube toward shore, Harris aiding by swimming as best he could while securing the boy. On reaching wadable water, Harris and the other man walked the boy to the beach, where he was treated by arriving emergency medical personnel. Harris was checked at the scene but shortly suffered ill effects of the rescue and required hospital treatment. He recovered in a day. [87587-9895](tel:87587-9895)



BRANNON D. HEATHMAN

*Temecula, California*

**Brannon D. Heathman** helped to rescue Karen S. Murdock and Jill D. C. Watkins from burning, Oceanside, California, December 16, 2014. Murdock, 62, and Watkins, 53, lay unconscious on the floor of a second-story apartment after fire broke out in the living room at night and filled the unit with dense smoke. On duty, Heathman, 37, police officer, responded to the scene. Finding the door to the apartment open, Heathman crawled inside, despite the smoke, and saw Murdock in a bedroom not far from the apartment door. He entered the room, grasped Murdock, and dragged her from the apart-

ment. A man who lived at the complex then took Heathman's flashlight and, staying low, crawled into the apartment and found Watkins. Heathman re-entered the unit, crawled to Watkins, and with the other man grasped him and dragged him outside to safety. Murdock and Watkins were hospitalized for treatment of smoke inhalation and burns. Heathman also received hospital treatment for smoke inhalation, and he recovered. 87085-9874



STEVEN MICHAEL HILL

*Inkster, Michigan*

**Steven Michael Hill** rescued Avalyn D. Dufek from burning, Jacksonville, Florida, November 20, 2015. Avalyn, 1, was strapped into a car seat that was secured to the passenger side of the backseat of a sport utility vehicle being driven on an interstate highway by her father. In a violent nighttime accident, the vehicle left the roadway, struck two trees, and came to rest upright along an access road bordering the highway. Flames broke out at the rear of the vehicle, which was demolished, and spread to its passenger compartment. Hill, 45, mover, was the passenger of a truck approaching the scene on the access road. He left the truck, went to the driver's side of the burning vehicle, and saw Avalyn in her car seat. As the driver's door and roof were missing, Hill entered the vehicle through the door opening and stepped over Avalyn's father to stand on the center console. He reached back to Avalyn's car seat, despite flames behind and next to it, and with difficulty worked to free the straps that secured Avalyn. He then lifted Avalyn from the car seat, stepped from the vehicle, and took her to safety as flames spread in the passenger compartment. Avalyn was hospitalized for treatment of burns and other injuries, and her father died in the accident. Hill sustained burns to his right arm, and he recovered. 87879-9883



TIMOTHY A. HOLTZ II

*Sand Creek, Michigan*

**Timothy A. Holtz II** helped to rescue Grace E. Makula from burning, Jasper, Michigan, July 21, 2015. Badly injured and unconscious, Makula, 25, remained in the driver's seat of a sport utility vehicle after it was involved in a head-on collision, left the roadway, and began to smoke in its engine compartment. Hearing the collision from a job site nearby, Holtz, 35, business operator, responded to the scene as flames were breaking out in the vehicle's engine compartment. He obtained fire extinguishers from his truck and other motorists who stopped at the scene and with another man fought the flames, but to limited effect. As Holtz was unable to open the burning vehicle's doors, he returned to his truck for a large wrench, which he used to break out the windows of the vehicle's front doors. With flames growing and spreading on the front of the vehicle, Holtz leaned through the window opening of the driver's door and cut Makula's safety belt. He and the other man then worked to force that door open partially, after which they reached inside the vehicle, grasped Makula, and, pulling her free, carried her to safety, flames beginning to enter the front of the passenger compartment. Makula required hospitalization for treatment of severe injuries, but she was not burned. Holtz recovered from minor burns to his hands and arms.

87896-9901



PATRICK J. HOPKINS IV

*Newberry, Florida*

**Patrick J. Hopkins IV** helped to save Kimberly Y. Foster from burning, Gainesville, Florida, June 26, 2015. Foster, 30, was in a bedroom of her family's one-story house after fire broke out in the adjoining kitchen at night. Flames spread throughout much of the structure and filled Foster's bedroom with dense smoke. On duty in the vicinity, Hopkins, 26, police officer, and his partner responded to the scene, flames by then having breached the roof of

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the house. Learning that Foster was still inside the structure but blocked by flames from entering through its front doors, the officers broke out a window to Foster's bedroom. Boosted by the other officer, Hopkins climbed through the window into the room, where the dense smoke severely restricted visibility. Crawling, he felt for Foster, crossing the bed to find her unconscious on the floor. Hopkins lifted Foster and in a bear hug pulled her across the bed and to the window, where he attempted to get a breath of air. He then maneuvered her head first through the window to his partner and another officer who had responded, and they took her to safety. Aided by his partner, Hopkins left the burning house through the window. He and Foster were taken to the hospital for treatment of their injuries, Hopkins's including abrasions and minor smoke inhalation, from which he recovered. 87505-9871



JEFFERY A. HOULEMARD  
*Hesperia, California*

**Jeffery A. Houlemard** saved Hunter M. Mastaler from an attacking dog, Hesperia, California, February 8, 2015. Hunter, 4, was in the backyard of his family's house when an unsecured 75-pound Belgian Malinois, a police dog, attacked him, biting him about a leg and holding him to the ground. At his home nearby, Houlemard, 34, electronics technician, was alerted to the attack. He responded to the scene, where he broke down a wooden gate to gain access to the fenced-in backyard. Houlemard kicked the dog, but it did not release the boy. Then bending over it, Houlemard grasped the dog by the muzzle and pried open its mouth, releasing Hunter's leg. Others responding took the boy to safety as Houlemard used his body weight to hold the dog to the ground. Hunter's father responded shortly and secured the dog. Hunter required hospitalization for treatment of a severe injury to his leg, and Houlemard injured his shoulder during the rescue, later requiring surgery.

87240-9822



ISBEL JIMENEZ

*Winters, Texas*

**Isbel Jimenez** saved Jeannette Marshall from burning, Breckenridge, Texas, September 16, 2015. Marshall, 59, was in her mobile home at night after a fire broke out in its living room. At his home nearby, Jimenez, 47, pipefitter, saw flames issuing from the structure and immediately responded to the scene, where he learned from others that Marshall was still inside. As flames were blocking the mobile home's front door, Jimenez propped a board against the structure and used it as a step to access a small window, the base of which was about 5 feet off the ground. Jimenez entered the mobile home through the window, finding himself in a bathroom, where heat was intense and the smoke severely restricted visibility. He searched for Marshall, finding her unresponsive on the floor in that room. Maneuvering her to the window, he lifted her and handed her out to two police officers who had responded. They lowered her to the ground, after which Jimenez escaped to safety through the window. Both Marshall and Jimenez received hospital treatment for smoke inhalation, and they recovered. [87777-9890](tel:87777-9890)



DERRICK M. JOHNSON

*Circle Pines, Minnesota*

**Derrick M. Johnson** rescued Galen H. Carlson from an attacking dog, St. Louis Park, Minnesota, July 20, 2015. Carlson, 78, was walking his dog on a residential street when a 97-pound, adult pit bull approached and charged them, knocking Carlson to the pavement. The pit bull mauled Carlson's dog, killing it, and bit Carlson on the hand. Working at a construction site nearby, Johnson, 51, equipment operator, was alerted to the attack. He responded to the scene, finding Carlson, bloodied, still on the pavement with the pit bull

continuing its attack on him. Johnson ran to the dog and, grasping it by the collar, pulled it away from Carlson. He struck the dog's head against the pavement and, using his weight, forced the dog's body to the ground to immobilize it. As the dog was fighting against him, Johnson shoved it away, ordering it to leave, but it remained at the scene, menacing Johnson and Carlson. Johnson was using a wooden post in his attempts to ward off the dog when police officers responded shortly and helped him secure it. Carlson was taken to the hospital for treatment of a bite wound and other injuries.

87612-9860



KEVIN SCOTT JOHNSON II

*Flat Gap, Kentucky*

**Kevin Scott Johnson II** died attempting to save Willa M. Pennington from drowning, Flat Gap, Kentucky, July 13, 2015. Pennington, 74, was inside her mobile home as severe thunderstorms moved through the vicinity, causing nearby Big Mudlick Creek to flood. Her grandson, Johnson, 34, store clerk, responded to the scene to aid her and other family members and had just entered the mobile home to remove her when a surge of floodwater lifted it from its foundation. As the current was washing the mobile home away, Johnson exited to the rear porch, holding Pennington. They jumped into the water together, followed by a boy who had been inside the structure. All three held each other until they were able to grab onto a tree. When a wooden structure floated by, Johnson placed Pennington on it, and the boy climbed atop it, Johnson remaining in the water. They were swept farther downstream and were separated. The boy climbed a tree from which he was later rescued. Search crews found Pennington's body the following day and Johnson's three days later. He had drowned. 87583-9884



JACOB SCOTT JONES

*St. Helens, Oregon*

**Jacob Scott Jones** rescued Albert L. Schneider and others from assault, St. Helens, Oregon, March 27, 2015. Schneider, 75, exited his house and approached a male neighbor, 71, who was on the street confronting another neighbor, a teenager. The man produced a pistol and shot Schneider in the stomach before Schneider wrested the gun away, both men falling to the pavement in their struggle. Jones, 35, carpenter, who also lived nearby, was alerted to the shooting and immediately responded to the scene. Not then knowing which of the men was the shooter, Jones took the pistol from Schneider, removed its magazine, and placed both items in a nearby garage. Regaining his footing, meanwhile, the assailant informed he was returning to his property for another gun, and he started to walk toward his garage. As he followed the assailant, intending to keep him at the scene, Jones heard one of those who had gathered say that the assailant was going for another gun, and he then saw the assailant remove a weapon from the trunk of his car. Jones immediately ran to him, took a pistol from his hand, and cast it aside. He then took the assailant to the pavement and pinned him there until police arrived shortly and arrested him. Schneider required hospitalization for treatment of his wound. [87317-9864](https://www.oregon.gov/OSD/OSD/Pages/87317-9864.aspx)



M. NEIL JONES, SR.

*Binghamton, New York*

**M. Neil Jones, Sr.**, helped to rescue Louis J. Cioci from assault, Johnson City, New York, March 31, 2014. Cioci, 42, a police officer, was attempting to arrest a deranged man who had just shot another officer on the street outside a hospital. The assailant took Cioci to the pavement, got onto his back, and struggled against him for his gun, and he managed to fire it. Cioci shouted for help. Jones, 60, a valet supervisor who worked at the hospital, witnessed the assault on the officers. He and a hospital security guard approached

Cioci and the assailant and pulled the assailant off Cioci's back. Although he had sustained multiple gunshot wounds himself, the assailant struggled against the men as they subdued him and Cioci put him in handcuffs. Jones suffered a heart attack shortly after the rescue and required three days' hospitalization. He recovered. [87427-9853](#)



LORI DOPPELHEUER KEARNEY

*Maysville, Kentucky*

**Lori Doppelheuer Kearney** died attempting to save Christopher I. Kearney and Kieran C. and Eagan S. Hargis from burning, Maysville, Kentucky, October 20, 2015. At night, Christopher, 10, and his brothers, Kieran, 20 months, and Eagan, 3, were in bedrooms on the second floor of their family's row house after flames broke out in an adjacent unit and spread into the rear of their building. On the first floor, the boys' mother, Kearney, 35, utility worker, awoke and discovered the fire. She went to the front door and unlocked and opened it, enabling four other occupants of the house to flee, and was last seen running through dense smoke up the stairs to the second floor. Flames grew and spread, blocking the stairway and eventually engulfing the house. After the fire was brought under control, Kearney was found on the floor of the younger boys' bedroom, cradling Kieran, with Eagan and Christopher lying nearby. They had died of smoke inhalation. [87801-9906](#)



JACOB D. KIRINOVIC

*Hale, Michigan*

**Jacob D. Kirinovic** helped to save Dorothy J. Bell from burning, Hale, Michigan, August 8, 2014. Bell, 79, was in the kitchen of her one-story house when a massive explosion occurred in the structure. Walls of the house were blown away, and portions of the roof collapsed into it. Bell was pinned to the floor, trapped by debris, near the center of the house. A neighbor, Kirinovic, 23, maintenance worker, responded to the scene after hearing the explosion.

He advanced to a propane tank near the house and closed its service valve. Learning that Bell was still inside, he and another man who had responded entered the house through the front door and found her, trapped under the partially collapsed roof, at a point about 10 feet from the door. They could not pull her from the debris. By then the back of the house was on fire, with flames quickly growing and spreading. Another neighbor who had arrived entered the house through the garage and lifted the partially collapsed roof so that Kirinovic and the other man could free Bell. Each grasping her by a hand, Kirinovic and the other man dragged Bell to the front door and outside. As the men fled to safety with her, a wall of the house collapsed, and the interior became engulfed by flames. Bell required four days' hospitalization for treatment of lacerations and a head injury, and she recovered. 88033-9889



JOSEPH KOLANCHICK

*Albany, New York*

**Joseph Kolanchick** saved David G. Hitchcock from drowning, Scotia, New York, February 18, 2016. While skating, Hitchcock, 51, broke through ice covering much of Collins Lake, at a point about 30 feet from a bank that was difficult to access. Holding to the edge of solid ice, he shouted for help. Kolanchick, 34, mason, who was ice fishing about 900 feet away, ran across the ice to a point about 10 feet from the edge of the hole created by Hitchcock's fall. He tied a rope around a stick and threw it to Hitchcock, who grasped it, but as Kolanchick pulled, the rope slipped off the stick. Kolanchick then maneuvered to the edge of the hole, where he tossed one end of the rope to Hitchcock. The ice bent under Kolanchick's weight as he did so, and the 38-degree water flowed onto it and soaked Kolanchick's clothes. Kolanchick attempted to pull Hitchcock from the hole by means of the rope, but he slid on the ice. He then tied the rope around Hitchcock's wrist, backed from him, and drilled a hole in the ice using his ice auger. Sitting on the ice, he stuck a heel in the hole for leverage and pulled Hitchcock from the open water. Kolanchick then towed Hitchcock on his sled

over a 1,500-foot course on stable ice to an accessible point of the bank. Hitchcock was taken to the hospital, where he was treated for hypothermia. Kolanchick sustained only minor ill effects and did not seek medical attention. Both men fully recovered. 88114-9912



LARRY J. KOOS

*La Motte, Iowa*

**Larry J. Koos** saved Debra L. Lane from assault, Maquoketa, Iowa, September 9, 2014. At a county courthouse, Lane, 52, was leaving a meeting of the county's board of supervisors when an unstable man who was attending the meeting pulled a loaded gun out of his briefcase. He waved it in the supervisors' direction and then Lane's. Seated at the front of the room, Koos, 55, county supervisor, was among those at the meeting who addressed the assailant in an attempt to de-escalate the situation. As Lane fled through a door in the rear of the room, the assailant fired a shot in her direction, striking the glass door but not her. The assailant then ran toward the door. Opting not to use a nearby side exit that opened to the safety of other offices, Koos ran across the room and grabbed the assailant from behind. He trapped the assailant's arms against his body and forced him against the door. They collapsed to the floor, Koos atop the assailant. The assailant fired again, fatally wounding himself. Koos required sutures to close a significant laceration to his right wrist, and he sustained bruising, from which he recovered.

86839-9824



TURNER LAGPACAN

*Wichita, Kansas*

**Turner Lagpacan** helped attempt to rescue Dwight H. Handley from burning, Mulhall, Oklahoma, April 3, 2015. Handley, 62, was the driver of a tractor-trailer that, in an interstate highway accident, struck a disabled tractor-trailer and came to rest shortly beyond it. Flames broke out at the

front of Handley's badly damaged rig and quickly grew and spread along the tractor toward its tank trailer, and heavy, black smoke issued from the wreckage. Driving on the same highway, Lagpacan, 23, security officer, witnessed the accident. He parked and responded to the passenger side of the burning tractor, where he saw that Handley was still alive. Concluding that he needed a fire extinguisher to gain access to Handley, Lagpacan ran toward another truck, which was stopping at the scene. The driver of that truck provided Lagpacan a fire extinguisher and, taking one himself, ran with Lagpacan as he returned to the passenger side of Handley's truck. When they were at a point about 15 feet opposite the passenger door, and before they could activate their fire extinguishers, the truck's cargo tank, containing residual gasoline and fumes, exploded, blowing them 20 feet away, off the roadway. Flames grew to engulf and destroy the tractor-trailer. Handley died in the accident. Lagpacan was treated at the scene for smoke inhalation and then sought hospital treatment for continuing breathing problems.

87302-9858



KIERA VERA LARSEN

*El Cajon, California*

**Kiera Vera Larsen** died saving Emmah Gusich from being struck by a runaway vehicle, El Cajon, California, February 22, 2016. Emmah, 2, was playing on a sloped residential driveway behind a parked sport utility vehicle when the vehicle began rolling backward toward her. Kiera, 10, student, had been on the deck of the nearby residence and when next seen was running alongside the moving vehicle toward Emmah. Entering the vehicle's path, Kiera pushed Emmah aside, but the vehicle then struck Kiera, knocked her down, and dragged her several feet before it was stopped. Emmah sustained only minor scrapes, but Kiera died of her injuries. 88101-9910



DONALD E. LEE, SR.

*Denton, Maryland*

**Donald E. Lee, Sr.**, helped to save Norma L. Towers from burning, Denton, Maryland, October 24, 2014. Towers, 87, was in a first-floor bedroom of her two-story house when propane gas that had leaked into the structure exploded before dawn and set fire to it. The explosion dislodged floorboards throughout the first floor, including in Towers's bedroom, where her bed was upended. A neighbor, Lee, 60, retired plumber, responded to the scene and with another man from the neighborhood entered the damaged structure through its front door, despite flames at its rear that were rapidly growing and spreading. In dense smoke they proceeded to Towers's bedroom, which was at the front of the house, and found Towers, badly injured, trapped in the debris. Together the men worked to free her, after which the other man carried her to the front door, where another responding neighbor took Towers from him and to safety. Lee escaped the house just before flames engulfed and destroyed it. Towers was not burned but died shortly of her injuries. Lee, whose hair was singed, recovered from smoke inhalation and cuts to his legs.

87128-9862



ROBERT SETH LUDINGTON

*Hale, Michigan*

**Robert Seth Ludington** helped to save Dorothy J. Bell from burning, Hale, Michigan, August 8, 2014. Bell, 79, was in the kitchen of her one-story house when a massive explosion occurred in the structure. Walls of the house were blown away, and portions of the roof collapsed into it. Bell was pinned to the floor, trapped by debris, near the center of the house. A neighbor, Ludington, 49, responded to the scene after hearing the explosion. He entered the house through its attached garage, called out to any occupants, and then, hearing Bell's daughter at the other end of the structure, exited and with another man who had responded helped her escape the house through a window.

Learning that Bell was still inside, Ludington re-entered the house through the garage while the other man, joined by a third rescuer, entered through the front door. By then the back of the house was on fire, with flames quickly growing and spreading. The other men found Bell but could not pull her from the debris. At a point about 15 feet into the house, Ludington squatted under the partially collapsed roof and lifted it so that the other men could free Bell and drag her to the front door and outside. As Ludington and the others then fled to safety with Bell, a wall of the house collapsed, and the interior became engulfed by flames. Bell required four days' hospitalization for treatment of lacerations and a head injury, and she recovered. 88034-9887



MICHAEL J. MANLEY, SR.  
*Wilmington, Delaware*

**Michael J. Manley, Sr.**, died attempting to save Andrew Short from drowning, Virginia Beach, Virginia, September 27, 2015. While swimming in the Atlantic Ocean, Andrew, 17, was caught by a strong current that took him farther from shore and kept him from returning in the rough surf. From the beach, his mother's partner, Manley, 43, heavy equipment operator, waded and then swam to a point near him. He calmed Andrew and then instructed him on how to return to shore. Andrew followed his directions and safely returned to the beach, where he collapsed. Manley, however, began to struggle in the water. Firefighters as well as a police officer arrived, entered the water, and attempted to rescue Manley, but conditions were too rough, and they were pulled back to shore. Manley's body washed ashore shortly. He could not be revived, as he had drowned. 87731-9880



ADAM JOE MARTIN  
*Hayward, Wisconsin*

**Adam Joe Martin** helped to save Michael W. Remmert from burning, Hayward, Wisconsin, July 6, 2015. Remmert, 42, lay unconscious on

the floor of the sunroom of his one-story house after fire broke out in the adjacent kitchen at night and filled the structure with dense smoke. A neighbor, Martin, 32, cook, saw flames issuing through the house's kitchen windows and responded to the scene, as did another neighbor. They went to the door that opened to the sunroom; dense smoke poured through the door. The other neighbor entered the structure, found Remmert at the opposite end of the sunroom, and, pulling on him, called for help. Despite the smoke restricting visibility and inhibiting breathing, Martin ran into the sunroom, grasped Remmert by the arms, and with the other neighbor dragged him through the door and from the house. Remmert required hospitalization for treatment of smoke inhalation. 87535-9873



NATALIE RENEE MARTIN

*Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin*

**Natalie Renee Martin** saved Jenna J. Martin and died after attempting to save Benjamin L. Martin and Carter J. Maki from burning, Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin, January 26, 2016. At night, siblings Jenna, 9; Benjamin, 10; and Carter, 7, were in bedrooms on the second floor of their family's two-story house after fire broke out in the basement. Their sister, Natalie, 11, student, discovered the fire and woke Jenna. She led Jenna downstairs, where fire from the basement was starting to enter the kitchen. Taking Jenna to a side door, Natalie opened the door, allowing Jenna to escape the house, and then she turned back into the structure, despite deteriorating conditions. Jenna fled to a neighbor's house to alert help. First responders were initially thwarted by smoke and heat from entering the burning house. In the dense smoke, firefighters then located Natalie, Benjamin, and Carter together in another second-floor bedroom. All were unresponsive and later died of complications from smoke inhalation: Carter that night, Natalie the next morning, and Benjamin one day later. 88025-9898



BENJAMIN MCAULIFFE

*Apex, North Carolina*

**Benjamin McAuliffe** helped to save Lillian R. Anderson from burning, Oak Grove, Minnesota, September 7, 2015. Anderson, 80, was asleep in her bedroom, on the upper level of her split-level house, after a fire broke out in the kitchen, on the main level. Requiring a walker, she attempted to flee but fell in the hall outside her bedroom, from where she called 911 for help. McAuliffe, 31, emergency medical technician, and a coworker, dispatched to be on standby at the scene, arrived before firefighters, finding dense smoke issuing from the house. As his coworker entered the house through the front door, McAuliffe went to the side of the structure, climbed the stairs to a deck off Anderson's bedroom, and entered the house. The men made their way through dense smoke that severely compromised visibility and found Anderson in the hall. With difficulty, they maneuvered her back into her bedroom and toward the door to the deck. A responding sheriff's deputy entered through that door and helped the coworker drag Anderson the remaining distance to the deck as McAuliffe, nearly overcome by smoke, exited the house for air. Anderson required hospitalization for treatment of smoke inhalation. McAuliffe also required hospital treatment for smoke inhalation and then sought additional treatment three days later. He recovered within a month. [87684-9856](tel:87684-9856)



DINAH KETURIA MCGEE

*Greenville, Tennessee*

**Dinah Keturia McGee** died attempting to rescue Linda F. Inscore from burning, Greenville, Tennessee, July 10, 2015. Inscore, 63, who was infirm, was in her bedroom in the one-story house she shared with her sister, McGee, 67, retired nurse, after fire broke out in an adjacent room. McGee ran more than 200 feet to a neighbor's house and told the neighbor to call for help, and then she returned to the scene. Despite flames spreading in the wooden structure, McGee entered the house and was not seen outside again. First arriving

firefighters were thwarted by deteriorating conditions from making immediate entry. During fire suppression, firefighters located Inscore's and McGee's bodies in Inscore's bedroom. Both had died of thermal burns and smoke inhalation. 87561-9869



CRAIG ALEXANDER MORASH

*Goodwood, Nova Scotia*

**Craig Alexander Morash** helped to save Maryann Murphy from burning, Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, May 13, 2014. Murphy, 46, was sleeping on the upper level of a 1.5-story house after a fire broke in the kitchen, on the main level, at night. From downstairs, her son alerted her to the fire, and she awoke her boyfriend, Morash, 43, who was also sleeping on the upper level. Assuming that Murphy was following him, Morash descended a ladder through thick smoke to the main floor and advanced to one of the bedrooms there to check on its occupant. Hearing Murphy screaming from the upper level, Morash returned to the ladder, having to pass through the burning kitchen. He climbed to the upper level, flames following him. After placing a piece of plywood over the opening to the upper level, Morash led Murphy to and through a small window that opened to the roof of the back porch. He then jumped the 10 feet to the ground. Extending his arms, he broke Murphy's fall as she jumped, flames then issuing from the window. Morash required nine days' hospitalization for treatment of serious smoke inhalation injuries. 87419-9834



BRIAN NESBITT

*Germantown, Maryland*

**Brian Nesbitt** helped to rescue Rashad X. Isreal from burning, Silver Spring, Maryland, September 1, 2015. Isreal, 33, was unconscious in the driver's seat of a burning car after an interstate highway accident in which the car came to rest in the emergency lane, its driver's side flush against the concrete medial barrier. On duty, Nesbitt, 35, county

police officer, responded to the scene. Flames by then covered the front end of the car and, burning intensely, were moving toward its passenger side. As another officer had arrived and opened the rear door on the car's passenger side, Nesbitt entered the car through that door while the other officer leaned in through the front door. The car was filled with smoke, and the intense heat was compromising the windshield and dashboard. Both officers grasped Isreal and with difficulty pulled him over the center console to the front door. Nesbitt exited the vehicle and, next to the other officer, who was standing among flames, assisted him in pulling Isreal from the car. The officers dragged Isreal to a point of safety moments before firefighters arrived. Isreal required hospital treatment for his injuries. 88139-9904



JASON C. NEWBY

*Eaton, Colorado*

**Jason C. Newby** helped attempt to rescue Dwight H. Handley from burning, Mulhall, Oklahoma, April 3, 2015. Handley, 62, was the driver of a tractor-trailer that, in an interstate highway accident, struck a disabled tractor-trailer and came to rest shortly beyond it. Flames broke out at the front of Handley's badly damaged rig and quickly grew and spread along the tractor toward its tank trailer, and heavy, black smoke issued from the wreckage. Driving on the same highway, Newby, 44, youth pastor, witnessed the accident and was positioning his vehicle at the scene when a man approached, alerted him that Handley was still alive, and asked him for a fire extinguisher. Newby provided the man with a fire extinguisher and, taking one himself, ran with the man to the passenger side of Handley's truck. When they were at a point about 15 feet opposite the passenger door, and before they could activate their fire extinguishers, the truck's cargo tank, containing residual gasoline and fumes, exploded, blowing them 20 feet away, off the roadway. Flames grew to engulf and destroy the tractor-trailer. Handley died in the accident. Newby sustained severe injury to his right leg, which required three days' hospitalization for treatment, including surgery. 87301-9859



BRADY OLSON

*Lacey, Washington*

**Brady Olson** saved an indeterminate number of people from assault, Lacey, Washington, April 27, 2015. A 16-year-old boy took a fully loaded .357 revolver to the high school he attended and fired a shot into the ceiling of a stairway. He then descended the stairs to the school's commons areas, where students and others were gathered before the start of classes. Olson, 43, teacher, was in the commons when the shot was fired and immediately ran the 50 feet to the stairs. The assailant proceeded into the commons, passing Olson, and fired another shot, also into the ceiling. Olson approached the assailant, grasped his gun hand, and tackled him to the floor. Pinning the assailant, Olson got possession of the revolver and removed it from him. Other men who were responding secured the weapon and helped restrain the assailant until police arrived shortly and arrested him. Olson sustained a minor injury to a finger but recovered. 87347-9835



LEYTON PAGE

*Bogalusa, Louisiana*

**Leyton Page** helped to save Jacob W. Morris and John W. Morgan from drowning, Bush, Louisiana, March 28, 2015. Jacob, 8, and his brother, John, 6, were thrown into the Bogue Chitto River after the flat-bottomed boat they and others were occupying drifted over a low-head dam and capsized. Wearing life jackets, the boys were trapped in the boil of water at the base of the dam. Seeing them in distress from downstream, another boater, Leyton, 16, high school student, took his flat-bottomed boat to the scene and entered the boil with it. He attempted to lift one of the boys into his boat, but he lost his grip as the backwash pulled the boat to the dam. Leyton's boat also capsized there, submerging him. Surfacing, he used his boat as a buoy and maneuvered to Jacob and John, who grabbed onto him and his life

jacket. He held to the boys and to his overturned boat, which he kept between them and the dam to blunt the water's strong flow. Others responding by boat pulled Jacob, John, and Leyton from the water and took them to safety at the bank. Jacob and John received hospital treatment for hypothermia, and they recovered. 87288-9886



MICHAEL H. PEDDICORD

*Denton, Maryland*

**Michael H. Peddicord** helped to save Norma L. Towers from burning, Denton, Maryland, October 24, 2014. Towers, 87, was in a first-floor bedroom of her two-story house when propane gas that had leaked into the structure exploded before dawn and set fire to it. The explosion dislodged floorboards throughout the first floor, including in Towers's bedroom, where her bed was upended. Peddicord, 45, maintenance director, responded from the house next door and with a neighbor entered the damaged structure through its front door, despite flames at its rear that were rapidly growing and spreading. In dense smoke they proceeded to Towers's bedroom, which was at the front of the house, and found Towers, badly injured, trapped in the debris. Together the men worked to free her, after which Peddicord carried her to the front door. Another responding neighbor took Towers from him and to safety. Peddicord and the first neighbor escaped the house just before flames engulfed and destroyed it. Towers was not burned but died shortly of her injuries. Peddicord recovered from smoke inhalation and cuts to his legs.

87127-9861



PETER F. PONTZER

*Fairfax, Virginia*

**Peter F. Pontzer** helped to save a boy from drowning, Emerald Isle, North Carolina, July 28, 2015. While swimming in the Atlantic Ocean, a 13-year-old boy was caught by a strong current that took him farther from shore and kept

him from returning in the choppy water. At a point about 350 feet from shore, he called for help. From a house along the beach, Pontzer, 51, administrative judge, was alerted to the boy's plight. Although he was healing from a sprained ankle, Pontzer, who was on vacation, ran to the water, taking with him a rescue tube that was posted on the beach. He entered the surf, and as he waded toward the boy he was joined by another man. Together they swam a diagonal course of about 450 feet to the boy, who was then floating on his back. Pontzer had the boy hold to the tube, and the other man helped the boy maintain his hold. Swimming against the current at first, Pontzer towed the tube toward shore, the other man aiding by swimming as best he could while securing the boy. On reaching wadable water, Pontzer and the other man walked the boy to the beach, where he was treated by arriving emergency medical personnel. On report of another boy in the water, Pontzer re-entered the surf to search for him, but on his return to the beach he collapsed. That boy was recovered by others. Pontzer was taken to the hospital, where he was treated for near-exhaustion, from which he recovered in two days, and he sustained a stress fracture in his affected ankle. 87588-9894



KAIDEN J. PORTER-FOY

*Lake Stevens, Washington*

**Kaiden J. Porter-Foy** rescued Gigi L. Hays from burning, Lake Stevens, Washington, August 8, 2015. At night, Hays, 54, was in the laundry room of her double-width mobile home as intense flames engulfed the adjoining kitchen and living room. In his home across the street, Kaiden, 16, high school student, saw the house and its adjacent garage on fire and immediately responded to the scene. Assuming the house was occupied, he went to its front door, but deteriorating conditions prevented his entering there. He circled around to the back of the structure, passing a portion of the back wall that had been compromised in the fire. Kaiden ran onto a covered deck and kicked in the back door, which opened to the laundry room. As dense smoke precluded visibility, he went to the floor, where he saw Hays about 6 feet into the room. Kaiden advanced to Hays and then dragged her from the structure. He took her from the deck into the yard, from which others took her to

safety. Hays required hospitalization, and Kaiden recovered from minor burns to his arms. [87793-9863](tel:87793-9863)



WILLIAM E. RAMIREZ  
*Pembroke Pines, Florida*

**William E. Ramirez** rescued Rosny Obas from assault, Miami, Florida, April 14, 2015. Obas, 28, a police officer, initiated a traffic stop of a male suspect who was driving a taxi on a commercial street. The suspect exited the taxi and fired a semi-automatic pistol at Obas as Obas was getting out of his police car. Obas took cover behind the car and returned fire as the assailant continued to shoot. Arriving at the scene in his van in one of the opposite traffic lanes, Ramirez, 46, business operator, witnessed the assault. As Obas ran from his car to search for other cover, Ramirez drove toward him, opened the sliding door on the driver's side of his van, and called for Obas to get in. Obas safely entered the vehicle, and Ramirez then sped from the scene amid sounds of more gunfire. The assailant stole the police car and drove from the scene but was later located and arrested. [87326-9897](tel:87326-9897)



NATHAN RYAN REYNOLDS  
*Claremont, California*

**Nathan Ryan Reynolds** saved Aislinn Crooks and Olivia Schreiber from drowning, Marina, California, January 20, 2015. Aislinn, 9, and Schreiber, 75, were the occupants of a sedan that entered a 6-foot-deep retention pond just off the roadway and began to sink nose first in the cold, murky water. Reynolds, 35, hydrogeologist, was driving nearby and witnessed the accident. He ran to the bank of the pond, where he saw Aislinn in the back seat of the car, which was about 45 feet out. Removing his boots, Reynolds waded and then swam to the driver's side of the car, where he told Schreiber to roll down the window of the driver's door. When Aislinn then moved to the front seat, Reynolds helped her through the window and positioned her onto his

back. He swam her to the bank and then returned to the car, which was drifting toward the opposite bank. By then, water had entered the passenger compartment as the car continued to submerge. Securing a hold of Schreiber, Reynolds started toward the opposite bank, which was closer. Submerging, he progressed with difficulty. Arriving police officers entered the pond from that bank and aided Schreiber from the water. Reynolds too left the pond, nearly exhausted, and he recovered. 87370-9899



GARY E. RICHIE

*Cocoa, Florida*

**Gary E. Richie** helped to rescue occupants of a minivan from assault, Orlando, Florida, January 24, 2015. After being involved in a minor vehicular accident at night, one of the drivers exited her vehicle, a minivan, to confront the driver of the other vehicle, a pickup truck. The driver of the pickup leaned through his window and pointed a handgun at her. About then, a passenger in the minivan exited that vehicle, as did the passenger of the pickup, who was armed with a shotgun. Richie, 54, distribution manager, was walking with family members nearby and came upon the escalating confrontation. Seeing the pickup passenger's shotgun, Richie charged him, grasped the weapon, and wrestled it from him. When that assailant attempted to regain possession of the gun, Richie's son intervened, pinning the assailant against the truck as Richie backed away with the weapon. Meanwhile, the driver of the pickup was approaching the driver of the minivan. Richie's son intervened there, separating them, and then resumed controlling the other assailant. Police responded shortly and secured the scene, arresting the assailants. Richie suffered scrapes, bruises, and a minor head injury, from which he fully recovered. 87202-9828



JACOB DANIEL RICHIE

*Palm Bay, Florida*

**Jacob Daniel Richie** helped to rescue occupants of a minivan from assault, Orlando, Florida, January 24, 2015. After being involved in a minor vehicular accident at night, one of the drivers exited her vehicle, a minivan, to confront the driver of the other vehicle, a pickup truck. The driver of the pickup leaned through his window and pointed a handgun at her. About then, a passenger in the minivan exited that vehicle, as did the passenger of the pickup, who was armed with a shotgun. Richie, 35, electrician, was walking with family members nearby and came upon the escalating confrontation. Seeing the pickup passenger's shotgun, Richie and his father charged him, his father grasping the weapon and wrestling it from him. When that assailant attempted to regain possession of the gun, Richie intervened, pinning the assailant against the truck as his father backed away with the weapon. Meanwhile, the driver of the pickup was approaching the driver of the minivan. Richie intervened there, separating them, and then resumed controlling the other assailant. Police responded shortly and secured the scene, arresting the assailants. 87203-9829



CHRISTOPHER MARK RICKMAN

*Brooklyn Park, Maryland*

**Christopher Mark Rickman** died attempting to save Lettitia N. and Sundima G. Sinnah from burning, Brooklyn Park, Maryland, February 10, 2015. Lettitia, 39, and her son Sundima, 17, were in their family's 1.5-story house after fire broke out in a bedroom on the first floor at night. Lettitia escaped the house with other family members but then re-entered it for Sundima, who was in a second-floor bedroom. Rickman, 45, business operator, who lived across the street, became aware of the fire. He ran to the scene, where he learned that Lettitia and Sundima were on the second floor. Despite growing flames and dense smoke that had filled the structure,

Rickman entered the house through its front door and ascended the nearby stairs to the second floor. Firefighters who arrived shortly found Lettitia, Sundima, and Rickman unresponsive in the same second-floor bedroom and removed them from the house. Taken to nearby hospitals, they died of smoke inhalation. 87221-9831



RAYMOND L. ROBINSON

*Chicago, Illinois*

**Raymond L. Robinson** helped to rescue Mark A. Czapla and Joseph R. Groh from assault, Chicago, Illinois, February 14, 2015. In a drugstore parking lot, Czapla and Groh, police officers, struggled against a suspected shoplifter who was attempting to flee from arrest. During the struggle, which took all three men to the pavement and bloodied the officers, the suspect gained control of Groh's loaded pistol and, threatening the officers, fired it. The violent struggle continued. Watching from the parking lot, Robinson, 45, retail assistant manager, and another man joined in the struggle although the assailant greatly outweighed each of them. Robinson leaned over one of the officers and grasped the assailant's gun hand with one hand while using the other to pry the assailant's fingers off the trigger. As he did so, the other man grasped the assailant by the legs to help immobilize him. After Robinson freed the gun from the assailant, one of the officers slid it from the assailant's reach. Robinson, the officers, and the other man maintained control of the assailant until other police arrived and helped take him into custody. Czapla and Groh required hospital treatment for significant cuts and abrasions, and Robinson suffered a sprained knee and a fractured rib, for which he sought treatment. He recovered fully in three weeks. 87233-9849



RYAN P. ROLLINGER

*Harrisburg, South Dakota*

**Ryan P. Rollinger** rescued Kevin A. Lein from assault, Harrisburg, South Dakota, September 30, 2015. Lein, 56, a high school principal, was in his office when a male student, 16, entered and with a fully loaded, semi-automatic handgun fired a shot at him as he was seated at his desk. The shot struck Lein in an arm, and he fell to the floor. Rollinger, 39, assistant principal, was in his office nearby and heard the gunfire. He ran to a door to Lein's office, where he saw the assailant pointing the gun at Lein. Rollinger then circled the outside of the office to approach the assailant from behind, through another door. Nearing that door, he made eye contact with the assailant, who, still holding the gun, turned his attention to him. As Rollinger approached the assailant, the assailant ran toward and past him and continued to the school's front doors. Rollinger caught up to him and tackled him to the floor, where they struggled for control of the gun. Another administrator responded and helped secure the assailant as Rollinger disarmed him, and police arrived shortly and arrested him. Lein required hospital treatment for his gunshot wound, and Rollinger was treated at the scene for cuts and scrapes, from which he recovered. [87730-9896](tel:87730-9896)



IVAN R. ROMERO, JR.

*Antelope, California*

**Ivan R. Romero, Jr.**, saved Leanne M. Cameron from burning, West Sacramento, California, July 21, 2015. Semiconscious, Cameron, 30, remained in the driver's seat of her sedan after an interstate highway accident in which the vehicle was struck from behind by a truck tractor that was pulling a tank trailer. Virtually demolished, the car was lodged under the front end of the truck and caught fire, as did the tractor. Another motorist, Romero, 39, plumber, witnessed the accident. Despite flames about 3 feet high igniting fluids that had spilled onto the roadway and surrounded

Cameron's vehicle, he advanced to its driver's window, spraying a fire extinguisher to make a path through the flames. He then held the fire extinguisher with one hand, aiming it through the back window at flames in the backseat, and with his other hand he reached through the driver's window, grasped Cameron about the shoulders, and pulled on her, but she did not move. Cameron then released her safety belt. With flames spreading to the back of the front seats, Romero dropped the fire extinguisher, extended his upper body through the driver's window, and bear-hugged Cameron. Backing from the vehicle, he pulled her from the car to safety. Cameron required hospital treatment for injuries sustained in the accident, but she was not burned. Romero suffered from a sore back in the following days but recovered fully. 87619-9907



RONALDO R. ROMO, JR.

*St. Louis, Missouri*

**Ronaldo R. Romo, Jr.**, saved Trent and Leo Pappan from burning, Shrewsbury, Missouri, April 30, 2015. Pappan, 37, remained in the driver's seat of a sport utility vehicle after an accident on an interstate highway that badly damaged the vehicle. His young son, Leo, was strapped into a car seat in the vehicle's rear seat. Flames broke out at the front of the car. Approaching the scene in his vehicle on the same highway, Romo, 32, driver, stopped and, hearing Pappan shout for help, ran to the driver's door of Pappan's car. After trying unsuccessfully to open that door, Romo reached through its window opening and with Pappan released Pappan's safety belt. As flames were entering the front of the passenger compartment, Romo grasped Pappan and pulled him head first out of the car. He took Pappan to the side of the highway, learning then that Leo was inside the vehicle. Romo returned to the burning car, opened the rear door on the driver's side, and entered, flames by then having spread to the car's front seats. Kneeling on the backseat, Romo freed Leo from his car seat, but with difficulty. He withdrew from the vehicle with Leo and took him to the side of the highway, flames soon growing to engulf the car. Pappan and Leo required hospital treatment for minor injuries. 87510-9852



STEPHEN ROSS

*Halifax, Nova Scotia*

**Stephen Ross** helped to save Julien M. Rouleau from drowning, Baddeck, Nova Scotia, January 11, 2014. While hiking, Rouleau, 21, broke through ice at the base of iced-over Uisge Ban Falls and struggled to tread water in a pool of rushing water that was about 4 feet below the surface of the ice. Ross, 57, construction company general manager, and a friend were in another party that was hiking in the vicinity. Seeing Rouleau fall, Ross crossed the ice to the hole created by his breaking through but did not see him. His friend joined him, lay at the edge of the hole, and with a hiking pole prodded the water as Ross held to his legs to stabilize him. When Rouleau grabbed the pole, Ross's friend pulled him against the current toward the hole and then grasped him by the arms. Joining his friend at the edge of the hole, Ross also grasped Rouleau, and together they pulled him up to and through the hole, others aiding in taking Rouleau to safety and warming him. Rouleau was sore and cold but was able to hike from the scene. He recovered. [87003-9836](#)



BRADLEY C. RUNIONS

*Hayward, Wisconsin*

**Bradley C. Runions** helped to save Michael W. Remmert from burning, Hayward, Wisconsin, July 6, 2015. Remmert, 42, lay unconscious on the floor of the sunroom of his one-story house after fire broke out in the adjacent kitchen at night and filled the structure with dense smoke. A neighbor, Runions, 58, disabled railroad worker, was alerted to the fire and responded to the scene, where flames were issuing through the house's kitchen windows. He and another responding neighbor went to the door that opened to the sunroom; dense smoke poured through the door. Runions shouted for Remmert and heard him wheezing from inside the structure. Getting down onto his stomach, Runions entered the house and advanced through the sunroom despite the smoke restricting his visibility and inhibiting his breathing.

He found Remmert at the opposite end of the room, near an opening to the kitchen. Runions grasped Remmert and pulled on him, standing in his efforts to move him. When he called for help, the other neighbor ran into the sunroom, grasped Remmert by the arms, and with Runions dragged him through the door and from the house. Remmert required hospitalization for treatment of smoke inhalation. Runions also received hospital treatment for inhaling smoke, and he recovered. 87534-9872



JOE L. SERRANO

*Tucson, Arizona*

**Joe L. Serrano** helped to save Lyndelle H. Watkins from burning, Tucson, Arizona, May 16, 2015. Watkins, 69, was the driver of a pickup truck that was struck head on by another pickup. Both vehicles left the roadway, came to rest on the shoulder only a few feet apart, and broke into flames in their engine areas. Severely injured and unconscious, Watkins remained in her driver's seat, trapped in the wreckage. On duty, Serrano, 36, deputy sheriff, responded to the scene. Entering the space between the burning vehicles, he joined another deputy who had responded and tried to open the driver's door of Watkins's pickup, but it was jammed shut. Serrano then positioned his patrol car at the burning pickup and, with a winch line that he attached to the door, forced it open. He and the other deputy reached through the doorway, grasped Watkins, and pulled her from the vehicle, flames then burning at the dashboard. Watkins required hospitalization for treatment of her injuries, from which she died four days later. 87764-9892



ROBERT M. SHAW, JR.

*Wallingsford, Connecticut*

**Robert M. Shaw, Jr.**, saved Robert R. Angiletta, Jr., from burning, Meriden, Connecticut, July 13, 2015. Angiletta, 35, was driving a tank truck on an interstate highway when the vehicle malfunctioned and crashed into a concrete

support column of an overpass. The truck's cargo tank, which contained 2,700 gallons of heating oil, detached from its frame and, compromised, released its contents to the underside of the overpass and to the roadway and median. The badly damaged remains of the vehicle came to rest beneath the overpass, with Angiletta, wet from the fuel, hanging by his safety belt from the driver's side of the cab. The spilled fuel caught fire in the vicinity of the wreckage. Shaw, 54, truck driver, had been driving behind the tank truck and witnessed the accident. He stopped at the scene and heard Angiletta moaning. Shaw went underneath the overpass, which was dripping spilled fuel, approached the wreckage of the cab, and saw Angiletta. Standing in fuel with flames nearby, Shaw grasped Angiletta by the arms and pulled on him but then realized that he was caught by his safety belt. Shaw reached into the cab and removed the belt to free him. He then grasped Angiletta by the arms again and pulled him away from the cab and burning fuel. Angiletta was hospitalized for treatment of his injuries, but he was not burned.

87549-9914



CHRISTOPHER Z. SMITH

*Chicago, Illinois*

**Christopher Z. Smith** helped to rescue Mark A. Czapla and Joseph R. Groh from assault, Chicago, Illinois, February 14, 2015. In a drugstore parking lot, Czapla and Groh, police officers, struggled against a suspected shoplifter who was attempting to flee from arrest. During the struggle, which took all three men to the pavement and bloodied the officers, the suspect gained control of Groh's loaded pistol and, threatening the officers, fired it. The violent struggle continued. Watching from the parking lot, Smith, 59, gaffer, and another man joined in the struggle although the assailant greatly outweighed each of them. As the other man was freeing the gun from the assailant, Smith grasped the assailant by the legs, crossed them, and pushed them against the assailant's body. He then used his weight to help immobilize the assailant. After the other man freed the gun from the assailant, one of the officers slid it from the assailant's reach. Smith, the officers, and the other man maintained control of the assailant until other police arrived and

helped take him into custody. Czaplá and Groh required hospital treatment for significant cuts and abrasions. 87548-9850



KENNETH F. SMITH

*Milford, Delaware*

**Kenneth F. Smith** rescued James A. Daisey from burning, Lincoln, Delaware, May 20, 2014. Daisey, 65, was driving a dump truck on a two-lane highway when a speeding car entered his lane. The vehicles collided. The dump truck overturned onto its passenger side in a ditch off the highway shoulder, and the car came to rest upright at the front of the truck. Flames broke out there. Remaining conscious, Daisey stood on the passenger door and attempted to open the driver's door. Smith, 48, business operator, had been driving behind Daisey and witnessed the accident. He left his vehicle and was attempting to aid the driver of the car when he became aware that Daisey was trapped in the cab of the truck. Smith ran to the truck, climbed up the wreckage of the cab, and stood on its driver's side next to the door. He opened the door wide and saw Daisey inside. Extending an arm into the cab, Smith grasped Daisey and helped him from the cab through the doorway. By then, flames had started to enter the cab near the passenger door. Smith returned to the ground, aided Daisey off the truck, and took him to safety. Flames grew to engulf the interior of the cab, which was destroyed. Daisey was taken to the hospital for treatment of a mild burn and other minor injuries, and Smith inhaled smoke and sustained lacerations to his arms. They recovered. The driver of the car died at the scene. 86608-9885



PATRICK SMITH

*Pembroke, Ontario*

**Patrick Smith** helped to save Shane Plumb-Saumure from drowning, Pembroke, Ontario, July 13, 2013. While swimming in a narrow branch of the Ottawa River, Plumb-Saumure was caught in the swift current and, stranded,

held to a rock at a point about 200 feet from the bank. Just beyond him was a series of rapids that contained a trench filled with debris. Smith, 44, police officer, and his partner and another officer responded to the scene. Finding that Plumb-Saumure was cold and weakening and concluding that his time was limited, Smith donned a life ring with a line attached and entered the water as the other officers secured the free end of the line. When the current took him off course, the other officers pulled Smith back to the bank, and he re-entered the water farther upstream. He swam and was carried to Plumb-Saumure. As the others were pulling them toward the bank, the line separated, stranding Plumb-Saumure again, but at a point closer to the bank, and Smith was washed into the rapids, where he stabilized himself against a rock. Arriving firefighters using a Zodiac boat removed Plumb-Saumure from the river, but with difficulty. Smith was removed from the river by a search and rescue helicopter after being in the water about 90 minutes. He was treated at the hospital for hypothermia and other, minor, injuries and recovered.

87357-9838



GARY SPURLING

*Bellingham, Washington*

**Gary Spurling** saved Dennis K. Dupraw from drowning, Ferndale, Washington, November 29, 2014. At night, Dupraw, 81, became stranded in his car as he was driving on a road through a low-lying area that was flooded by the nearby Nooksack River. The car was washed off the side of the roadway, where it lodged against a post in water about 3.5 feet deep. His coworker, Spurling, 40, newspaper carrier, drove to the scene after being alerted to the accident. He entered the 40-degree water at a point about 200 feet south of Dupraw's car and in the darkness waded through the deepening water to its driver's side. The car was filling with water through the opened window of the driver's door. Spurling instructed Dupraw to wrap his arms around his neck, and Dupraw did so. He then pulled Dupraw through the window and, with Dupraw on his back, returned to the roadway and retraced his path back toward his vehicle, an arriving police officer aiding them as they neared the water's edge. Dupraw required hospitalization for treatment

of hypothermia. Spurling was cold and numb after the rescue, but he recovered and returned to work. 87308-9839



CALVIN BRADLEY STEIN

*Madoc, Ontario*

**Calvin Bradley Stein** saved Rylee Vilneff from being struck by runaway ponies, Tweed, Ontario, July 9, 2016. Rylee, 3, was standing inside the track at a fairground when a team of two ponies, each weighing about 600 pounds, broke free and, harnessed together, ran away at full speed. Seeing that, Stein, 51, utility worker, who was also inside the track, moved toward a position to intercept them, but they changed course and headed directly toward Rylee. Stein then ran about 55 feet to the girl and scooped her into his hands to throw her clear of the path of the runaways, and she landed about 4 feet away. The ponies struck Stein, knocking him to the ground, and dragged him a distance before coming to a stop. Stein was taken to the hospital, where he was treated for a concussion, facial fractures, and lacerations, which required suturing. Rylee was also taken to the hospital, but she suffered only minor injuries. She recovered. 88402-9909



DENNIS D. SWENSON

*Cornucopia, Wisconsin*

**Dennis D. Swenson** died attempting to save Dorothy H. Swenson from burning, Cornucopia, Wisconsin, May 1, 2015. At night, Dorothy, 95, was inside the one-story house she shared with her son, Dennis, 62, campground operator, after a fire broke out in the basement and spread. Dennis became alerted to the fire and was seen outside the house by a responding neighbor using a fire extinguisher against flames that were issuing from underneath the porch. Taking a second fire extinguisher with him, Dennis entered the structure, telling the neighbor he was going to get his mother. Flames grew quickly to engulf the house, and he was not seen again. Responding

firefighters found the bodies of Dennis and Dorothy in one of the bedrooms of the house. They had succumbed to effects of the fire. 88119-9908



ADAM JAMES TARNOWSKI

*Onoway, Alberta*

**Adam James Tarnowski** helped to save Cameron L. Winters from burning, Stony Plain, Alberta, July 7, 2014. Winters, 19, was the driver of a pickup truck that collided with a minivan on a highway extending through a rural area. The truck overturned, coming to rest upside down on the grassy berm. Winters remained in the driver's seat, his legs pinned in the wreckage, as fire broke out overhead in the engine area. Tarnowski, 31, welder apprentice, was among the motorists who stopped at the scene. He went to the driver's side of the burning pickup and with help bent the window frame of the driver's door upward to enlarge access to Winters. He then knelt, reached into the cab, and freed Winters's legs, which lowered Winters to the ground. Withdrawing from the vehicle, Tarnowski pulled Winters from the truck shortly before flames grew to engulf it. Winters required hospitalization for treatment of significant injuries. 87043-9830



LEVI PARKER TEUTON

*Myakka City, Florida*

**Levi Parker Teuton** rescued Chicago A. Gainer from burning, Myakka City, Florida, April 5, 2015. Chicago, 15, was trapped in the front passenger seat of an extended-cab pickup truck after an accident in which the vehicle left the roadway, struck a tree, and broke into flame at its rear end. The truck had been carrying propane in tanks and gasoline in containers, and both of those fuels contributed to the growth and spread of flames on and inside the vehicle. Teuton, 35, mechanic, drove upon the scene, stopped, and approached the pickup, where he heard Chicago shouting for help. He went to the front passenger door and attempted to open it, but it was jammed shut. Despite

the advancing flames, which had reached the driver's seat and the back of Chicago's, Teuton partially entered the passenger compartment through the door's window opening. Heat inside the vehicle was blistering. He grasped Chicago, who outweighed him, and, pulling repeatedly, freed him. He was backing through the window with Chicago when a propane tank in the back of the vehicle exploded, forcing both Teuton and Chicago from the pickup and onto the ground. Others responding moved Chicago away from the vehicle, and Teuton also reached safety. Both he and Chicago were airlifted to the hospital for treatment of their injuries. Teuton was detained 11 days for treatment, including surgery, of burns up to third degree to his face, arms, and legs, and he missed five months' work. [87333-9832](#)



KEIREN J. TOMPKINS

*Halifax, Nova Scotia*

**Keiren J. Tompkins** helped to save Julien M. Rouleau from drowning, Baddeck, Nova Scotia, January 11, 2014. While hiking, Rouleau, 21, broke through ice at the base of iced-over Uisge Ban Falls and struggled to tread water in a pool of rushing water that was about 4 feet below the surface of the ice. Tompkins, 59, union executive director, and a friend were in another party that was hiking in the vicinity. Seeing Rouleau fall, Tompkins's friend crossed the ice to the hole created by his breaking through but did not see him. Tompkins joined him, lay at the edge of the hole, and with a hiking pole prodded the water as his friend held to his legs to stabilize him. When Rouleau grabbed the pole, Tompkins pulled him against the current toward the hole and then grasped him by the arms. Joining Tompkins at the edge of the hole, his friend also grasped Rouleau, and together they pulled him up to and through the hole, others aiding in taking Rouleau to safety and warming him. Rouleau was sore and cold but was able to hike from the scene. He recovered. [87004-9837](#)



R. WAYNE TRIVETTE

*Metamora, Ohio*

**R. Wayne Trivette** helped to save Grace E. Makula from burning, Jasper, Michigan, July 21, 2015. Badly injured and unconscious, Makula, 25, remained in the driver's seat of a sport utility vehicle after it was involved in a head-on collision, left the roadway, and began to smoke in its engine compartment. Traveling on the same highway, Trivette, 67, retired truck driver, witnessed the accident and stopped at the scene. He responded to the sport utility vehicle, where he aided the three children in Makula's care through a window and directed them to safety. Flames were breaking out in the vehicle's engine compartment as Trivette then tried to open its driver's door, but the door was jammed. Another man responded with fire extinguishers, which he and Trivette used against the growing flames, but to limited effect. After the other man then broke out the window of the driver's door and cut Makula's safety belt, Trivette and he worked to force that door open partially. They then reached inside the vehicle, grasped Makula, and, pulling her free, carried her to safety as flames began to enter the front of the passenger compartment. Makula required hospitalization for treatment of severe injuries, but she was not burned. 87652-9900



FREDERICK WETZEL

*Dexter, Oregon*

**Frederick Wetzel** saved Edward P. Blomquist from burning, Cottage Grove, Oregon, November 14, 2014. Blomquist, 77, was unconscious in the driver's seat of a minivan after an accident in which the vehicle left the roadway, struck a tree, and broke into flames at its front end. Wetzel, 50, general contractor, drove upon the scene and stopped. He approached the vehicle, which was upright on the slope of an embankment, and, after multiple attempts, pulled open the driver's door, which had been jammed. Despite spreading flames, which by then had reached the interior of the vehicle at its

dashboard, Wetzel extended his upper body into the minivan and untangled Blomquist from his safety belt. He then grasped Blomquist about the arms and pulled him out of the vehicle, taking him to the ground. After Wetzel then dragged Blomquist a short distance away, other responding motorists helped to take him back to the roadway, flames increasing shortly to engulf and destroy the minivan. Blomquist required hospitalization for treatment of his injuries, but he was not burned. 87123-9840



#### CLARK WHITECALF

*Gallivan, Saskatchewan*

**Clark Whitecalf** rescued Jolei D. A. Farness from burning, Gallivan, Saskatchewan, August 31, 2015. At night, Farness, 18, was asleep in the living room of her family's one-story house after fire broke out in the adjacent kitchen. In a passing vehicle, Whitecalf, 41, unemployed construction worker, and his family saw that flames had broken through the kitchen window, and they stopped at the scene. Whitecalf kicked in the front door to the house, which opened to the living room, but he could not see inside because of dark smoke. He ran into the attached garage and opened a door to the kitchen, but flames there blocked his entering that room. Exiting the garage, Whitecalf returned to the front of the house, where he learned that his family heard Farness coughing. Whitecalf crawled into the living room through the front door and found Farness unresponsive on a couch along the opposite wall of the room. After struggling to move her, Whitecalf exited for fresh air. He then re-entered the house, grabbed Farness under the arms, and dragged her to and through the front door to safety. Flames grew to engulf and destroy the house and a vehicle parked outside. Farness required hospitalization for treatment of burns, and Whitecalf inhaled smoke but declined treatment. He recovered. 87757-9902



MITCHELL ALLAN WILLIAMS

*St. Pauls, North Carolina*

**Mitchell Allan Williams** rescued James E. Davis from attacking dogs, St. Pauls, North Carolina, June 20, 2015. Davis, 73, was in his front yard when one of three pit bulls that had entered the fenced-in property jumped on him, took him to the ground, and began to maul him. Williams, 28, grounds technician, was working across the street when he was alerted to the attack. Taking a pitchfork with him, he ran to the scene and repeatedly struck and poked the dog, an adult male, with the pitchfork. The dogs then turned on Williams, biting him severely on an upper arm and on one of his feet. When he was then able to climb onto the roof of a car that was parked on the property's driveway, the male dog attempted to get up onto the car. The other dogs left the yard as neighbors responded and kept the male dog at bay, soon dispatching it. Davis and Williams were taken to the hospital for treatment of severe bite wounds, Williams's requiring sutures and causing him to miss a month's work. 87569-9875



RICHARD G. WILLIAMS

*Stratford, Connecticut*

**Richard G. Williams** helped to rescue Edward S. Popadic and another man from burning, Milford, Connecticut, June 7, 2014. Popadic, 61, and two deckhands were working on a 40-foot clam boat in Long Island Sound, about a mile off shore, when fire broke out in the boat's cabin and grew quickly. All three men jumped into the water, with one of the deckhands securing flotation devices for Popadic and the other deckhand before swimming to the safety of a responding boat. Popadic and the other deckhand struggled to stay afloat alongside the burning vessel, the fuel tanks of which contained about 500 gallons of diesel fuel. Williams, 58, international trade specialist, and his cousin were in a 20-foot fishing boat in the vicinity. They responded to the clam boat, which by then was heavily involved with flame and was

issuing thick, dark smoke. Williams took his boat to within 10 feet of the burning one, his cousin then throwing one end of a line to Popadic and the deckhand. They held to the line but were drawn toward the stern of Williams's boat. Not wanting them to be injured by his boat's propeller, Williams maneuvered the boat to reposition the men, taking it even closer to the burning one, as his cousin guided the rescue line. Williams then backed slowly away, pulling the men to safety as small explosions on the burning boat threw debris into the water. Popadic was hospitalized two weeks for treatment of burns, and he recovered. 87094-9825



SCOTT R. WILLIAMS

*Berlin, Vermont*

**Scott R. Williams** attempted to rescue Lara K. Sobel from assault, Barre, Vermont, August 7, 2015. Sobel, 48, was walking in the parking lot of a commercial building when an enraged woman armed with a .270-caliber hunting rifle approached and shot her at close range. Sobel fell to the pavement. Williams, 50, attorney, was on the ground floor of the building when he heard the shot. Looking through a nearby window, he saw the assailant standing over Sobel. Williams immediately ran about 40 feet to a door that accessed the parking lot, en route hearing a second shot. Leaving the building, he approached the assailant, shouting at her and attracting her attention. When Williams reached the assailant, he grabbed the rifle from her, disabled it, and set it aside. He then kept himself between Sobel and the assailant, verbally engaging her. Others soon responded and secured the assailant, holding her until police arrived. Williams tended to Sobel, whose wounds were fatal. 87788-9882



KEITH A. WILT

*Frederick, Maryland*

**Keith A. Wilt** helped to save two boys from burning, Baltimore, Maryland, January 13, 2015. Two brothers, ages 3 and 4, were on the second floor of their family's three-story row house after a fire broke out on that floor, in the front bedroom. Wilt, 49, equipment operator, was at a worksite nearby and became aware of the fire. He and a coworker ran to the scene, where they learned that children were inside the burning house. They entered the structure through its front door, the coworker with a fire extinguisher, and started up the nearby stairway, shouting for the children. The boys responded verbally. Despite flames that were spreading from the front room on that floor toward the top of the stairway, Wilt left the stairs and, in dense smoke that precluded visibility, made his way to the bedroom at the back of the floor. His coworker used the fire extinguisher to keep the advancing flames at bay. Wilt entered the bedroom and in the dense smoke crawled around the room in search of the children. He found the boys at a window at the back of the room, picked them up, and, guided by his coworker's voice, carried them to the stairs. He handed one of the boys to his coworker and then fled downstairs and outside to safety with him and the boys, both of whom sustained smoke inhalation. Wilt was given oxygen at the scene, and he recovered.

87205-9846



KELLY WINTERS

*Chapin, South Carolina*

**Kelly Winters** rescued Leslie C. Miller from burning, Columbia, South Carolina, May 27, 2015. Miller, 44, was the driver of a tractor-trailer that, in an interstate highway accident before dawn, struck several vehicles and, bursting into flame, came to a rest, turned onto its side, partially atop the concrete medial barrier. The rig was hauling 8,500 gallons of gasoline in its tank trailer, which ruptured in the accident, freeing part of the cargo. Miller

remained in the cab, trapped in the driver's seat. Winters, 47, registered nurse, was already at the scene, having stopped for another accident. Witnessing the tractor-trailer crash, he ran from the burning wreckage but then returned to it. As Miller screamed for help, Winters climbed atop the tractor, reached through a window opening, and grasped her about the arms. He pulled, but Miller did not budge. Returning to the pavement, Winters kicked at the windshield, which was partially dislodged. He then grasped the glass and pulled on it, creating an opening to the cab. Intense heat forced Winters back as Miller freed herself and crawled through the windshield. Winters and another man aided her to her feet and took her to safety moments before flames grew to engulf the rig and other involved vehicles, destroying them. Miller required hospitalization for treatment of her injuries, including a minor burn. Winters suffered lacerations to his arms, and he recovered. [87436-9854](#)



JONATHAN T. YANKASKY

*Glendale, Arizona*

**Jonathan T. Yankasky** helped attempt to rescue a woman and her son from assault, Scottsdale, Arizona, February 3, 2015. A 5-year-old boy screamed for help as his mother, 33, struggled against an assailant, just inside the front door of their house, for control of a loaded pistol. Working at a construction site across the street, Yankasky, 22, plumber, and his father heard him and ran to the scene. Seeing the woman and the assailant through the doorway, Yankasky shielded the boy just outside the house as his father entered it and joined in the struggle for the weapon. The gun fired during the struggle, after which Yankasky's father took possession of it. As the assailant then went deeper into the house, Yankasky's father guided the woman outside and retreated with her, Yankasky guiding the boy toward the street. The assailant then exited the house and, threatening them with a loaded revolver, followed them across the street. There, he struck the woman on the head with the revolver, taking her to the ground. Yankasky and his father ran to their nearby van and started toward the scene with it for use against the assailant,

but the assailant fatally wounded the woman and then himself. The boy was then secured by others. 87566-9845



KIRK P. YANKASKY

*Glendale, Arizona*

**Kirk P. Yankasky** helped attempt to rescue a woman and her son from assault, Scottsdale, Arizona, February 3, 2015. A 5-year-old boy screamed for help as his mother, 33, struggled against an assailant, just inside the front door of their house, for control of a loaded pistol. Working at a construction site across the street, Yankasky, 49, plumber, and his son heard him and ran to the scene. Seeing the woman and the assailant through the doorway, Yankasky entered the house and joined in the struggle for the weapon as his son shielded the boy just outside the house. The gun fired during the struggle, after which Yankasky took possession of it. As the assailant then went deeper into the house, Yankasky guided the woman outside and retreated with her, his son, and the boy toward the street. The assailant then exited the house and threatened them with a loaded revolver. Yankasky attempted to shoot him with the pistol, but it did not fire. The assailant advanced, following them across the street. There, he struck the woman on the head with the revolver, taking her to the ground. Yankasky and his son ran to their nearby van and started toward the scene with it for use against the assailant, but the assailant fatally wounded the woman and then himself. The boy was then secured by others. 87530-9844

2015-2016 AWARD STATISTICS

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MEDALS

Eighty-four Carnegie Medals were awarded in 2015, and 93 in 2016, bringing the total to 9,914 since the Hero Fund was established in 1904. To date, the Commission has considered 88,808 rescue acts.



*Especially do we remember those who gave their lives saving or attempting to save others. Twenty-three such sacrifices were honored in 2015 and 2016, bringing the total to date to 2,023:*

Glenda Clement Beech	Ronald Larue
Boyce Coleman	Michael J. Manley, Sr.
Jonathan Michael Davis	Natalie Renee Martin
Calindo C. Fletcher, Jr.	Dinah Keturia McGee
Glenn L. Graham	Peter Todd Radke
Matthew Ray Hattaway	Christopher Mark Rickman
Wayne L. Hoffman	Philip Scholz
Dennis C. Hunke II	S. Alexander Smith
Kevin Scott Johnson II	Dennis D. Swenson
Lori Doppelheuer Kearney	Tou Hu Vang
Michael T. Landsberry	Karen Wessel
Kiera Vera Larsen	

MONETARY GRANTS	2015	2016	TO DATE
For continuing support of widows, widowers, and other dependents, and disabled heroes	\$295,855	\$292,250	\$18,261,176
Monetary awards, including educational assistance, and medals	690,413	741,658	20,355,679
TOTALS	\$986,268	\$1,033,908	\$38,616,855

MEMBERS OF THE  
COMMISSION  
(Shown with year of election)

A. H. Burchfield III 1987  
Robert J. Cindrich 2012  
Evan S. Frazier 2015  
David McL. Hillman 1996  
Linda T. Hills 2007  
Peter J. Lambrou 2009  
Mark Laskow 1992  
Nathalie Lemieux 2012  
Christopher R. McCrady 1999  
Priscilla J. McCrady 1989  
Ann M. McGuinn 1992  
Nancy L. Rackoff 2002  
Frank Brooks Robinson 1966  
Dan D. Sandman 2002  
Arthur M. Scully III 2011  
Michael A. Thompson 2012  
Sybil P. Veeder 1992  
Joseph C. Walton 2011  
Susanne C. Wean 2011  
Thomas L. Wentling, Jr. 1991  
Eric P. Zahren 2015

HONORARY  
MEMBER

James M. Walton 1968

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Mark Laskow, *Chair*  
Nancy L. Rackoff, *Vice Chair*  
Walter F. Rutkowski, *Secretary*  
Dan D. Sandman, *Treasurer*  
Eric P. Zahren, *Executive  
Director*

COMMITTEES\*

AUDIT

Thomas L. Wentling, Jr., *Chair*  
David McL. Hillman  
Nancy L. Rackoff  
Joseph C. Walton

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