



Impulse

A periodic newsletter of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission
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A photo of Garrett Morgan reaching the crib with a man barely clinging to life. The safety of Morgan's gas hood invention enabled him to go into the gas-filled tunnel multiple times to save men who had collapsed from lack of oxygen. This photo first appeared in a July 25, 1916, Cleveland News article. Photo courtesy of Cleveland State University, Michael Schwartz Library, Special Collections.

BEHIND THE SCENES

SHEDDING LIGHT ON THE COMPLICATED CASE OF BLACK INVENTOR GARRETT MORGAN

Under-lake tunnel disaster prompted intense Hero Fund investigation to determine rescuers' actions

The rescues that occurred after the 1916 Cleveland Waterworks Tunnel Disaster required Hero Fund Investigator A.W. Crawford to parse even the minutest details to accurately determine the specific actions of the 22 men nominated for the Carnegie Medal for their role in the rescue efforts in the disaster that ultimately left 20 men dead and others hospitalized. The goal of the investigation: to determine who among the 22 nominees knowingly risked their lives to an extraordinary degree to save others whose lives were in imminent danger.

Not only were there complicated technical details to learn about the construction of an under-lake tunnel, but there were also limited eyewitnesses, as those involved in the first rescue attempts ► **p. 3**

Carnegie Medal presentation at top of Squaw Peak impacts hero and victim

Henry F.F. Grant has hiked to the rocky, 1,642-foot summit of Squaw Peak, just miles from his Great Barrington, Massachusetts, home dozens of times since he was 3.

But the 19-year-old Carnegie hero had never made the climb for the reason he did Dec. 13, when he received the Carnegie Medal at the summit after reuniting with the woman he helped rescue to earn the medal, Paula Kaplan-Reiss, 61, of East Brunswick, New Jersey.

"She was really impacted by the whole event, and I wanted to make (the mountaintop medal presentation) happen and celebrate that she's still here," Grant said. "I didn't — until I saw them — realize how deeply it impacted her family and friends."

Kaplan-Reiss was joined by her husband, Rick Reiss, and two of their three sons, Ethan and Elijah, and others when Grant was presented with the Carnegie Medal by Hero Fund President Eric Zahren. They and others, including Grant, his mother Margaret Cherin and Grant's stepfather, Gregory Cherin, made the 1.5-mile hike together to the rocky summit of Monument Mountain for the presentation.

Kaplan-Reiss, a psychologist, and her 63-year-old husband were visiting southern Massachusetts and hiking the peak Aug. 10, 2019, when she fell from the summit. Barely a week after her mother's death, Kaplan-Reiss was taking solace in the sunny hike and had just posed so Rick could take a cellphone photo of her, before he turned his back to begin their trip down the mountain.

Kaplan-Reiss, apparently, took one wayward step on the narrow trail covered in pine needles at the top of the peak and fell 30 feet straight down over a densely wooded ledge, before she tumbled at least 30 feet farther down a steep slope. There she came ►



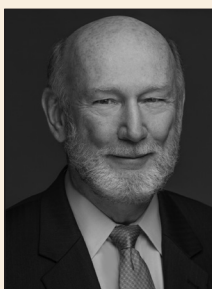
*Carnegie Hero Fund Commission President Eric Zahren, left, presents the Carnegie Medal to **Henry F.F. Grant**, center, along with Paula Kaplan-Reiss, right, the woman Grant helped rescue after she fell more than 60 feet off Squaw Peak on Aug. 10, 2019.*



BOARD NOTES

MORGAN STORY OFFERS INSIGHT INTO HERO FUND INVESTIGATIONS, COMMON QUESTIONS

By Mark Laskow, Chair
Carnegie Hero Fund Commission



Mark Laskow In this issue of *Impulse*, Editor Jewels Phraner takes you on a deep dive into the 1916 Cleveland Waterworks Tunnel Disaster which killed 21 and injured others. Phraner, a veteran journalist, describes the disaster, the rescues, and the Hero Fund's subsequent investigation. To make its awards decision, the Hero Fund had to understand the role of every victim, rescuer, and bystander in order to identify who might qualify for the Carnegie Medal. All that work identified 22 candidates, from whom four were finally selected as Carnegie heroes. Phraner's article is the most detailed description you will find of a Hero Fund case investigation and the complications involved in the work.

Phraner took on the Cleveland Waterworks case, and we are publishing it here, because it is the source of one of the very few controversies related to an awarding decision by the Hero Fund, and certainly the oldest, and most public. Among the 18 men investigated who did not receive the Carnegie Medal were two Black brothers, Garrett and Frank Morgan. Garrett was a businessman and inventor of some note. Phraner fully describes the brothers' admirable role in the affair and why they and the rest of the 18 were not awarded the Medal. Over the years, though, the opinion has been voiced in various publications that the Hero Fund denied the Morgan brothers, and Garrett in particular, because they were Black. Phraner deals with that nicely in her piece. She describes the Hero Fund's record of awarding the Carnegie Medal to Black Americans and Canadians from our earliest days, years before Cleveland Waterworks, exactly as Andrew Carnegie explicitly directed. Why would we suspend our normal practice and arbitrarily deny the Morgans because of their race? But her most important point is the logic of the investigation and the case analysis. We face the same issues today and decide them in the same way. The Morgan issue aside, Phraner's analysis of Cleveland Waterworks is a great way to understand the entirety of the Hero Fund's work across 116 years and 10,000+ Carnegie Medals. The Morgan decision is a consistent and coherent part of that body of work.

Let me give you a specific example: The key ►

In this issue of *Impulse*, Editor Jewels Phraner takes you on a deep dive into the 1916 Cleveland Waterworks Tunnel Disaster which killed 21 and injured others. Phraner, a veteran journalist, describes the disaster,

Squaw Peak medal presentation

to rest, on a 5-foot-wide ledge, about 30 feet above a boulder field below. Kaplan-Reiss suffered a concussion, 10 broken ribs, a broken right clavicle, and a compound fracture of her lower left leg. She remembers none of it, which was part of the reason she was eager to return to the summit with Grant.

"I'm incredibly grateful to be up here alive and kicking," she said.

"I am well aware of how I so easily could have died, and going up there again made me that much more aware," Kaplan-Reiss told *Impulse* after the medal presentation. "How many people get to come back from that kind of death-defying experience — and thank the person that was there?"

Not only does Kaplan-Reiss not remember her fall, her husband didn't see it, either. Nor did Grant, who was elsewhere on the peak with his mother.

The brush was so thick that Grant couldn't see where Kaplan-Reiss had landed, and the drop — straight down — was so steep he didn't dare try to follow her path. After briefly peering for clues about her whereabouts, Grant and his mother, Margaret Cherin, thought it best to leave the fallen woman's fate to the expert first responders who were being summoned almost immediately by hikers calling 911.

As they hiked back down the mountain, Grant came to a point on the trail where he thought he might be able to cut through some woods to a point directly below where he suspected Kaplan-Reiss had fallen. Trudging a few hundred feet through the brush, Grant heard Reiss still calling for his wife about 70 feet directly above him.

Using a crevice to take some of the steepness out of the climb — Grant estimates he shimmied his way up a sheer granite wall — he was about 18 feet above ground when he saw Kaplan-Reiss about 12 feet above him. She was teetering on a ledge and somewhat dazed with her legs curled beneath her, in danger of falling onto the boulders below her and Grant.

Calling 911, Grant was able to direct rescue crews to her precise location then he resumed climbing — without equipment, straight up — while waiting for them to arrive. Grant would climb to a spot just beneath Kaplan-Reiss where he grasped her hand and attempted to steady and comfort the semi-conscious woman. Another hiker, whose identity remains a mystery, climbed up behind Grant by following his directions, and took Grant's place while he climbed up behind her and further steadied Kaplan-Reiss.

Hours later — and only after crews used ropes to lift a medic to Kaplan-Reiss, whose vital signs were crashing — rescuers used ropes and a metal basket to bring Kaplan-Reiss to safety. Grant and the other hiker were also hauled to the summit by the rescuers.

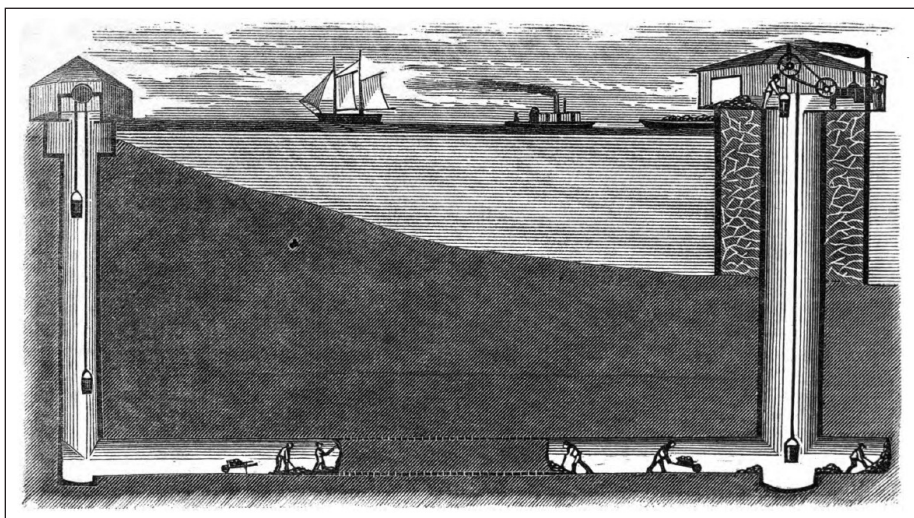
Kaplan-Reiss wanted to hike the peak, again, this time with Grant to honor him and because she's grateful she can. But she also believes, based on conversations and text messages they've had since, that the mountaintop medal presentation also helped Grant — a quiet, unassuming college student — understand the enormity of his deed.

"He's young, so I don't think he 'got' it. He was just doing what came so naturally for him and now he realizes he enabled me to live the rest of my life. I think it's finally kicking in," Kaplan-Reiss said. "It was truly one of the peak experiences of my life." ❁

— Joe Mandak, Case Investigator



Paula Kaplan-Reiss and Carnegie Hero Henry F.F. Grant stand on either side of a new sign added to the trails along Monument Mountain in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, warning hikers of sheer and sudden drop-offs.



An example of the figuring type of construction occurring when the explosion occurred. This sketch depicts the construction of a similar under-lake tunnel under Lake Michigan to collect clean water for the city of Chicago.

► from p.2

Complicated case of Garrett Morgan

died. Additionally, mistaken assumptions about the investigation of this case continue to force the Hero Fund to defend the integrity of the 84-year-old investigation. We thought it was time to set the record straight.

Investigator Crawford was sent to Cleveland only two months after the names of 22 men crossed the Hero Fund's desk via an Aug. 16, 1916, letter from electrical engineer H.R. Bailey who worked on the tunnel construction project. (Bailey's involvement in the rescues, if any, remains unknown.)

Investigation of the accident begins

It was around 9:30 p.m. on July 24, 1916, in Cleveland when methane gas that vented during the construction of an underground tunnel ignited and exploded burying nine men under hundreds of feet of mud and construction debris under Lake Erie. Concrete blocks that lined the tunnel were forced through the tunnel ceiling, and the blast mangled railroad tracks and threw boards, wires, and machinery into an indistinguishable "mass on the floor of the tunnel," according to Crawford's report to the Hero Fund Commission. All the lights flickered out except for one at one end of the tunnel nearest an air-locked chamber. The nine workers were killed instantly, but no one above ground — including a crew of about 20 stationed at the structure directly above the tunnel — heard the explosion.

For the previous six decades, Lake Erie had provided drinking water to Cleveland citizens, but after the Civil War, industrialism and an ever-growing, urban population polluted the lake especially along its shores. According to a *Cleveland Historical* article by Jim Dubelko, complaints about tainted water led to the 1874 construction of the first tunnel that enabled water companies to take less polluted water from farther offshore.

The men in the 1916 accident had been working on the construction of a fourth tunnel intended to stretch four miles under the lake's bottom from a pumping station on shore to a structure called a crib located at the lake's surface. Typically during the construction of these tunnels, crews worked from both ends and moved towards one another until they met in the middle and the tunnel was completed: Access to each end of the tunnel was via vertical shafts at the pumping station and the crib.

The methane explosion had occurred at the crib's end of the tunnel. At the water's surface, the crib contained a cage on a pulley that allowed workers to be lowered 127 feet down the shaft to the 10-foot-wide tunnel. Workers had constructed about 1,433 feet of tunnel from the shaft and, at the time of the explosion, were working at the tunnel's face, digging southward. A tenth man, lock-tender **William J. Dolan**, was stationed at an air-locked chamber ►

► from p.2

BOARD NOTES

issue for Garrett Morgan was whether his smoke hood reduced his risk below the "extraordinary" benchmark. (Morgan, after all, designed and marketed his smoke hood specifically to reduce risk.) We commonly see rescues in which a rescuer uses some aid or apparatus. A surf rescuer might use a boogie board or surfboard.

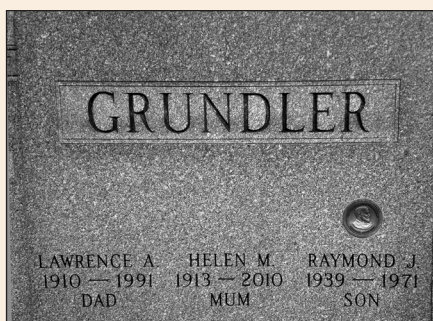
Was that still risky enough? We look at wind, currents, waves, water temperature, and resistance by the victim to decide.

The case might come out one way or another, but the use of an apparatus is always a factor in the decision. In a more obvious case, the use of a well-designed, powered surf rescue boat would almost certainly rule out an award ... unless you need to get close to the edge of a dam or waterfall! You

can see that Garrett Morgan's smoke hood falls along a spectrum of aids or apparatuses we consider all the time. For some of the other non-awardees in Cleveland Waterworks the issue was their knowledge of the risk they faced. Again, this an issue we still deal with in cases today. So, as I said, Phraner's article goes beyond the specifics of the Morgans to serve as an excellent description of how our staff does its work and deals with the issues involved.

I do have a personal race-related confession to make. I own a throw pillow decorated with a semi-famous 1906 photograph of Andrew Carnegie and Booker T. Washington. (Carnegie was an admirer of Washington and significant donor to his Tuskegee Institute.) Am I guilty of Carnegie Kitsch, Tuskegee Kitsch, or both? Maybe, but my conscience is clear on this most serious point: the Hero Fund in its every decision strives to live up to Andrew Carnegie's direction that "The Hero Fund is to become the recognized agency, watching, applauding, and supporting where support is needed, heroic action wherever displayed and by whomever displayed - White or Black, Male or Female - or at least this is my hope." I think we have made that hope real. Carnegie would be very proud of Rudell Stich (he won the Medal twice), Vickie Tillman (our 10,000th winner), and every one of the Black Canadians and Americans who received the Medal that bears his name. ☘

“The Morgan issue aside, Phraner's analysis of Cleveland Waterworks is a great way to understand the entirety of the Hero Fund's work across 116 years and 10,000+ Carnegie Medals.”



GRAVE MARKER IS INSET INTO 1971 HERO'S HEADSTONE

Family members worked together to add a Carnegie Medal grave marker to the headstone of Carnegie Hero **Raymond J. Grundler**, who

died while trying to save two men from suffocating in a manhole that

had filled with gas. Grundler's nephew Jim Grosjean requested the grave marker from the Hero Fund and then worked with his cousin, Larry Grundler, to install it. Larry Grundler owns Grundler Monument Company in Reserve Township, Pennsylvania, so he was able to sandblast some of the granite on the headstone to recess the marker.

"It makes for a very attractive appearance, and a permanent installation that is difficult to vandalize," Grosjean wrote to the Commission.

Raymond Grundler was posthumously awarded the Carnegie Medal in 1972 after he died Nov. 17, 1971, while attempting to save men who collapsed underground after gas escaping from a line filled the cramped quarters in a Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, manhole. Grundler, 32, of Pittsburgh, was outside the manhole, but he entered to push one man up the ladder, so others outside could lift him out. Grundler then climbed up the ladder himself, but when others couldn't render aid to save two other men who collapsed, Grundler entered the manhole again and was almost immediately overcome. Firefighters eventually removed Grundler and the two others, but none of them could be revived.

Grundler is buried with his mother, Helen M. Grundler, and his father, Lawrence A. Grundler at St. Mary Cemetery in Pittsburgh. ❁



Raymond J. Grundler

Complicated case of Garrett Morgan

located between the tunnel and the shaft; Dolan was responsible for adjusting valves, doors, and vents to regulate the air pressure in the construction tunnel and in the tunnel leading to the shaft. Doors from the chamber could not open unless the pressure was equal on both sides.

The explosion blew him 20 feet away and opened the shaft-side door, but Dolan was not badly injured. Although dazed, he immediately attempted to regulate the pressure inside the tunnel to open the door that would lead to the workers. An engineer at the crib noticed gauges measuring erratic air pressure inside the tunnel and woke Assistant Superintendent of Tunnel Construction John R. Johnston, who was sleeping at the crib.

First rescuers go down

After an initial inspection, Johnston assembled a team of six other men, all of whom had experience with tunnel work. With two flashlights they started down the tunnel. Johnston, who was leading the group with one light, later told Investigator Crawford that he understood that the gas would rise to the ceiling of the tunnel and that he would notice any ill effects before anyone was overcome. Johnston cautioned the men to stay low and they crept 132 feet toward the debris. Johnston heard a man gasp behind him and turned to see five of the men had collapsed. The sixth had turned and ran back toward the airlock. Johnston told the investigator he felt no ill effects, but then he, too, collapsed. Dolan had left the airlock and was following behind the team slowly when he encountered the sixth man hurrying back toward the lock. The man told Dolan that the others in his party were dead. Dolan saw Johnston's light and begged the man to help him move Johnston to safety, but the man refused.

Dolan made his way the remaining 30 feet to Johnston and yanked on his clothes, dragging him back toward the lock, repeatedly shouting for the other man to come help. When Dolan reached a point about 30 feet from the lock, the man responded and helped Dolan carry Johnston to the lock, which they sealed and continued to the shaft where others pulled all three men up. Dolan told the investigator that by the time he got to the top of the shaft he was feeling quite ill and vomiting.

Meanwhile, someone alerted Gus Van Duzen, superintendent of tunnel construction. He made his way from his Cleveland home to the scene, but while boarding a tugboat to get to the crib, he ran into 12 tunnel workers who were ending their shift in another tunnel. He asked them to help with the rescue efforts, and all 12 of them agreed. When he arrived at the scene, Van Duzen was told that three men had been taken to the hospital, but due to chaos at the scene, no one told him or the other men that most of the first rescue party lay dead in the tunnel.

Second rescuers go down

Van Duzen and nine of the workers were lowered into the tunnel. Some men were left at the airlock including experienced lock-tender Jesse L. Hatcher to operate it. The others moved forward into the tunnel, where they eventually encountered the five men left behind from the first rescue attempt. It was here that members of Van Duzen's party began collapsing. Van Duzen shouted for the others to run back to the lock before he, too, was overcome and collapsed. A valve inside the lock was left open and gas was leaking into it, causing the three men inside to collapse and gas to leak into the shaft. The doors in the chamber were sealed shut and could not be opened unless someone inside equalized the pressure. With no one able to operate it, even if the men made it to the airlock, they would not be able to escape the spreading gas.

It was now 2:30 a.m. Word had reached **James J. Keating** who went to the scene with **Thomas J. Clancy**, Van Duzen's step-son. At the crib they learned of the two failed rescue attempts and were urged by others to stay at the crib, but they entered the

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Pulmotor Being Used to Save Gas Victim



A doctor uses a pulmotor to revive Carnegie Hero **Thomas J. Clancy** who collapsed in the cage during a rescue attempt. It took 15 minutes to bring Clancy back to life, and hours later he entered the tunnel again with Garrett Morgan to help save his stepfather and others. This photo first appeared in a July 25, 1916, *Cleveland Press* article. Courtesy of Cleveland Public Library, Digital Newspaper Collection.

cage with **James McGrath**. “There was then so much gas in the shaft that [people] who leaned over it were made sick and dizzy,” wrote Crawford in his report.

Third, fourth, fifth, and sixth rescue attempts

Keating, Clancy, and McGrath had difficulty breathing while being lowered down the shaft, but once at the bottom it was easier to breathe, they said later. After looking into the lock and seeing the men collapsed inside, Clancy broke a window in its door to open it. After waiting 10 minutes to allow the gas to escape the airlock, they entered and found two of the men — Hatcher and Peter Sullivan — still alive. They put them and the other man, John J. McCormick, into a nearby mine car and pushed it to the shaft. All three rescuers were sick and dizzy.

The cage was hoisted and by the time it reached the top, Hatcher was also dead, and the rescuers were vomiting, dizzy, and fighting headaches. Officials at the crib let no one else enter the tunnel for hours even while Clancy and Keating begged to go down to finish equalizing the pressure in the airlock to allow the door to the workers to open. Eventually officials relented and allowed Clancy and McGrath to enter again to work the valves and release the pressure inside the tunnel.

With towels over their faces they descended again and went to the lock and started opening every valve. Before they could finish they began to feel weak and dizzy. “Keating’s head felt hot and light, and he was beginning to choke,” Crawford wrote. They ran back to the cage and were hoisted immediately to the crib where they were given hot milk. They vomited and were left “weak and nervous,” according to Keating’s report.

At 5:30 a.m. — eight hours after the explosion — firefighters arrived with oxygen helmets, and Keating, Clancy, and two firefighters were lowered. By the time they reached the bottom, Clancy, who was the only one not wearing an oxygen helmet, was too sick to continue and stayed in the cage. The others made their way to the lock, where Keating finished fully opening the valves in the lock. Having been in the tunnel for five minutes, they returned to the cage, where they found Clancy unresponsive. At the crib, Clancy was revived after 15 minutes with a pulmotor — a portable ventilator invented in 1907 — that had finally ►



GRAVE MARKERS AVAILABLE TO FAMILIES OF DECEASED AWARDEES

To further honor those who have been awarded the Carnegie Medal, the Hero Fund is pleased to offer at no cost a bronze grave marker to the next of kin of any awardee who has passed away.

The size of the medallion is 3.75 inches in diameter and is designed to replicate the look of the Carnegie Medal.

It can be displayed on an awardee’s stone or bronze headstone, or on a flat-faced urn.

The medallion will be sent with a packet containing supplies to affix it and directions for application.

To order the medallion, email us at carnegiehero@carnegiehero.org or call 1-800-447-8900.

CARNEGIE HERO FUND COMMISSION

AWARDEES ABOUT THE FUND RESOURCES HONORATE SEARCH AWARDEES

LOUIS A. BAUMANN, JR., Wilkensburg, Pennsylvania

Louis A. Baumann, Jr., saved Charles Slevick from drowning, near Wilkensburg, Pennsylvania, July 17, 1904. Louis, 17, dove in Sulphur Pond, in water 10 feet deep, and, after three attempts, rescued Charlie, 16, who was past-drowning.

Obituary: Louis A. Baumann, Jr., was born in Wilkensburg, Wyo. The family moved to the Pittsburgh area where he grew up. His father was a wallpaper hanger and his mother a housemaker. Baumann had eight siblings: four brothers and four sisters. After operating a taxi service in Brookline, Pa., he and three brothers became automobile dealers. In 1917, Baumann “swam” was mentioned in Wilkensburg. Subsequently Louis’ death and heroic rescue were also mentioned by the brothers. Although Baumann died in 1925, his brothers remained successful in the automobile business in the Pittsburgh area for over 50 years and their company, Baumann was the first awardee of the Carnegie Medal, which was awarded to him for his July 17, 1904, rescue of a friend from drowning in a deep pond. Baumann was married to Cora Louise, nee Smith. He and his wife had one child, a son named James David Baumann, born July 14, 1934. Baumann was buried in Woodmont Cemetery, Pittsburgh, where a bronze replica of the Carnegie Medal marks his grave. (Edited from an obituary provided by a family member.)



OBITUARIES SOUGHT TO COMPLETE HERO FUND’S HISTORICAL RECORD OF AWARDEES

Written accounts of the awardee’s life, such as contained in an obituary, are sought for addition to the awardee’s page on the Commission’s website. Please send to the Hero Fund at carnegiehero@carnegiehero.org.




Impulse
A quarterly newsletter of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission

NEW WEBSITE OFFERS MORE NO-SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES FOR CARNEGIE MEDAL RECIPIENTS

The Hero Fund recently published a redesigned website that not only features a modern, user-friendly design but also offers a number of new services for the Hero Fund's medal recipients.

For Carnegie Medal recipients in their families, a resource center enables users to download certificates and download forms to request information on the Hero Fund program on death benefits, medical and funeral costs, insurance, and more.

Further, users seeking information about a Carnegie Medal for a family member or friend can download forms to request information about a Carnegie Medal. There is also a new feature that has been added for the month of June: the status of the case.

Another feature has been added to the information about each Carnegie Medal and the Hero Fund, which now includes Carnegie Medal recipients who have received awards in 1907.

1907: Awarded to a man known as 17-year-old William Hester who showed a great courage at his school.

See more at carnegiehero.org

SUBSCRIBE TO NEWSLETTER'S E-LIST

The Hero Fund's quarterly newsletter, *Impulse*, is available as an electronic PDF that comes to subscriber's inboxes instead of their mailboxes.

If you would like to change your subscription to the paperless, electronic version, please contact carnegiehero@carnegiehero.org.



Before refinishing. *After refinishing.*

HERO FUND OFFERS CARNEGIE MEDAL REFINISHING

The Hero Fund will, at no cost to the recipient or their families, arrange for refinishing to aged and tarnished Carnegie medals.

The medals will be returned as close as possible to their original luster by the Fund's medal manufacturer.

Send medals via registered mail to:
Carnegie Hero Fund Commission
436 Seventh Ave., Suite 1101
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Please allow at least one month for the medal's return.

Complicated case of Garrett Morgan

been brought by others to the scene.

At 7:15 a.m., banging from the tunnel could be heard in the crib, meaning someone was still alive. Keating and two firefighters descended again, Keating breaking the window in the lock's closed door to release the pressure in the tunnel. Two men from the second rescue party — Peter P. Kehoe and Martin Nelson — immediately stumbled into the airlock and the rescuers helped them to the cage. With the tunnel now completely de-pressurized, it was not safe to take the firefighting oxygen helmets back down for fear that the attached, pressurized oxygen tanks would rupture.

Morgan arrives with safety equipment

Sometime later, inventor Garrett Morgan was summoned to the scene by a police officer who had seen the demonstration of one of Morgan's patented inventions — a smoke hood that did not use oxygen tanks, but instead used a bag of air that the user wore around their waist. Morgan's invention — U.S. Patent No. 1,090,936 — did not have any pressure restrictions.

With several of his smoke hoods in tow, Morgan, who was barefoot, and his brother, Frank Morgan, arrived at the scene and called for volunteers. Only Frank, Clancy, and another man, Thomas Castleberry, volunteered. The first rescue party to enter the worker's tunnel since Van Duzen's, they all donned Morgan's smoke hoods and followed the same path as the others and heard Van Duzen moaning. He was facedown in the mud, barely alive. Retrieving Van Duzen and another man from his rescue party who was dead, Clarence Welch, Clancy took them to the elevator and rode it to the crib, while Morgan and the rest of his party continued searching. They found one more man alive and retrieved three others who had died in the tunnel. Ultimately it took more than a month for workers to retrieve the bodies of the workers who died in the explosion. One more man, Luigi Bucciarelli, a digger who was helping recover the bodies, fell from the crib and drowned in Lake Erie; he was the 21st person who died in the accident.

Carnegie Medal recipients

Of the 22 people nominated for the award, in 1917 only four were awarded the Carnegie Medal — Dolan, Clancy, McGrath, and Keating. None of Johnston's, Van Duzen's nor Morgan's rescue parties were awarded. At the time of the investigation, all nominated cases that were turned down were simply marked with "not within the scope of the Fund," with no further details as to why. All we can do now is draw our own conclusions as to what was behind the Commission's decision based on policy, pattern, and precedent in how the Commission has historically applied the awarding requirements.

Garrett and Frank Morgan were the only two Black men of the 22 nominated, and many recent publications — large and small — have claimed that Garrett Morgan was denied the Carnegie Medal because of his race. However, there is simply no evidence to support the claim. Black heroes were awarded before this accident — John B. Hill, a Black man awarded in 1907 — was believed to be the first — and many since.

A well-founded conclusion, then, is that the Commission did not deviate in any way in this case from what has always been its guiding principal, received from its founder: "The Hero Fund is to become the recognized agency, watching, applauding, and supporting where support is needed, heroic action wherever displayed and by whomever displayed — White or Black, Male or Female — or at least this is my hope," Carnegie wrote in an undated letter.

In the case of Morgan, F.M. Wilmot, the Hero Fund manager at the time, wrote a Jan. 24, 1917, letter explaining why he was not awarded.

"While the act by Mr. Morgan is commendable, from the facts at hand it does not appear that it was attended by any extraordinary risk to his own life, and for this reason his case, I regret to say, has not come within the scope of the fund."

The Hero Fund's requirements for the Carnegie Medal have been largely unchanged since the Fund's 1904 inception: A person must voluntarily risk ►

their life to an extraordinary degree to save or attempt to save the lives of others. A fair conclusion about most of those turned down for the Medal in the Waterworks disaster were turned down because they did not “voluntarily” risk their lives.

Johnston told investigators that he thought they would feel any ill effects from the gas before it incapacitated he and his men. This was not true, but without a real understanding of the risk, they did not voluntarily risk their lives.

Dolan received the award because he continued onward to save Johnston after someone had told him they had dropped dead in the tunnel. He knew the risks and kept going, which is why he was awarded the Medal.

The same could be said for the second rescue party, who had no idea that the first rescuers lay dead in the tunnel. They entered the tunnel just as ignorant to the risk as the first party.

But the third rescue party — Keating, Clancy, and McGrath all received Medals. This was because by then the gas in the tunnel had spread to the shaft and those “who leaned over it [from the crib] were made sick and dizzy.” Those men knew exactly how dangerous it was, that several people had died already, and they volunteered to be lowered down anyway.

The subsequent rescue attempts all included safety equipment, and it’s likely that the Hero Fund Commission’s rejection of Morgan for the Carnegie Medal was because Morgan’s own invention lessened the risk for those in his party from the “extraordinary degree” that the previous rescuers encountered.

“The selflessness and bravery of Mr. Morgan are not disputed. But the smoke hood device appears to have provided enough protection that Mr. Morgan was not at the same extraordinary risk.”

“The selflessness and bravery of Mr. Morgan are not disputed,” said Eric Zahren, Hero Fund president, in a recent letter. “But the smoke hood device appears to have provided enough protection that Mr. Morgan was not at the same extraordinary risk of suffocating” as the rescuers before him.

“That in itself serves as a testament to the ingenuity of the invention and its inventor,” added Zahren.

This is not unusual — historically, less than 10 percent of cases are awarded from the more than 94,000 nominations that have been made throughout the lifetime of the Fund. Cases are turned down for a litany of reasons including, bluntly, not enough risk taken on by the rescuer. That doesn’t mean the rescuer didn’t display outstanding courage required to save a person’s life — that’s never a question that the Hero Fund asks; it just means the evidence shows they didn’t risk their life to an extraordinary degree while doing so.

Morgan’s efforts, and bravery that day -- he saved more people than any of the rescuers that entered the tunnel earlier -- are important and should be honored, as well as the sacrifices the first rescuers made in their attempts.

In 1991, Cleveland officials renamed a water treatment plant after Morgan. Additionally, Morgan was given a medal from the International Association of Fire Engineers for the invention. There are also three elementary schools -- in Cleveland, Chicago, and Kentucky -- bearing his name, as well as a street and Metro stop in Maryland.

In 2016, Cleveland held an event that commemorated the 100th anniversary of the disaster. Grandchildren of Morgan, Van Duzen, and other rescuers spoke at the event:

“Men died to bring us clean water, and we take that for granted,” said Barbara Lind, Van Duzen’s granddaughter, at the event. ☼

— *Jewels Phraner, Editor*

PRESENTING



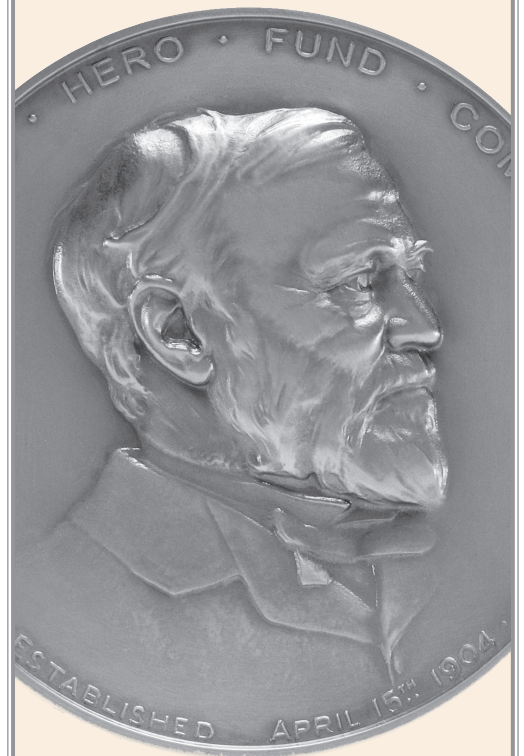
St. Mary’s University police Chief David Ott, left, presents the Carnegie Medal to Sgt. **Kenneth L. Hamilton**, right, in a private, on-campus ceremony Oct. 1, 2020.

Hamilton, 54, was off-duty and driving home from a police shift on the campus when he saw a crashed and burning vehicle along a roadside in San Antonio at 3:06 a.m. on May 1, 2019.

Unable to break through the car’s windshield with his metal police baton, Hamilton kicked and broke through the windshield after bystanders weakened it by tossing a large chunk of concrete into the windshield.

Hamilton then cut 48-year-old Tammy Cook’s seatbelt before dragging her through the windshield opening by her wrists and to safety as the fire raged and increased.

Photo by St. Mary’s University Police Department. ☼





CARNEGIE MEDAL, \$500 AWARDED ONE YEAR AFTER ATTEMPTED RESCUE

Carnegie Hero **Helmer M. Aakvik** was awarded the Carnegie Medal in October 1959, along with \$500 to be spent on “a worthy purpose.”

Carnegie Hero Fund records indicate that Aakvik’s attempted rescue occurred Nov. 26, 1958, the day before Thanksgiving.

Despite exceptionally rough water, strong winds, and temperature of 14 degrees, Richard M. (Carl) Hammer, 26, fisherman, went out onto Lake Superior in an outboard motorboat to check his fishing nets. When he did not return for several hours, Aakvik, 62, fisherman, of Grand Marais, Minnesota, feared he was in grave danger and went to search for him in a 17-foot outboard motorboat.

Aakvik proceeded alone a mile to Hammer’s nets but failed to find him. He then moved 5 miles farther from shore into increasingly rough water, where the gas line of the motor became frozen. Aakvik attached an anchor to the boat to slow its drifting and placed the gas line in his mouth to thaw it.

As the winds drove the boat farther from shore, Aakvik bailed water and chipped ice from the craft lest it become too heavy to remain afloat. Two Coast Guard boats and an airplane failed to find either Hammer or Aakvik before night.

In the darkness, Aakvik drifted 15 miles farther before he succeeded in thawing the gas line 20 miles from shore. Still searching for Hammer, he piloted the boat toward shore but made little progress against winds up to 60 miles an hour and waves as much as 15 feet high. To conserve fuel, he stopped the motor. Aakvik continued bailing water and chipping ice as the temperature fell to zero and the boat drifted 10 miles.

By dawn the wind and waves had moderated but the temperature was only five degrees. Aakvik restarted the motor and again began searching for Hammer as he proceeded shoreward. After his boat ran out of gasoline, Aakvik started to row and soon was picked up by the Coast Guard. He had been on the lake approximately 25 hours.

Because his boat was so heavily encrusted with ice, Aakvik allowed it to be abandoned. He was hospitalized four days for exposure and two frozen toes, and upon his release, he was ordered to stay inside for a month, which cost him \$350 in lost wages. Hammer was never found.

However, in recognition of Aakvik’s act, his community donated a new boat, a new motor, and \$560 in cash to him, as well as paid his \$92 hospital bill. ❄️



Night falls on a storm-tossed Lake Superior as a bone-weary old man in a small, open boat searches in vain for a missing friend. Illustration by Marlin Bree.

Thanksgiving ice-storm rescue highlighted in ‘Bold Sea Stories’ collection

Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 17, 1958. The Old Man was at last headed home.

His ordeal had begun a day earlier when a neighbor had worriedly told him, “The young fellow is still out on his boat.”

“Call the Coast Guard,” The Old Man said.

“Just don’t you go out.”

Helmer M. Aakvik, age 62, figured he’d make a quick run out on Lake Superior to the nets. Probably, The Kid’s outboard had stopped running. Gas problems again. He’d have to hurry. The temperature was about 6 degrees and dropping. A storm was coming on from the northwest.

The Kid had not been at the nets, and The Old Man had continued his search. When he was about 8 miles out, he let his engine idle atop a wave for one last look around. There was no sign of Carl Hammer. The waves whistled as they roared past The Old Man’s 17-foot open skiff. He’d never heard them this noisy before. It was time to head back toward shore. His roaring outboard spluttered, then died. The Old Man turned to his outboard, mounted on the transom. It was white with ice.

Again and again, he tried to start it until he was panting from the exertion. The elderly Lockport had been splashed with spray that had frozen. His spare engine, a newer ►

“ In his wooden seat, The Old Man could only watch as waves came like dark walls out of the night. They rose and crashed into the groaning old boat. He could feel its agony as it wracked forward in the crashing waves. ”

14-horsepower, two-cylinder Johnson two-cycle, lay in the boat's bottom. He took the old outboard off and installed the Johnson. He yanked hard on the starter cord, but there was not even an encouraging whuff or slight backfire. His most dependable, newest engine did not start. It had rolled around in the icy bilge water too long. A rogue wave reared over the boat, swamping it. His boat was riding dangerously low in the water.

The old Lockport had been his fishing partner for many years. With a last farewell, he threw it overboard. His skiff was lighter now by more than a hundred pounds. The boat's freeboard lifted an inch or two.

He had to fix the outboard. Taking off his gloves, baring his skin to the frozen metal, he twisted the engine's gas line off by hand. No gas was coming out. The Old Man stuck the line in his mouth. The raw rubber, soaked in gasoline, made him gag. He blew — and the ice block popped out. The heat from his mouth had melted it. He reattached the gas line and hauled on the starter cord. With a roar, the engine came to life.

Powering into the onrushing breakers, the skiff's planks were flexing and the fastenings were pulling loose. The boat was pounding itself apart. He turned off his engine. Without power, his boat cocked broadside to the waves, a dangerous position.

The Old Man hefted a 50-pound fishing crate over the side. The old skiff swung around and the bow cocked to the wave: his boat's best sea-keeping position. His improvised sea anchor was working.

In his wooden seat, The Old Man could only watch as waves came like dark walls out of the night. They rose high and crashed into the groaning old boat. He could feel its agony as it wracked forward and sideways in the crashing waves. His eyebrows were laced with ice; his eyes were burning orbs from the spray. His unprotected face was painfully cold. His mind was growing slack with fatigue.

Back on shore, he imagined, his small Norwegian community would be preparing Thanksgiving Day feasts. Families had gone all the way to Grand Marais, Minnesota, to pick out hams. Maybe they were roasting right now in hot ovens. And there would be pumpkin pies, a Thanksgiving tradition. He had been out over 16 hours with nothing to eat or drink.

Spray slopped over the bow and froze. If the ice built up too much, his boat would roll over in the waves. He had taken his ax along, and he chopped ice off his wooden boat.

The Kid, he knew, didn't carry an ax so he had nothing to chop away ice as his boat also would begin to sit lower and lower in the water, getting top heavy.

The Old Man's mind drifted. Maybe Carl was still afloat; he thought he saw something in the next wave train. There. Near the crest. Another boat? He knew he was fatigued. He tried not to let his mind play tricks on him. Was it just a dream?

Probably, The Kid had slumped down and gone to sleep, worn out from the cold. His boat would cock sideways into the waves and, top heavy with ice, would roll over.

The Old Man was tired. It would be easy to slump in his own seat, bend his head down to his chest, as if in prayer, and let the motion of the boat rock him into slumber. But to sleep was to die.

The moon came out, and The Old Man admired the beauty of the spray by moonlight. It glistened white, surreal and ethereal around him.

“The Old Man was tired. It would be easy to slump in his own seat, bend his head down to his chest, as if in prayer, and let the motion of the boat rock him into slumber. But to sleep was to die.”

Something gleamed white in the water. Ice now surrounded his boat. The Coast Guard boat powered through one fog bank and into another. The temperatures hovered around zero degrees.

“There!” a crew member yelled.

Something white and ice-covered bobbed up eerily above the fog. His face and beard glistened with frost; his hat was coated with inches of ice. He rode in a nearly swamped boat that was itself a block of ice. It was The Old Man.

As they entered Hovland's (Minnesota) harbor, cheering rolled across the waves. The Old Man was amazed.

“There must have been a hundred people,” he would later recall.

He shrugged off help. “I can still walk,” he said. “I’m not cripple.”

He protested when they wanted to rush him to get medical help. “As if I needed a hospital,” The Old Man snorted. “I only froze two toes.”

A reporter from the *Duluth News Tribune* asked him if he prayed to his God for help during the long night.

“No,” he allowed. “There’s some things a man has to do for himself.”

A neighbor rushed to her kitchen and brought out a fried egg sandwich. It was accompanied by a pint of hot coffee. At long last, Helmer ate his Thanksgiving dinner. He was grateful.

After Helmer was brought to shore in the Coast Guard boat, his own boat was lost. Its more than 4 inches of ice caused it to turn over and go under shortly after it was abandoned. It would not be towed.

The Kid's boat was lost, too, somewhere on Lake Superior. Neither he nor his boat were ever found. He had planned to get to his nets, about a mile and a half out on the big lake, and to get back again before the storm. He never made it. He had dressed in his usual fishing gear, including a cotton work suit. He had not taken extra gasoline, extra clothing, and no ax or sea anchor.

The Old Man figured he'd meet up with The Kid at the nets and bring him home. But hours before, water in The Kid's gas tank had frozen. Without an engine, he was blown out to sea.

In an era of hard times throughout the country, the reporting of a selfless old man going out in an ice storm to rescue a young villager caught the interest of a nation. North Shore fishermen, often immigrants from Norway, were recognized as incredible boaters who braved great odds for their families and friends. That was the Thanksgiving gift that emerged from Helmer's quest. He brought honor to his village and to the North Shore. For his courage and survival, he was awarded the Carnegie Medal. He became the real-life “Old Man and the Sea” and was celebrated by Reader's Digest magazine under the title, “The Legendary Triumph of Helmer Aakvik.” ❄️

— *Marlin Bree*

Marlin Bree of Shoreview, Minnesota, is an ex-Duluthian. This story is excerpted and adapted from Bree's 2020 book, “Bold Sea Stories.” His website is marlinbree.com.

This article first appeared in the Nov. 24 edition of the *Duluth News Tribune*. It was reprinted with permission from the author Marlin Bree.



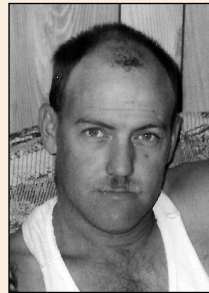
LATEST AWARDEES OF THE CARNEGIE MEDAL

Since the last issue of *Impulse*, the following 17 individuals have been awarded the Carnegie Medal, bringing the total number of recipients to 10,202 since the Hero Fund's inception in 1904. The latest awards were announced Dec. 14. The next announcement will be made in March.

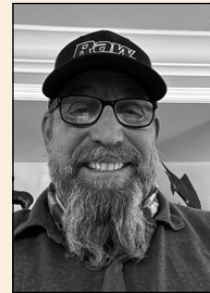
As **Calvin Parham**, 44, left his Knightstown, Indiana, home for work as a forklift operator during the early morning hours of Jan. 11, 2019, he smelled smoke and spotted the glow of fire from a neighboring home, where he knew his elderly neighbor lived. Running to a side entry of the home, he kicked in the door there, and entered the home's smoke-filled kitchen. Crouching down and struggling to breathe, Parham called for his neighbor – 85-year-old Edward A. Norfleet who had mobility issues. Hearing Norfleet respond, Parham followed his voice about 12 feet into an adjoining room, where he helped Norfleet from his bed and carried him out of the home. By the time firefighters arrived, Norfleet's home was completely engulfed in flames. Norfleet was seen at the hospital, but he was not injured. Parham suffered some ill effects from smoke inhalation but he recovered.



Calvin Parham



Stacey Redmon



David A. Dulkis



Darren Cox

time, **Stacey Redmon**, a disabled air structural repairman of Vernon, Florida, and others ran into the ocean after becoming alerted to a boy who was being carried away from shore. Redmon swam toward the boy while screaming for help. Three surfers responded and swam to Redmon and the boy, who were then about 100 feet from shore in water about 8 feet deep. They took the boy and others to the beach and then returned for Redmon, who was on his back, struggling to stay afloat. A large wave struck, submerging everyone. When they surfaced, Redmon had lost consciousness. The surfers pulled Redmon to shore. Others on the beach tended to Redmon, who was in cardiac arrest. He could not be revived.

A 48-year-old man died June 21, 2019, attempting to save a boy from drowning in dangerous waters in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Panama City Beach, Florida. Despite dangerous water conditions including large waves and a rip current that prohibited swimming at the

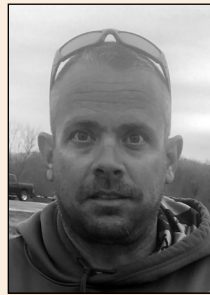
David A. Dulkis and **Darren Cox**, nearby motorists who saw a burning SUV at the bottom of an embankment responded to the Feb. 3, 2018, accident in Corona, California. The 23-year-old driver Saul D. Flores was slumped over the steering wheel when Dulkis, a 47-year-old executive chef of Corona, arrived at the scene. Dulkis pulled hard on the door several times until he yanked it open. Flames by then had reached the passenger compartment and spread to the back of the front, passenger seat. Dulkis failed to unbuckle Flores' seat belt, so he lifted the shoulder strap over Flores' head and arms and struggled to pull his torso and legs through the lap belt. Cox, 35, of Riverside, California, arrived about then and, as flames encroached on the driver's seat, helped pull Flores through the lap belt and out of the vehicle. As they laid him on the ground outside the vehicle, ammunition from inside it began exploding. They moved him farther away. Flores died, and Dulkis suffered second-degree burns to an arm. Cox has subsequently moved to Corona.



The scene of the Winston-Salem, North Carolina, highway crash where Carnegie heroes **Robert Lawson** and **Jeffrey Johnson** ran to the car and, together, pulled 64-year-old Susan R. Leonard through the driver's window on July 11, 2019. Lawson is pictured, shirtless, near the median.

After a July 11, 2019, highway crash in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, involving a semi-truck and several other vehicles, a 64-year-old woman was pinned in the driver's seat of her burning, heavily damaged car. Flames inside the car surrounded Susan R. Leonard, who unbuckled her seat belt but could not open her door. Leonard screamed for help. Driving nearby, 32-year-old welder **Robert Lawson**, of King, North Carolina, and 47-year-old nurse **Jeffrey Johnson**, of Winston-Salem, stopped at the scene and ran to the car. Reaching the car first, Lawson pulled on the driver's door handle, which broke off in his hand. He reached through the driver's window and tried the interior handle, but the door failed to budge. When Johnson arrived, they both reached through the window, grasped Leonard's arms and pulled her from the wreckage. ►


Robert Lawson

Jeffrey Johnson

Robert J. Whitley

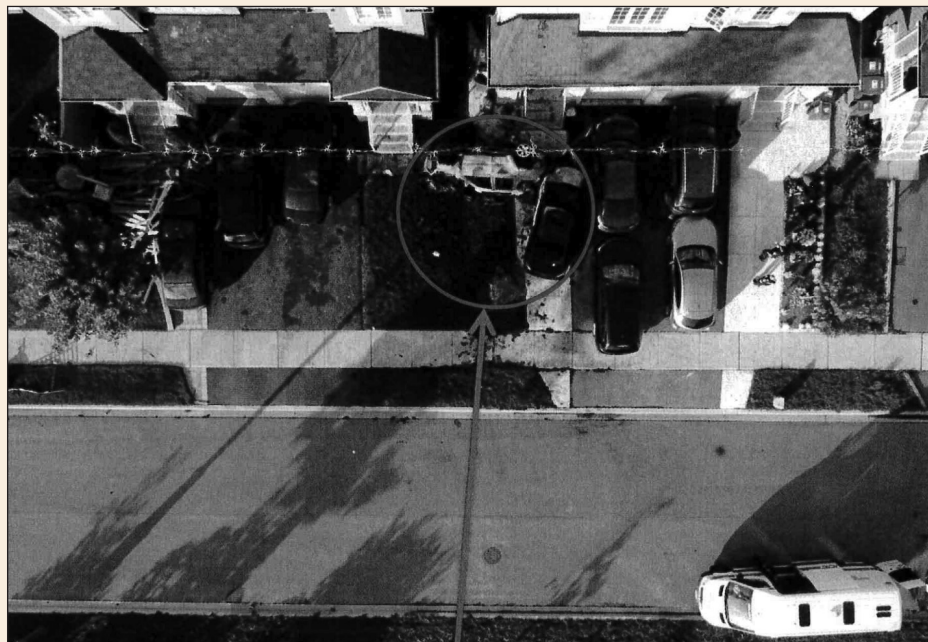
James W. Whitley II

Harmanjeet Singh Gill

Benjamin M. Blostein

Two Hannibal, Missouri, cousins responded to a deadly boat accident on the Mississippi River near Hull, Illinois, on Aug. 3, 2019. **Robert J. Whitley**, a 38-year-old construction worker, and **James W. Whitley II**, a 36-year-old laborer, were in James' 20-foot jon boat when they saw a pontoon boat carrying seven people — including 2-year-old Mea A.K. Lewis, who was not wearing a life jacket; 22-year-old Brittany L. Caldwell; 49-year-old Harland L. Miller; and 42-year-old Barbara Ann Young — swept into the slanted bow of a moored barge, where it capsized. The pontoon boat occupants fell or dived into the water, and the Whitley cousins responded to the scene. As they neared the scene, a strong current nearly capsized the jon boat twice by pushing it into the front of the barge as the cousins stood in the bow trying to bring Mea into the boat. As a result, James moved to the engine and backed the jon boat away from the danger in front of the barge.

James then circled the jon boat around while Whitley stood at the bow and pulled Mea into the boat on a subsequent pass. Because the jon boat was at risk of colliding with and being forced beneath the barge, James kept the motor on full reverse to maintain a safe position before circling away several times as Whitley helped Caldwell into the boat, and then on a subsequent pass, Miller. At some point during the rescue, Young submerged and did not resurface. The Whitleys then navigated away from the immediate danger, where they pulled two other pontoon passengers floating farther away from the barge into the jon boat, and then transported the pontoon boat passengers to shore where they were met by first responders. One of the last two people Whitley pulled into the boat had drowned. Another man was rescued by the crew of a tugboat. Young's body was recovered the following day from beneath the barge. Robert Whitley subsequently moved to New London, Missouri.



Aerial image depicting the damage done to the Brampton Ontario, home that caught fire after an out-of-control and burning SUV came to rest a few feet from its front door on Aug. 29, 2018. Carnegie Hero **Harmanjeet Singh Gill** saw the accident and went to the overturned car and extended his head and arms through the car's sunroof to pull two men from the burning wreckage. He then worked with a teen to create a larger opening to pull the remaining man from the car. Photo courtesy of Peel Regional Police Department.

Harmanjeet Singh Gill, a 20-year-old truck driver from Brampton, Ontario, was driving Aug. 29, 2018, in Brampton when he saw a violent crash in which an SUV struck several vehicles and landed on its driver's side a few feet from a house. Large flames burned at the vehicle's rear, and Gill responded to the scene. Gill extended his head and arms through the car's sunroof and pulled one of the three men inside to safety. Gill returned to the vehicle and dragged a second man to safety. Returning to the car to remove the third man, Gill had difficulty. With the help of a teen who also responded to the scene, Gill broke the sunroof to create a larger opening. They then pulled the third man to safety. The car was shortly engulfed in flames, which spread to another car and impinged on the house.

A fishing trip could have turned deadly if it weren't for the quick actions of **Benjamin M. Blostein**, a 30-year-old commercial roofer of Royal Oak, Michigan. On June 6, 2019, Blostein was fishing the Big Manistee River near Marilla Township, Michigan, when a 71-year-old man who was fly-fishing nearby asked for his assistance in wading from knee-deep water to a nearby island. Blostein waded into the 62-degree water and grasped Kim J. Fairchild's hand, but as Fairchild moved toward the island, he lost his footing in the swift current, fell into the water separating from Blostein, and was carried downstream as his fishing waders filled with water. Blostein fully entered the water and swam after Fairchild. He reached him and struggled to tow him to safety until another man on the bank grabbed Blostein's hand and pulled. As others tended to Fairchild, Blostein ran barefoot to meet responding authorities to direct them to the remote scene. Fairchild recovered after spending one night in the hospital.

After his 3-year-old son fell into a 20-feet-deep channel on June 15, 2019, near Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, **Christopher F.N. Schultz** jumped in after him, fully clothed. Schultz, a 31-year-old construction worker of Frazee, Minnesota, grasped Ashton M.C. Schultz under his arms ►



LATEST AWARDEES

and held him above the water, while swimming toward a bank about 80 feet away. Struggling at a point about halfway to the bank, Schultz's friend jumped into the water and took Ashton from Schultz, swimming him the rest of the way to the bank. Schultz submerged, and efforts to locate him failed. Police and a dive team responded and pulled Schultz from the water, but he had drowned.

A 23-year-old mother and her three young children were walking along an Akron, Ohio, sidewalk on June 16, 2019, when the mother's ex-partner, armed with a handgun, approached them and shot the mother in the back. **Jason Aaron Strunk, Seth Robert Bond, and Leslie E. Shaffer** were in vehicles nearby and saw the mother attempting to shield her children; they drove to the scene. Strunk, a 38-year-old group home supervisor of Canton, Ohio, exited his vehicle and positioned himself between the mother and the gunman. Bond, 26, of Tallmadge, Ohio, left his vehicle and ran to the mother, removing his shirt and holding it against her wound. The assailant reached around Strunk and shot the mother a second time, then pointed the gun at Bond's head as he continued to render aid. Strunk grasped the assailant's gun-wielding arm and struggled with him to obtain control of the gun. Bond joined the struggle, the gun discharging once toward the ground, until the assailant lost control of it and it fell to the ground. The assailant then produced a knife. Strunk put two of the children in his car. Shaffer, a 31-year-old certified nursing aide of Akron, who had also responded to the scene and was nearby when the gun discharged, took Gray and the other child into her vehicle. Strunk and Shaffer drove from the scene while Bond continued to fight with the assailant, who eventually fled. He was chased by Bond and police, but he ultimately fatally shot himself. The mother was hospitalized but recovered. The rescuers and children were unharmed.

Jonathan Stein-Palmiere, a 20-year-old apprentice carpenter of Calgary, Alberta, died May 31, 2019, after entering Lake Windermere near Windermere, British Columbia, to rescue a 10-year-old girl struggling in the water. After the girl lost hold of an inflatable float, she struggled to return to the beach. Despite being a poor swimmer, Stein-Palmiere, who was in the family's party at the beach, responded. He swam to the girl, grasped her, and pushed her closer to the beach. She was able to return to shore, but Stein-Palmiere submerged and failed to resurface. Others recovered Stein-Palmiere and attempted to revive him, but he had drowned.

After a man wielding a pump-action shotgun shot through the locked, front door of an Annapolis, Maryland, newspaper office and shot a sales assistant, severely wounding her, he proceeded toward the back of the office.

Eleven employees were working June 28, 2018, and several people took cover under their desks. Sixty-five-year-old reporter **Wendy Winters** of Edgewater, Maryland, grabbed a plastic garbage bin and recycling bin and left her desk area and charged toward the gunman, telling him to stop. The assailant shot Winters in the chest and then proceeded deeper into the office where he fatally shot three others. Two others fled, and although the assailant shot at one, he missed. The assailant hid under a desk until police arrived. Four others hid under their desks for the duration of the ordeal. Winters and the sales assistant died from their gunshot wounds.

A 60-year-old public commuter bus driver in Tampa, Florida, was sprayed with pepper spray by an agitated man that had just entered the



Christopher F.N. Schultz

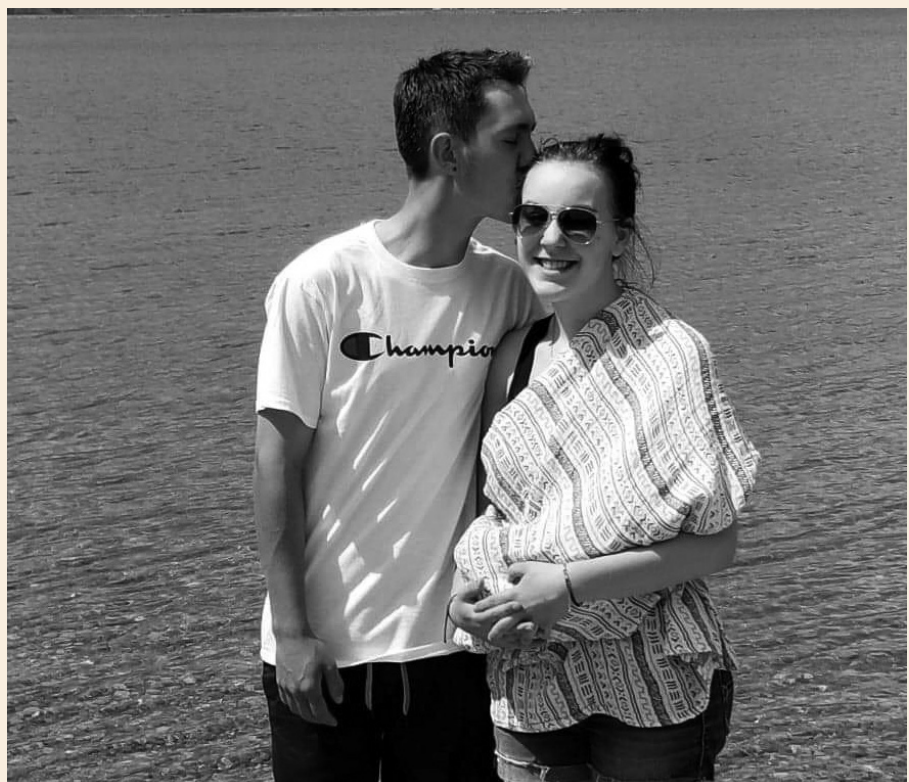


Wendy Winters



John D. Phelps

bus on Nov. 19, 2019. Using a utility knife the man then repeatedly slashed the driver's upper body. The driver, Schnaider Prophete, fell to the ground and then the man slashed at his legs. Among the passengers was 61-year-old Tampa cook **John D. Phelps**, who approached the assailant and told him to stop. The man backed toward the bus' front door, and another passenger gave Phelps a metal, portable grocery carrier. Phelps stepped toward the assailant and used the shopping cart to ward the man off the bus. Phelps followed him and stood on the sidewalk a short distance from the assailant, who lunged at him with the knife before leaving the scene. Phelps waved the remaining passengers off the bus. Prophete underwent emergency surgery and was hospitalized for several days while recovering from his injuries. Police arrested the assailant. ☒



*Carnegie Hero **Jonathan Stein-Palmiere** and his girlfriend Ashley Carter, at the shore of Lake Windermere near Windermere, British Columbia. After this May 31, 2019, photo was taken, Stein-Palmiere entered the water to rescue a 10-year-old girl in his party, despite being a poor swimmer. He swam to the girl and pushed her toward the beach. She was able to return to the beach, but Stein-Palmiere drowned.*

❁ FRIENDS REMEMBERED ❁

Herbert A. Moran, 66, of Arnold, California, died Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2020, at Doctors Medical Center in Modesto, California.

When Moran was just 24 years old, he rescued 16-year-old Stacy Grimmer from a burning car after a March 14, 1978, accident in Hayward, California. The accident left the vehicle Stacy was driving on fire and leaking gasoline which burned on the surrounding roadway. When Stacy got out of the automobile, she slipped and fell into the burning gasoline, which set fire to her body and clothing. Moran, an auto parts regional manager, ran to Stacy, pulled her out of the burning gasoline, and patted out the flames on her, sustaining burns to his hands.



Gary F. Lamberty

Gary F. Lamberty, 70, of Mt. Pleasant, Wisconsin, died Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2020.

Nearly 30 years earlier, Lamberty was awarded the Carnegie Medal for helping save two individuals from a man who caused a multi-vehicle accident and then attacked them with a machete on June 3, 1991, in Racine.

A high school teacher, Lamberty, 41, lived nearby and went to the scene of the accident. He picked up a branch and, confronting the assailant, maneuvered to a point between him and one of his downed victims as the assailant swung the machete at Lamberty. When the assailant's attention was

distracted by others, Lamberty tackled him. Others helped to subdue the assailant until police arrived. Lamberty was treated for lacerations and abrasions, from which he recovered.

Born on Nov. 29, 1949, in Racine, Lamberty was the second son of the late Francis and Helen Lamberty.

In 1967, Lamberty graduated from Washington Park High School. He enlisted in the U.S. Army, serving with the 5th Special Forces Group. After two tours in Vietnam, he returned to the U.S. as a member of the Army Reserves.

After graduating from Carthage College with a degree in Physical Education in 1986, Lamberty was employed by the Racine Unified School District teaching P.E. and health at the Brown Alternative Center, McKinley Middle School, and Dr. Jones Elementary School. He retired in 2012.

His family remembers him as a loyal, honorable, generous, and respected man who deeply valued his Catholic faith and family. He especially enjoyed being what he called a "3-D"—a devoted, doting dad.

He is survived by his daughters, Courtney Lamberty Heide and Megan (Igor) Lisica, as well as his five beloved grandchildren, his "bubba," Christian, who helped care for him in his final days; Autumn, Noah, Rio, and Niko.



Mark James Hoffman

Mark James Hoffman, 56, of Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania, died Thursday, Sept. 3, 2020, at Cedar Crest Hospital in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

Hoffman was named a Carnegie hero in 2015 for helping save a woman, 79, from drowning in Catawissa, Pennsylvania, after the vehicle she was in rolled into a lake on Aug. 14, 2014. Hoffman, 50, ran to the car as it was rolling down an embankment 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, in water about 9 feet deep. Hoffman released the woman's seat belt and pulled

her out through the window, as she clung to his neck. The woman was unconscious as Hoffman held to her by an arm and swam back to the bank. Another woman met them halfway and she swam the woman closer in. Hoffman was nearly exhausted and bruised a knee. The woman was revived at the scene, but later died in hospital. ▶

❁ PRESENTING ❁



Leaders in West Hants Regional Municipality in Nova Scotia honored one of their residents, Carnegie Hero **Michael Douglas Barkhouse**, left, at their Oct. 27 council meeting, where West Hants Mayor Abraham Zebian, right, presented Barkhouse with the Carnegie Medal.

On June 17, 2017, Barkhouse, a construction worker, saved a 42-year-old kennel attendant from an attacking adult husky dog in a fenced kennel at a shelter in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories.

"Was it fate, was it a divine intervention that sent Mike at that exact time, at that exact second?" Zebian said. "We can only speculate, but thank God he was there because there's a young lady who is still living today as a result of this man standing right here next to us."

Barkhouse, then 44, was driving to work when he spotted the woman with the dog and heard her screaming. Barkhouse, wearing leather work gloves, used a wooden stake to force open an outer latch on the kennel. He entered it and yelled at the dog, striking it with his feet and hands until it released the woman.

As the dog retreated, Barkhouse dragged the woman to the kennel's holding area. He then closed the inner gate to separate the dog from them. The attendant was hospitalized and treated for numerous bites. Barkhouse's right hand was bruised.

Barkhouse was awarded the Carnegie Medal in September 2019.

Courtesy of West Hants Regional Municipality ❁



ATTENTION GRADUATING CHFC SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Carnegie Hero Fund now provides honor cords representing the Tartan plaid of Andrew Carnegie. The tri-color cord of red, green, and gold also features a tassel tag engraved with "CARNEGIE HERO." Contingent upon individual university policy, the honor cord can be worn at graduation. If you are a graduating scholarship recipient, please contact the Hero Fund at carnegiehero@carnegiehero.org for more information.



ANNUAL REPORTS AVAILABLE ONLINE

The Hero Fund's most recent biennial report (2017-2018) is available online as a PDF.

The annual report contains the 148 heroic acts awarded during 2017 and 2018, including the extraordinary actions of seven children and teens.

The Hero Fund has considered more than 90,000 heroic acts for awarding and by the end of 2018, 10,062 were selected for recognition. Historically, 20 percent of the awards were to those who lost their lives in rescue attempts.

The report is available online (carnegiehero.org/annual-reports/) or by contacting the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission at carnegiehero@carnegiehero.org.

Hoffman was born June 23, 1964, in Ashland, Pennsylvania, to the late Vincent A. Hoffman and Margaret Hoffman Lewullis and William Charles Lewullis, Sr.

An outstanding athlete in wrestling, football, and track, he graduated from North Schuylkill Jr. Sr. High School in 1982. Hoffman was captain of the wrestling and football teams in his senior year, and was a District and Regional wrestling champion.

He was formerly employed at Goulds Pump, Ashland, and Pleasant Valley Homes in Pine Grove, Pennsylvania.

Hoffman was known as a great practical joker and enjoyed camping and spending time at home with his partner, Mim Benjamin, and their dogs Bo, Daisy, and Gracie. He was an avid sports fan and loved playing the drums.

He is survived by his parents Margaret and William Lewullis, Sr., companion Mim Benjamin, seven siblings, several extended family members, and friends.



William S. Caswell

William S. Caswell, 84, of Austin, Kentucky, died Sunday, Sept. 20, 2020, with his family at his side after a lengthy battle with cancer.

In 1968, Caswell was awarded the Carnegie Medal for saving four children from burning after the station wagon in which they were riding was struck by a freight train in Peace Dale, Rhode Island.

The car was knocked from the railroad crossing and overturned onto its side. Flames broke out at the rear.

Caswell, 32-year-old railroad engineer, jumped from the train and ran to the station wagon. Flames were burning on a tire directly under the fuel tank of the overturned vehicle and also on the opening of the rear door.

He reached through the doorway and removed a 5-year-old girl, carrying her away from the vehicle and beating out flames on her clothing. When Caswell returned to the station wagon, the woman was standing near it holding her youngest child.

Flames were spreading to the interior roof as Caswell stepped inside in a crouching position. He handed a 3-year-old girl and 2-year-old boy outside to their mother. Finally, he moved 8 feet into the station wagon to get a boy, 6.

Shortly after Caswell backed out of the car with the boy, it was engulfed by flames.

The children he saved later established the William S. Caswell Award as a sign of their eternal gratitude for his heroism. The \$5,000 scholarship will be given to a Narragansett High School (Rhode Island) senior for an act of heroism or outstanding service to the community.

Caswell was born Oct. 14, 1935, in South Kingstown, Rhode Island, to George Clarkson and Evelyn Caswell.

After graduating from Marple Newtown High School in Delaware County, Pennsylvania, in 1955, Caswell joined the U. S. Coast Guard. He held a variety of jobs including working for railroads throughout the eastern part of the country.

Caswell loved to travel and photograph railroad depots, locomotives, and cabooses. He often told people how fortunate he was to get paid for enjoying his hobby.

He retired from the Florida Central Railroad in 1999 and moved to Barren County, Kentucky.

He is survived by his wife, Rachele, and their three sons; 14 grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren, nephews, and nieces.

Yuen Kong Won, 84, of Roseville, California, died Sunday, Oct. 25, 2020, due to complications from a stroke.

In 2004 Won was awarded the Carnegie Medal for rescuing a 43-year-old woman from burning on the floor of her motel room, on July 18, 2003, in Paradise, California. Won, 67, owner of the motel, responded to the burning, smoke-filled room where the woman lay unconscious on the floor. He entered and searched ▶



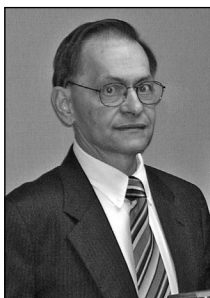
Yuen Kong Won

for the woman, but was nearly overcome by conditions and left the room. On his hands and knees, Won re-entered the room and crawled to the woman, grasped her by the feet, and dragged her to the door and outside as flames issued through the doorway. Another man helped Won take the woman to safety in the parking lot. Won suffered back strain and minor smoke inhalation for which he received hospital treatment. He recovered.

Won was born on Nov. 15, 1935, in China and settled in the United States in December 1963.

He was the successful owner of Wonsco TV and Repair in Sacramento, and a life insurance salesman. In 1972, Won received recognition in the President's Honor Society and as an Honored Contributor and Man of the Year in 1973. In 1974 he won a National Quality Award from the West Coast Life Insurance Company, Sacramento Chinatown Agency. He was also the owner of the Pagoda restaurant and the Wildwood Motel in Paradise.

He and his wife Judy Won, would have celebrated their 40th Ruby wedding anniversary on Dec. 24, 2020. Judy survives him, along with daughters Maggie and Julia Won, stepson Peter Wong, and stepdaughter Grace Boyle.



John William Oplinger

John William Oplinger, 72, of Wapwallopen, Pennsylvania, died Thursday, Nov. 5, 2020, in Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center.

Oplinger received the Carnegie Medal in 2006 for rescuing a 15-year-old boy who was trapped in a burning pickup truck after a nighttime accident on Feb. 27, 2004, in Mountain Top, Pennsylvania. The truck entered a wooded area and caught fire at its front end. Oplinger, 56, residential service aide, was driving on the road and stopped at the scene. He and another male motorist who stopped removed the driver and other occupants of the vehicle through the window of the driver's door. By then, flames had entered the passenger compartment

of the vehicle and were growing. Oplinger and the motorist pulled the 15-year-old boy from the vehicle, through its driver's side. They carried him to safety moments before the interior of the truck was engulfed by flames.

Oplinger was always lending a helping hand to his friends and neighbors. Described as stubborn, he always set an example as a respectable man, loyal husband, father, and friend, according to his obituary. Oplinger enjoyed spending time with family, gardening, and taking naps with the family cat.

He was retired from White Haven Center.

Oplinger is survived by his wife, Mary Bagel Oplinger; sons John and Matthew Oplinger; brothers, Mark, David, and William Oplinger; and sisters Mary Simpson and Linda Mascelli.



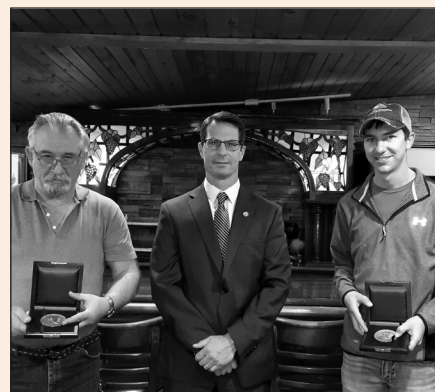
Charles E. Britt, Jr.

Charles E. Britt, 96, of Norfolk, Virginia, died Thursday, Nov. 12, 2020, succumbing to injuries he received in a recent fall.

In 1998 Britt was awarded the Carnegie Medal for saving a 5-year-old neighbor boy from burning in a first-floor bedroom of his family's house on Nov. 3, 1997, in Norfolk. After fire broke out in the family's attached garage at night, the boy's mother alerted Britt, 73, retired fire captain that her child remained in the house. Britt ran to the burning house and stepped into the living room, where dense smoke precluded

visibility. As the boy's father maintained voice contact with his son, Britt, crouching, made his way to the bedroom. He found the child and grasped him, then retraced his path to the front door as flames were breaking into the house from the garage. Three other people in the house died in the fire. ▶

PRESENTING



At an Oct. 28, 2020, lunch in Washington, Pennsylvania, Hero Fund President Eric Zahren presented Carnegie heroes **Scott Ullom** left, and **Zachary A. McDowell**, right, with the Carnegie Medal. Medics Ullom and McDowell were the first on the scene of an Aug. 3, 2018, Waynesburg, Pa., highway accident. They did not wait for protective equipment to attempt to rescue 24-year-old Eric J. Stroud, Jr., who was trapped in the driver's seat of his burning SUV. Ullom, then 59, entered the vehicle through its rear hatch door, while then-22-year-old McDowell sprayed a fire extinguisher at flames burning near Stroud. From the cargo area, Ullom crawled to Stroud, who was tangled in his seat belt. Once Stroud was freed, Ullom dragged him to the back of the vehicle, where McDowell waited to assist. Together they pulled him from the SUV, which was shortly engulfed by fire. ❄

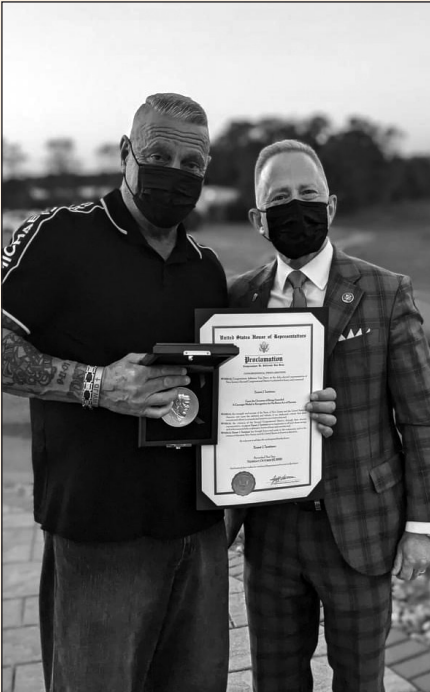


Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown, right, on Oct. 21, presented deputy **Zachary Salce**, left, and **Maddison Henslin** with the Carnegie Medal for their Nov. 13, 2018, rescue of a woman from her burning home in Lompoc, California. Neighbors to the woman, Salce, then 24, and Henslin, then 21, crawled 15 feet under heavy smoke and flames until they found the woman. Together they dragged the woman to safety.

Photos courtesy of Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department ❄



PRESENTING



U.S. Rep. Jeff Van Drew, right, recognized **Ernest J. Tarsitano**, of Galloway, New Jersey, for his heroism in helping save a man from a burning cabin in 2018.

Van Drew, who represents New Jersey's 2nd Congressional District, honored Tarsitano as part of an Oct. 22 fundraiser for Tarsitano's friend, Joe O'Donoghue, who ran for Atlantic County sheriff.

A retired firefighter, Tarsitano, then 60, was driving in Galloway on July 26, 2018, when he saw smoke issuing from a one-room residence within a two-unit cabin.

Tarsitano stopped and learned that a 72-year-old man was still inside.

After the door was opened, Tarsitano, despite dark smoke, entered and searched for the man, locating him limp, on the floor, in proximity to flames on a nearby wall.

Tarsitano grasped his body, stood, and backed toward the door, dragging him.

Near the doorway, others assisted Tarsitano in removing the man, who suffered burns and inhaled smoke.

Paramedics at the scene treated Tarsitano, who had difficulty breathing and had cuts on his knees.

Photo courtesy of Jeff Van Drew. ☼

Britt was born on May 10, 1924 in Salisbury, North Carolina to Ruby and Charles Britt. He was raised during the Depression by his grandmother.

Near the end of his senior year in high school, he volunteered for the World War II draft and was inducted into the U.S. Navy on May 28, 1943, where he was involved in supplying troops during fierce Pacific battles of the war, including Iwo Jima, Tarawa, Kwajalein, and Saipan.

Britt started his lengthy career with Norfolk Fire Department on Sept. 12, 1949. When he retired, he was just shy of 38 years of service. Britt devoted his adult life to his family and the fire service. He was a respected firefighter and fire officer, known to be knowledgeable, a good leader, and fun-loving instigator, according to his obituary.

After Britt was awarded the Carnegie Medal, Norfolk Fire-Rescue created the Captain Charlie Britt Life Saving Award. This is the highest award granted by Norfolk Fire-Rescue.

He was preceded in death by his wife Marian and his grandson, Chris.

Britt's three children, Thomas Britt, Deborah Brinkley, and Jane Hines survive him, as well as seven grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren, and many beloved friends and co-workers.



Ronald Lee McKeown

Ronald Lee McKeown, 75, of Belton, Missouri, died Sunday, Dec. 13, 2020, surrounded by family at home.

McKeown was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 1966 for attempting to save fellow Carnegie Hero **William E. Callaway**, 40, and others from drowning on July 20, 1965, in Holden, Missouri.

McKeown, and his father **Forrest L. McKeown** — also a Carnegie Medal recipient — arrived at a bridge 1,800 feet downstream from a capsized boat that had been carrying two men who had aided a woman and four boys from their submerged sedan in Blackwater Creek.

The McKeown father and son duo were heavily attired in rainwear and launched their 14-foot motorboat. Before they could gain full speed, the swift current swept the craft against a tree, causing it to capsize in water 12 feet deep. They were carried 60 feet back to the bridge and caught hold of its edge. Ronald climbed out, very fatigued.

Two men on the bridge reached through the railing and took hold of the elder McKeown but could not lift him from the water. As they started to draw him toward the end of the bridge by means of a chain, McKeown lost his hold. He was swept downstream into a submerged bush, where he drowned.

For an hour and a half, those 7 on the original capsized boat held to a small tree. A fireman arrived and began aiding the four children to safety. The woman was helped to the bridge. After Callaway handed a child to the firefighter he said he could hold on no longer and slumped into the water. Callaway and one of the boys drowned. Their bodies and the elder McKeown's were recovered later.

The son of DeForrest Leroy and Lorena Louisa McKeown, McKeown was born May 5, 1945, in St. Louis.

On August 9, 1964, McKeown married Cheryl Kay Walker in Holden, Mo. The couple had four children. McKeown was employed as an auto estimator for State Farm Insurance in Overland Park, Kansas, until his retirement in 2005. He was also a devoted member of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, in Harrisonville, Mo. He was described as happiest surrounded by his large family. In his free time, McKeown enjoyed restoring cars, woodworking, and landscaping projects.

He was preceded in death by his brother Buck and a sister, Marilyn Wilson.

McKeown's wife; four children, Ron McKeown, Jr., Kathy Barnes, Brenda Mackender, and Crissy Bohannon; nine grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; brother, Rick McKeown; sister, Patty Raker; extended family; and many friends survive him. ☼

FROM THE ARCHIVES



The Idaho site of a Jan. 3, 1961, nuclear explosion in which rescuers risked exposure to sterilizing levels of radiation to attempt to save the three men inside the room at the time of the explosion.

Explosion in the Nuclear Reactor Room

On Jan. 3, 1961, representatives of the Atomic Energy Commission and the Combustion Engineering Company were notified of an emergency at the National Reactor Testing Station located 8 miles north of Atomic City, Idaho.

The reactor building was a three-story cylindrical structure, 50 feet tall and 38 feet wide, constructed of sheet steel over steel framing over a concrete foundation.

A stairway, 4 feet wide and enclosed in sheet steel, followed the inside perimeter of the building as it ascended with a landing every 10 feet.

At the second-floor landing, a door opened outward to reveal the reactor's operating room, which was 10 feet tall and 120 feet around. In the center of the crowded room was the reactor. Reaching 4 feet high, the reactor head was surrounded by a ring of shielding blocks. There was also a water control panel, an electric generator, a switch panel, and a feed panel in the room.

On the east side of the operating room, a door opened to a landing of another stairway curving downward along the building.

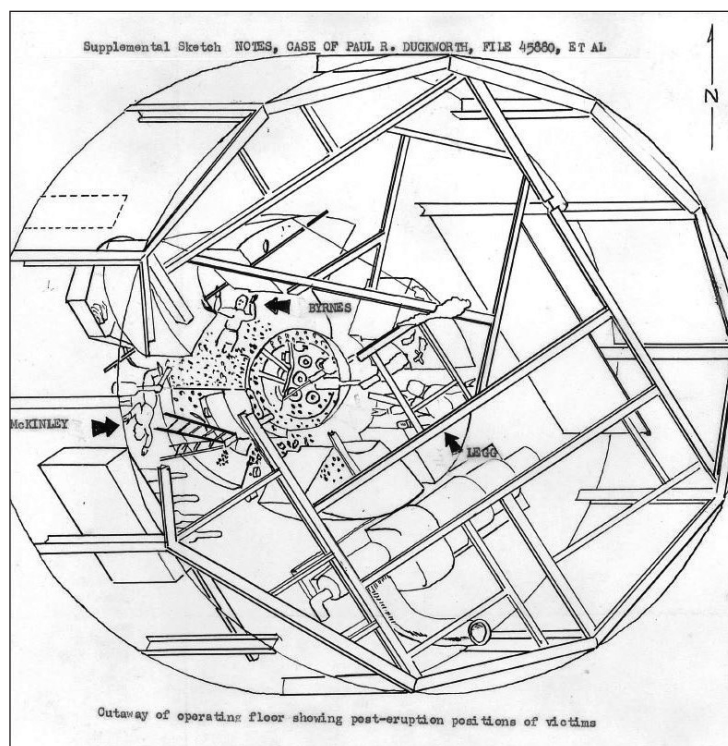
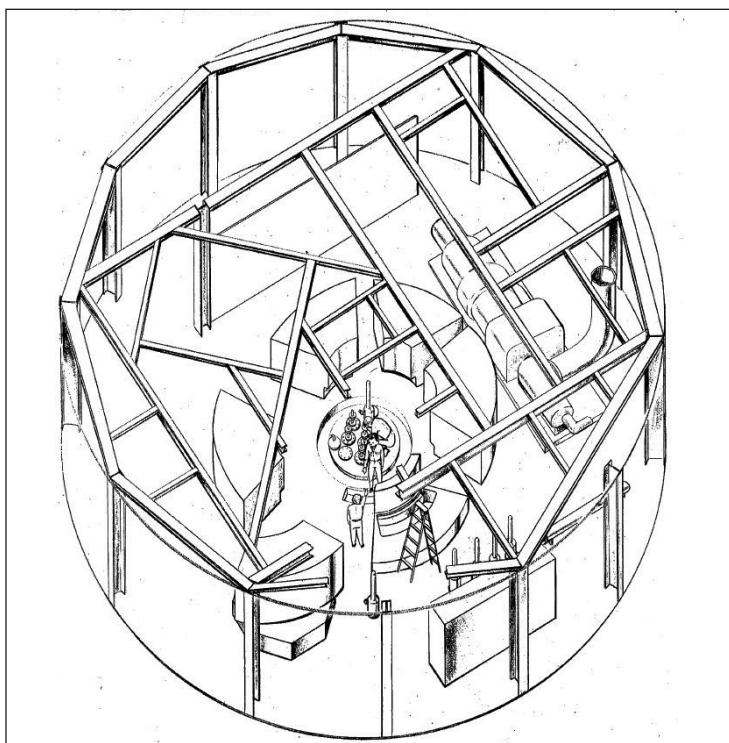
Richard L. McKinley, 33, health physicist supervisor, and John A. Byrnes III, 23, of the Army, together with Richard C. Legg, 27, a Navy man, were re-assembling the reactor after a minor change. They had moved some of the shielding blocks that surrounded the reactor head to better facilitate their work.

Inside the reactor room it was a scorching 90 degrees. The outside temperature was a frigid 1 degree.



At 10:35 p.m. a mistake caused uranium fuel in the reactor to change to a critical condition. Intense heat turned water in the system into steam, causing the top of the reactor to blow off.

Some of the fuel elements dislodged from the reactor head; ►



Left: An aerial sketch shows the positions of John A. Byrnes III, Richard L. McKinley, and Richard C. Legg, working on the reactor prior to the explosion in the operating room at the National Reactor Testing Station in Atomic City, Idaho. Right: This supplemental sketch shows the positions of the men, surrounding debris, and radioactive particles that filled the air after the reactor top exploded. Byrnes and McKinley were thrown to the floor. Legg was launched to the ceiling and was suspended on a dislodged brace.

steel pellets and other parts of the reactor, twisted metal, a step ladder, and dislodged piping was scattered about the room. The invisible threat of radioactive particles and heavy concentration of radioactive iodine filled the air.

McKinley and Byrnes were thrown to the floor. Byrnes lay with his legs covered by approximately four bushels of the steel pellets. Legg was blown to the ceiling, became caught on a dislodged brace, and was suspended there.

An automatic alarm system sounded, alerting firemen and guards, the only others then on duty in the immediate area.

Upon receiving notice, the representatives of the energy commission and the Combustion Engineering Company which had built the reactor were informed of the catastrophe.

They telephoned 37-year-old health physicist, **Lovell J. Callister**, who worked elsewhere on the station, and asked him to investigate while they drove to the scene.

Near the foot of the stairs leading to the reactor room, Callister performed tests which showed a high degree of radiation was present.

Upon identifying the gravity of the accident, Callister called **Delos E. Richards**, 35, a health physics technician, who had been working with him. Richards joined Callister at the scene and it was determined that McKinley, Byrnes, and Legg must still be inside.

By then, Combustion Engineering employees **Edward J. Vallario**, 33, health physicist supervisor; **Paul R. Duckworth**, 35, reactor operations supervisor; **Sidney Cohen**, 36, test supervisor; and **William P. Rausch**, 28, assistant operations supervisor, had arrived.

William P. Gammill, 32, health physicist with the energy commission, also arrived.

Tests taken at the foot of the stairs showed a radiation of more than 200 R, standing for roentgens per hour, the unit of measurement for radiation.

In their report, Hero Fund Investigators Irwin M. Urling and H.W. Eyman wrote about the testing station's official and unofficial policy in regards to radiation exposure: workers' radiation exposure was limited to 12 R in one year, which was considered safe. Off the record, entering radiation of more than 30 R was strictly on a voluntary basis, and no one was permitted to order anybody to enter so dangerous a field. An exposure of 100 R is considered permanently sterilizing and all exposure is cumulative.

Callister, Richards, Vallario, Duckworth, Cohen, Rausch, and Gammill discussed plans to rescue the three men from the reactor room. They agreed to participate, unanimously, although the conditions were dangerous and subject to change, triggering further radioactivity.

Hero hunters Urling and Eyman reported that all of the men were trained in atomic procedures and had training in rescue work.

With the exception of Callister and Richards, all of the other men had visited the operating room often, knew its arrangement, and were familiar with the three men trapped inside.

About 90 minutes after the explosion, Vallario and Duckworth, the highest ranking in their respective fields among the lot, decided to enter the room first.

It was mentioned by Vallario's supervisors that in entering the room himself, Vallario acted entirely beyond his duties.

In their regular attire, the two men each put on a respirator mask, which had a glass front, permitting the view of only what lie ahead and inhibiting their hearing. Each mask had a hose connected to an air canister.

Vallario also took a radiation detector. He and Duckworth went to the stairway and ascended to the west door or the reactor room. As they got close, Vallario heard groans.

They entered the room to find debris scattered everywhere in the small space. The sudden change in temperature the freezing ►

outside to 90 degrees inside, caused their masks to fog up.

Vallario and Duckworth noted McKinley on the floor and saw him move slightly before Vallario noticed Byrnes partially covered with steel pellets and blood.

After having been inside for a little over a minute, Duckworth and Vallario left the reactor room by the west door to get additional help.

They descended the stairs and each opened the glass front of his mask, taking a big breath of fresh air.

The other five men were joined by an Army captain and an Air Force sergeant and additional respirators and two stretchers had been acquired.

They relayed that McKinley was still alive, but they feared Byrnes was dead.

“The detector registered 500 R during the entire time we were in the room,” explained Vallario. He concluded that the radiation was as high as 1,000 R.

Cohen, Rausch, Gammill, Callister, and Richards put on respirators, and with Vallario and Duckworth leading, went to the bottom of the covered stairs.

“Wait,” Gammill paused, suggesting Callister and Richards wait outside since space was limited in the reactor room and because they might need someone to carry messages in case of an emergency.

The other five men ascended the stairs and entered the room.

Duckworth, Cohen, Vallario, and Gammill moved to McKinley, who still was moving slightly. Duckworth took hold of McKinley’s head and Gammill, his feet. Metal debris was caught in McKinley’s trousers and it took about 30 seconds to free him. Then Gammill walked backward, checking his path by looking over his shoulder, while they carried McKinley to the west door and placed him on a stretcher.

Rausch went to Byrnes and felt for a pulse. “Byrnes is dead,” he called, alerting the others. Meanwhile Gammill scanned the scene and Vallario moved aside debris, but neither man could find Legg. He and Rausch followed the others to the west door.

Suddenly, Duckworth’s respirator ran out of air, and he immediately exited through the west door. He had been inside about two minutes.

Two of the men took hold of the stretcher, and Vallario suggested they avoid the badly contaminated enclosed stairway and take McKinley down the open stairway instead.

Gammill said he would meet them there with a truck and left by way of the west door about 15 seconds after Duckworth had departed.

As the three men carried McKinley toward the east door, Vallario’s mask had been bumped and became inoperable.

Quickly opening the glass section, Vallario pleaded “Hurry, boys, I’m breathing it raw!”

They carried McKinley another 30 feet when they saw that the stretcher would not fit past the water control panel. With all three men walking backward and peering over their shoulders, they returned to the west door.

By now they had been in the room for about three minutes. Cohen, Duckworth, Gammill, Rausch, and Vallario descended the stairs and, with the aid of Callister and Richards, carried McKinley to a waiting ambulance.

Vallario and Rausch conveyed to the other men that Byrnes was dead. After stating they were unsure of Legg’s location and condition, Callister, Richards, the captain, and the sergeant, all wearing respirators, ascended the closed stairs to search for Legg.

The sergeant happened to look up and saw Legg suspended from the ceiling. He informed the other three men, and they concluded that Legg was dead.

The four men left the room after having been in it about one minute and provided the grim update.

At this point, rescue efforts were discontinued. The bodies of Byrnes and Legg would be removed from the room much later.

Meanwhile in the ambulance, McKinley’s respiration and pulse had ceased, and he could not be revived.

Although tests showed that radioactive particles of metal had been driven into McKinley’s body and he absorbed 400 R, his official cause of death was deemed concussion and wounds from the explosion.

Vallario, Duckworth, Rausch, Cohen, Gammill, Callister, Richards, and the two servicemen went to the decontamination building.

Vallario, had been in the reactor room for approximately four minutes on two trips. He was found to have absorbed about 25 R and, by breathing without the mask, he also absorbed harmful iodine from the air.

When reflecting on the risk he took, Vallario said he felt he was risking his life throughout the act because he might have absorbed a fatal amount of radiation, and because the situation was unprecedented and no one knew what to expect, especially since the fuel elements were scattered about and any impact with them might set off a fatal amount of radiation.

Callister and Richards lent their understanding of the danger they undertook to the tests Callister performed indicating high radiation levels. Both had been in the reactor room for approximately one minute and absorbed 11 R.

Duckworth and Cohen had been in the reactor room a total of about three minutes, each absorbing 27 R. Duckworth stated that he was conscious of the risk he undertook from the start and feared any misstep might have resulted in a second explosion. Cohen said his concerns focused on encountering a dislodged fuel element, which would have increased his exposure to radiation.

In attempting to determine if Byrnes was still alive, Rausch felt for a pulse and placed his hand between the man’s shoulder blades to see if there was respiration. Rausch knew this physical touch could result in him absorbing a lethal dose of radiation. He had absorbed 23 R in three minutes.

When prompted by Urling and Eyman, Gammill attributed his knowledge of the risk he undertook to the high radiation present and unknown conditions inside the radiation room. He had been inside for around two and a half minutes and absorbed 23 R.

Vallario, Callister Richards, Duckworth, and Gammill were forbidden to enter radioactive fields for at least six months.

All seven men were awarded the bronze Carnegie Medal and \$500 for their actions. ☼

—Abby Brady, *Operations and Outreach Assistant/Archivist*

“As the three men carried McKinley toward the east door, Vallario’s mask had been bumped and became inoperable. Quickly opening the glass section, Vallario pleaded, ‘Hurry, boys, I’m breathing it raw!’”

**Carnegie Hero Fund Commission**

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

Further information is available online or by contacting the Commission.

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

Address change? Please keep us posted.

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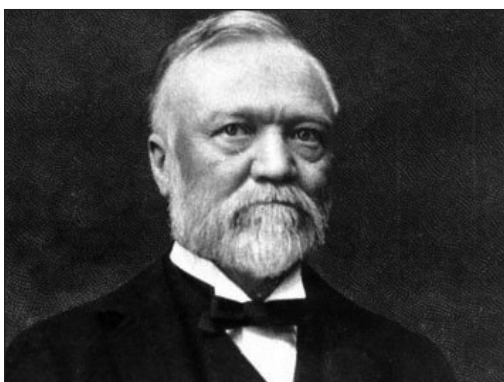
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THE QUOTABLE A.C.

The Hero Fund is to become the recognized agency, watching, applauding, and supporting where support is needed, heroic action wherever displayed and by whomever displayed — White or Black, Male or Female — or at least this is my hope.

— Undated letter by Andrew Carnegie

CONTINUUM

GRAVE MARKERS Bronze grave markers (below), cast in the likeness of the Carnegie Medal, are available at no cost to the families of awardees who have passed. They are designed for mounting on stone or bronze memorials.

MEDAL REFINISHING The Hero Fund will refinish Carnegie Medals at no cost to the owner. The medals are to be sent to the Hero Fund's office by insured, registered mail. Allow a month for the process.

OBITUARIES Written accounts of the awardee's life, such as contained in an obituary, are sought for addition to the awardee's page on the Commission's website.

ANNUAL REPORTS Copies of the Hero Fund's most recent annual reports (2017-2018) are available online or by contacting the Hero Fund.

IMPULSE ONLINE? Should you wish to receive *Impulse* in PDF rather than in your mailbox, let us know.

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