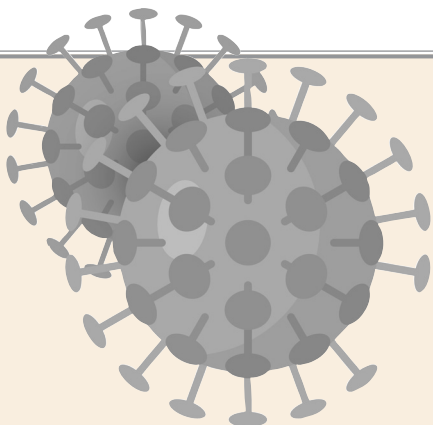




Impulse

A periodic newsletter of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission
ISSUE 61 • SPRING 2020



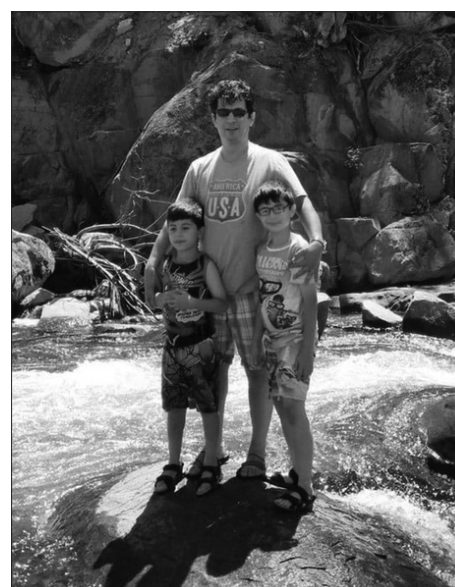
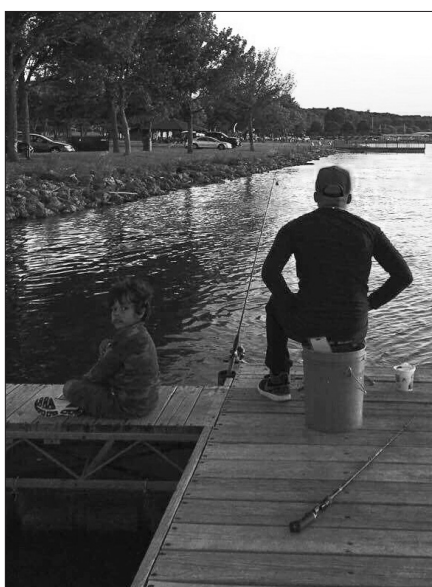
CARNEGIE HERO FUND RESPONDS TO CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) GLOBAL PANDEMIC

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has impacted all of us across the globe, and the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission is no exception. First and foremost our concern is for the health and well-being of our Carnegie Hero families and friends of the Commission. Please stay safe.

The work of the Commission will continue through the current health crisis. Headquartered in Pittsburgh, the Commission's physical office space is closed, but staff members are working remotely to carry out the administrative, financial, and investigative operations of the fund.

Given the current environment, we are pausing coordination of medal presentation ceremonies for awardees until further notice. We have staff checking Hero Fund voicemail regularly and will relay messages to the appropriate person. Please allow a little more time for return calls, or feel free to email us at carnegiehero@carnegiehero.org.

The board and staff of the Hero Fund wish you all continued health and hope in the days ahead. 🌀



Half of the posthumous cases awarded in 2019 involved parents saving or attempting to save their children, including **Malik Andre Williams** (left photo), who drowned attempting to rescue his 6-year-old son; **Mir Khaled Ahmad** (right photo), who drowned attempting to rescue his 9-year-old son; **David S. Turner, Sr.**, who died attempting to remove his adult, disabled daughter from their burning home; and **Kenneth Raye Gooch, Jr.**, who also drowned while attempting to save his fiancée's 12-year-old son.

2019 in review: 73 awards made, more than \$786K dispersed in grants

By Sybil P. Veeder, Chair, Executive Committee
Carnegie Hero Fund Commission

2019 was a relatively quiet year for the Hero Fund compared to the previous year's excitement of our 10,000th medal awarded. But 2019 was nonetheless a landmark year as the celebration of Andrew Carnegie's legacy continued through to the 100th anniversary of his death in August. Now in its 116th year of operation, the Commission strives to continue its core mandates while remaining responsive to modern times.

The beneficiary systems within society to support heroes and families has changed, and the Commission must continue to change to adequately address their needs.

Commission members have begun further exploring the psychological effects of heroic rescues, with expected research on this important issue to continue. It is the hope that the fruits of these research efforts will better position the Commission to ►



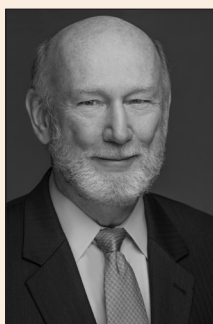
Kenneth Raye Gooch, Jr.



BOARD NOTES

GLOBAL PANDEMIC REQUIRES EVERYONE TO SACRIFICE

By Mark Laskow, Chair
Carnegie Hero Fund Commission



Mark Laskow

"You know, I'd better write my Impulse article now, before I catch this damned virus."

I've been writing this quarterly column since 2007, or thereabouts, but this is the first time I've had to consider a pandemic

as I start my work. As soon as the thought popped into my head, though, it was bumped by a more urgent one: "What about all the healthcare providers who are going to work this morning to face real danger?"

All that is required of me is that, from the safe isolation of my home, I write the article ... NOW. The "now" part has always been a problem for me, but today I am powerfully motivated by the sacrifices others are making on our behalf.

This could end up as the worst disease outbreak in living memory for the people of Canada and the United States, but the Hero Fund's memory is longer than that.

Andrew Carnegie created the Hero Fund in 1904 and 14 years later the two countries were caught up in the global flu pandemic of 1918.

I wondered, as you might, how this affected the Hero Fund.

Our offices are closed right now. I certainly would not ask our staff, who are working remotely, to go physically to the office to review our archives.

Information about awarded cases is available online, however, so I reviewed the awards for the years from 1918 to 1921. This did not reveal any cases that seemed pandemic-related.

This is not surprising, since the Hero Fund's cases are dominated by physical rescues: fire, ice, drowning, assault, suffocation, and similar mayhem. When we get back to normal — and we will — I'll be in our archives to read more about this.

We can see, though, that the Hero Fund ►



Steven W. Fitzpatrick

2019 year in review

continue to effectively support those who need us the most.

There was again much discussion regarding awarding requirements, as there should be. Founder Andrew Carnegie expected the Commission to evolve in all of the rightful respects related to our work.

Of specific interest was the Commission's awarding considerations as to life-saving acts by police and first responders. Criminologist and law enforcement expert Dr. R. Paul McCauley joined the Commission at its March 2019 meeting and shed light on historic and legal guideposts that could help the Commission determine the meaning and nature of "above and beyond the call of duty" so that Commission members can consider these cases with eyes wide open.

The Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy and associated events held in October in New York City once again not only recognized today's greatest philanthropists (on Carnegie's model), but the event also presented opportunities to share and discuss the Hero Fund's mission and current priorities with sister institutions near and far. Once again, it served as a backdrop for close collaboration with Carnegie's European fund representatives in attendance.

The Commission remains strong, relevant, and respected in its work. And most importantly, it remains true to the hopes of its founder in regard to its impact on heroes and society at large.

AWARDEES

Once again, our heroes in 2019 were diverse in all respects. More detail follows, but a few highlights:

- There were 73 awards for 59 total acts
- Burning vehicles were most common, followed by drowning.
- Awardees ranged from 16 to 72 years of age.
- They came from 27 U.S. states and five Canadian provinces.
- Eight heroes gave their lives. We will not forget their sacrifice.

Geography — California, the most populous state in the U.S., had both the highest number of awardee residents and the highest number of acts occurring in the state in 2019 with a total of seven. Connecticut, with one-seventh the population of California, came in second with six awardees and acts. Although Virginia was third in number of awardees (five), it ranked much lower on the number of acts list. Illinois and New York round out the states with the highest number of awardee residents with four awardees and four acts, with North Carolina having fewer awardees but the same number of acts. ►

In Canada, five provinces were accounted for in 2019, with Alberta and Nova Scotia home to the most Canadian Carnegie heroes (two each), and British Columbia, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Ontario each having one. In terms of where acts occurred, the spread is similar: two acts in British Columbia, one each in Ontario, Alberta, Nova Scotia, and Northwest Territories.

Posthumous awards — Eight Carnegie Medals were awarded posthumously, with seven heroes drowning while rescuing or attempting to rescue others and one rescuer dying in a burning building. 2019 saw a 3.2% decrease in posthumous awards, and it was nearly half of the Fund's historical average.

Age and Case Type — The oldest Carnegie Hero awarded in 2019 was 72-year-old **Steven W. Fitzpatrick**, and the youngest was 16-year-old **Ryan Scott McIlwain**.

Of the awards, a total of 59 acts were investigated in 2019, the most frequent type of case was the 23 rescues from a burning vehicle, followed by 18 drowning rescues.

The least frequently occurring types of rescues in 2019 were rescues involving falling through ice and rescues involving falling from a significant height, which Hero Fund staff classify as "elevation" cases. There were one case each of those types, plus one type classified as general, which was the risk of being burned by spilling acid.

Other notable cases include:

- **Julie K. Callaghan**, who was in her vehicle at a railroad crossing in Chilliwack, B.C., when 44-year-old Matthew Jarvis, in a motorized wheelchair, got stuck on the tracks. Warning lights flashed as a train approached at a speed of about 50 m.p.h.

Darting beneath the crossing gate, Callaghan and another woman attempted to lift and pull the wheelchair from the path of the train. Callaghan looked over her shoulder, and seeing the train bearing down on them, began to move away from the track, when the train struck Jarvis and Callaghan's hand. Jarvis was killed.

Callaghan sustained broken bones and other injuries to her hands, which required surgery, followed by the partial amputation of her dominant hand in October 2019. She continues to undergo physical therapy and hopes to be fit for a prosthetic in the future, she said.

- **Van L. Anderson**, 54, a paving equipment operator of Chattanooga, Tenn., on Feb. 17, 2018, rescued a 3-year-old girl from the effects of a hazardous acid, after a semi-truck containing 5,000 gallons of toxic monochloroacetic acid hit the pickup truck containing the girl and her mother and came to rest atop the pickup on an embankment. The acid was escaping the tanker and flowing into the pickup truck.

Ignoring a 911 operator's warning not to approach the wreckage and despite the acid continuing to flow into the pickup truck near the girl, Anderson, who heard the accident from his house nearby, moved to the pickup.

While standing on a rock outcrop adjacent to the pickup, he reached inside the vehicle, unfastened the girl from her car seat, and lifted her from the truck.

Anderson carried the toddler away from the wreck to safety. She had facial burns from the acid. Her mother died in the accident. ►



*Ryan Scott
McIlwain*



Julie K. Callaghan



Van L. Anderson

► from p.2

BOARD NOTES

staff and Commission members continued to function throughout the pandemic. From 1918 to 1920 they researched and awarded 215 cases, averaging 72 per year. In the year before the outbreak and the two years after, they awarded 265 cases, averaging 88 per year. From this I conclude that (1) there was a definite impact and (2) they got a lot done in spite of the pandemic.

Remember the conditions in which they worked. They were definitely not telecommuting! Just the opposite, the cases were investigated in person by traveling investigators who spent most of their year on the road. These brave souls took serious personal risk to carry on the work. My hat is off to them.

There will be much heroism called for in the coming weeks and months. In particular, our healthcare workers, from housekeeping to senior medical staff, are already taking risks far beyond what we are entitled to ask of them.

It is predictable that some will lose their lives in the effort. We owe them more than thanks for this sacrifice. We owe them some sacrifice of our own.

Over the coming weeks and months each of us has a responsibility of our own, a responsibility to break the chain of transmission of this virus in order to protect our families, protect our neighbors, and protect the healthcare workers who are taking such great risks for us.

This vigilance requires that we each put our community first, remain mindful of what we are doing, and cheerfully make sacrifices for the common good.

None of us is so special as to be exempt from this obligation. That is what our Carnegie heroes knew, and it is what you must know.

We have always needed our heroes, and they have been there for us. You must be there too, just as they were. ☘

“ This vigilance requires that we put our community first, remain mindful of what we are doing, and cheerfully make sacrifices for the common good. ”



OVERHEARD

I'm a big girl. I'm a strong woman. It didn't matter at the time. — **Vickie Tillman**, Carnegie Medal awardee #10000, referencing bruises she sustained while helping rescue a police officer who was being beaten by a man he was trying to arrest.

My fear was that I'd jump into the river, hit something, and not come up again. This is probably the one thing I reflect on the most; the fact that I might have been seriously injured or died jumping ... Nevertheless, I jumped. — **M. Ross Klun**, Carnegie Medal awardee #10027

Still trying to process this; haven't slept in a few days, so it's something. — **Ryan Scott McIlwain**, Carnegie Medal awardee #10087

He was tired, he had been working all day, but he didn't wait one minute to jump in that ocean and save my baby. — mother of boy rescued from drowning by **Kenneth Raye Gooch, Jr.**, Carnegie Medal awardee #10090

I think about it a lot. I did take one day off of work to just reset, and take it in. — **Michael Douglas Barkhouse**, Carnegie Medal awardee #10107

I don't think there was anything more I could do. I think I did everything. I don't have any guilt. I stepped in and did everything I could to stop it. I feel good. But, I'm also just anxious now because I never thought I would have to deal with a guy wielding an ax in my front yard. — **Jordan Scott Lambay**, Carnegie Medal awardee #10110

He turned to me and he said, 'I love you,' and I told him 'I love you too,' and he walked into the house through a black sheet of smoke, and I knew then that he probably might not come out. — widow of **David S. Turner, Sr.**, Carnegie Medal awardee #10124

I'm never going to forget that. I'm going to live my life as best as I can and hopefully make him proud. — woman saved by **Jacob Farley**, Carnegie Medal awardee #10137

My heart stopped. I felt if I didn't do something, something bad was going to happen. — **Douglas Leroy Tallman, Sr.**, Carnegie Medal awardee #10142

He is Vincent's angel and a hero to all of us forever. We will forever be grateful for his courage, bravery and unselfish act. — sister of **Victor Mozqueda**, Carnegie Medal awardee #10146, who rescued a 5-year-old boy from drowning

I wasn't gonna let her burn. Not while I was there. That was all that was going through my brain. — **Kenneth L. Hamilton**, Carnegie Medal awardee #10138

I want to offer my gratitude to everybody. Thank you for all the recognition I don't feel I deserve. — **Joshua Ryan Quick**, Carnegie Medal awardee #10151



*Hero Fund President Eric Zahren, left, and Chair Mark Laskow, right, presented the Carnegie Medal to **Phillip H. DiLuca** Nov. 15, 2019. The ceremony was featured in an article that appeared in The New York Times about the Commission.*

2019 year in review

- Off-duty Police Officer **Phillip H. DiLuca** was on his way home from work when he heard of a mobile home fire on his police radio. Neighbors of a 53-year-old man banged on his doors and windows, trying to rouse him from sleep. DiLuca arrived and forced open a rear door. Encountering intense heat and smoke, he crouched low and moved quickly through the house, using a T-shirt to shield his nose and mouth from smoke. DiLuca searched two bedrooms before finding the man in the third. DiLuca shook him awake and guided him through thick smoke and nearby flames out the back door. The chief of police of DiLuca's department stated that DiLuca went above and beyond the call of duty to enter the burning home without protective gear. In November, officer DiLuca, along with his family and police chief, visited the Hero Fund office in Pittsburgh. DiLuca was presented his Carnegie Medal during a ceremony at the Allegheny HYP Club.
- Mattoon, Ill., high school teacher **Angela Lynn McQueen** saved students and staff from a school shooter. As the 14-year-old boy fired a .40-caliber, semiautomatic pistol toward other students, McQueen approached him and lunged for the gun. She forced the assailant's hand upward toward the ceiling and held it there until the gun was emptied. McQueen disarmed him as a school resource officer arrived to handcuff him. One student was hit with a bullet and recovered. McQueen suffered minor hearing loss in both ears and other injuries. The remaining students and staff escaped the cafeteria unharmed. "In that moment you don't really think you just react. To me it's almost like mama bear instinct [...] you're not going to do this to my kids, you're not going to do this at my school," she said. ►



*The Rev. Ian Stamps, left, hugs Carnegie Hero **Angela Lynn McQueen**, of Mattoon, Ill., after presenting the Carnegie Medal to her at a private ceremony held Oct. 6 at Broadway Christian Church in Mattoon.*

GRANTS

Each of the year's awardees received a one-time grant, the amount of which was increased by the board from \$5,000 to \$5,500 at its September meeting. Awardees who are of pre-retirement age are also eligible for scholarship assistance, defined as aid applied toward the academic costs of tuition, books, and fees.

In 2019, \$275,000 was budgeted and \$168,365 spent by year's end. The students who receive the scholarship assistance are diverse and impressive, each a hero themselves or a dependent of a disabled or posthumous awardee.

Regarding the beneficiaries, who are primarily the widows of posthumous awardees, \$252,520 was paid in 2019 (budgeted: \$273,000) in monthly installments that averaged \$398; the number of beneficiaries remained steady at 49 at year's end.

OUTREACH

Press coverage of heroic acts, awarding, and medal presentations was robust, and website and social media account public engagement saw continued increases across the board.

In December, *The New York Times* ran a delightful piece in its style section about the Commission's mission and staff, with a focus on awardees, new and old.

Personal medal presentations to awardees continued at a rigorous pace, with almost all receiving their Carnegie Medals from a Commission representative, public figure, volunteer presenter, or case principal.

ABROAD

During 2019, grants were disbursed to the Italian Fund in support of operations and to the Swiss Fund in support of their May event recognizing the latest recipients of the Swiss Hero Fund Medal for Heroism.

In addition, the Swiss fund hosted a full-day Carnegie Philanthropy Symposium which featured various speakers, including Hero Fund Board member and Carnegie great-granddaughter Linda Hills.

ORGANIZATIONAL

No changes were made at board level during the year. At the staff level, former intern Abby Brady joined the staff in January as a full-time operations and outreach assistant/archivist, and has made an immediate and meaningful impact.

Many thanks to the staff for their hard work, without which the Commission would not have had such a productive and memorable year. ☼



***Julie K. Callaghan** shows the tattoo she commissioned that memorializes the heroic act in which she gravely injured her hand attempting to save a man in a wheelchair from being struck by a train, May 26, 2018, in Chilliwack, B.C.*

CARNEGIE HERO MEMORIALIZES ACT WITH FOREARM TATTOO

On the outside of **Julie K. Callaghan's** forearm, just above her wrist, a reminder in black ink spells out "50 mph" in slanted script with an arrow extending from the end of the "h" toward her hand, itself a reminder.

That tattoo details the speed of the train when it hit her hand while she attempted to rescue 40-year-old Matthew Jarvis, whose motorized wheelchair became stuck on railroad tracks May 26, 2018, in Chilliwack, B.C.

Callaghan, who at the time was a 44-year-old vocational counselor of Chilliwack, had stopped her vehicle at the crossing, as the gates descended and warning lights flashed.

As a train approached she saw that Jarvis was stuck. She darted beneath the crossing gate and, with another woman, attempted to lift and pull the wheelchair from the path of the train. With her back to the train, they tried twice

“ I wanted to be able to know what I had done. I wanted to know why my hand was the way it was, and for other people to see. ”

► p.6



► from p.5

TATTOO

unsuccessfully to free the chair.

Callaghan looked over her shoulder and saw the train bearing down on them.

Jarvis was killed. Callaghan suffered severe injuries to her hand which after 17 months of recovery and rehabilitation resulted in a partial amputation.

She is still in chronic pain.

Callaghan commissioned the tattoo last fall.

Although she said that she knew she wanted a tattoo to remember her heroic act and Jarvis, pulling the trigger was spur of the moment, during a trip to Las Vegas that she had won.

"I wasn't sure about when or where I was going to get it, but then you get to go to Vegas for free. I kind of thought, 'Hey! I'm here, so let's do it,'" Callaghan said. "It was something I had been thinking about since my cast came off, and the timing was just right."

She went to the tattoo parlor her husband had visited a few years back and collaborated with the tattoo artist to finalize her design.

Callaghan said she originally considered getting the tattoo on her hand, but ultimately decided the pain would have been too much. Instead, the arrow points to her injured hand.

"I wanted to be able to know what I had done. I wanted to know why my hand was the way it was, and for other people to see. A lot of the time, people did not believe that I was actually hit by a train. I would say, 'Yes, and it was going 50 miles an hour. Look!' And show my tattoo."

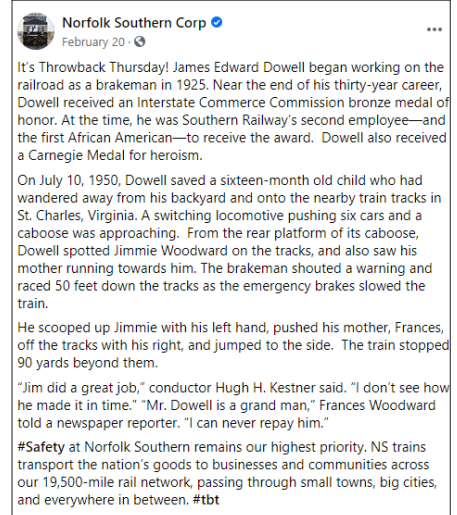
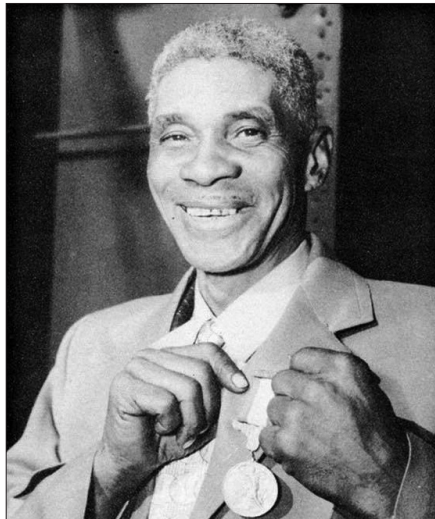
Further, the tattoo serves as an anchor on bad days, she said, helping remind her that her pain is not for nothing but from trying to help another human.

Hero Fund President Eric Zahren presented Callaghan with the Carnegie Medal in December in Chilliwack. At the end of the presentation, Callaghan expressed a tearful thanks.

"I've got your backs if you're ever in trouble. I would do it again," she said.

Helping others, regardless of the situation, is the only right action to take, she told *Impulse*. And though the healing of her hand will remain "a lifetime project," as she told CTV News in October, a permanent reminder to the injuries she endured, the ink serves as a chosen reminder of the day she held to her convictions and took the only right action she could. ☸

— Katherine Lewis,
intern



Left photo: James E. Dowell; Right photo: A screenshot of the Norfolk Southern Facebook post published Feb. 20 to honor Carnegie Hero Dowell, who saved a 16-month-old boy from being struck by a train in 1950. Dowell was the first African American to receive the Interstate Commerce Commission bronze Medal of Honor for the heroic act as well.

Norfolk Southern railroad features Carnegie hero during Black History Month

Railroad corporation Norfolk Southern recently featured Carnegie Hero **James E. Dowell** in a #throwbackthursday Facebook post.

Including a photo that Norfolk Southern Assistant Manager Jennifer Davis McDaid found in *Ties*, a Southern Railway magazine, the post highlighted Dowell's rescue of a 16-month-old child who was playing on train tracks in St. Charles, Va., nearly 70 years ago.



Dowell, a 60-year-old Southern Norfolk brakeman, was working July 10, 1950, at the caboose of a locomotive pushing six other cars at a speed of about 12 m.p.h. From the platform, Dowell spotted Jimmie A. Woodward playing on the tracks and his mother, Frances Woodward, running toward the track. Dowell shouted a warning, jumped from the train, ran 50 feet alongside the train, and grasped the boy, pulling him from the path of the train when it was 3 feet away. As the train, in emergency braking by then, passed, it brushed against Dowell's jacket and trousers, stopping 270 feet from where Dowell stood.

According to Norfolk Southern's post, "Jim did a great job," conductor Hugh H. Kestner said. "I don't see how he made it in time."

Dowell also received the Interstate Commerce Commission bronze Medal of Honor.

"#Safety at Norfolk Southern remains our highest priority. NS trains transport the nation's goods to businesses and communities across our 19,500-mile rail network, passing through small towns, big cities, and everywhere in between. No matter where we travel, NS works around the clock to deliver a better and safer future," the Facebook post concluded. ☸



The headstone of Carnegie Hero **Link Luckett** in a family plot in Hambalang, Indonesia.

Hero laid to rest in Indonesia, grave in family plot marked with Carnegie medallion

A Carnegie hero laid to rest in Indonesia now has a grave marker denoting the heroism he exhibited nearly 60 years before his death.

“Few natives in this population have the slightest idea who Andrew Carnegie might be,” **Link Luckett**, then 86, wrote to the Commission in 2014, “But they all know what a hero is. It is the same word in the Indonesian language as in English.”

Luckett was 32 years old when he piloted a helicopter that rescued two injured climbers from near the top of Mt. McKinley in Kantishna, Alaska, for which he received a silver Carnegie Medal. Three years earlier he and his family had moved to Alaska where he started his helicopter charter business.

In May 1960, four climbers were descending from the summit of Mt. McKinley when they fell 500 feet down a slope to an ice field that was at an elevation of 17,200 feet. John S. Day, 51, sustained a fractured ankle, and Peter K. Schoening, 33, suffered a brain concussion. Other climbers sent out a call for help, but the oxygen-deprived and frigid atmosphere made rescue difficult. For 48 hours, planes dropped supplies, but their pilots dared not land. Hearing radio calls for helicopters, Luckett responded, despite the fact that his helicopter was not supposed to ascend beyond 16,200 feet.

After an exploratory flight to the area and discovering that some of the helicopter’s dashboard instruments stopped working at such a high altitude, he returned to a rescue base, lightened the load of the helicopter as much as possible, including removing one of its doors, limiting the gas tank to only 10 gallons, and removing the engine’s battery after the engine was started.

Despite the helicopter becoming sluggish as he passed through a heavy cloud layer, he piloted the helicopter to the ice field and landed. Fearing that the engine would stall, he remained at the controls while the other men in Day’s party brought Day to the helicopter. Luckett took off, the helicopter bouncing and moving over a steep downward slope before becoming airborne. He took Day to the rescue base, with only three gallons of fuel to spare.

He re-fueled and took off again, despite gusty winds and heavy clouds. He touched down on the ice field several times, looking for a landing spot, but failed to find one. Fearing that the helicopter might run out of fuel if he dallied any longer, he returned to the base, refueled, and took off again. By then the temperature was -30 degrees and the wind blew in gusts of 10 to 30

► p.16



Photo by Daniel Doughtie. From left, Retired U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Perry Smith introduces this year’s honorees at the 10th Jimmie Dyess Symposium held Jan. 9 at the August (Ga.) Museum of History. Frederick P. Gehle, Gloria W. Norwood, and James E. Livingston were presented with Distinguished American Awards at the event named for Carnegie Hero **A. James Dyess**.

SYMPOSIUM NAMED FOR CARNEGIE HERO CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

This year marked 10 years since the inaugural Jimmie Dyess Symposium, held annually each January in Augusta, Ga., to honor Carnegie Hero **A. James (“Jimmie”) Dyess** and his life of service as well as salute other Americans who have made major contributions to their communities.

Developed by retired U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Perry Smith, who is also Smith’s son-in-law, the symposium includes a one-hour program that touches on Dyess’ life.

“There’s a pattern to his life we can all learn from. A pattern of selfless service, courage, and concern for others that was truly extraordinary,” said Smith after the first symposium in 2011.

Dyess received the Carnegie Medal for a 1928 water rescue in which he saved a woman from drowning at Sullivan’s Island, S.C. He was 20 years old. Sixteen years later, as a combat Marine, Lt. Col. Dyess went behind enemy lines to save four badly wounded Marines in World War II. The next day, Feb. 2, 1944, he was shot and killed while leading his men against the last enemy position. He received the Medal of Honor posthumously.

This year’s honorees were community volunteer Gloria W. Norwood, who co-founded two local organizations dedicated to helping an Augusta neighborhood; Frederick P. Gehle, who coordinated the Veteran’s History Project for the Augusta Richmond County Historical Society, which includes more than 850 interviews of veterans and culminated in a documentary and book; and retired U.S. Marine Maj. Gen. James E. Livingston, who received the Medal of Honor and the Silver Star for action in the Vietnam War.

The next Jimmie Dyess Symposium, which is free to attend, will be held Jan. 14, 2021, at the Augusta Museum of History. More information can be found at augustamuseum.org/JimmieDyessSymposium.



LATEST AWARDEES
OF THE CARNEGIE MEDAL

Since the last issue of Impulse, the following 18 individuals have been awarded the Carnegie Medal, bringing the total number of recipients to 10,153 since the Hero Fund's inception in 1904. The latest awards were announced March 17. The next announcement will be made in June.

Retired firefighter **Ernest J. Tarsitano**, 60, was driving home when he noticed smoke pouring from a two-room cabin bungalow at a Galloway, N.J., motel July 26, 2018. He stopped at the scene and learned that 72-year-old Roderick R. Cormier was still inside. Despite dark, thick smoke and zero visibility, Tarsitano crawled into the home and searched for Cormier, locating him on the floor, limp, near flames. Tarsitano stood, grasping him, and dragged him while

backing toward the door. As he neared the door, others assisted him in removing Cormier to safety. Cormier suffered burns and inhaled smoke and was taken to the hospital. He recovered. Paramedics at the scene treated Tarsitano, who had difficulty breathing and lacerations on his knees. He also recovered.

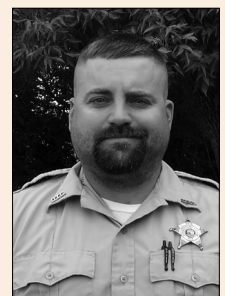
A 26-year-old man will posthumously receive the Carnegie Medal. **Jacob Farley**, a floor installer from Wichita, Kan., drowned June 21, 2019, while keeping Madison L. Capps from drowning in the Elk River near Noel, Mo. Capps, 21, struggled in the boil at the base of a low-head dam; Farley went to her aid. As she grasped a raft, he swam from the river's south bank 25



Jacob Farley



Kenneth L. Hamilton



Cameron K. Hanson

feet to Capps, and positioned himself behind her. For 30 minutes, he repeatedly pushed her up, to keep her afloat. Fire personnel arrived and threw a rope to Capps, who grasped it and was pulled from the rolling boil. Farley submerged and did not resurface. Capps recovered.

An off-duty campus police sergeant responded to a single-car accident occurring May 1, 2019, in San Antonio. The sedan overturned onto its passenger side and fire broke out in the engine. The car's driver, 48-year-old Tammy F. Cook, was held in her seat by the seat belt and, disoriented, she could not leave the car. Police Sergeant **Kenneth L. Hamilton**, 54, used a metal baton to attempt to break out the windshield, but it did not break through. Others nearby threw things at the windshield to weaken it, while Hamilton kicked it several times and then peeled it from its frame to create an opening near the ground. He reached through the opening and used a knife to cut Cook's seat belt. She tumbled from the driver's seat and scrambled to her hands and knees. Hamilton reached through the windshield opening, grasped her wrists, and pulled her from the car. He dragged her about 20 feet away and collapsed. Others moved Cook and Hamilton farther from the engulfed wreckage. Cook was not burned and recovered from accident injuries. Hamilton was treated for a strained shoulder as well as cuts and scrapes, but he, too, recovered.

Cameron K. Hanson, a 37-year-old corrections officer of Fergus Falls, Minn., entered near-freezing water to rescue his friend, 65-year-old Leon G. Engelhart. Engelhart, Hanson, and others on Dec. 6, 2018, had been ice fishing on the ice-covered Wall Lake in Fergus Falls, staying away from a known area of open water. At night, Engelhart drove an ATV across the lake and entered the water. Hanson and another man went to the edge of the ice and Hanson entered the water. He swam about 75 feet to Engelhart and then towed him back to the edge of the ice by the back of his jacket. En route, Hanson submerged several times while attempting to keep Engelhart's head above water. At the edge of the ice, the other man assisted Engelhart and then Hanson back onto ►



*Carnegie Hero **Ernest J. Tarsitano** stands in front of the bungalow after a July 26, 2016, fire decimated it. Tarsitano helped rescue a man who was inside the dwelling as flames grew and spread. Tarsitano, 60, a retired firefighter, entered and pulled the man, who was burned, to the doorway, where others helped Tarsitano take him to safety.*

the ice and then performed CPR on Engelhart, who vomited water and began to breathe again. Engelhart was hospitalized for severe hypothermia and recovered. Although Hanson did not seek medical treatment, at the time of the investigation he said that he sustained nerve damage to his hands and feet and his fingers frequently lost feeling.

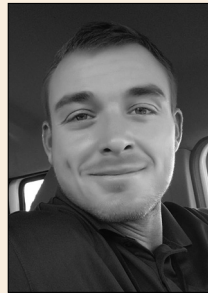
When Lincoln, Ill., welder **Arthur Ray Whitham, Jr.**, 46, witnessed a car slide off an ice-covered road into a nearby pond Dec. 4, 2018, in Lincoln, he stopped at the scene and entered the 35-degree water, wading and swimming to the car, where he could stand with the water was up to his chest. He grasped the top of the driver's window and forced it down completely. He reached through the window and grasped the driver, 68-year-old George L. Horn, and pulled him through the window opening. Whitham moved Horn to the rear of the car, where they held on and waited for authorities in the cold water. Horn was treated at the hospital for hypothermia. Whitham was cold after the rescue but did not seek medical treatment. They both recovered.

Phoenix resident **Thomas H. Hunnicutt** was riding in a car June 11, 2019, when he watched a single-engine airplane crash-land and overturn. Its fuselage and cockpit burst into flames. Hunnicutt, a 34-year-old project manager, ran to the plane, crawled beneath a wing, and extended his arms through a broken cockpit window toward pilot Mark Brandemuehl, 59, who was inside. Despite nearby flames and intense heat, Hunnicutt grasped Brandemuehl and pulled him through the opening. He dragged him several feet away from the plane's fuselage where others joined him and helped him carry Brandemuehl to safety. Brandemuehl was hospitalized for treatment of severe burns and died several months later.

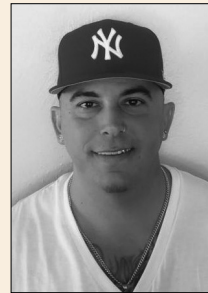
A barber college student was eating breakfast with his family Feb. 27, 2019, at a Sacramento, Calif., diner when he saw a man pointing a pistol at the 19-year-old server at a register in the front of the restaurant. **Douglas Leroy Tallman, Sr.**, 34, of Marysville, Calif., left his booth and walked toward the cashier. As he passed the man, he grasped the assailant's hand that was holding the gun and wrapped his arm around the assailant's throat. The two men struggled, Tallman taking the assailant to the floor. The server fled from the building. As Tallman's adolescent son approached, the gun discharged a single bullet, fragments striking him in the calf and foot. Tallman pushed the assailant away and took cover nearby. The assailant struggled to his feet, grabbed money, and fled. He was later arrested. The server was not injured. Tallman's son was treated for his wounds and recovered.



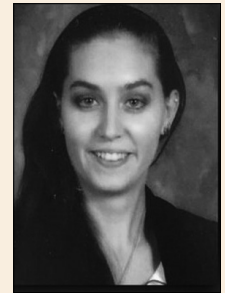
Arthur Ray Whitham, Jr.



Thomas H. Hunnicutt



Douglas Leroy Tallman, Sr.



Katherine M. Wenzell

While on a family vacation, **Katherine M. Wenzell** sustained a severed toe, multiple fractures, internal contusions, and a concussion after being hit and dragged 50 feet by an Atlanta subway train after saving her 57-year-old mother from the same fate. On Aug. 19, 2018, Susan A. Wenzell was standing on a subway station platform when a man pushed her off the platform onto a track as a train approached. The younger Wenzell, a 28-year-old Milwaukee

school teacher, jumped off the platform and unsuccessfully attempted to remove her mother from the path of the train. As the train bore down on them, Wenzell positioned Susan in the middle of the track so the train would pass over her. She also attempted to lay between the rails, but the train struck her and dragged her. Susan suffered a broken arm, concussion, back injury, and contusions to her body from being pushed onto the track, but she was not struck by the ▶



Photo by Isiah Udasco.

*The conditions of the burning plane, moments after Carnegie Hero **Thomas H. Hunnicutt** removed pilot Mark Brandemuehl after a crash-landing on a Phoenix city street.*



*A still image from news helicopter video shot shortly after firefighters extinguished the burning plane in which Carnegie Hero **Thomas H. Hunnicutt** removed the pilot after the plane crash-landed on a city street in Phoenix. Photo courtesy of azfamily.com.*



LATEST AWARDEES

train. Wenzell, who was unconscious by the time the train came to a stop, was removed from the track by rescue personnel and underwent several surgeries for her injuries.

A 56-year-old mechanic ran across a parking lot after witnessing two men assaulting his neighbors on Sept. 22, 2019. Roxana Valdovinos and her wife were sitting in their vehicle at their Vista, Calif., condo complex when the men pulled up in a truck and approached their vehicle. One of the men opened the driver's door, pointed a knife at driver Valdovinos, 36, and demanded she exit the car. Her wife exited and screamed for help as the mechanic, **Kenneth Alfred**, responded. Valdovinos fended the assailant off with her feet until Alfred reached them, grasped the assailant's neck, and shoved him to the ground. The assailant stabbed Alfred in the abdomen, and then the second man pulled Alfred's shirt over his head, before they both fled in the truck. Alfred needed surgery for his wound and remained hospitalized for two days. He recovered in one month.

A 38-year-old mother died Feb. 7, 2019, after entering her Bakersfield, Calif., burning home in search of three of her daughters. **Kristina Jean Stratton** was away from home when her 17-year-old daughter who was home with Stratton's younger daughters, ages 9 and 8, and son, called and said the home was on fire and she and the girls could not leave the second floor. The son had safely exited through the front door. Stratton returned home to find that



Kenneth Alfred



Kristina Jean Stratton



Victor Mozqueda



Ann Rothpletz

flames had engulfed a downstairs bedroom and smoke obscured the top of the staircase. Meanwhile, the girls had exited out a second-floor window and made it safely to the ground of the home's backyard. Unable to hear them yelling from behind a backyard gate, Stratton entered the home and was not seen outside again. Firefighters found her in the younger girls' bedroom. Stratton, who had suffered burns and inhaled smoke, died. The three girls were taken to the hospital for treatment of smoke inhalation and recovered.

A 22-year-old family friend jumped into the 60-degree Kaweah River in Sequoia National Park after 5-year-old Vincent Gonzalez, who had fallen in during a June 23, 2018, family outing. Fully clothed, **Victor Mozqueda**, a driver from Newhall, Calif., who could not swim, submerged with Vincent. They resurfaced and witnesses said Mozqueda kept Victor afloat. Vincent's parents and others entered the river, but could not help Mozqueda or Vincent, who eventually separated. The current brought Vincent near the bank, where he was removed from the

river. A fisherman at the scene performed CPR, and Vincent was flown to a hospital where he recovered. Mozqueda drowned.

Billy D. Waugh, 49, and his friend were fishing July 7, 2017, in the Ohio River in Jeffersonville, Ind., when they were swept into deeper water. Waugh yelled for help, and, realizing he was in trouble, **Ann Rothpletz**, 46, university researcher of Louisville, Ky., entered the river and swam about 300 feet to him. By then Waugh was facedown in the water, unconscious. She turned him over and towed him by his collar to the bank where, unable to fully remove him from the river, she held his upper body above the water until rescue personnel arrived. Waugh was taken to the hospital where he was monitored for two days, but he was not injured. Rothpletz was tired and shaken after the rescue; she recovered. Waugh's friend drowned.

Neighbor **Yun Qi** responded to a 4-year-old girl being attacked by a dog outside her home June 3, 2017, in Surrey, B.C. The girl and ►



A dog attacked **Yun Qi** after he interrupted its attack on a 4-year-old girl, causing a severe injury to his arm. Qi underwent surgery and has permanent damage from the attack.

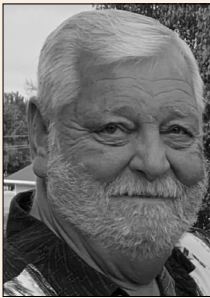


Photo by Jim McBroom.

After an explosion leveled a one-story house in Byrnes Mill, Mo., on Sept. 9, 2018, **V. Thomas Hayes, Sr.**, crawled inside and helped to bring a woman to safety. As the fire grew, bystanders and emergency responders remained near while the woman's husband remained inside. He did not survive.



Nicholas Stephen Siokalo



V. Thomas Hayes, Sr.



Joseph A. Arsenault, Jr., and Nicholas Claudel

her sister screamed for help as the dog bit her leg and dragged her to the ground. Qi, 33, business operator, ran to the girl and yelled at the dog, who let go of the girl and attacked Qi, biting his hand, arms, and legs. He was knocked to the ground where the dog pinned him. Qi's father responded and, using a bicycle to protect himself, struck the dog, disrupting his attack on Qi, who escaped. The girl and her sister retreated to their home and the dog's owner arrived and took it back to his home. The girl was taken to the hospital where she was treated for bite wounds to her leg that required multiple surgeries. Qi was treated for a severe bite wound that caused some permanent damage and required surgery. Qi has since relocated to Richmond, B.C.

Carnegie Hero **Nicholas Stephen Siokalo** saved 7-year-old Chase A. Hannawacker from drowning in the Atlantic Ocean Sept. 14, 2019, off the coast of Belmar, N.J. An aunt was holding Chase while wading in the ocean when a wave carried them away from shore to deeper water. They waved and shouted for help, and 27-year-old brand strategist Siokalo of Lutherville, Md., responded. As he swam toward them, another wave separated Chase from his aunt, with a rip current taking Chase to a point about 90 feet from shore. Siokalo reached Chase and carried him on his hip while Siokalo trod water. They submerged many times and were carried another 55 feet before alerted lifeguards responded with flotation devices and towed them to safety. Chase wasn't injured, but Siokalo was nearly exhausted, vomited, and swallowed water. An ambulance took him to the hospital where he



Photo by Tori Lynn Schneider/Tallahassee Democrat.

A first responder talks to Joshua Ryan Quick, center, moments after a shooting in the Hot Yoga Studio in Tallahassee, Fla. on Nov. 2, 2018. Quick was hit with a pistol as he tried to fight off the gunman with a vacuum cleaner.

was treated for several hours for symptoms of near drowning. He recovered.

Sixty-six-year-old retired mechanic **V. Thomas Hayes, Sr.**, of Barnhart, Mo., was the first to enter a Byrnes Mill, Mo., home that collapsed after a Sept. 9, 2018, explosion in its basement level. Evelyn B.K. Ingoldsby, 56, and her husband were in the family room of the one-story house when the explosion occurred, trapping them in the debris. Shirtless, Hayes dug through debris at the front of the house and found a small opening to enter the home. From there, he advanced to Ingoldsby, who did not want to leave her husband. Holding to her clothing, Hayes pulled Ingoldsby toward the front of the house, where they became stuck in knee-deep rubble as fire spread through the house's main level. Hayes' son-in-law, who had also responded, freed Hayes and rescue personnel aided Ingoldsby to safety shortly before flames engulfed the entire house igniting ammunition that was stored throughout the home. Ingoldsby's husband did not survive. Ingoldsby was not burned, but she was treated for minor injuries sustained in the home's collapse. Hayes injured his left shoulder and had cuts to his legs.

Inside a Tallahassee, Fla., yoga classroom, 33-year-old law student **Joshua Ryan Quick** hit a gunman with a vacuum cleaner and broom while the man was trying to unjam or reload his gun after firing it a dozen times on Nov. 2, 2018, striking six women inside the room. Quick, of Tallahassee; his partner; and the class instructor hid in an alcove inside the room, while

others stayed in the main part of the room. As the assailant focused his attention on the gun, Quick grabbed a vacuum cleaner and struck the assailant. The assailant hit him with the butt of the gun. Forfeiting his opportunity to flee, Quick grasped a nearby broom and hit the assailant over the head with it, but Quick was struck by the assailant again. Two women in the room fled during Quick's altercation with the gunman. Quick then fled himself, leading his partner by the hand. Shortly, the assailant fatally shot himself in the head. Two women died from gunshot wounds. Quick was treated at the hospital for a facial laceration; he recovered.

Two men saved the driver of a tanker truck that was hauling 10,000 gallons of home heating fuel through Belgrade, Maine, when it overturned, spilled its contents, and caught fire after a Jan. 2, 2019, accident. Fuel on the road also caught fire. Mail carriers **Joseph A. Arsenault, Jr.**, 62, of Farmington, Maine, and **Nicholas Claudel**, 29, of Belgrade, were working in the post office across the street from the accident and responded running to the truck, which was lying on its passenger side. They approached the windshield, where they could see the disoriented driver, E. Tuttle, 54, inside the burning cab. They removed him from the truck through the broken windshield and guided him to safety. Flames, up to 50 feet high, issued from the truck and the cab was completely engulfed. Tuttle was not burned, but sustained injuries in the wreck. Arsenault and Claudel were not injured. ☹️



PRESENTING



Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt, right, presented the Carnegie Medal to **Danny Lee Tiger**, of Ardmore, Okla., in a Feb. 11 ceremony in Oklahoma City.

On June 26, 2019, when Tiger and his wife, Amie, were living in Ada, Okla., they responded to the scene of a head-on collision on a highway around 1:45 a.m. Despite his wife's pleas urging him to step away from a burning truck, Tiger, then 46, gripped the frame of the damaged driver's door and bent it downward until he was able to reach inside and grasp the driver's head and an arm, as flames burned against the front windshield and a small explosion occurred at the vehicle's front end.

He fully freed the man and, with help from his wife, pulled the driver off the highway. Although the driver suffered serious leg injuries, he was not burned.

"You're a great Oklahoman," Stitt told Tiger, who works as an administrator.

Photo courtesy of Stitt's office.

Photo by William R. Toler/*Richmond (N.C.) Observer*.

Rockingham (N.C.) Mayor Steve Morris, left, presents the Carnegie Medal awarded to the late **David Covington** to his widow, Jane, center, and nephew, Chris Smith, right, during the city's Jan. 14 council meeting.

On Jan. 9, 2019, four months before he died of natural causes, Covington rescued a 6-year-old girl from two dogs that were attacking her outside her school bus.

The retired railroad clerk, 72, left his vehicle, picked up a 4-foot-long tree branch, and swung at and struck the dogs until they ceased their attack. The girl was hospitalized for serious injuries.

Council members Gene Willard and Anne Edwards, who knew Covington for nearly 50 years, said that he was quiet and humble, according to a story in the *Richmond (N.C.) Observer*.

"I'm sure he didn't have second thoughts about doing what he did, because that's the kind of person he was," Edwards said.



PRESENTING



Railroad signal maintainer **Michael Benjamin James**, center, celebrated with his mother, Janet Shuler, left, and wife, Cortney Skelding, right, after he received the Carnegie Medal from Michael Melham, mayor of Belleville, N.J., during the township council's meeting on Feb. 25. James, who lives in Belleville, helped save a woman from drowning after her car went into the Passaic River on March 4, 2019. Then 36, James entered the 37-degree river and swam to the woman, who had been trying to stay afloat atop the trunk of her sinking car. James grasped her and towed her toward the nearest bank, where police officers threw rope to them and worked to pull them to safety. Melham told James that he acted "without thought for his own safety."

To see a video of the presentation, visit carnegiehero.org/cmp-james

"It's just great that you were there, it's great that our fire (department) and our police responded, and everybody got out of there safe," the mayor said.



Hero Fund Commission members A.H. Burchfield III, left, and Dan D. Sandman, right, presented Carnegie Hero **Darren M. Smith**, center, with the Carnegie Medal Jan. 17 in Vero Beach, Fla. About 80 people gathered on the practice green at Quail Valley Golf Club where Smith was an assistant professional at the time of the rescue.

Three years ago, Smith was driving home from work when he came across an overturned and burning sport utility vehicle. Smith, 31 at the time, retrieved a 7-iron golf club from his trunk and broke out the vehicle's front, passenger window. He went to his stomach and crawled inside the smoke-filled vehicle, searching for the driver, a 17-year-old girl. He grasped her feet and dragged her alongside him to the window where someone else outside the car pulled her the rest of the way. Smith backed from the vehicle which was shortly engulfed by flames.

When he learned he would be receiving the Carnegie Medal last September, Smith told Treasure Coast Newspapers that he was just doing what anyone else would do. "This is a huge honor, I don't feel like I deserve it," he said.

"Most Carnegie heroes don't feel they did anything special – they either act automatically or feel anyone else would have performed the same heroic act. The fact is they are true heroes and not everyone responds positively to a dangerous, life-threatening situation. You did, and you are most deserving of the recognition," Sandman told Smith as they were organizing the presentation details.

Smith's parents drove down from Bay Hill, Fla., to attend the ceremony of their son, "a fine young man," according to Burchfield. "His mom and dad were so honored for what he did but, at the same time, Darren showed respect for both of them in thanking them for all they did to help make him the person he is today," Burchfield added.



EXCEPTIONAL GRADUATES



Hannah Radke

CARNEGIE HERO FUND SCHOLAR TO PURSUE MASTER'S DEGREE IN CHRISTIAN COUNSELING

Carnegie Hero Fund Scholar Hannah Radke, 22, will graduate this spring from Mount Vernon Nazarene University, in Mount Vernon, Ohio.

"I can say with absolute certainty, that without the scholarships and grants that I have received, I don't think I would have been able to graduate or even attend a University," she said.

Six years ago, Radke was 16 years old when, while on a Memorial Day outing to the lakeshore at Bay Village, Ohio, with her family and friends, she watched her father, **Peter Todd Radke**, enter the rough water of Lake Erie to save a girl, also 16, from drowning. Peter did not know the 16-year-old, who apparently had been wading in chest-deep water when a large wave swept her into deep water. Others tried to reach her, but the rough water conditions and 4-foot waves forced them to return to the shore. Radke, her sister, and her friends, sat on the beach and prayed.

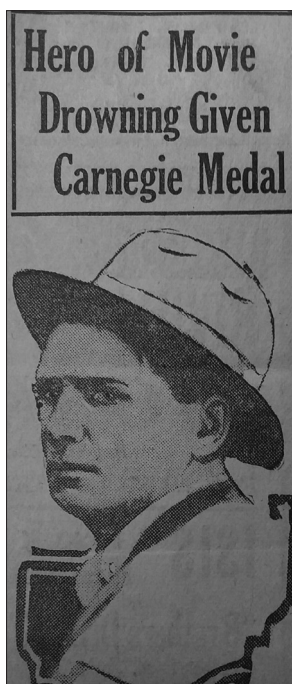
Peter, 43, who was an excellent swimmer, according to the Hero Fund report on the rescue, entered the 61-degree water and swam 225 feet to reach the teen. He grasped her, pushing her away from the rocks of a nearby jetty. They were separated. First responders removed the girl from the lake. She recovered after receiving treatment at the hospital. Peter drowned.

He was posthumously awarded the Carnegie Medal in December 2015.

"Not only can I look back on my dad and his act of heroism, but all of those who the Carnegie Medal has been presented to," Radke said.

Radke majored in communications and minored in radio, while maintaining a spot on the dean's list with a GPA of at least 3.5 every semester — a ►

15:13



Left photo: Photo of Owen Carter in a story published by the Rocky Mountain News after he posthumously was named a Carnegie Hero. Right photo: Grace Forman, known professionally as Grace McHugh, acts in a scene along the Arkansas River, which was substituting for the Rio Grande during the filming of "Across the Border" in 1914. Carter (not pictured) drowned in the river attempting to save Forman, who also died. Photo courtesy of the Denver Public Library.

Accident on 1914 film set spurs camera man to attempt rescue of actress

It wasn't supposed to be a dramatic scene. For a movie depicting gun smuggling at the U.S. border with Mexico, this sequence simply was to show a bandit's daughter crossing the Rio Grande on horseback.

On a bank of a shallow section of the Arkansas River in Cañon City, Colo., which was subbing for the Rio Grande, Owen Carter manned a camera for "Across the Border," an ambitious production of the Colorado Motion Picture Co. Wearing a cowgirl's outfit and boots, Grace Forman — known professionally as Grace McHugh — rode into the river that shortly would take her life. Carter lost his own trying to save hers.

Rumors of a publicity ruse initially marred some of the early details about Carter's heroic rescue attempt on July 1, 1914, perhaps because several days passed before anyone located their bodies, apart, far downstream. Crew members themselves later explained they couldn't quite comprehend how both Forman, 24, and Carter, 29, struggled in water that appeared to be no deeper than their waists, but they marveled at Carter's effort.

In particular, director Otis B. Thayer insisted that Carter swam out to help McHugh "of his own free will and without any suggestion from myself or anyone else."

"I am free to say that I never saw greater heroism displayed by anyone than was displayed by Mr. Carter in this instance," Thayer wrote to the Hero Fund one month after the incident. "He was taking his life in his hands in attempting to go across the swift current of the river, and it certainly looked to me when I saw him last that he would succeed in making the rescue, but unfortunately he lost his life in his effort."

The deaths were a stunning turn, especially given that the scene was being re-filmed because the previous version was damaged in the development process, according ►

to author Michael J. Spencer's book *Hollywood of the Rockies: Colorado, The West and America's Film Pioneers*. "Across the Border" was the first film for Forman, who was 5 feet, 3 inches tall and weighed about 115 pounds.

Per accounts witnesses later provided to the Hero Fund, Forman rode into the river at a point where it was about 125 feet wide and about 3.5 feet deep. She was about 30 feet out when the horse stumbled and she fell into the water. An actor on horseback rode into the river to her and she grasped his hand, but they separated and she drifted downstream.

Carter, who previously worked as a harness maker, was considered a good swimmer and was about 8 inches taller and 50 pounds heavier than Forman. He entered the river and swam about 320 feet to Forman. Soon, they disappeared and drowned. Carter's body was found five days later, more than a mile from the scene, while Forman's body was missing until 12 days later, 9 miles from the scene, according to movie company officials.

Although the Cañon City Record published a story the day after the incident that summarized the accident similarly to the Hero Fund's investigation, some news accounts spread speculation of a marketing stunt. In one instance, also on the day after, a Colorado paper 125 miles away reported: "Rumors today were heard to the effect that the entire affair was a press agent scheme cleverly worked up, but no confirmation of this report could be found." Even the national trade-industry outlet Billboard – then known as The Billboard – chose in its July 11, 1914, issue to frame the circumstances as "mysterious."

Despite the deaths, showings of the film went on. In fact, in August 1914, newspapers were reporting that the movie company was releasing the film early. Articles and advertisements – sometimes distastefully – emphasized the exciting drama of the film and the history of Forman's death while downplaying or even failing to mention Carter. "The greatest of Mexican War features in which Miss Grace McHugh the beautiful and daring leading lady lost her life," stated an ad in the Perth (N.J.) Amboy Evening News.

One of the stranger items was in The Brooklyn Daily Eagle on Aug. 28, 1914. In an article, it contended that no motion picture to date likely had a more tragic production history. The paper referenced Carter's heroism in passing – without naming him – and it discussed the filmed death of an animal.

"A valuable pony lost its footing and fell over the cliff during one of the scenes and was killed," the paper reported. "It was only after being convinced that it was an accident that the board of censorship permitted this scene to remain in the picture."

But Carter's sacrifice was not completely overshadowed by the deaths of an actress and a pony. A Cañon City woman, "Mrs. A.W. Lloyd," wrote a poem that the Hero Fund maintains in its archive of Carter's act.

"Into the swift current, so fearless and brave
In merciful kindness he plunged to his grave,
With quick, noble impulse at duty's first call,
Life's joys and its pleasures he yielded them all,
And thus entered into a spiritual life
Away from earth's conflict, its worry and strife.
Though his heart-broken wife in sorrow may grieve,
This beautiful truth she must always believe,
That in grand endeavor he has reached the goal
Of a purified life, a glorified soul."

While newspapers instantly credited Carter in July 1914, ultimate recognition by the Hero Fund was delayed until January 1920 as the organization worked to collect additional information from Thayer as he traveled throughout the country. ►

► from p.14

HERO FUND SCHOLAR

personal goal of hers, she said.

While pursuing her studies, Radke combined her personal and professional interests in roles at work, volunteering, and in extracurricular activities, all to further her goal of working as a mental health counselor after graduation.

During her freshman year, Radke secured an on-air position as co-host for "The Afternoon Drive," a show on WNZR 90.9FM, a radio station that specializes in training Christian broadcasters. Four years later, she's still hosting and has contributed to the station in other ways.

In addition to being an on-air personality, Radke has also worked as the station's office assistant, reaching out to listeners, and as promotions director, overseeing the station's promotional items, including prizes and T-shirts.

Radke describes the atmosphere at WNZR as family-like.

"You spend a lot of time with the people you not only work with but also learn with. This all along with the people who teach and mentor you," she said.

During her junior year, Radke received the peer-based "WNZR Outstanding Staff Member" award, one of her proudest collegiate accomplishments, Radke said.

"My favorite part about working for this amazing organization is that I have built relationships unlike anything I've experienced, and I am extremely grateful for them," she said.

Recently, Radke had an interaction that brought to life the station's mission statement—"to build trusted relationships in the community."

While working a table at an event, she interacted with listeners and supporters of 90.9FM. One woman who stopped to chat with her had revealed that day was the anniversary of her son's death.

Radke held the woman's hand and said a prayer for the woman's son.

It was "the only thing I could think to do," she said.

After sharing that moment, Radke explained that the woman went on her way, but later returned to tell her how impacted she was by her demonstration of solidarity.

"Working for WNZR has shown me how much bigger the mission of love is, rather than me. The honor of proclaiming my faith over the airwaves every day and having the privilege to pray over people, has changed my life," Radke said.

Back on campus, Radke served as a small group leader for a group of incoming freshman women. She describes the opportunity as a ►



► from p.15

HERO FUND SCHOLAR

great blessing in her life.

"The point of [the program] is to create a welcoming and safe place for freshmen to begin their journey into college," she said.

Each week she and her roommate lead a Bible study and discussion. The cohorts are also encouraged to attend campus events, Radke elaborated.

"I'm so incredibly thankful for those relationships that I built and the small impact I hopefully had on those girls' lives," she said.

When Radke wasn't focused on school work, her job at the radio station, or mentoring underclassman, she performed in university theater productions.

She describes her role as Caleb, the father in the production of "Don't Take My Penny," a classic 1940s comedy by playwright Anne Coulter Martens, as the most fun. However, embodying this character came at a price—in the form of a mild chemical burn to her upper lip from the expired gum she used to affix the mustache of her costume.

Radke said that while she primarily performed on stage, she also helped out with makeup and hair backstage when she could.

Looking forward to summer, Radke is considering travelling to Minneapolis to intern at River Valley Church.

"I feel as if it is where I'm supposed to be," she said.

According to the church's website, the internship program is designed to engage students in intentional, practical, world-changing leadership development while earning college credit. The program promotes personal and professional growth as students are geared toward one of the church's "ministry paths."

These tracks offer skill-centered development in areas of live production, marketing, graphic design, social media, music, photography, and film. Additionally, there are ministry-focused paths designed for pastors, youth, women, adults, and for ministry on the global level.

As Radke wraps up her undergraduate career, she has submitted her application to Ashland Theological Seminary in Ashland, Ohio, where she hopes to attend to obtain her master's degree in Christian counseling.

She plans on starting her career as a mental health counselor, ideally with a private practice. Eventually she would like to specialize with children.

"I have been able to succeed because of organizations like CHFC. My gratitude is truly unending," Radke stated.

Congratulations, Hannah!

—Abby Brady, operations and outreach assistant/archivist

► from p.15

ACCIDENT ON 1914 FILM SET

By then, Carter's wife had remarried and the Commission awarded his posthumous medal to his mother, Celina Shannon, who responded with a handwritten letter.

"It is something I can always keep and will always be a reminder that my boy was not a coward and also a reminder that his act was recognized as it should be."

--Chris Foreman, Case Investigator

15:13 calls to mind those in the Hero Fund's 117-year history whose lives were sacrificed in the performance of their heroic acts. The name identifies the chapter and verse of the Gospel of John that appears on every medal: "Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends." Of the 10,153 medal awardees to date, 2,063, or 20 percent of the total, were recognized posthumously. They are not forgotten.



► from p.7

HERO LAID TO REST IN INDONESIA

m.p.h. He landed and kept the engine running while Schoening, who by then had a badly frostbitten hand, was aided aboard.

As the helicopter took off, it bounced along the ice diagonally to the wind and then slowly became airborne. Although the engine backfired occasionally, Luckett piloted the craft safely back to the base. A blizzard that afternoon marooned the other men for four days. Day was hospitalized two months. Schoening required amputation of the tips of three fingers. The landings and take-offs by Luckett at 17,200 feet were the highest ever made by any type of aircraft.

Luckett later continued to fly for companies out of Southeast Asia, eventually settling in Indonesia with his wife, Ulif.

"We built our 'dream house,' on a mountaintop near the city of Bogor," Luckett wrote to the Commission in 2014. Luckett and Ulif returned to Arkansas in 2013, and Luckett died in 2018.

In 2014 Luckett said that he passed the medal on to his grandson and that it was "under safekeeping."

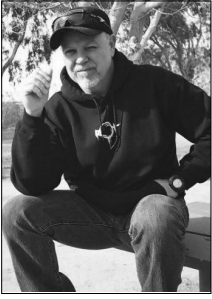
Daughter Linda Luckett wrote to the Commission in 2019 requesting a grave marker for her late father.

"You might be interested to know that it will be going to a small village in Indonesia, about an hour from Jakarta. Link spent the last 45-plus years there in a home he and his wife had built. They have a little family graveyard there, and that is where his headstone and remains are," she wrote. ☼

Grave markers are available to the families of deceased awardees in order to further honor those who have been awarded the Carnegie Medal. 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 susan@carnegiehero.org

Few natives in this population have the slightest idea who Andrew Carnegie might be, but they all know what a hero is.

 ❁ FRIENDS REMEMBERED ❁



Michael Robert Keyser

Michael Robert Keyser, 49, of Hesperia, Calif., died Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020, after he stopped to help a truck driver whose tractor-trailer overturned on Interstate 15. Keyser was killed in a fiery collision after a second tractor-trailer crashed into the first truck.

Nearly 30 years earlier, he was awarded the Carnegie Medal for saving a man from being electrocuted on Feb. 25, 1990 in Apple Valley, Calif. Keyser, then a 19-year-old construction worker, arrived at the scene of an accident in which a vehicle had left the highway and struck a utility pole, causing the pole to break off and then hang from the lines it had supported. Keyser reached through the opened driver's door to pull the man out and take him to safety.

Keyser was born in 1971, in Arcadia, Calif. He is survived by his high school sweetheart and wife of 30 years, Lorri Keyser; daughter, Kayla Keyser; son, Brett Keyser; grandchildren, Gia, Alana, and Blaine Keyser; mother, Susan Keyser; brother, Mark Keyser; and sister-in-law, Karee Keyser.

In addition to working at Elementis Specialties mining facility in Newberry Springs, Calif., Keyser was also known as a professional scare actor. He created a character, "Stitch Face," who dons a burlap sack mask, long trench coat and 3-foot-tall wizard hat. Recently, film producer Hunter Crowder, interviewed Keyser for a documentary about his life, the "Stitch Face" character — who Keyser described as intimidating, but a "good guy," — and his 1990 act of heroism.

"He died doing what he loved — helping people," said wife, Lorri.



Jarret M. Cherok

Jarrett M. Cherok, 38, of San Angelo, Texas, died Friday, Jan. 10, 2020. In 2006, Cherok was named a Carnegie hero for his June 8, 2005, rescue of a 47-year-old man from burning inside a Pittsburgh row house. Fire had broken out and the man lay unconscious in a second-floor bedroom. Cherok's sister was also inside. From his home nearby, Cherok, then 23, saw flames and ran to the scene dressed only in jeans. He carried his sister outside, then, despite showing effects of being exposed to the smoke, he re-entered the house and crawled upstairs in search of the man. He dragged the man to the top of the stairs and then outside to safety.

Cherok was born in 1981 to Darrel F. And Kathleen Cherok of Pittsburgh. He previously lived in Baldwin, Pa., where he graduated from Baldwin High School. He is survived by his wife, Trisha (Kocan); children, Nina and Jarrett, Jr.; and stepchildren, Mia and Ava.

In high school, Cherok was an exceptional baseball player known for his pitching abilities. During his first year of college, an injury ended his playing days. Cherok attended Steel Valley Tech and worked in the oil and gas industry from 2011 to 2020. He was a devoted father who coached his children's softball and baseball teams. He enjoyed spending time with family, fishing, going on road trips, and watching football.



Wanda Marie Blackburn, 58, of Redding, Calif., died Friday, Feb. 7, 2020. Blackburn was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 2004 for saving her elderly neighbor from burning in her mobile home on March 26, 2003, in Red Bluff, Calif. Blackburn, then a 42-year-old data entry clerk, was alerted to the fire from across the street. She was a frequent visitor to the woman's trailer and was familiar with its layout. Amid intense heat and smoke, she ran to the master bedroom, which was aflame, picked up the 90-year-old woman, and carried her outside. Both were unharmed.



Dianne R. McKenzie

Dianne R. (Seifert) McKenzie, 81, of Baldwin, Pa., died Sunday, March 22, 2020. McKenzie was born on June 8, 1938, to the late William and Alvina Seifert of Pittsburgh, Pa. She was preceded in death by her late husband, Robert M. McKenzie, and her daughter Victoria Linkes. She is survived by her two brothers, three grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

McKenzie was an employee of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission for 30 years.

"Dianne, with her wry sense of humor and working side-by-side with fellow administrative assistant Myrna Braun, always exhibited a true professionalism and commitment to our mission," said Jeff Dooley, Hero Fund investigations manager.

Dooley described her as a compassionate, resilient, and talented individual who was a true pleasure to work with.

McKenzie loved animals, especially her cat. She also shared treasured friendships with Joanne Wagner, Sue Herrick, and Sandy Connors. ❁



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Rescue at the swamp: birthday celebrations turn near-deadly

On May 1, 1962, the weather was overcast in Mason County, Wash. Will H. Simpson had just finished up work as a plywood machine operator around 4 p.m. It was his 50th birthday, and he had plans to celebrate at a nearby tavern off Highway 101.

Simpson hopped into his 1953 Dodge pickup truck and drove to the bar for libations and revelry. At 5 p.m., after having two drinks, he decided to head home. Simpson rolled down his driver window halfway and pulled onto the highway, heading south. Misjudging a turn, Simpson veered from the pavement and onto a berm bordering a swamp, 1,000 feet wide and containing dense flora, shrubs, and other vegetation. The water was dark, and its surface was covered with patches of green slime. On the bottom was a layer of muck, 1 foot deep.

The pickup, which had a camper shell bolted to the truck bed, landed upright in the swamp with an audible splash heard by the drivers of two cars that were traveling behind Simpson in the same lane.

Another passing motorist, **Lasca Joy Grytness**, was driving a sedan with six boys inside, including her son Darrell, 12, toward the town of Shelton. The *Daily Olympian* of Washington reported the boys were baseball teammates, and Grytness was driving them home from Lower Skokomish Elementary school. From 500 feet away, she witnessed the truck veer abruptly from the highway and enter the swamp water below.

On impact, Simpson's window shattered, and Simpson was hurled against the steering wheel with a force that cracked four of his ribs and rendered him unconscious.

The occupants of other cars — four men and a woman — exited their cars and raced north to a point where they could see the truck, which was about 35 feet west of the east bank and about 100 feet north of the south edge of the swamp. As the pickup truck sank deeper into the swamp, sludge rose to an inch below the cab's windows.

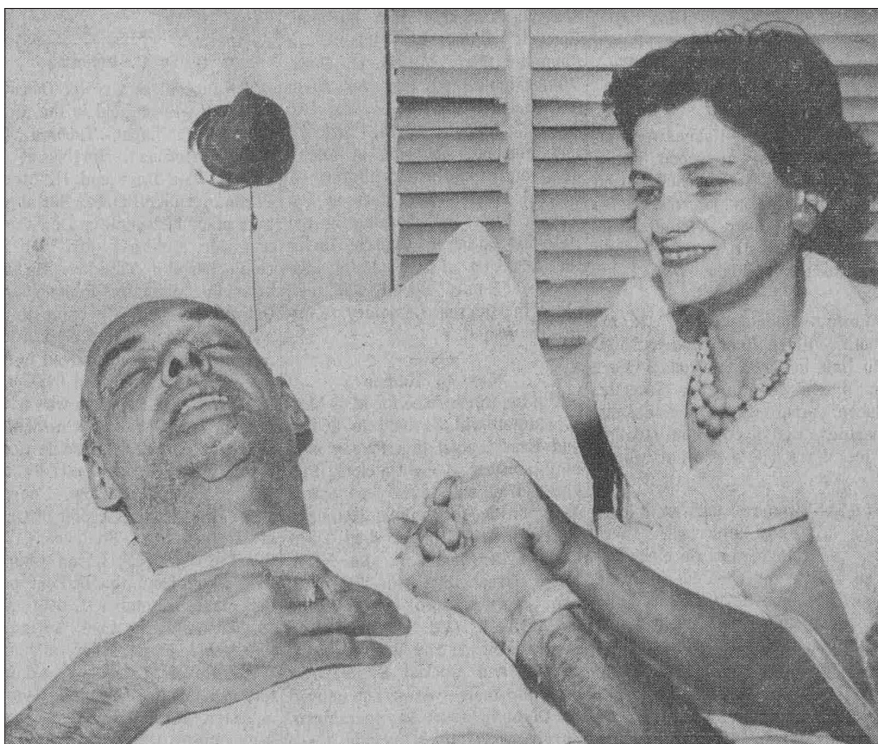
Grytness stopped her car where Simpson had driven off the road. She exited the vehicle and instructed the boys to stay put. Grytness raced to the other bystanders and urged the men to take action.

"I won't enter the foul water for anything," stated one man.

The other bystanders said they didn't know how to swim.

As part of his investigation, Commission hero hunter Herb Eyman recorded details of Grytness' swimming ability. He indicated that her skills were poor and that she had a longstanding fear of total immersion. She could float and tread water fairly well, but had no prior water rescue training or experience.

Fearing the unconscious driver was about to drown, Grytness cast



*A photo that appeared in the May 2, 1962, edition of the Daily Olympian (Wash.) that shows Carnegie Hero **Lasca Joy Grytness** visiting Joseph H. Simpson, the man she saved, as he recovered from near-drowning in a swamp. Its original caption read, "Logger is pulled from water by tiny housewife."*

her jacket aside. Keeping on her shoes, pedal-pusher trousers, cotton blouse, and glasses, she descended the steep gravel bank to the swamp. When she reached the edge of the slimy water she pushed off with her legs, assumed a swimming position, and entered the swamp. Grytness swam 35 feet westward to the side of the pickup truck, using a modified breast stroke and ensuring she kept her head above the slimy water in the 7-foot-deep water.

By now, the swamp water had risen to just above the sill of the driver's door window. Fragments of broken, jagged glass surrounded the window frame.

"Come, you must get out of there!" Grytness implored of Simpson, resting her left hand on the roof to avoid being cut by the shattered window glass.

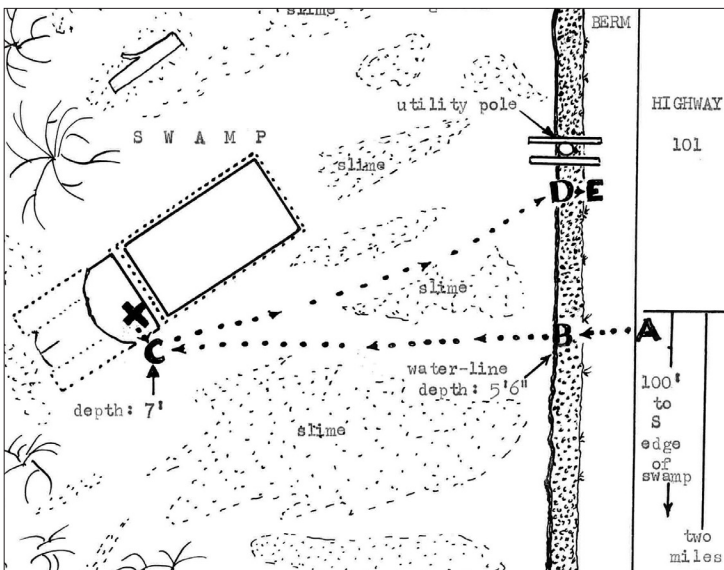
Simpson, still unconscious, did not respond. Treading water, Grytness reached below the surface of the discolored slime and, with one hand, grasped blindly for a door handle. When she located it, she attempted to open the door, unsuccessfully. Then, using both hands and bracing her feet against the side of the hood for leverage, she pulled hard and opened the door. Grytness held to the top of the door with her right hand and grasped Simpson's coveralls with her left. The truck continued sinking and the water level had risen to Simpson's chin.

"Come on!" Grytness pleaded as she tread water with one arm and maintained her grip on Simpson with the other.

Feeling Grytness' touch and hearing her pleas, Simpson gained partial consciousness.

"Everything is going to be alright," he mumbled, oblivious to his present predicament.

Grytness pulled on Simpson's shoulder, but found his chest wedged against the steering wheel. Meanwhile, Simpson struggled to sit up as the water rose to his mouth. ►



*The original sketch by Case Investigator H.W. Eyman that accompanied the 1963 case report of **Lasca Joy Grytness**' rescue of a man, at X, who was drowning after his truck entered a swamp. According to Eyman's key, Grytness' course followed ABCDE; she opened the driver's door at C, from which she also worked the driver free from under the steering wheel; D indicates where she was assisted by others.*

Only 10 inches of space remained between the water's surface and top of the cab.

Suddenly, Simpson became limp again.

Grytness pulled hard on his coveralls and Simpson floated free from the seat and steering wheel through the open doorway of the cab as the truck continued steadily sinking.

By then, 20 onlookers had assembled at the bank of the swamp.

One man had a coil of rope. He hurled an end of it toward Simpson who was lapsing in and out of consciousness and therefore made no effort to grasp it.

Grytness refrained from reaching for the rope because she feared Simpson would submerge if she released her grip on his shoulder to lunge for it. Instead, she maintained her hold and swam on her side, using her right arm and legs to propel them toward the closest bank. At times, Simpson briefly revived and instinctually made swimming gestures, but he soon succumbed to unconsciousness again.

Grytness swam for 25 feet, hoping one of the countless bystanders would come to her aid, but no one dared enter the stagnant and slimy water. However, one man began descending the hillside toward the swamp so she swam in his direction. With tremendous effort, she swam 15 feet and reached the man, who was clinging to a utility pole near the swamp's edge to maintain his balance on the steep bank. He grabbed Simpson, who remained limp and unconscious, by his coveralls, and pulled him part of the way onto the bank. Others helped to pull Simpson the rest of the way up to the berm. They covered him with a blanket as he regained partial consciousness. Free of Simpson's weight, Grytness reached for the man's extended hand. He and others assisted her onto level land.

By now, the pickup had fully submerged into the muck.

Grytness insisted the bystanders call an ambulance because Simpson was in need of immediate medical attention. A motorist left the scene

and headed toward Shelton to report the accident and summon help. Grytness saw that Simpson was being adequately cared for by the witnesses of her bravery. Covered in slime from the neck down, she got in her car and drove home to take a hot shower and change into dry clothing.

Simpson was taken by ambulance to a hospital in Shelton. According to the Hero Fund's account, he fractured four ribs in the accident and was diagnosed with a respiratory infection from the foul water he had inhaled. He was hospitalized for nine days and rested at home for five more before returning to work. He recovered completely and suffered no lasting effects.

Investigator Eyman established the case for Grytness' award by traveling to Mason County, where he completed an assessment of the scene, including taking measurements, consulted eyewitnesses, examined the Washington State Patrol's report as well as other accounts of the rescue, and questioned Grytness and Simpson.

One of the people Eyman interviewed was James R. Doran, a garage operator who removed Simpson's pickup truck from the swamp.

Doran offered additional insight to the unpleasant nature of the scene, telling Eyman that he had attempted to hire divers to help remove the truck from the swamp, but they refused upon viewing the scene.

Doran himself didn't dare enter the contaminated water either. Instead he undertook what he termed a "fishing mission," by which he hurled the chain needed to retrieve the truck from the safety of the bank until eventually it caught the tail-gate of the cargo bed and he was able to pull the truck from the swamp.

Eyman also documented Grytness' reflections on her heroic undertaking.

Only when looking back did she consider the life-risk involved in saving Simpson. Her limited swimming ability and clothing hindered her mobility in the ominous swamp water. She also considered the possibility of having swallowed the contaminated water and the potential for it to have made her sick. Although Simpson was mostly unconscious, there was a possibility he could've panicked or struggled with Grytness during his lapses into consciousness, causing her to drown.

Undoubtedly, Grytness had taken a significant risk acting with Simpson's well-being in mind.

Grytness, who went by her middle name, Joy, was awarded the bronze Carnegie Medal and \$500. She was married to Mr. C. Dale Grytness, an accountant, and the couple had two sons and a daughter.

Grytness had previously attended school to become a teacher, but still needed a year and a half of credits to finish. She intended to use the award money to enroll part-time at a local college in Tacoma, Wash., and complete her degree. It was also noted by Eyman that the family was actively involved in the Shelton community in civic, church, and social circles.

The Governor of Washington at the time, Albert Rosellini, also issued her a letter of commendation in honor of Grytness' heroism. ☼

— Abby Brady, operations and outreach assistant/archivist

I don't classify myself as a good swimmer, but the man looked like he needed help and no one else seemed interested in doing it.

— Lasca Joy Grytness



Carnegie Hero Fund Commission

436 Seventh Ave., Ste. 1101 • Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1841

412-281-1302 • 800-447-8900

carnegiehero.org

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Pittsburgh, PA
Permit No. 2461

Address Service Requested

NOTICES: © Carnegie Hero Fund Commission and/or its suppliers, 2020, U.S.A. All rights reserved. This newsletter is governed by our terms & conditions (see carnegiehero.org/terms-conditions/), including our privacy notice (see carnegiehero.org/privacy-policy/) (or direct an inquiry to us directly by using the above contact information).



facebook.com/carnegiehero



twitter.com/carnegie_hero

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.

Carnegie Hero Fund Commission
436 Seventh Ave., Ste. 1101
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1841

Editor: Jewels Phraner

Telephone: 412-281-1302 Toll-free: 800-447-8900
Fax: 412-281-5751
E-mail: carnegiehero@carnegiehero.org,
impulse@carnegiehero.org
Website: carnegiehero.org

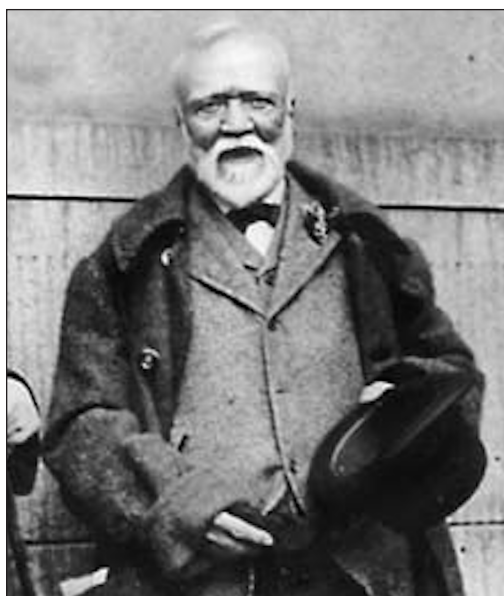
MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

A. H. Burchfield III
Robert J. Cindrich
Evan S. Frazier
David McL. Hillman
Linda T. Hills
Of the Carnegie Family
Peter J. Lambrou
Mark Laskow
Chair
Nathalie Lemieux
Christopher R. McCrady
Priscilla J. McCrady
Ann M. McGuinn
Nancy L. Rackoff
Vice Chair

Frank Brooks Robinson
Dan D. Sandman
Treasurer
Arthur M. Scully
Michael A. Thompson
Sybil P. Veeder
Chair, Executive Committee
Joseph C. Walton
Susanne C. Wean
Thomas L. Wentling, Jr.
Chair, Finance Committee
Eric P. Zahren
President & Secretary

HONORARY MEMBER
James M. Walton

THE QUOTABLE A.C.



No action more heroic than that of doctors and nurses volunteering their services in the case of an epidemic.

— 1904 Carnegie Hero Fund Commission Deed of Trust.

CONTINUUM

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

MEDAL REFINISHING The Hero Fund will refinish Carnegie Medals at no cost to the owner. The medals are to be sent to the Hero Fund's office by insured, registered mail. Allow a month for the process. The contact is Jo Braun (jo@carnegiehero.org).

OBITUARIES Written accounts of the awardee's life, such as contained in an obituary, are sought for addition to the awardee's page on the Commission's website. Contact Chris Foreman (chris@carnegiehero.org).

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

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

CARNEGIE HERO FUND COMMISSION

436 Seventh Ave., Suite 1101, Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1841
Telephone: (412) 281-1302 Toll free: (800) 447-8900
Fax: (412) 281-5751
E-mail: carnegiehero@carnegiehero.org
Website: carnegiehero.org

