



Impulse

A periodic newsletter of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission

ISSUE 69 • SPRING 2022



The headstone of **Walter R. Fuchs**, who died in 1948 after rescuing an 11-year-old girl from drowning in Huffman Lake in Dayton, Ohio. His granddaughter recently requested a grave marker to identify him as a Carnegie hero.

15:13

HERO'S GRANDDAUGHTER MARKS GRAVE AS A GIFT FOR MOM

The family of **Walter R. Fuchs** has received a grave marker from the Hero Fund to place on his headstone.

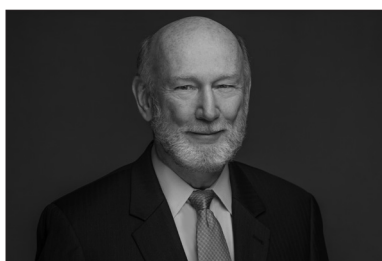
The 3.75-inch medallion that is cast in the likeness of the Carnegie Medal can be mounted onto a headstone or urn and is provided at no cost to the family members of deceased Carnegie Medal recipients.

According to Hero Fund records, Fuchs sacrificed his life to save an unidentified girl from drowning on June 27, 1948. While bathing in Ohio's Huffman Lake in 10 feet deep water, 25 feet away from the bank, an 11-year-old girl struggled to stay afloat and screamed in distress. Fuchs, a 30-year-old welder, ran to the water and, after removing his shirt and wallet, swam to the girl, who had by then become unconscious and submerged. Two couples were within 60 feet of Fuchs before he went into the water and at least nine other adults were nearby. Fuchs took hold of her and turned toward the bank, where several of the nearby men had also entered the water to help. Fuchs handed the girl to two of them, and they brought her to the bank, where she was revived. About a minute after, Fuchs sank at the spot where he had helped the girl. His body was recovered five minutes later, but he couldn't be revived. The girl recovered.

At the time of his death, Fuchs left widow Marie M. Fuchs and four small children. Fellow workmen

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'Endurance:' Carnegie Hero Fund officers look back at 2021



Hero Fund Chair Mark Laskow

REPORT OF CHAIR

"If there were a movie about the Hero Fund in 2020, I'd name it *Resilience*. If there were a sequel about 2021, I'd call it *Endurance*," stated Mark Laskow, Hero Fund chair, at the top of his annual report on the Fund's previous year.

"Despite the ongoing drag of COVID, things still got done at the Carnegie Hero Fund," he added, citing the *60 Minutes* profile of the

Hero Fund. "Taken together with the *CBS Sunday Morning* feature in 2016 and *The New York Times* article in 2019, this has been an enormous boost to the Hero Fund's public profile, which in turn helps advance our mission — both in the increased flow of nominations and, perhaps more important, the increase in the cooperation of public and private individuals on which our case investigations are so dependent."

Laskow also mentioned two-time Carnegie Medal recipient **Michael Robert Keyser**, who posthumously received his second Carnegie Medal in 2021. In 1990, Keyser, then 19, stopped at the scene of an accident that left live power lines hanging near the car. Despite two people nearby being shocked by the lines, he reached through the opened driver's door and removed the driver. In 2020, Keyser again stopped at the scene of an accident and was attempting to free the driver of an overturned tractor-trailer when another tractor-trailer struck it, killing Keyser and the driver.

"That is why the Hero Fund exists, so that Michael Keyser and his sacrifice will not be forgotten," Laskow said.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR



Executive Committee Chair Sybil Veeder

In her annual report, Executive Committee Chair Sybil Veeder also mentioned Keyser, who is the sixth two-time awardee of the Carnegie Medal.

Additionally, Veeder mentioned that the Commission "took a definitive step in furtherance of the founder's guidance in regard to the heroism of 'doctors and nurses' in times of pandemics" and made a \$100,000 donation to the Brave of Heart Fund, which provided

money to dependents of health care frontline workers who died as a result of treating COVID-19 patients. ► p. 3

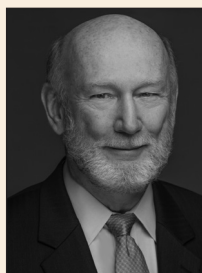


BOARD NOTES

THE TEACHINGS OF GIANT AFRICAN POUCHED RATS

By Mark Laskow, Chair
Carnegie Hero Fund Commission

A slight lull in the hectic life of your dedicated Board Notes essayist (that's me) allowed me to retrieve from my inbox a special story that has been calling for attention. It is the story of a rat who in 2020 received an award



Mark Laskow

for "lifesaving bravery." Was the Carnegie Hero Fund facing competition from a very unexpected direction?

Magawa is no ordinary rat. He is a giant African pouched rat who was carefully trained by APOPO, a Belgian charity, to locate landmines and other unexploded ordnance. APOPO trained 45 rats to detect these weapons and another 31 rats to detect tuberculosis in humans. Magawa was the most successful with the discovery of 39 landmines and 28 items of other ordnance. That's quite a body of work for a rodent weighing in at 2 to 3 pounds.

Now, you can never go wrong with an animal story, and these rats are cute. You can check that out on the internet: for example, "Meet the Giant Rats That Are Sniffing out Landmines on nationalgeographic.com. (Go ahead. What is the internet for if not looking at cute animal pictures?) As entertaining as this is, though, the story of Magawa surfaces interesting and serious issues. Could Magawa win the Carnegie Hero Medal? No, but it's fun to think about. More importantly, understanding why Magawa can't win the Carnegie Medal tells you a lot about the humans who did. That's why I am writing about rats.

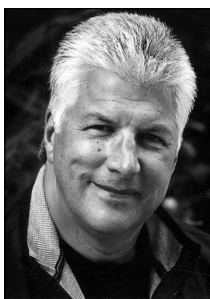
Let's set aside the easiest obstacles to Magawa's candidacy, like the fact that Andrew Carnegie clearly intended the Carnegie Medal go to human rescuers. Animal advocates might argue his decision, but I'm not.

Next, let's think about risk. I assume that these pouched rats were selected because, at less than three pounds, they shouldn't trigger the pressure switches on land mines. But ... would you want to bet your life on a regular basis that these mines, possibly Soviet-era leftovers, were precisely built and conscientiously maintained? Not me. Let's check the "risk" box in Magawa's favor.

Two remaining issues require more thought. First, should we classify Magawa as a professional "rescuer" and thus ineligible for the Carnegie Medal? Second, did the rat understand the



FRIENDS REMEMBERED



James Walter Polowy

James Walter Polowy, 74, of Long Grove, Illinois, died Sunday, Sept. 19, 2021.

In 1980, Polowy repeatedly dived into the Miami Canal in Hialeah, Florida, to save a 49-year-old woman from drowning after her vehicle submerged, receiving the Carnegie Medal for his actions.

Polowy, then a 32-year-old graphic designer, first swam to where he thought the car was located and dived into the water, but wasn't able to locate the vehicle. He surfaced. Polowy located the car after diving again but was forced to return to the surface. After diving twice more, he freed the unconscious driver and towed her to the bank, where she was revived.

Polowy was born on Feb. 23, 1947 to Harold and Bernice Polowy. In 1974, he married Susan J. Carlstrand at Glenview Community Church in Glenview, Illinois. Together, the Polowys had two children, Jamie and Brady.

He was beloved by his kids and actively involved in their sports including soccer, softball, baseball, and basketball. Polowy and his children also shared a love for art and design.

He is survived by his wife; children; four grandchildren, and many extended family members. Polowy is preceded in death by his sister, Patty Cisek; brother-in-law, Mike Cisek; and nephew, Brian Cisek.



Randall O'Dell Williams

Randall O'Dell Williams, 58, of Saginaw, Michigan, died Friday, Dec. 17, 2021.

In 1991, Williams, then 28, a newspaper delivery truck driver, was in a Saginaw neighborhood and saw a burning two-story home.

A father and two children had escaped the burning house. The man attempted to reenter the home for family members who remained inside, but dense smoke forced him back.

Williams entered through the front door, braving the thick smoke, which precluded visibility. He crawled across the living room, found a 1-year-old boy on the floor, seized him, and took him outside. The child was treated for burns and recovered.

Williams was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 1992.

Williams' twin brother, Ronald Darnell Williams, recently requested a grave marker to honor his late brother's life and act of heroism.



Raymond F. Christner

Raymond F. Christner, 91, of Brownsville, Pennsylvania, died Saturday, Feb. 12, 2022.

In 1968, Christner rescued an 18-year-old from falling in Brownsville, Pennsylvania. The young man was working atop a building 60 feet high when he leaned on an unsecured hoist assembly at the edge of the roof, causing it to topple over the side of the building, strike him, and knock him off of the roof.

Christner, then 38, plumbing and heating contractor, was on the ground in a passageway alongside the building and saw the hoist falling toward him. He started to run from its path and then saw the young man also falling toward the concrete

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‘Endurance:’ look back at 2021

Although the Commission’s March meeting was held remotely, in-person meetings resumed in June.

AWARDEES

In 2021, 71 people received the Carnegie Medal for a total of 59 acts. After 1905, the number of yearly awards has ranged from 40 in 1945 to 174 in 1966, resulting in an average of 87 individuals receiving the Carnegie Medal each year.

The most frequently awarded type of act in 2021 was drowning (42%) followed by burning vehicle (23%), burning building (10%), and assault (10%). Historically, assault cases have not been among the top five most frequently occurring acts, though during the last decade, assaults (13%) have been more frequent.

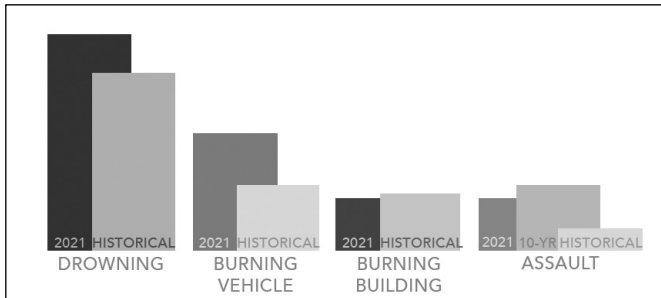
In addition, drownings continue to be the deadliest acts – historically 56% of all posthumous awards are in drowning cases. In 2021, 65% of the 20 posthumous awards were for drowning cases.

GRANTS

Each of 2021’s awardees received a one-time grant of \$5,500. Awardees (pre-retirement) are also eligible for scholarship assistance, defined as aid applied toward the academic costs of tuition, books, and fees. In 2021, \$208,985 was spent by year’s end.

Regarding the beneficiaries, who are primarily the widows of posthumous awardees, \$266,800 was paid in 2021 in monthly installments that averaged \$406; the number of beneficiaries increased by three from 2020 to 54 at year end.

In addition, \$31,007 was provided to heroes and dependents as one-time grants to cover funeral expenses, medical costs and other needs.



Finance Committee Chair Tom Wentling



Hero Fund Treasurer Dan Sandman

awarding expenses (grants, medals, certificates).

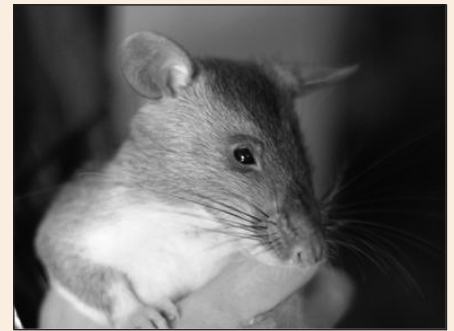
And the Hero Fund endures: continuing its work of finding the heroes of our generation. ❁

FINANCE COMMITTEE AND TREASURER’S REPORTS

The Carnegie Hero Fund Commission’s investment portfolio stood at a record \$61.25 million at the end of 2021, enjoying a gain in market value of 4.7%, net of spending, over the previous year.

The portfolio is managed by The Investment Fund for Foundations through its TIFF Centerstone Fund and the less-liquid TIFF Keystone Fund.

Hero Fund spending in 2021 totaled \$2.248 million, which was below both the year’s budget of \$2.328 million and the self-imposed 5% spending cap of \$2.419 million. The spending cap was adjusted by the Committee to 5%, effective for 2021. By broad category, \$1.194 million was spent on administrative costs during 2021 and \$1.054 million on



A giant African Pouched Rat being trained to find explosives by the U.S. Army Research Laboratory. Photo courtesy of U.S. Army Research Laboratory.

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BOARD NOTES

risk? These two issues are actually intertwined. As we regularly explain, Carnegie heroes make a moral and a mortal choice: mortal because it is potentially fatal and moral because the heroes are voluntarily, and with a clear understanding of the consequences, taking on that risk.

Although Magawa might well have saved a human life, perhaps several, that wasn’t his intention. He was trained to perform tasks for food. He knew nothing about landmines or their lethality or what might happen to him if something went wrong. What Magawa knew was that, if he did exactly what the giant hairless apes (that would be us humans) trained him to do, he would earn some Purina Giant African Pouched Rat Chow.

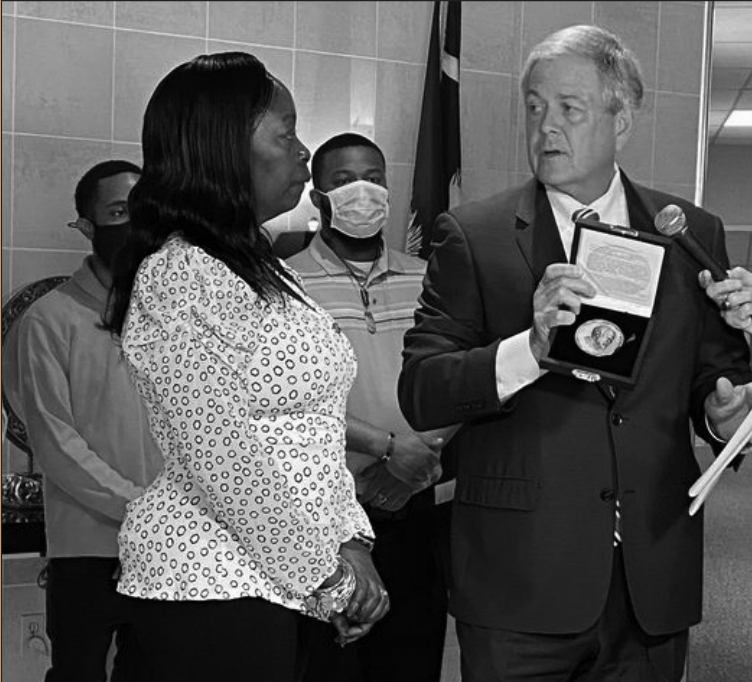
We should all applaud Magawa’s skill and the imagination and dedication of his trainers from APOPO, but clearly the Carnegie Medal does not apply.

Magawa’s story shines a special light on what Carnegie Heroes do. Their rescues are not routine actions for which they are highly trained. The emergencies they confront are a terrifying departure from their lifetime experience, and the rescues they attempt are far beyond anything they have ever been called on to do. What’s more, the Carnegie Medal requires that its recipients clearly understand the dangers of the rescue before they act. If someone gets involved in a dangerous rescue without knowing the risk involved, that’s just a mistake. If they undertake a dangerous rescue in full knowledge of those risks, that’s a moral choice that will earn them the Carnegie Medal.

Finally, fret not because our friend Magawa can’t win a Carnegie Medal, for he has earned his bling elsewhere. In the UK in 2020 the People’s Dispensary for Sick Animals awarded him their Gold Medal for animal bravery. Good on you, Magawa, and on your human friends at APOPO! ❁



PRESENTING



U.S. Rep. Ralph Norman presents the Carnegie Medal posthumously awarded to **D'Angelo Cordero Jenkins** to his mother, Kysia Lewis, during a ceremony at Norman's district office in Rock Hill, South Carolina, on Feb. 22.

Jenkins, a 34-year-old cable installer from Rock Hill, died after helping save a 2-year-old boy from drowning in the Catawba River in Huntersville, North Carolina on Oct. 3, 2020.

"My son's life is going to be recognized, and for him to have to be gone, I just feel like this enhanced his legacy, like he'll never be forgotten," Lewis said.

Jenkins was fishing near a partially submerged boat ramp downstream of a dam with the boy and the boy's mother. When the boy entered the swift-flowing river, Jenkins jumped in fully clothed, ultimately reaching him but, encountering difficulty staying afloat, he passed the boy to another man who had entered the water.

Michael Byers towed the boy to safety. Jenkins floated motionless downstream before others pulled him from the river. He died five days later.

"This is a true honor, and one that displays the heroism that was displayed on that day," Norman said. Byers, now of Spencer, North Carolina, also received the Carnegie Medal.

Norman represents South Carolina's fifth district.



From left, the mother of posthumous Carnegie Medal recipient **Edgar F. Moreno Alba** proudly holds her son's Carnegie Medal, which was presented to her by Hero Fund Communications Director Jewels Phraner at a private ceremony in San Ysidro, California, on Jan. 14. Moreno Alba's mother, Rubi Alba Muro, travelled by bus several hours from Mexico to accept the award at the U.S. and Mexican border. Wearing a shirt memorializing Edgar, Alba Muro expressed how proud she was of her son's heroic act.

On June 28, 2020, Edgar, 17, drowned while helping save a 14-year-old boy who was struggling in Lake Camanche near Valley Springs, California. Despite not knowing how to swim, Edgar advanced to the boy and pushed him to a point closer to shore at which point others helped the boy safely exit the water. Edgar submerged and did not resurface. A dive team responded and recovered Edgar later that afternoon at a point about 30 feet from shore. He had drowned.



Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall, left, presented Carnegie Hero awardee **Jonathan Bauer** of Ocean Pines, Maryland, with the Carnegie Medal at the mayor's office on March 23. He was recognized for his heroic rescue of a 23-month-old girl from drowning in Assawoman Bay after she was ejected from a vehicle into the water on May 2, 2021 in Ocean City, Maryland.

Bauer jumped off a bridge into shallow water to pull the child from the water.

The presentation was also attended by Bauer's family: wife Wendie Bauer and daughter Ava Bauer, who witnessed the rescue, as well as city officials, Berlin Mayor's Assistant JoAnn Unger, Ocean Pines Association Public Relations Director Josh Davis, and Ocean Pines General Manager John Viola

Bauer said the award was a true honor, made even more special because he's originally from Pittsburgh, home to the Carnegie Hero Fund.

"Growing up there and being awarded the Carnegie Medal is just amazing," he said. "It absolutely was a life-changing moment, not only for me, but for my entire family."

PRESENTING



St. Louis County Councilman Tim Fitch, center, presents the Carnegie Medal to the family of **John D. Colter** during an April 26 St. Louis County Council meeting in which Colter's heroism for rescuing his daughter, Kristine Kempf, right, was honored.

Kempf was on the house's main floor when her estranged husband, who had entered with a handgun, shot multiple rounds at her while Colter was tending to Kempf's children outside the Fenton, Missouri, house on Jan. 23, 2020. Upon hearing the gunshots, Colter, a 66-year-old pharmacist, ran inside and tackled the assailant to the living room floor. He wrestled with the assailant for control of the gun as they moved to a hallway floor, where Kempf, who had been wounded in the right thigh and ankle, got atop the assailant and also attempted to seize the weapon. Colter called for Kempf to leave and get help. Separating from the assailant, Kempf exited the house and retreated to safety at a neighboring house. The assailant shortly shot Colter and fled the scene, then fatally shot himself when authorities located him in another state eight days later.

Pictured, from left, are Colter's son, Robert Colter; Colter's widow, Katherine Colter; Fitch; St. Louis County Councilwoman Chair Rita Heard Days; and Kempf with her two children Kate and Jeremy. Colter's sister, Sue Lesch, and mother-in-law, Lois Kosfeld, also attended.



From left, Hero Fund President Eric Zahren reads the back of the Carnegie Medal to Carnegie Hero **Sean P. Conaboy** while Dr. Pete Lambrou, Hero Fund commission member, looks on. Zahren and Lambrou traveled to New York City to present the Carnegie Medal to Conaboy in an April 12 private ceremony. The back of each Carnegie Medal contains a cartouche which are embossed with details about the heroic act, making each Medal unique.

Nearly one year earlier, Conaboy rescued a 54-year-old woman from assault on a New York subway platform. A 22-year-old man with a knife ambushed the woman from behind, repeatedly stabbed her upper body, and knelt over her with the weapon after she fell to the ground. Conaboy, then 52, ran to them and shoved the assailant to the ground. Although the assailant continued in his attempts to stab the woman while struggling with Conaboy, Conaboy ultimately pinned the assailant and restrained him until police arrived.



PRESENTING



Carnegie Hero **Shane Morrison** shakes the hand of Hero Fund President Eric Zahren upon receiving the Carnegie Medal from Zahren at a Concord Township (Ohio) Board of Trustees meeting held March 2, 2022.

In June 2020, Shane, then 15, helped rescue a 13-year-old boy from drowning in Lake Erie near Mentor, Ohio. Shane saw Donovan Conwell bobbing up and down in deep water about 200 feet northeast of a breakwater. Shane dove into the water, swam to Donovan, and grasped him from behind. A lengthy struggle ensued, during which Donovan submerged Shane repeatedly as Shane kept Donovan afloat in the water. Authorities arrived shortly in a boat, brought Shane and Donovan aboard, and took them to safety. Donovan, who had ingested water, received treatment at a hospital; he recovered. Shane, nearly exhausted, also recovered.

"Shane certainly embodies Carnegie's ideal, the very best of human nature, our innate ability to selflessly put another's life above our own without obligation or thoughts of our own well-being," said Zahren at the presentation.

Humbled, Shane added, "I am so honored to be recognized by the Carnegie Hero Foundation, however, I truly want to acknowledge those in this group who lost their lives and were unable to accept their awards in person ... They are the true heroes."

Photo courtesy of Andy Rose, administrator for Concord Township.



Carnegie Hero **Kenneth Brian McCarter**, left, reunited with the woman he saved in a ceremony where she presented him with the Carnegie Medal. Carol S. DeLillo was working in her Okatie, South Carolina, garden in the evening of July 3, 2020, when a 10-foot, 275-alligator dragged her into an 8-foot-deep pond. McCarter, then 44, saw DeLillo struggling in the water and rushed to the scene. McCarter swam to DeLillo, grasped her about the torso and pulled, but was met with resistance and was pulled under the water's surface. Pulling her to the surface a second time, McCarter dragged and pushed her 70 feet to the bank. DeLillo had multiple surgeries and regained the ability to walk with a cane, though she continued to receive physical rehabilitation. McCarter was not injured.

Despite having both left the Okatie community, they returned March 4 — to the very bridge where McCarter saw that DeLillo was in trouble — for the Carnegie Medal presentation.

As they embraced, DeLillo spoke about how grateful she was for McCarter.

"It makes you realize how wonderful and special he is," she said.

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FRIENDS REMEMBERED

pavement. Chritsner stopped, braced himself, and held out his arms to catch the teen. The force of his fall pulled Christner down and pinned his outstretched arms to the pavement. His foot was also broken when the heel of the young man's shoe struck Christner's foot.

The hoist landed 3 feet from the two of them. Christner's broken foot was mended. Christner was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 1969.

The son of the late Raymond and Mildred Hope Christner, Christner was an active community member in Brownsville.

He was self-employed in the heating and cooling industry and retired from the Mon Railroad Company.

More than 30 years after his heroic act, Christner and his wife stopped by the Hero Fund's Pittsburgh offices and told then-Executive Director Walter Rutkowski that the award was meaningful to him.

He is survived by his children, Linda, Douglas, David, Raymond E., Jeffrey, Daniel, Robert, and Amy; grandchildren; great grandchildren; and many extended family members.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 65 years, Thelma Lorraine Christner; son, Michael; and several other family members.



R.A. Mills

R.A. Mills, 90, of Albany, Oregon, died on Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2022, after a long battle with pulmonary fibrosis.

While on a cycling trip in 1988, Mills rescued a 74-year-old woman from burning after a mechanical malfunction started a fire in her van. Mills, 56, immediately went to the passenger side of the van, extended his hands and arms through the opened door, and grasped the woman. Flames flared up from the underside of the van, burning them both as Mills pulled her free. Mills and the woman's husband helped her away from the van before it was totally engulfed by flames. Mills suffered burns to his legs

and a strained back. He recovered. He was awarded the Carnegie Medal the following year.

In 1932, Arthur and Bessie Mills welcomed their son. Mills grew up in Independence, Oregon, and graduated from Independence High in 1950. He then went on to graduate from Oregon Technical Institute in 1953.

Near the end of the Korean War, Mills joined the U.S. Army. He served from 1953 to 1956 and was involved with the development of the Army's rocket program.

In 1955, Beverly Peterson and Richard Mills were married in Monmouth, Oregon. Before settling down in Oregon to raise their four children, they lived in Texas and California.

Mills worked as a machinist at Rem/Gemini Metals until his retirement in 1994. Since then, he enjoyed traveling in his motorhome and helping with his many grandkids.

Faith was also important to Mills. He was a longtime member of Eastside Christian Church in Albany.

He also enjoyed woodworking and bike riding. Mills began participating in Cycle Oregon rides in 1988 and went on to complete five more excursions.

Mills was also a dedicated member of the Boy Scouts of America. He earned his Eagle rank in 1948. Throughout his life, Mills assisted the organization wherever he lived until settling back in Albany. He worked many years with Troop 91, later known as Troop 100, as a leader, mentor, and record- ▶p. 12

OVERHEARD

It was something that went through my soul. You don't think about risk.

— **Vickie Tillman**, Carnegie Medal awardee #10000

Scary, definitely scary. It was surreal.

— **Robin Ireland**, Carnegie Medal awardee #9972

All of this happened in just a few minutes, but to me it felt like a lifetime. — **Van L. Anderson**, Carnegie Medal awardee #10085

It was so beautiful to see that guy ... all he cared about was making sure they were safe. — Eyewitness to actions of **Philip L. Hall**, Carnegie Medal awardee #10130

He just said, 'Mom, he was drowning, I had no other choice. I needed to save him.' — Mother of **Shane Morrison**, Carnegie Medal awardee #10257

I just put my arm around her and I know she was scared and you know, I was scared at that point too. — **Justin Leland Perry**, Carnegie Medal awardee #10277

In my head, it's just wrong if you don't help. That's just instinct. If someone is in trouble, you should help them, no matter what. Even if it puts your life on the line, which it did. — **Zachary Johnson Haugen**, Carnegie Medal awardee #10290

I was just making sure she didn't get hit again. I said if I get hit once, I can take it. But, I didn't want her to get hit one more time. — **Jordan Scott Lambay**, Carnegie Medal awardee #10110

She was getting weak and coughing, he was coughing. Then them guys showed up like angels. They showed up. I thank God every day them guys ran upstairs. My wife was not leaving her father up there. — Son-in-law of man saved by **Ernest Beauparland**, Carnegie Medal awardee #10252, and **Ronald Rock**, Carnegie Medal awardee #10253



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 10,291 since the Hero Fund's inception in 1904. The latest awards were announced March 29. The next announcement will be made in June.

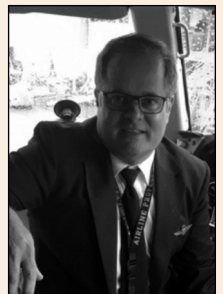
As **Evan Daniel Townsley** drove through a Los Angeles neighborhood on July 23, he heard a woman screaming for help. The 66-year-old woman had been walking on a sidewalk when a 70-pound pit bull mix dog attacked her, biting her arms and torso, and lunging at her neck. Stopping at the scene, Townsley, 53, of Los Angeles, wrapped an arm around the dog and stabbed it with a small knife. The dog turned on Townsley, allowing the woman to flee to safety. Townsley and the dog continued fighting; the knife blade broke, and the dog bit Townsley's forearm and wrist. Townsley swept the dog off its feet and pinned it to the pavement, where others, with difficulty, secured the dog until three police officers arrived and removed the animal from the scene. The woman was treated for serious bites to her arms, abdomen, and back. Townsley underwent surgery and then spent eight weeks in rehabilitation for treatment of 18 deep puncture wounds to both his arms – some of which pierced bone – and a fracture to his wrist.

A 10-year-old boy drowned June 12 while saving his

5-year-old sister from the same fate in the Big Sioux River near Hudson, South Dakota. **Ricky Lee Sneve** of Hudson dove into the water after Chevelle Sneve stepped or fell into water that was 3 feet deep. He pushed Chevelle back toward the bank where she could exit the water to safety, but, in doing so, Ricky entered an area of the river where an undertow flowed into water 12 feet deep. Three boys and Ricky's stepfather entered the water to help Ricky, but two of the boys immediately struggled in the water and the stepfather and the oldest boy helped them back to the bank. By then Ricky had been carried about 50 feet from the bank, and he submerged. Sheriff's department divers recovered Ricky's body about 75 feet down river from the point where he was last seen, in about 12 feet of water. He had drowned.

A 56-year-old pilot rushed to the scene of a plane that had, on Oct. 13, 2020, crash-landed on a New Carlisle, Ohio, grass runway, overturned, and caught fire. Couple Joyce A. Seymour, 72, and Timothy J. Seymour, 73, remained inside the cockpit as flames broke out in the engine area. After seeing the crash,

Patrick J. Driscoll, of Centerville, Ohio, rushed to the cockpit's passenger side, crouched on the plane's wing, which contained a fuel tank, and released Seymour's seat belt, freeing her. He then helped her to a point a few feet away from the plane. Driscoll then ran to the wing at the pilot's side as the flames intensified and spread toward the cockpit. Driscoll again crouched on a wing, released Timothy's seat belt, and pulled Timothy, who was larger than him, from the plane as another man arrived with a fire extinguisher. The fire shortly spread to destroy the plane. Driscoll's head was singed, but he recovered.

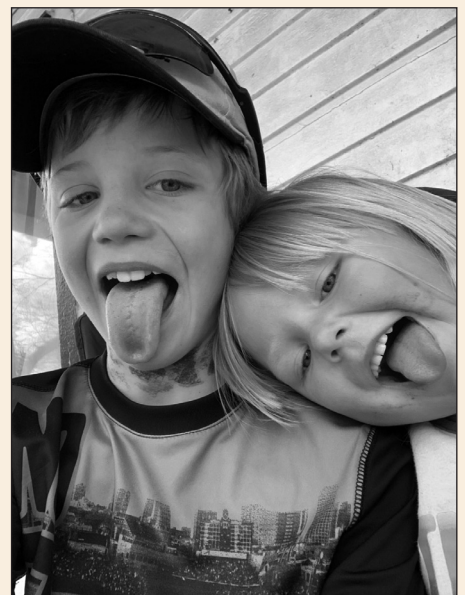


Patrick J. Driscoll

A 5-year-old girl was on a floatie on July 25, 2020, in Lake Michigan near Honor, Michigan, when its tether slipped off of her mom's wrist and strong winds blew it away from shore. At a point several hundred feet from shore, the float flipped and tossed the girl into the water. A 33-year-old musician from Interlochen, Michigan, **Justin Leland Perry**, and **Jason Hadfield**, 42, creative director, of Kingsley, Michigan, were in separate parties on the beach and responded. Perry entered the water with a partially inflated child's life ring and swam to the girl, where he placed her ▶



*The wreckage of the plane that crash-landed and caught fire on Oct. 13, 2020, in New Carlisle, Ohio. **Patrick J. Driscoll** rushed to the cockpit and removed passenger Joyce A. Seymour and then her husband, pilot Timothy J. Seymour, despite flames spreading to the cockpit. After the couple was removed, the fire destroyed the plane. Photo courtesy of National Transportation Safety Board.*



***Ricky Lee Sneve** and his 5-year-old sister Chevelle Sneve, whom he saved from drowning on June 21, 2021, losing his own life in the process.*

on the life ring, held to her, and kicked toward shore. Hadfield entered the lake with a child's kayak and swam to Perry and the girl, whom they placed on the kayak. Holding to the kayak, the men swam her to shore.

Newspaper executive **Peter Rosengren**, 42, of Batavia, Illinois, drowned March 28, 2021, after helping to rescue a 9-year-old boy from drowning in rough water of the Gulf of Mexico off of Miramar Beach, Florida. The boy was carried away from shore into deep water. Rosengren swam to the boy, but they were separated by rough waves and Rosengren lost consciousness. Others, using safety equipment, ultimately rescued the boy and Rosengren, who was unresponsive. The boy recovered after being treated at a hospital for swallowing water. Attempts to revive Rosengren were unsuccessful, as he had drowned.

Arthur R. Caballero, Sr., a 62-year-old painter of Fresno, California, was fishing June 9, 2020, in the Kings River near Sanger, California, when he saw a 7-year-old girl in another party struggling to stay afloat as she moved into deep water. The cold, swift-moving current prevented adults in her party, including her mother, from reaching her. Caballero entered the river fully clothed, went to the girl, and thrust her back toward the bank where others helped her from the water. The current pulled Caballero downstream, where he lost consciousness. Responding authorities



Justin Leland Perry



Jason Hadfield



Arthur R. Caballero, Sr.



Carl J. Robinette II

located him an hour later and removed him from the river, but he had drowned.

A 13-year-old boy was on a boat outing when he and several others left the boat to wade on a nearby sandbar. The boat drifted away from the sandbar and the boy panicked, leaving the sandbar and swimming toward the boat on April 26, 2020. He struggled in water about 8 feet deep. On the boat, **Carl J. Robinette II**, a 48-year-old internet sales and marketing manager of Hartsville, South Carolina, saw the boy struggling, dove into the water, and swam to him. Robinette grasped the boy and held him so his head remained above water while moving toward the sandbar. Another man, who held a life vest in front of him, swam to the pair and helped the boy grasp the life vest and get back to the boat. By then, Robinette had submerged. Department of Natural Resources

divers recovered Robinette's body the next day, near where he submerged, in about 8 feet of water. He had drowned.

Christopher Lee Taylor, 36, forklift operator, of Greenville, Ohio, was driving through a local neighborhood on Oct. 31, 2020, when he saw flames on a nearby home's second floor. Taylor ran to a side door of the home and called out into the house. From inside, he heard David Miles, 30, moaning. Doubled-over to keep his head below the smoke, Taylor entered the home, making his way through thick smoke and intense heat to a stairway where he found Miles, then unconscious, near the top. Flames were spreading toward the stairs, as Taylor picked up Miles and carried him out of the house.

On July 19, 2020, a man and two children struggled ►



Peter Rosengren poses with his family. Rosengren died March 28, 2021, after helping to rescue a 9-year-old boy from drowning in the Gulf of Mexico near Miramar Beach, Florida. With Rosengren are wife Maura and, from left, sons Charlie, Grant, and Gavin.



Christopher Lee Taylor was dressed as a superhero for Halloween when he saw flames in a nearby Greenville, Ohio, home and acted. He entered the house and found David Miles, who was unconscious at the top of the stairs leading to the second floor. Flames were spreading toward the stairs and Taylor carried Miles out of the house. Photo by Jim Comer, Greenville Daily Advocate.



LATEST AWARDEES

in deep water in Lake Superior near Marquette, Michigan. A member of her college swim team, **Marena L. Kouba**, 21, of St. Cloud, Minnesota, was nearby and entered the lake despite rough water. Kouba swam several hundred feet to 37-year-old Eric E. J. Benac, and instructed him to hold onto her. Kouba swam to the children, ages 10 and 11, who were nearby, and instructed them to do the same. With all three people holding to one arm, Kouba swam toward shore, but quickly tired as she struggled against the current. She shouted to others to bring rescue equipment, and others on shore swam about 100 feet to reach them, assisting Benac and the children to safety.

A 48-year-old woman was shot four times March 5, 2020, after she attacked a man demanding money from her brother at gunpoint inside his Charlotte, North Carolina, restaurant. As the assailant faced restaurant owner Thomas Chormovas, 51, sister **Magdalini Chormova**, a non-profit organization executive of Athens, Greece, approached the gunman from behind and grasped his shoulders, which gave Chormovas an opportunity to move to the assailant where the three struggled. The assailant fired the gun several times, with four bullets striking Chormova. The siblings brought the assailant to the ground, gained



Marena L. Kouba



Magdalini Chormova



Anthony Hogan



Brandon Melancon

control of the gun, and secured him until police arrived. Chormovas suffered broken ribs and recovered. Chormova was hospitalized for several weeks for her gunshot wounds and other extensive injuries.

A violent accident on Aug. 12, 2020, in Fort Worth, Texas, left driver Michael A. Loya, Jr., 40, semi-conscious, badly injured, and pinned in a burning work truck containing flammable items, including welding tanks. Off-duty police chief, **Anthony Hogan**, 48, of Haslet, Texas, witnessed the accident and responded, as flames issued from the truck's underside. Hogan partially entered the truck through the driver's window, grasped Loya underneath one arm and pulled his upper body through the window. As he continued to pull at Loya, he struggled to remove him further as Loya's legs were caught in the wreckage. Placing one

foot on the door and pulling with all his might, Hogan freed Loya and removed him from the truck as flames engulfed the truck. Loya was not burned.

A boom truck driver was trapped in the driver's seat, after a June 9, 2020, accident in Derry, Louisiana, that left the truck overturned and on fire. **Daniel L. Cook**, 48, field operations manager of Alexandria, Louisiana, and **Brandon Melancon**, 36, operations executive of Church Point, Louisiana, responded to the driver's window where they each extended an arm into the truck and pulled on the clothing of driver Justin A. Richmond, 28, but his lower body was pinned. Switching their grasp to Richmond's arms, they continued to pull on him as flames entered the truck's passenger compartment and burned Richmond. As Richmond's legs came free, Cook aided him to the ►



A boom truck burns in Derry, Louisiana, on June 9, 2020, after **Daniel L. Cook** and **Brandon Melancon** removed the 28-year-old driver from the truck. Although Richmond's lower body was pinned in the wreckage, the Carnegie heroes tugged until his legs came free. Switching their grasp to the driver's arms, they continued to pull on him as flames entered the truck's passenger compartment and burned the driver. As his legs came free, Cook aided him to the ground, and then Cook and Melancon dragged him from the vehicle. Photo courtesy of Natchinoches County Sheriff's Office.



Layne Paul Gravois



Kim A. McGrady

ground, and then Cook and Melancon dragged him from the vehicle.

Alerted on the beach that children were in distress in the April 8, 2021, turbulent waters of the Gulf of Mexico off of Miramar Beach, Florida, college student **Layne Paul Gravois**, 21, of Gray, Louisiana,



Zachary Johnson Haugen

as well as several others, entered the water and swam toward people in distress in the water. As the water conditions worsened and those who had responded also struggled, a human chain was formed from shore to attempt to reach those in distress. Business consultant **Kim A. McGrady**, 55, of Dunwoody, Georgia, also entered the water. Separate from the chain, McGrady swam toward someone he had seen in distress. Buffeted by heavy waves, Gravois and McGrady were removed from the water by others and were among 11 people who needed medical attention on the beach. Gravois and McGrady drowned.

Two Arizona high school students entered turbulent water on July 3, 2020, to save 18-year-old Thanya Huerta and an 11-year-old girl, who were swept into the Pacific Ocean from a low-lying rocky cliff surrounding a cove off of San Diego. Five-foot waves crashing violently onto partially submerged boulders coupled with a rising tide created a churning effect inside the cove. Seeing the pair in distress, **Zachary Johnson Haugen**, 16, of Scottsdale, Arizona, a member of his high school swim team, jumped from a cliff into the water. He swam to the pair and grasping the girl and guiding Huerta, he swam toward a low-lying part in the cliff where they could exit the water. A large wave separated him from them and stranded him among the boulders. Haugen called to his friend, **Jake Vageli Watson**, 15, of Scottsdale, who entered the water and swam to them. Placing the girl on his back he helped Huerta to a ledge and pushed the girl on it. Exiting the water himself, he was unable to pull Huerta from the water, but he held onto her, keeping her head above the surface of the water until lifeguards arrived by boat. Watson then assisted his friend from the boulders and the lifeguards assisted them to safety. 🌀



*The wreckage of a violent Aug. 12, 2020, accident in Forth Worth, Texas, after the burning truck was extinguished by firefighters. Driver Michael A. Loya, Jr., 40, was semi-conscious, badly injured, and pinned inside the vehicle. Despite flames issuing from the undercarriage, off-duty police chief, **Anthony Hogan**, entered the truck through the driver's window and pulled hard at Loya until he was freed.*



***Jake Vageli Watson**, left, pushed an 11-year-old girl, center, out of the tumultuous sea after she was swept off a low-lying cliff in San Diego on July 3, 2020, while the girl's friend, Thanya Huerta, 18, clings to the rock.*



► from p.1

GRANDDAUGHTER MARKS CARNEGIE HERO'S GRAVE

of Fuchs raised \$4,700 in donations, which was applied to Fuchs' burial expenses and paying off the mortgage owed on his home. Marie spent the remainder on his other debts and improvements to the home. In addition the Hero Fund provided a monthly stipend to her from 1949 until her death on Aug. 13, 1992. Fuchs' daughter, Rose Marie Fuchs continued to stay in contact with the Hero Fund and his granddaughter, Linda Groover, requested the grave marker.

"Rose Marie Fuchs is [Fuchs'] only surviving child, and I would like to honor her father's memory with this gift," Groover wrote to the Commission.

Fuchs is buried at Calvary Cemetery in Dayton, Ohio. ❁

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 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.

15:13 calls to mind those in the Hero Fund's 118-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 10,291 medal awardees to date, 2,101, or 20% of the total, were recognized posthumously. They are not forgotten.

► from p.7

❁ FRIENDS REMEMBERED ❁

keeper for a total of 75 years of service.

In 2018, he attended the "Honor Flight" with other veterans to Washington, D.C.

He is survived by his wife; sons, Marty, Tim, and Greg; daughter, Jeanie; 11 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Mills was preceded in death by his half-sister, Beverly Shirokov.

Andre J. Ledbetter, 75, of Pahrump, Nevada, died Monday, Feb. 28, 2022, at home. He was surrounded by family and his beloved dog.

When he was 18, Ledbetter saved a 45-year-old glass company proprietor from a nighttime fire in Vancouver, Washington, after fire broke out in his one-story home. The man's wife awakened him before she broke a window to escape. Meanwhile, he went into an adjoining room and broke a small window there. He was quickly overcome by smoke and fell to the floor. Numerous neighbors including Ledbetter, arrived as the rapidly spreading flames completely engulfed one side of the dwelling. Ledbetter climbed into the bedroom, sustaining some cuts from the broken glass, and started toward the bathroom where the man lay, but he had difficulty breathing in the dense smoke and returned to the window for air. He then crawled 10 feet and found the man unconscious.

Heat was intense and flames singed the hair on Ledbetter's arm as he dragged him to the bedroom window. He placed the man's arm over the sill and then climbed out, coughing from smoke he had inhaled. Flames appeared in the bedroom as Ledbetter and others pulled the man through the window opening and away from the home.

Ledbetter was born Oct. 28, 1946 to Edward and Aniela Ledbetter of Vancouver. In high school, Ledbetter's favorite sport was boxing and he even had a brief stint as an amateur boxer.

Ledbetter met his wife, Patricia Ann Beaupre, in high school. Together, they moved to San Francisco in the 1960s to enjoy music and culture. Eventually they returned to Vancouver, and had their two children, Jason and Kristina.

As a resident of Washington, Ledbetter took advantage of all the outdoors to offer. While living in Klickitat, he enjoyed fishing and photography. On the Long Beach Peninsula, he loved clam digging and beachcombing.

In 2006, Ledbetter and his wife returned to Pahrump, Nevada, where they spent time exploring the desert and admiring the wild horses.

Ledbetter's family will remember him for making them laugh and seeing the positive side of things. His joy will be their memory. Ledbetter is survived by his son; daughter; and his grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife in 2012.

Earl E. Cummins, 90, formerly of Fairhope, Pennsylvania, died Sunday, April 17, 2022.

In 2004, Cummins saved a 76-year-old woman from burning after fire broke out in her Hyndman, Pennsylvania, home. Cummins, 72, was driving nearby and saw flames issuing high above the house of his acquaintance. He parked at the scene and positioned his car so its headlights shined into the house through a large front window. Cummins opened the front door and shouted for the woman. Hearing her response, Cummins entered the house and crouched over in the dense smoke and intense heat, following the sound of her voice. He found the woman in the kitchen. Cummins pushed her along, retracing his steps to the front door. They exited to safety. Both suffered smoke inhalation, and Cummins required ►



Earl E. Cummins and Mary E. Shaffer, the woman he saved from a burning home.

hospital treatment, but they recovered. Cummins was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 2005.

Cummins was born March 11, 1932 – the seventh of 13 children to Homer and Salena Cummins.

In 1953, he married Shirley Rosel la Shumaker. The couple had five children that they raised in Middle River, Maryland.

During the Korean War, Cummins served in the U.S. Air Force as a sheet metal worker repairing damaged airplanes.

He had a lifelong passion for flying and aircrafts.

In 2012, he piloted his own powered parachute with his co-pilot, Bernie Shaffer, for the last time at 80 years old.

Cummins retired from Bethlehem Steel and returned to Fairhope to live in the home he built, which he referred to as “the second-best place.” He hosted many train enthusiasts and fishermen in the A-frame on his property.

Cummins enjoyed hunting, fishing, woodworking, and giving tractor rides to his grandchildren on his beloved tractor, "Alice."

He was always helping people in need whether it was a stranger, family, friends, or members of the community.

Never letting his age stop him, Cummins' travels included Israel, Belarus, Russia, and China. He also took mission trips to Andros Island and the Bahamas.

Stateside, he was always willing to travel across the country to welcome a new grandchild or to support his loved ones in their endeavors.

Described by his family as a fierce competitor, Cummins enjoyed playing Phase 10, shuffleboard, and racing.

He was an active member of several churches including Middle River Baptist, Fairhope Community, and Faith Community, and volunteered at New Life Bible Camp for over 20 years.

Cummins is survived by his wife of 68 years; sons, Steven, Stanley, and Kelly; daughters, Lorraine and Amy; 10 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and countless family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his brothers, Edwin, Homer, James, Blair, and Clarence; sisters, Joanne, Ruth, and Sara; and son-in-law, Dale. ☸



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

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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.





FROM THE ARCHIVES



Carnegie Hero Evelyn S. Bryan poses for a photo among the loves of her life — airplanes. A one-time world record holder for the most recorded flight hours by a female pilot, in 1958 Bryan saved a pilot from burning after his helicopter crash-landed in her airport.

Female flight instructor responds to 1958 'copter crash

In the early afternoon of Monday, April 28, 1958, 34-year-old John J. Ryan and his Powell Valley Electric Cooperative colleague, 49-year-old Davis L. McNiel, left Jonesville, Virginia, in a Bell 47G-2 helicopter.

Pilot Ryan and McNiel, a utility manager, were surveying power lines that day, and while Ryan was stationed at the 'copter's controls during takeoffs, landings, and hovering for inspections, he was also teaching McNiel how to fly and would turn the controls over to him for training.

At 1:40 pm, near Morristown, Tennessee, they landed on the graded, unpaved runway at Murrell Airport for gas. There were two gallons of fuel left in the helicopter's tank. The weather was fair and mild, with only a slight wind.

Evelyn S. Bryan, a 48-year-old flight instructor and operations partner at the airport, was the only employee on duty. She appeared from the office, a single-story frame structure, and went to the pumps to

fill the two main and two auxiliary tanks of the helicopter with 51 gallons of fuel.

Two boys, Wayne Watkins, 13, and Gerald Carter, 16, were riding their bikes by the airport and had stopped to watch the helicopter land on the taxiway. They went to join Bryan near the doorway of the office to further admire the craft.

Ryan and McNiel re-entered the cockpit and readied themselves for takeoff. Ryan was seated on the left, in the pilot's seat; McNiel sat on the right, ready to assist.

On the ascent, Ryan piloted the helicopter about 150 feet vertically above the runway. He then turned the controls over to McNiel who piloted the craft in a southwesterly direction about 200 feet, turning sharply and tilting the helicopter.

Ryan immediately took control and attempted to steady the craft, but it did not respond to his efforts. The helicopter descended to the runway, crashing on its right side with the engine still running and the main rotor blades running at full

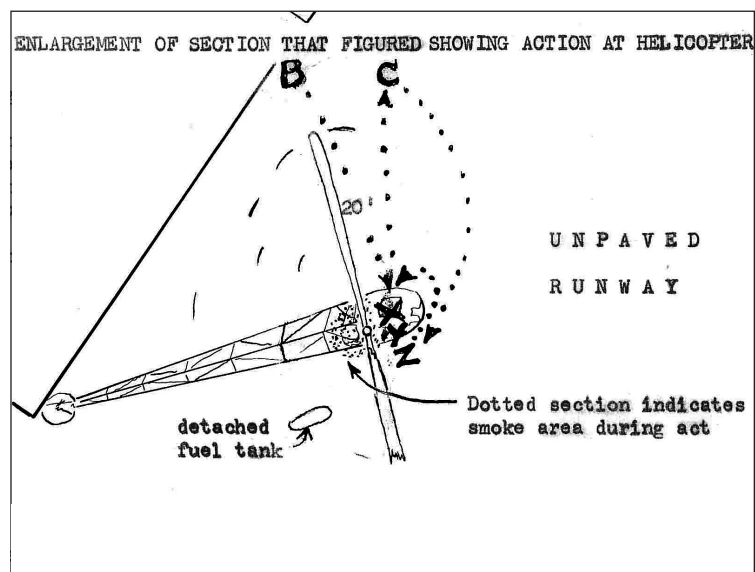
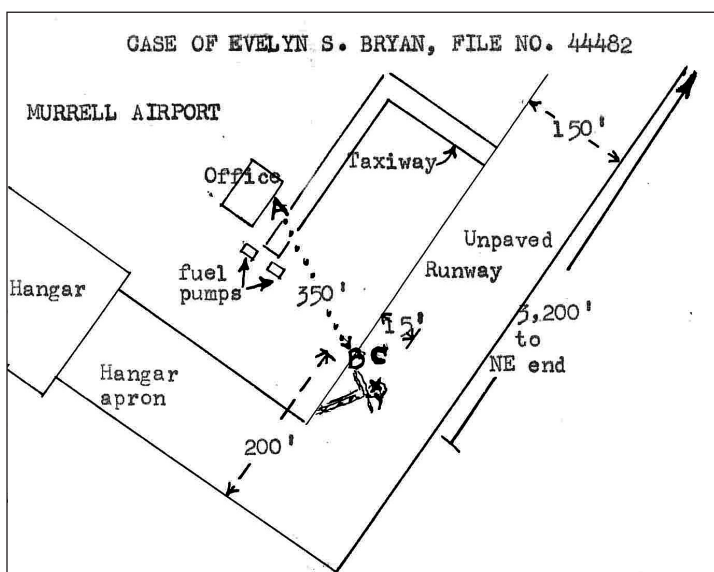
throttle.

The accident broke the helicopter's skids, shattered its plexiglass bubble-canopy, destroyed the engine cooling fan, and bent the craft's mast that supported the revolving rotor blades, creating friction in the helicopter's mechanics resulting in an overheated engine. Fuel leaked from the helicopter, smoke issued from its engine, and as the rotor blades continued to hit the runway, the chopper wobbled continuously. The left door of the cockpit was heaved open.

As the blades continued rotating, one of them broke off about 8 feet from the mast, while the other remained intact and continued to rotate.

Inside, McNiel was believed to have died on impact, and Ryan was rendered unconscious. He had suffered a concussion, a broken back, and a broken right femur.

Bryan, witness to the crash, was dressed in a cotton blouse, wool scarf, and silk head scarf. She had extensive aircraft experience



Two sketches of the scene created by Hero Fund investigator H.W. Eyman depicting the scene in which Evelyn S. Bryan saved a pilot from burning after his helicopter crash-landed at Murrell Airport in Morristown, Tennessee.

in general and had held her flying license for 14 years and a flight instructor's license for 11 years. Additionally, she had just started learning to fly helicopters the previous month. Although she hadn't flown the Bell 47 G-2 before, she had serviced other helicopters of the same model at Murrell Airport. From her familiarity with the model, she knew the location of the craft's fuel tanks and where the engine switch could be turned off.

Bryan could see the engine was still on, causing the blades to rotate, which she later told Hero Fund investigator H.W. Eyman could potentially lead to an explosion.

She grabbed a carbon dioxide fire extinguisher from the office's doorway and raced toward the helicopter, slowed only by an area of sticky mud on her route.

Wayne, one of the boys who stopped to admire the helicopter, followed her. Gerald remained near the office doorway.

Bryan lugged the fire extinguisher about 350 feet through the muck before reaching the edge of the runway. She continued toward the cockpit, where the rotor blades moved rapidly, raising and lowering the fuselage and cockpit as they hit the runway.

To the investigator, she relayed her fears that because the cockpit was wobbling, the clearance with which she had to work varied drastically. Despite her worry, Bryan threw the extinguisher to the runway and crawled toward the cockpit as the blades continued to spin overhead.

Then, as the craft continued to wobble, she entered the cockpit. Leaning over Ryan, she reached for the switch with her right hand and shut off the engine, halting movement of the blades.

As dense smoke continued to spread from the engine and the threat of fire or explosion loomed, Bryan withdrew herself from the cockpit and ran back to the fire extinguisher.

Wayne handed it to her and she ran back to the wreckage where she employed the CO2 foam on the engine area, cooling it down and dissipating the haze.

She could now assess the state of the two men. McNiel appeared to be dead. Ryan weakly groaned.

By now, Richard M. Morelock, a retired real estate professional and eyewitness to the accident, approached the wreckage. Others from the highway also made their way toward the scene.

"What happened to me?" muttered Ryan, who had regained partial consciousness, to Bryan.

Bryan explained the helicopter crashed, and she feared McNiel was dead.

Morelock and two other men reached the side of the cockpit and, with Bryan, tried to pull Ryan out of the cockpit. He yelled in agony. Bryan suggested they leave him in the aircraft until medical professionals arrived. Soon an ambulance reached the airport and medical personnel removed Ryan and McNiel from the wreckage and took them to Morristown Hospital where McNiel was pronounced dead.

Miraculously, none of the spilled gasoline ignited, and no explosion occurred.

After receiving emergency treatment, Ryan was transferred to a hospital in Knoxville, Tennessee, where he stayed for several months and underwent three operations.

During the Hero Fund's investigation, Ryan was still under a physician's care but almost completely recovered. After the accident and subsequent medical treatment, his right leg was 1.5 inches shorter than his left.

Bryan was not injured, but she did experience slight shock and was shaken up for a few days following the accident and her heroics.

Bryan shared with Eyman that she did consider the fact that she could lose her life – due to the leaking fuel, which could have started a fire or caused an explosion, and the revolving rotor blades, which could have crushed her as she entered the cockpit. However, she ignored this threat until she was able to turn off the engine and use the fire extinguisher to cool off the hot engine and eliminate the smoke engulfing the wreckage.

For her bravery, Bryan was awarded the Carnegie Medal and a \$250 financial reward.

Bryan, later known as Evelyn Bryan Johnson, went on to fly until she was 97 years old.

When she died in 2012, the *Los Angeles Times* highlighted her incredible life and flying career.

She described learning to fly in 1944 as "love at first sight."

At the time, she held the Guinness World Record for logging the most hours in the air for a female pilot – 57,635.4, which is equivalent to 6.5 years.✴

— Abby Brady, Communications Assistant/Archivist

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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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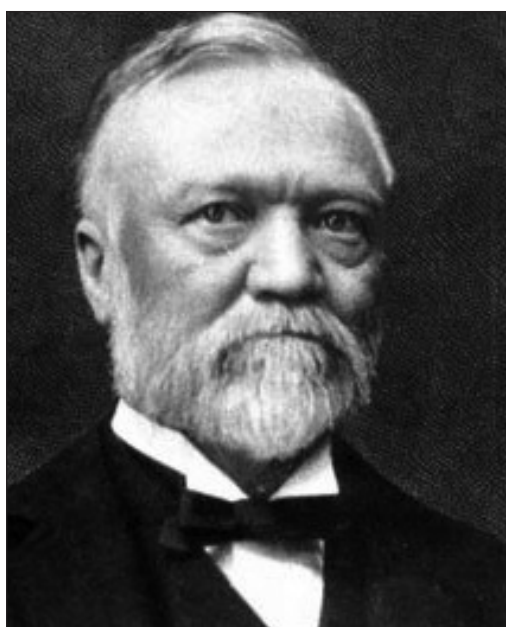
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A medal shall be given to the hero, or widow, or next of kin, which shall recite the heroic deed it commemorates, that descendants may know and be proud of their descent.

— *Deed of Trust, Carnegie Hero Fund Commission, 1904*

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 (2019-2020) are available online or by contacting the Hero Fund.

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