



Impulse

A periodic newsletter of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission

ISSUE 72 • WINTER 2023

A SUPREME SACRIFICE: MAN WON CARNEGIE MEDAL FOR SELFLESS HEROISM

By Jimmy Tomlin/ The High Point Enterprise

Dec. 3—HIGH POINT, NORTH CAROLINA – A modest grave marker at Oakwood Cemetery tells the day that **Don R. Kirkman** died – July 24, 1919 – but it doesn't tell the remarkable story of the hero who lies buried there.

The 27-year-old High Pointer, a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army, had recently returned home from fighting in France, buoyed by an Allied victory in the Great War. He had lined up a furniture sales job, a position he planned to keep until he was financially stable enough to open his own law practice in town.

Best of all, on that very day, he had just arrived at Wrightsville Beach, where he planned to spend time with the family of his fiancée, Florence Burkheimer, at their summer cottage along the Banks Channel. It was the first time Don had seen Florence since returning from the war, so their reunion must've been a joyous one. Also, in just a few short days, Florence would turn 27, and Don likely planned on visiting long enough to help her celebrate.

Tragically, Don would not live to see his fiancée's birthday, and there would be no celebration. Here's what happened on that fateful day more than a century ago:

That afternoon, around 3:30, Florence's younger sister, Annie, went for a swim in the channel. While the channel waters could sometimes be treacherous, the family had lived in the cottage all summer, so surely Annie had swum there often and knew to be careful.

On this day, though, Annie quickly found herself in distress as she battled the powerful current. From the cottage's veranda, ► [p. 4](#)



*Sarah Perry, the mother of Carnegie Hero **Aden Spencer Perry**, shows one of the 70 rescue rings to be donated to Coral Springs, Florida, for installation near bodies of water. With her, from left, are Coral Springs Attorney John Hern, Vice Mayor Shawn Cerna, Commissioner Nancy Metayer Bowen, Mayor Scott Brook, City Manager Frank Babinec, and commissioners Joy Carter and Joshua Simmons.*

Hero's rescue rings installed in southeastern Florida

Officials in Coral Springs, Florida, on Feb. 25, kicked off the installation of more than 70 rescue life rings near bodies of water in city parks in honor of Carnegie Hero **Aden Spencer Perry**.

Last April, Aden, 17, drowned while attempting to save the teen driver of a car that entered a lake in Sunrise, Florida, which neighbors Coral Springs. Aden was walking his dog with his mother when they witnessed the car enter the water and drift to a point about 40 feet from the bank where water was 25 feet deep. The driver, 18, exited his car and called for help. Aden called 911, handed the phone to his mother, and entered the water. Aden, the driver, and the car submerged. Police divers located Aden and the driver and removed them from the water. They had drowned.

Shortly after his death, Aden's parents, Sarah and Alan Perry, established the Aden Perry Good Samaritan and Scholarship Fund, which raised more than \$141,000 through Go Fund Me. Now a 501(c)3, the fund has raised a total of about \$200,000 so far, according to Sarah Perry.

"It is our hope that this fund will allow Aden to continue being a hero ► [p. 4](#)



BOARD NOTES

THOUGHTS ON THE HERO FUND'S OBLIGATION EXCLUSION

By Mark Laskow, Chair Emeritus
Carnegie Hero Fund Commission

Every Carnegie hero has earned the Carnegie Medal by making a choice that would define their life. Not an abstract decision, like "I like jazz music better than rock," but a gritty choice expressed in immediate physical action that could have ended the Hero's life then and there. What confirms that decision as an act of moral heroism is that no Carnegie hero was obligated to act. Each had the option to cling to life and safety but each turned away from that comfortable choice and instead plunged into the danger engulfing another human being.



Mark Laskow

Many people take these kinds of risks as part of their job. We have all admired rescues by professionals such as police officers, fire fighters, and lifeguards. By the nature of the hero medal, we don't award it for what these individuals do in the line of their duties. They weren't volunteers, but rather people who excelled at their jobs to an extraordinary degree. Thus, their services almost always have programs to recognize exceptional professional acts. Other people might have a duty to rescue that doesn't involve a job, but which has fallen on them in another way. Think about someone who has, by accident or foolishness, put someone else's life in danger. We consider such a person obligated to save the person they've endangered, if they can. Sort of a karmic "mess up, clean up," if you will. We do not award the Medal in these cases either. Here, you can see that we are coming up with a sensible answer, adapting to degrees of obligation.

I'm trying to make this sound logical. Out in the real world, things are messy, not at all orderly. To deal with that we leaven the logic of our decision rules with experience and common sense.

As I have read through hundreds of cases over several decades, I've seen there are other sources of obligation that are harder to categorize, but which would certainly influence a potential rescuer. A memorable example of this was the 2005 rescue of two fishermen off Lower Lance Cove, Newfoundland. It was December and the winds in Smith ▶

FRIENDS REMEMBERED



Carnegie Hero **Charles S. Harris**, right, pins a lapel pin on **Joshua Stewart Wright** at a private presentation of the Carnegie Medal to Wright. Both Harris and Wright died recently. Harris was a volunteer presenter of the Carnegie Medal after being awarded the Medal for a 1962 water rescue. Wright saved a 2-year-old from a burning vehicle.

Volunteer presenter, Carnegie hero, and Civil War historian dies

Carnegie Hero **Charles S. Harris**, 81, died Monday, Dec. 19, 2022, at his home in Ooltewah, Tennessee. Harris was a renowned Civil War historian and author, specifically known for finding Civil War artifacts in wilderness throughout the South. He was awarded the Carnegie Medal for a 1962 water rescue that he performed at age 21. He then began a long volunteer association with the Hero Fund, traveling to present the Carnegie Medal to newer recipients of the award or their families.

At the age of 22, Harris was awarded the Carnegie Medal for pulling two girls, ages 8 and 10, from a submerged vehicle in Big Spring Creek near Guntersville, Alabama. The girls were in the rear seat of a coupe that entered the creek and sank in water, 11 feet deep. While the girls' family escaped, Harris entered the vehicle multiple times to search for and ultimately remove the girls from the vehicle. One of the girls was revived, but the other had drowned.

Harris was born to Martin and Lou Harris. He later married his wife, Teresa Harris. He worked as an aerial photographer for the mapping division of the Tennessee Valley Authority – which provides electricity for 153 local power companies. He also spent time writing for American Digger magazine, showing his relics at his museum-like home and at trade shows, and authoring books about relic hunting.

"To me, the relics talk," Harris said in a 2015 NQ Explorers video. "In high school, college, I hated history. Memorizing dates and names, I just couldn't get into it. But as far as getting into a story, let the relic talk for you. It will tell you a story. To me, that's it."

NQ Explorers is a relic hunting duo out of Australia that produces videos about their adventures and those of others on YouTube.

Harris presented the Carnegie Medal to newly awarded heroes or their families throughout the American South making numerous presentations. Harris said his first presentation, to Carnegie Hero **McKenzie McKay Guffey**, was one of the proudest moments of his life. His last presentation was in 2019 to **Joshua Stewart Wright**. ▶

FRIENDS REMEMBERED

Wright saved a 2-year-old girl from a burning vehicle in 2014.

Harris said he connected with Wright, because one of his victims could not be revived.

"I know that Joshua's biggest regret is that the girl's brother could not also have been rescued. Not everyone is successful in their rescue efforts, nor does every hero survive," Harris said after the presentation. "Joshua unconsciously and selflessly laid his life on the line for another and for that he will be eternally remembered in the face of God and his friends."

Harris' death has also been announced in the Civil War relic hunting community.

"With a heavy heart we announce the passing this morning of relic hunting legend, Charlie Harris," posted Anita Holcombe, marketing director of American Digger Magazine, posted on the magazine's Facebook page. "He was also one of American Digger Magazine's original staff members as well as a wonderful friend. We are empty with his passing as will be the Civil War relic community at large."

On CivilWarTalk.com, one user created a thread announcing Harris' passing.

"Charlie was a hell of a man, author, and relic hunter," the user wrote.

"We lost a legend," another user replied.

Harris is survived by his wife; brothers, Martin and Richard Harris; children, Stephanie Bell, Jennie Puckett, and Jon Chadwick; 11 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.



Donna Cortese-Munday

DONNA CORTESE-MUNDAY

Donna Cortese-Munday, 76, of Garineau, Quebec, died Monday, Aug. 22, 2022. She was the widow of Carnegie Hero **Mario D. Cortese**, and a beneficiary of the commission for 34 years. Cortese died in 1983 while attempting to rescue his 12-day-old daughter from a burning mobile home. They both died in the fire.

Cortese-Munday was described by family as a compassionate, loving soul, who had a private, strong spirit, and served as a rock for many.

She is survived by children Tracey, Joseph, and Jason; granddaughters Bryanna, Errin, Chloe, Madison, and Meadow; great-grandson Jaxson; sister Carol-Ann; and best friend Dayna.

Cortese-Munday was preceded in death by a sister, June; husbands Sylvio Provost and Mario Cortese; and daughter, Lindi.



Melvin G. Kauffman

MELVIN G. KAUFFMAN

Melvin G. Kauffman, 91, of Pulaski, Pennsylvania, died Friday, Dec. 23, 2022.

Born Aug. 13, 1931, to Lewis A. and Florence Mayberry Kauffman, he lived his entire 91 years in Pulaski.

Kauffman was a 1949 graduate of Union High School and served in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict. He wed in 1955 to Patricia A. Kearns.

He was affectionately known as Melvin the Mailman during his years delivering mail to the Pulaski area. In 1973, Kauffman received the Carnegie Medal after he and another man removed two unconscious, teen drivers from burning vehicles after flames broke out in both vehicles after an accident. ► p. 4

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BOARD NOTES

Sound were 30 miles per hour. **John Eli Marsh** and his son **John Morris Marsh** had been fishing and were heading back to harbor in their 19-foot fiberglass boat equipped with a 50-horsepower outboard motor when they spotted two distressed fishermen in the water beside their swamped boat. The James's faced a choice: go to the rescue in their small boat in bad conditions or continue to the safety of the harbor. Did I mention that it was December, with 30 mile-per-hour winds at latitude 48° north? They chose to steer for the men in distress. When the Marshes reached them, one had made it to shore but the other was floating just below the surface of the Sound. His heavy fisherman's clothes were soaked, but they managed to heave him into their boat. Then they maneuvered in among rocks to rescue the other fisherman from the bank. It was a long 2-mile ride back to harbor with their boat riding dangerously low under the load. They made it back safely. The fishermen were hospitalized but survived.

Did the Marshes have any duty to rescue the fishermen? Not formally, no, but consider that they and the men they rescued shared a seafaring life from an isolated town with a population of less than 100. Would you be surprised if the Marshes felt an obligation to rescue? I'd be surprised if they didn't. As a thought experiment, imagine they skipped the rescue. Imagine, instead, that they headed back to the harbor and, while warming up in that pub, mentioned that they had passed a fisherman submerged in the water and left him there, along with another stranded on the shore. Imagine the rest of their evening in the pub, and the rest of their life in that small town. The real-life Marshes did no such thing. They risked their own lives and brought their fellow fishermen back alive to their families.

The Hero Fund Commission awarded the Marshes, father and son, the Carnegie Medal their bravery had earned them. I voted to do so, even after concluding that there would have been hell to pay in Lower Lance Cove if they had passed up the rescue. Why? Because one of the goals of the Carnegie hero award is to strengthen exactly these cultural and social norms that encourage us to take care of one another. We want to add our own push to the forces in society that make life today gentler, more caring and more civil than it was a thousand or two thousand years ago. And, for the record, I don't think for a minute that John Eli and John Morris Marsh needed any outside encouragement to risk their lives as they did. After all, they were Carnegie heroes. ☸



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A SUPREME SACRIFICE

about 100 yards away, Don saw his fiancée's sister struggling and acted quickly.

Earlier that day, Don had admitted to the others at the cottage that while he was certainly athletic – he'd played basketball and track – he was not a particularly strong swimmer. Nonetheless, when he saw Annie in distress, he took off running, removing his coat as he ran, and dived into the water.

When Don reached Annie, still flailing, she frantically threw her arms around him, and they sank out of sight. Moments later, Annie bobbed back up to the surface. Don did not.

A couple of nearby Boy Scouts saw what was happening and rushed into the water to rescue Annie. They managed to get her to shore, but death hovered closely over her. A doctor and others who were nearby tried to resuscitate her, but it was too late.

Poor Florence, who had been with Don, watched as her sister and her fiancé perished. Her true love now gone, she never married.

News of the drownings spread quickly in the community. Hundreds of friends rushed to the cottage to offer their condolences, "and there was gloom over the beach such as is seldom seen," *The Wilmington Morning Star* reported. The paper praised Don's bravery, writing that observers said "they had never seen a more unselfish and chivalrous act" when the young man "cast away all thought of himself and gave his life in an effort to save another."

Nearly 24 hours would pass before Don's body would be recovered, but the news of his death – and his heroism – had reached High Point long before that.

"He was without a doubt one of the most promising young men of the city, one of many splendid qualities," *The High Point Enterprise* wrote.

The following year, Don was posthumously awarded a prestigious Carnegie Medal – the nation's highest honor for civilian heroism – for his supreme sacrifice. He was the first High Pointer – and still one of only three – to win the award, which was presented to his parents, Gurney and Jennie Kirkman.

More than a century later, Don Kirkman's name has largely been forgotten, but the same should never be said of his noble sacrifice.

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FRIENDS REMEMBERED



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MELVIN G. KAUFFMAN

After retiring from his mail route, Kauffman drove a school bus for Wilmington Area School District. In addition, he was an active member of the United Presbyterian Church of New Bedford for 80 years.

Kauffman would often be found on his lawn mower, but also enjoyed camping, square dancing, bowling, singing with the church choir and spending time with his wife and daughters.

Kauffman is survived by his wife of 67 years; daughters, Lauri A. and Kristine K. Phillips; and sister, Florence Allison.

Kauffman was preceded in death by a sister, Frances Wallace. ►



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Hero's rescue rings installed

and share his kindness with others in need on their educational journeys," the GoFundMe stated.

It is through a partnership with Aden's fund that Coral Springs can install the rescue rings in city parks, "both as a safety enhancement and to honor the memory of ... heroic teen Aden Perry," stated a press release announcing the installation.

The stations will include a Coast Guard-regulated rescue ring attached to a rope. Bystanders can then throw the rescue ring out to anyone struggling in a water emergency, without needing to enter the water themselves.

"Since my son's drowning, there have been several more deaths in area lakes and ponds. Just last week two more teens died," Sarah Perry said. "This needs to stop."

To honor Aden's memory, most rescue rings will feature a photo of Aden and a quote, "A hero is a person of distinguished courage and ability, admired for their brave deeds and noble qualities in spite overwhelming obstacles."

"I feel it is my duty to carry on his memory, and something so simple as placing rescue rings near water is my way of keeping his legacy alive," Sarah Perry said. "I really feel that one day we are going to save a life."

Coral Springs City Manager Frank Babinec agreed.

"If the rescue rings help just one person, then it is worth doing," he said.

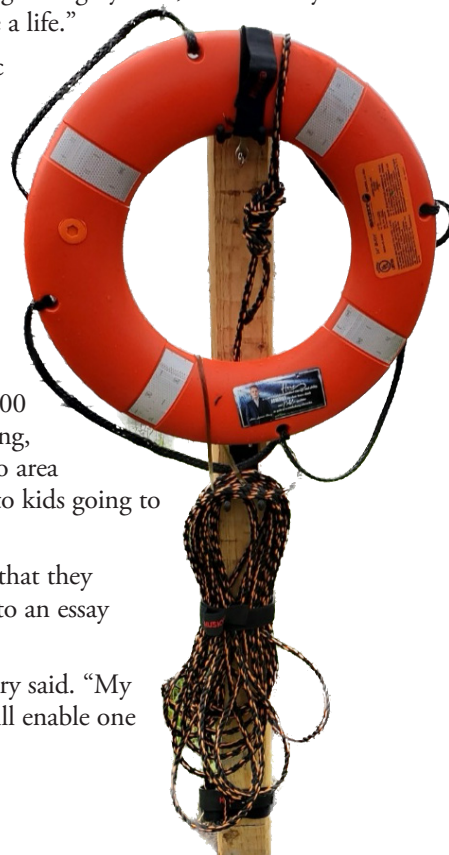
Coral Springs is the first Florida city to partner with the Aden Perry fund.

"My goal is to go city by city and get these rings donated and installed," Perry said. "I would like this to be a statewide mandate:

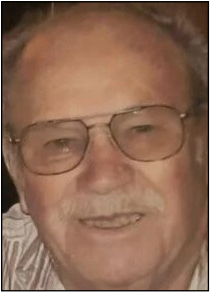
Aden's fund has also provided more than 100 scholarships for SAT prep, books, and testing, donated more than 1,000 school supplies to area schools and will be providing scholarships to kids going to college, Sarah Perry said.

Applicants for the college fund must show that they performed an act of kindness and respond to an essay prompt asking what a hero is to them.

"My son wanted to be a doctor," Sarah Perry said. "My hope is that sending these kids to school will enable one of them to become a doctor." ❄



FRIENDS REMEMBERED



Louis R. Zabinski

LOUIS R. ZABINSKI

Louis R. Zabinski, 90, of East Vandergrift, Pennsylvania, died Sunday, Dec. 25, 2022, at Allegheny Valley Hospital in Natrona Heights, Pennsylvania.

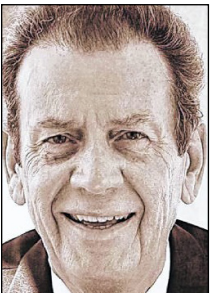
Born Oct. 3, 1932, in East Vandergrift, he was the youngest son of the late Jacob and Mary (Gajowska) Zabinski. Zabinski was a 1950 graduate of Vandergrift High School. A Veteran of the U.S. Army, he served during peacetime in the 1950s.

In 1959, Zabinski received the Carnegie Medal after saving a 9-year-old boy from drowning in the Kiskiminetas River in East Vandergrift. The boy climbed into a canoe and then was pushed into the river by two other boys. As the swift current carried him downstream, the boy, who could not swim, panicked and jumped from the canoe into water 9 feet deep. As Zabinski, then a 27-year-old grinder, responded, the boy lost consciousness in the water. Fully clothed except for shoes, Zabinski entered the cold water and swam 210 feet to the lifeless boy. Holding to his chin, Zabinski towed him to wadable water and then carried him over his shoulder to the bank where the boy was revived.

Zabinski volunteered with the East Vandergrift Volunteer Fire Company, was an active member of the Polish National Alliance 791, Slovak Club, and Lithuanian Club, as well as VFW Post 566 and American Legion Post 114. He loved listening to polka music and went to many polka festivals. He enjoyed hunting and fishing, and was an avid gardener.

Zabinski is survived by his wife of 66 years, Virginia (Golla) Zabinski; children, Debra Zabinski, Donna Valdiserri, Daniel Zabinski, and Richard Zabinski; grandchildren, Adam, Meg, Logan, and Rowan; and nieces and nephews.

Zabinski was preceded in death by sisters Anna Mazia and Catherine Mary Vitkay; and brothers, Andrew, William, Albert, and Henry Zabinski.



Michael D. Croft

MICHAEL D. CROFT

Carnegie Hero **Michael D. Croft**, 77, of Cheektowaga, New York, died Sunday, Dec. 25, 2022.

Croft was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 1986 after he rescued an 84-year-old man from a burning home. Then a 40-year-old off-duty police officer, Croft ran to his neighbor's burning house. Despite dense smoke which limited his visibility, Croft entered the home, found the man who was semi-conscious on the floor and dragged him from the home.

Croft served the Buffalo, New York, police department for 25 years. He was a Senior Knight (Third Degree) with the father Justin Knights of Columbus.

Croft was survived by his wife of 52 years, Anne (DiVincenzo); children Sean M. Croft, Kaitlin Strollo, and Tim Drake; grandchildren, Kayla, Lilliana, Emma, Jackson, Leyna, Jameson, Anna, and Garrett; sister Patricia Frankenberger; brothers Robert and Daniel Croft; and nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by brother James Croft.

JOSHUA STEWART WRIGHT

Carnegie Hero **Joshua Stewart Wright**, 42, of Dahlonega, Georgia, died Friday, Jan. 20, 2023.

Wright received the Carnegie Medal in 2018, after saving a 2-year-old girl from burning after the SUV she was in crashed and caught fire. Wright climbed into the car through its rear windshield, advanced to the middle row, grasped the girl and, returning to the rear windshield, passed her to a bystander outside.

He is survived by his parents, Ron and Pam Wright; sister Amanda Wright; grandparents, David and Shirley Wright; and numerous aunts and uncles. ❄️

OVERHEARD

I'm happy that I was able to get him out. To this day, I sometimes think about what I could have done differently. You still wish you could have done something more. – **Andrew Melhado**, Carnegie Medal awardee #9998, who saved one boy from a burning vehicle, where two others perished

He needed a chance and hopefully I gave him that. – **Thomas H. Hunnicutt**, Carnegie Medal awardee # 10141

The word 'hero' has been used to describe what we did that day. I am more partial to the word 'human.' I did what I hope most of us would do in such a horrific situation. When we allow another person to suffer in their most vulnerable moments we lose a piece of ourselves. We lose the ability to take those cold, sober inward glances into who we are as a species. – **Jeffrey Johnson**, Carnegie Medal awardee # 10191

I think I was extremely lucky. We both were able to get out of there. Why he didn't continue to attack? I thank God. – **Kenneth Brian McCarter**, Carnegie Medal awardee # 10264

Never did I think I would start a GoFundMe, nor did I ever think I would attack a dog but there was no way I could let that lady be ravaged by this dog like she was without helping. – **Evan Daniel Townsley**, Carnegie Medal awardee # 10274

Five years old is far too young. She has her whole life in front of her. I'm just glad we were there to save her. – **Justin Leland Perry**, Carnegie Medal # 10277

I feel like I should keep the costume just so I can always remember, like, this is who you are. You're somebody who's going to help people if they need it. – **Christopher Lee Taylor**, Carnegie Medal awardee # 10282, who was dressed as a super hero for Halloween on the night of his rescue.

I think the biggest thing we feel right now, it's relief we didn't have to witness something else happen that day. – **Marena L. Kouba**, Carnegie Medal awardee # 10283

I don't know how I picked him up because I know he's got to be 250 pounds. The angels of the Lord must have been right there. – **Lewis A. Medina**, Carnegie Medal awardee # 10302

It just seemed that I had to or else a person was going to die. I wasn't thinking too much about making it back or not but more about keeping the boy's head above water. – **Ross C. Johnson**, Carnegie Medal awardee # 10305



PRESENTING



Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts presents Carnegie Hero **Frank P. Axiotes** the Carnegie Medal during a Nov. 21 presentation at the state capitol in Lincoln. Also present were State Patrol Superintendent Col. John A. Bolduc and Axiotes's wife, Shelley, at the ceremony commemorating Axiotes's rescue of a woman trapped inside a burning SUV.

"Frank's initiative and courageous action helped save lives," said Ricketts. "He's a true Nebraska hero and well deserving of the Carnegie Medal. Stepping up to help a neighbor in need is something Nebraskans do every day. Frank's bravery is a fantastic example of the spirit of Nebraskans."

On Sept. 25, 2020, after a multi-car accident trapped a woman inside a burning SUV, Axiotes, who was driving by, stopped and ran across the highway to a concrete barrier that the vehicle was pinned against. The vehicle was stuck between a tractor-trailer and another car, and so Axiotes reached through the driver's window and grasped the woman, but he was unable to move her. He jumped onto the vehicle's hood and attempted to smash the windshield, but he was unsuccessful. Meanwhile, another bystander arrived and Axiotes returned to the driver's window. The pair reached through the window and pulled her from the SUV. The vehicle's tires popped as the flames grew larger while Axiotes and the man helped guide the woman to safety.

"Everybody around me tells me I am a hero, but I did what I wish anybody would do if my kids were in that situation," said Axiotes.

Photo by Cody Thomas/Nebraska State Patrol



Carnegie Hero **Darnell J. Wilson**, second from right, shows, from left, Evangela Stanley the Carnegie Medal presented by Rochester (New York) Mayor Malik Evans to Wilson at a Nov. 1 ceremony, while Wilson's girlfriend, Damaris Marshall, looks on. Wilson was awarded the Medal for intervening in a Dec. 23, 2019, armed robbery of Stanley's restaurant.

"In a moment of crisis that could paralyze anyone with shock or fear, Darnell Wilson, Jr.'s immediate instinct was to put his own life at risk to save the life of another," said Evans.

Wilson became somewhat of a local celebrity in Rochester after dramatic video footage released by police showed him fending off a man armed with a loaded pistol. Responding to restaurant owner Stanley's screams, Wilson struggled with the man while the gun was discharged twice. Wilson threw the man through a plate-glass window, leaped after him, gained control of the weapon, and with the help of a fellow employee, punched and kicked the assailant until he fled the scene.

"Darnell Wilson and Evangela Stanley are both heroes in their own way and the city of Rochester is a better place with them in it," said Evans.

PRESENTING



Those honored at a formal, Jan. 13 Carnegie Medal presentation ceremony stand proudly with the Carnegie Medal on stage at Mechanics Hall in Worcester, Massachusetts. Five police officers and a Connecticut resident were all honored for their acts of heroism. From left are state police commander Lt. Col. John Mawn; state public safety Secretary Terrance Reidy; son Jovan, brother Elvin, and daughter Jayla Familia of Worcester police officer **Enmanuel Familia**, who was posthumously awarded; Carnegie Hero **Allen Corson, Jr.**; Jennifer Familia, wife of Enmanuel Familia; Patrick Morin, brother of Worcester police officer **Scott Morin** who was unable to attend the ceremony; state Trooper **Amy Waterman**; Worcester police officers **Angela C. Consiglio** and **Steven Barnett**; police Chief Steven Sargent, City Councilor Kate Toomey, City Manager Eric Batista, Hero Fund President Eric Zahren, and police chaplain, the Rev. Johnathan Slavinkas.

"The heroes we honor today were put to the ultimate test and put others – even strangers – first, even before their own lives and safety. Each asked themselves, in a heartbeat's time, "why not me?" when they were not obligated to equally share the victim's peril," said Zahren.

Familia, Morin, Waterman, Consiglio, and Barnett were involved in a June 4, 2021, water rescue at Green Hill Pond in Worcester. Morin, fully clothed, entered a 52-degree pond, swimming about 35 feet before grasping the hands of a 15-year-old boy and 14-year-old girl, who were struggling to stay afloat, and towing them to wadable water. Familia entered the water after being alerted by others that a 14-year-old boy remained in the pond. Fully clothed, Familia swam nearly 60 feet toward the boy's last known location, but he struggled and submerged. Waterman, Consiglio, and Barnett entered the water searching for the teen and Familia. Despite diving multiple times, the trio was unable to locate them. Responding fire officials ordered all three officers out of the water. Waterman and Consiglio, nearly exhausted, exited the pond, but despite warnings, Barnett continued to search for Familia, remaining in the last known position of Familia as a marker for fire department divers. Morin, Waterman, Consiglio, and Barnett were taken to the hospital for treatment and all recovered. Familia drowned during the rescue.

In a second rescue act recognized at the ceremony, Allen Noble Corson, Jr., was dining at a Worcester restaurant with his parents and fiancée on July 3, 2019, when he heard screaming from inside the restaurant. He ran in the direction of the screams and saw a man attacking a 31-year-old customer. Corson confronted the assailant, wrestling and pinning him to the ground. During the scuffle, Corson was stabbed in his left side by the assailant. Two other men joined Corson in securing the assailant before police arrived and arrested him. Corson received sutures as a result of the rescue and recovered.

"It was the greatest power in the universe that drew these heroes, without hesitation, into these most extreme circumstances – and that power is love. Their selfless care for a stranger was the greatest exercise of that greatest power," said Zahren.



PRESENTING



*Carnegie Hero **Kenneth S. Andreen**, right, shows Eileen Miller and her son Carsten Molt the Carnegie Medal presented to him at a Jan. 30 presentation at the Woods Run branch of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. Andreen saved Molt from his burning home in early 2022.*



*From left, Hero Fund President Eric Zahren and Commission member Lee Tilghman present the Carnegie Medal to Carnegie Hero **Kenneth S. Andreen** at Jan. 30 ceremony at the Woods Run branch of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.*

In an informal ceremony held Jan. 30, Hero Fund Commission member Lee Tilghman, President Eric Zahren, and Director of Operations Melissa Brock, presented the Carnegie Medal to Carnegie Hero **Kenneth S. Andreen**, who pulled Carsten Molt from a burning home in Pittsburgh in February 2022. Molt, his mother Eileen Miller, Andreen's daughter Alyssa Andreen and her fiancé Brandon Heller, and the entire Pittsburgh-based Hero Fund staff attended the presentation, which took place at the Woods Run branch of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.

At the presentation, Zahren commended Andreen's selflessness and kindness.

"We're here to honor and celebrate the human capacity that was shown and exemplified by Kenneth to – in a moment of time – refuse to look the other way, to value another human being's life and put it at equal value with our own, and make the split-second moral choice to act when we're not obligated to act, without regard for consequences, no matter how dire they may be," he said.

On Feb. 24, 2022, Andreen saw flames and smoke rising from a two-story home in Pittsburgh while making deliveries for a meal service company. Neighbors told Andreen that someone was inside, so Andreen entered the home through the front door and made his way through gray, hazy smoke and intense heat to Molt, who was immobilized on the couch. Andreen grasped Molt by the arms, pulled him off the couch, threw him over his shoulder, and carried him to safety.

"It is the full and complete recognition of another's humanity on the part of one of our heroes that we recognize and celebrate, and it's not theoretical, it's done through action," Zahren said. "The Hero Fund still serves that dream (of Andrew Carnegie) today, but it's up to the selflessness, hard work, and sacrifice of heroes like Kenneth to make it a reality."



*Louisville (Kentucky) Mayor Greg Fischer, right, poses with Ayla Thomas, 6, after she accepted her dad's posthumously awarded Carnegie Medal during a Nov. 3 ceremony held in **Adam Layman Thomas's** honor at Louisville Metro Hall.*

Thomas died attempting to save a woman in Louisville on Jan. 13, 2022. Thomas entered the fast-flowing waters of the swollen Ohio River after a 36-year-old woman was seen entering the river. He removed his outer clothing, climbed over a railing, and entered the river. While attempting to rescue the woman, Thomas struggled amid the river's turbulent current and ultimately drowned.

After the award was announced last June, Thomas's mother, Betty Layman, told local television station WLKY that she was praying for Thomas to be recognized for his sacrifice. "We hope that ... it will be an inspiration for people to have more compassion for one another and to love one another," she told reporters.

LATEST AWARDEES OF THE CARNEGIE MEDAL

Since the last issue of *Impulse*, the following 16 individuals have been awarded the Carnegie Medal, bringing the total number of recipients to 10,340 since the Hero Fund's inception in 1904. The latest awards were announced Dec. 19. The next announcement will be made in March.

A 32-year-old preschool teacher was sleeping inside her Gregory, Michigan, apartment with her four children when flames broke out on Oct. 26, 2021. Waking to the sounds of the fire crackling, **Mikala Vish** removed her

11-month-old infant to a second-story deck outside her apartment's front door and then returned inside to retrieve 4-year-old Tyron H. Vish, 13-year-old Lillyanna M. Thompson, and 6-year-old Torin C. Vish, taking each child to the deck one by one. On her final entry, she entered Torin's flaming bedroom and searched for him. Finding him under the bed, she grasped him and guided him toward the front door. By then flames had spread to an upstairs hallway. Vish stumbled down the stairs with Torin, falling multiple times. At one point, a ceiling panel fell onto her back. Getting up, she ran to the front door carrying Torin and then ushered all the children from the deck down an exterior stairway to the ground below. Torin and Vish suffered from smoke inhalation and serious burns. Vish had burns to 60 percent of her body. Both underwent skin graft surgeries. The other children were not injured.

A 29-year-old oil company line leader from Advance, Indiana, was driving in Whitestown, Indiana, on Dec. 5, 2020, when he noticed flames issuing from a second-floor bedroom window. **Cody Hartman** stopped at the scene and approached the house, peering through the front-door window, and saw a man's silhouette inside. After pounding on the door several times, Hartman forced it open with his shoulder and stepped inside. Amid smoke and intense heat, Hartman pulled his shirt over his mouth and nose and advanced about 15 feet to where a 63-year-old man by then lay on the living room floor. He grasped the man and pulled him to his feet before leading him to the front door and outside to safety. Hartman returned once more to the house. Before receiving an evaluation by paramedics on scene, Hartman entered the home again through the garage door, kicked in a door to the kitchen, and called out for anyone remaining inside.

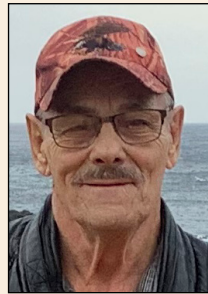
Following an April 19, 2022, accident that caused his car to enter a retention pond, an



Cody Hartman



Aden Spencer Perry



Ralph Lee Joyce



Christopher B. Arias



Heath Braddock

18-year-old man called out for help as he struggled in deep water in Sunrise, Florida. Walking his dog with his mother nearby, **Aden Spencer Perry**, a local high school student, witnessed the accident and called 911. He handed the phone to his mom before approaching the dimly lit pond. With his mother on the phone with dispatchers, he entered the pond. Shortly, the car, the man, and Perry submerged. Responding police officers searched for Perry and the man before divers located and removed them from the water. Both Perry and the man had drowned, with Perry suffering a neck injury that contributed to his death.

On a clear and frigid Feb. 7, 2019, in Lark Harbour, Newfoundland, residents John K. Parsons, 68, and **Ralph Leo Joyce**, 72, walked along an icy trail that followed the edge

of a cliff face overlooking the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Parts of the trail were wet, with ice coating the ground from the edge of the trail to the lip of the cliff. Parsons approached the cliff to photograph a seal and slipped, falling onto his back, before sliding to about 3 feet from the edge. His foot hit a rock protruding through the ice, which caused his momentum to stop. Joyce instructed Parsons not to move while he searched for something sturdy for Parsons to grab onto so that Joyce could pull Parsons to safety. After about 10 minutes, Joyce returned with a 10-foot-long tree branch that he extended to Parsons. Joyce dragged Parsons nearly 10 feet up the sloping hill away from the cliffside. Parsons recovered from minor bruising and scratches.

On the morning of March 11, 2021, a vehicle entered the Sacramento River outside



*Carnegie Hero **Mikala Vish**, center, with her children, from left, Lillyanna M. Thompson, and Tyron H., Emma-Grace, and Torin C. Vish. Vish removed all four children from her burning Gregory, Michigan, apartment Oct. 26, 2021, by making multiple trips. Her last trip in the house for Torin caused serious burns to more than 60 percent of her body.*



LATEST AWARDEES

Walnut Grove, California. Driving nearby, **Christopher B. Arias**, a 39-year-old low voltage technician, witnessed the car leave the road and drift to a point about 75 feet from the river's bank. Without removing his clothing or boots, Arias entered the water. He swam to the vehicle, which had submerged, and found the driver on the roof of his vehicle. Arias instructed the man, who said he couldn't swim, to enter the water and float on his back, at which point Arias tried to tow the man to safety, but the river's current carried them downstream. The man turned over onto his stomach, and the two swam together toward the river's edge. The two reached wadable water about 200 feet from where Arias had first reached the man. Arias, walking backward, towed the man and laid him down. A nearby bystander brought a garbage bag to place beneath the man's head, and the two men waited with him until paramedics arrived.

A 62-year-old man was swimming in a bay off the coast of the Pacific Ocean in Pacific Grove, California, on June 22, 2022, when a Great White shark at least 14.5 feet long bit him, lacerating his upper left arm, upper legs and lower torso. The man shouted for help while his wounds bled profusely. **Paul W. Bandy**, 42, an off-duty police officer of Folsom, California, and his wife, **Aimee Johns**, 49, a registered nurse of Folsom, were paddle boarding about 900 feet away from the man. They heard calls for help and paddled toward the scene. Meanwhile, **Heath Braddock**, a 43-year-old business owner of Elkhorn, California, on the beach, was alerted of the shark attack by nearby bystanders. He paddled out to the scene on two stackable surfboards. Bandy and Braddock worked to move the man onto one of the surfboards Braddock had brought to the scene. Braddock then paddled toward shore with the man in tow, his hands grasping Braddock's ankle as Johns grasped the back of the board and helped propel the unit along by paddling with her feet. Bandy followed the trio via his paddle board and called 911 en route. The man was attended to by several bystanders on the beach that were also trained medical professionals until paramedics arrived and transported him to the hospital. Bandy, Johns, and Braddock were not injured during the rescue, and the man survived, but he remained in rehabilitation six months later.

An 18-year-old woman struggled to maintain a hold on the metal support post of a basketball hoop after rapid-flowing water flooded a park in Columbia, Missouri, on June 25, 2021. A pair of 15-year-old, local high school students, **Joseph Diener**



Paul W. Bandy and Aimee Johns

and **Dominic Viet**, were bicycling nearby when they noticed the woman clinging to the post. Removing their shoes, the two boys descended a sloped grass embankment and entered the water. They waded a short distance before swimming nearly 50 feet to the woman, who then released her grip on the post, grasped one of Diener's shoulders and one of Viet's shoulders. The two teenagers then swam with the woman toward the embankment where they helped her to safety. Paramedics arrived and took her to the hospital where she received evaluation. Neither of the teenagers was injured during the rescue.

While house-sitting in Mill Bay, British Columbia, on Jan. 26, 2022, **Lisa Maria Fox**, 51, of Chemainus, British Columbia,



Joseph Diener and Dominic Viet

heard a crash outside that sent Kellee M. Brown's truck into the Saanich Inlet. Brown's truck began to submerge about 100 feet from shore. Brown exited the vehicle, but she struggled to swim in the cold water. Fox exited the house and descended a stairway and approached the water's edge. Fox waded through the water until she reached a narrow beach directly across from Brown. Fully clothed, including fur boots, Fox entered the water again, this time up to her chest. A short distance away from Brown, Fox swam to Brown and grasped her by the back of the shirt. She positioned Brown on her back and then shepherded her to wadable water, where Fox helped Brown stand and led her to shore. There, she wrapped Brown in towels to ►



PHOTO BY CLINTON CRAFTON, WHITESTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT DEPUTY
*Firefighters respond to an Advance, Indiana, house fire on Dec. 5, 2020. By the time firefighters arrived on scene, Carnegie Hero **Cody Hartman** had entered the structure multiple times and removed a 63-year-old man who was inside. Hartman was evaluated by paramedics at the scene; he did not seek further medical treatment.*


Lisa Maria Fox

Chad Ammerman

Anthony R. Perry

Robert Z. Fortner

Mark Anthony Gonzales

Darby Bicking

warm her before she was taken by ambulance to the hospital. Brown received treatment for lacerations, contusions, and a jaw injury.

A sailboat carrying John L. McKenna capsized in Little Egg Harbor, New Jersey, on June 21, 2021. McKenna, unable to right the sailboat, floated in the harbor until he arrived near a bulkhead along a bank. Fatigued, McKenna called for help. Corrections Officer **Chad Ammerman**, 41, of Little Egg Harbor Township heard McKenna's call for help and phoned 911. Fearful that a rescue boat might arrive too late, Ammerman procured an emptied, 29-pound plastic cooler, and using it like a flotation device, jumped into the water, and swam through rough currents with the help of directional instructions from bystanders. Once he reached McKenna, Ammerman instructed him to grab one handle of the cooler while Ammerman backstroked toward the bulkhead. A firefighter piloting

a boat responded and delivered McKenna and Ammerman to the bulkhead, where paramedics evaluated McKenna's condition.

On June 5, 2022, a man came into contact with an energized railway charged with 600 volts of electricity. **Anthony R. Perry**, a 20-year-old store associate, was getting off a train on a nearby platform when he saw the man convulsing on the train track. He jumped down from the platform and onto the track and carefully approached the man while avoiding touching the rails. Positioning his right foot next to the energized rail, Perry grasped the man's forearm but was shocked and let go of the man's arm. Perry quickly tried again, but he was shocked again and released the man. Catching the man's arm, Perry successfully lifted the man up and off the rail and placed him between the platform barrier and the track. Once authorities arrived, power to the rail was turned off and the man was taken to the hospital for evaluation and treatment. Perry received shocks but was unharmed by the rescue.

On May 2, 2022, two boys, 7 and 8, were inside their Clarksville, Tennessee, home when a fire broke out in the kitchen on the same floor as their bedroom. **Robert Z. Fortner**, a 29-year-old K-9 handler of Waverly, Tennessee, was on patrol nearby when he heard a report of children possibly trapped inside a burning building. He went to the scene, noticed smoke rising from the home, and approached the front door. He kicked in the door, but he was unable to enter the smoke-filled home. Fortner went to the backyard, where the mother of the boys pointed to a bedroom window of the home. Fortner retrieved a ladder and used it to reach the window. He smashed the window open and cleared the frame of glass. He then went headfirst through the window, landing on the bedroom floor inside a play structure. He crawled through the opening in the play structure farther into the bedroom. Amid intense heat and poor visibility, Fortner found the 7-year-old boy, crying, and he grasped him under the arm, crawled back through the play structure to the window and handed him to a sheriff's deputy. He

crawled back through the structure where he found the 8-year-old, who was unconscious. Fortner grasped him by the arm and dragged him to the window where he handed the boy to the deputy before exiting the home. Both boys recovered after being taken to the hospital for evaluation and treatment. Fortner suffered smoke inhalation and carbon monoxide poisoning, but recovered.

On Aug. 22, 2021, in San Antonio, Texas, a 27-year-old police officer was chasing a 44-year-old man when the man tripped and fell. The officer struggled on the street with the man, who was wanted on a felony warrant. The man was attempting to strike the officer when **Mark Anthony Gonzales**, a 35-year-old gym employee of San Antonio, was driving nearby. He stopped at the scene and exited his vehicle, approaching the scuffle between the officer and the man. The officer moved the man onto his stomach while Gonzales pinned his legs to the pavement. As the man was being subdued by the officer, he reached for the officer's gun and attempted to pull it from its holster, prompting the officer to place his hand over the assailant's while Gonzales pried the assailant's fingers from the gun. With his gun secure, the officer handcuffed the man with Gonzales's assistance. The man was ultimately arrested.

While attending a youth horse-riding camp on Aug. 18, 2020, in Coatesville, Pennsylvania, an 8-year-old girl was in a grassy area encircled by chairs when a 95-pound English Mastiff dog bit the 60-pound girl. The girl screamed out for help, which prompted **Darby Bicking**, a local, 15-year-old high school student who was in a nearby barn to step in front of the dog to separate it from the girl. The dog released its hold on the girl and shifted its attention to Bicking, 4-foot-11 and 110 pounds, biting her on the left arm. Bicking attempted to push the dog away with her right arm but the dog would not release her. She reached for a chair but the dog bit her left leg and dragged her to the ground. Bicking screamed for help and the center's director responded, grasping the dog by its collar and leading it to a stall inside the barn. Both the girl and Bicking were taken to the hospital for treatment, where they each received stitches for bite wounds. ☹️



PHOTO BY KEOUA MEDEIROS
*Carnegie Hero **Christopher B. Arias** bringing a man to safety after the man's car entered the Sacramento River on March 11, 2021. Fully clothed and wearing boots, Arias entered the cold river and towed the man toward the bank.*



PRESENTING



Photo courtesy of Kane County Public Information Office.

Kane County (Illinois) Sheriff Ron Hain, left, and Board Chair Corinne Pierog, right, pose with Carnegie Hero **Lewis A. Medina** during a Dec. 13 presentation at the Kane County Board office in Geneva, Illinois in which Medina was presented with the Carnegie Medal. Medina pulled a man from an SUV before it was hit by an oncoming train a year earlier.

"If we can just reach out to other people and let them know we love them or that we care, then we'd all be in a better spot," said Medina, according to a Dec. 15 article in the *Daily Herald*.

In October 2021, Medina responded to an SUV stuck on a train track at a crossing. While on the phone with 911, Medina saw a train approaching. Panicked, he ran to the side of the vehicle and shouted for the driver to get out of the car but received no response. Medina pulled open the driver's side door, and shouted at the man, who appeared dazed. Medina unbuckled the man's seatbelt and pulled him from the vehicle. The man fell to the tracks while Medina was removing him, at which point Medina dragged and rolled the man to safety about six seconds before the train collided with the SUV.

"I really am thankful," said Medina to a reporter, informing them that his acceptance speech was inspired by the Scripture on the back of the medal, John 15:13: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."



Carnegie heroes Damien Castro, Christopher Bryant Aboyte, and Michael Sherock pose with the Carnegie Medal at a Jan. 17, 2023, presentation at Los Angeles police headquarters. The three officers rescued pilot Mark Jenkins from being struck by a train last January.

"These three awardees represent the very best of the best. And doing it on a day when they were just moving from one place to another – the calamity happened before them – and they didn't look left or right, they just looked and moved forward," said Michel Rey Moore, Los Angeles police chief.

Castro, Aboyte, and Sherock responded to a plane that crashed-landed on a railroad track in Pacoima, California. Aboyte was assigned to monitor the pilot while waiting for emergency personnel to arrive while Sherock and Castro directed traffic. Suddenly, a crossing gate descended and a five-car, 600-ton train traveling at least 72 m.p.h. approached the crossing. Castro ran to the cockpit and tried to pry open the cockpit door, but it wouldn't budge. Sherlock arrived and helped Castro and Aboyte reach into the plane, hoist the pilot over the dashboard and through the broken-out windshield, and drag him to safety seconds before the train collided with the plane.

"We'd like to accept this honor on behalf of all the men and women of the Los Angeles Police Department, and also all law enforcement officers across the nation that undertake acts of heroism – big and small – every day that don't make the news or don't get noticed," Sherock said.

PRESENTING



The Madison County Board of Supervisors and Chairman John Becker, standing, look on as Andrew Parent (right photo) receives the Carnegie Medal from his granddaughter, Emma Holt, and Roger Combs (left photo) receives the Carnegie Medal from his wife, Christine Combs, at a Nov. 10, 2022, presentation at the County Office Building in Wampsville, New York.

In June 2021, Andrew Parent and Roger Combs saved a man trapped inside an overturned truck after it collided with a utility pole and caught fire outside Westmoreland, New York. Downed electrical wires sparked and smoldered as Parent found the man, whose upper body was severely burned, screaming for help inside the vehicle. Parent stepped over the wires but, despite his best effort, was unable to remove the man or put out the fire with an extinguisher. Hearing calls for help, Combs approached the truck and cautiously stepped over the wires lying across the median and highway before assisting Parent. The duo pulled the man from the burning vehicle and dragged him 15 feet to safety.

"The bravery and courage of Andrew Parent and Roger Combs cannot be overlooked, they are true heroes and very deserving of this honor," said Madison County Board Chairman John M. Becker, according to a Nov. 11, 2022, article by the Daily Sentinel. "They risked their own safety and lives to give another person a chance to survive. I am honored that we were able to present their medals to them today."



Carnegie Hero **Brandon Bair**, left, receives the Carnegie Medal from Hero Fund Commission member Arthur Scully at a Nov. 21 presentation in Rexburg, Idaho.

Bair and his family joined Scully for a lunch and private ceremony in recognition of Bair's May 6, 2021, rescue in St. Anthony, Idaho, where Bair saved a man trapped inside a burning vehicle.

The man was pinned inside the cab of his overturned semi-truck following a collision with an oncoming train. Bair, a former NFL player who stopped at the scene, rushed to the truck after the driver called for help. He leaned into the truck through the rear windshield, which had shattered, and unbuckled the man's seat belt as smoke poured from the vehicle. He grasped him under the arms and pulled while the man pushed against the steering wheel with his feet. Bair ultimately pulled him from the truck and led him to safety with the help of another bystander as flames engulfed the semi-truck.



*Above: U.S. Consul to the Provincial Government Walter J. Mueller presents the silver Carnegie Medal to **Vernon P. Bagley** at an April 20, 1964, ceremony made possible by the Grand Manan Museum, then known as the Gerrish House Society.*

Left: The scene of a 1963 rescue of Floyd D. Jones from a Grand Manan Island cliffside overlooking the Bay of Fundy.

*Right: Scene sketch by case investigator Joseph E. La Rocca depicting the cliff from which Bagley and **Sidney A. Guptill** rescued Jones along the coast of Grand Manan Island, New Brunswick, Canada.*

Heroes risk falling to their deaths in cliffside rescue

On Feb. 25, 1963, off the coast of Grand Manan Island in Canada's New Brunswick province, Floyd D. Jones and his brother were fishing in a 15-foot motorboat when the craft's carburetor froze, disabling the boat's engine. The brothers drifted in the Bay of Fundy amid rough seas for 12 hours. The wind steadily increased to upward of 70 m.p.h. whipping across the bay. A large swell picked up the boat and deposited it on a small beach at the base of a 200-foot, near-vertical cliff. Jagged, eroding rocks, patches of ice, and shrubs dotted the cliff face. Tide was rising, inundating the small beach.

Fearing they would freeze to death, Jones and his brother found foot-and-hand-holds and ascended the rocky coast. Jones climbed 20 feet to a small ledge. With waves pounding the cove below, Jones, soaking wet and huddled in a hollow on the cliffside, cycled in and out of consciousness as the frigid, 18-degree night numbed his legs; he could no longer climb. For the next three hours, Jones's brother continued the remaining 180 feet to the top of the cliff and then trekked .75 miles through a foot of snow to the Southwest Head Light House, where he informed the lighthouse keeper that his brother was stranded in a niche on the cliffside.

The lighthouse keeper telephoned a number of men, including **Vernon P. Bagley**, a game warden for the provincial government who was well acquainted with the cliff and surrounding area's dangers, and **Sidney A. Guptill**, an assistant lighthouse keeper. A rescue party of about 15 men carrying several ropes followed the tracks set by Jones's brother to the edge of the cliff.

From a ledge near the top of the cliff, Bagley – who was attached to a rope 200 feet long -- and Guptill – whose rope measured 100 feet -- descended the cliffside. After 5 feet, rocks and dirt loosened from the cliff and tumbled into the frothing waters below. The two men



returned to the ledge to regroup. Assuming that no man could survive the conditions, the group concluded that further rescue attempts were too risky, when they could retrieve Jones's body in the daylight after the weather improved.

But a lull in the wind allowed Jones's faint moans to be heard, and, knowing that Jones was alive, Bagley descended the cliff face again. The others held one end of Bagley's rope. He quickly descended 15

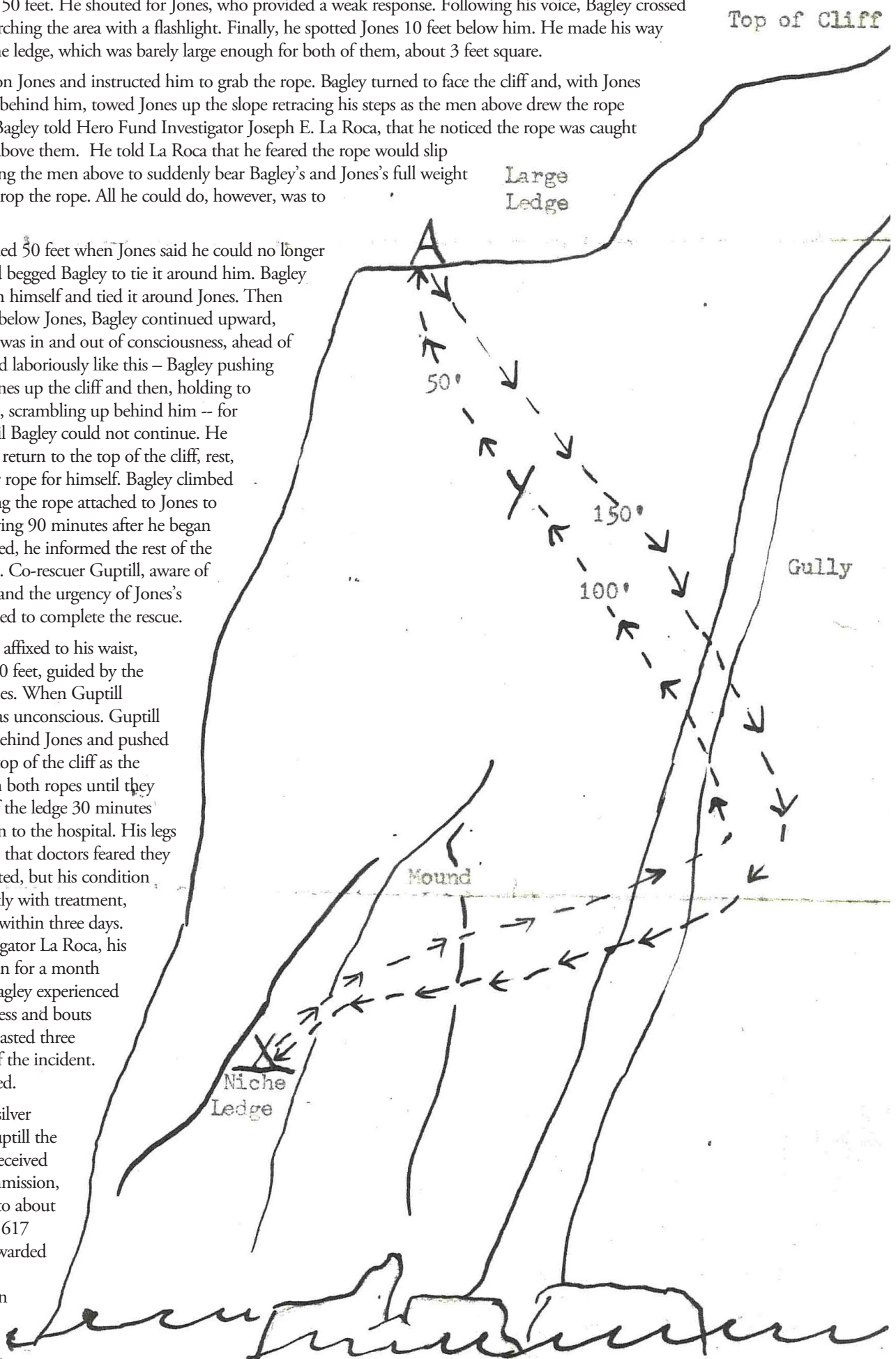
feet and disappeared from sight. Bagley crossed a small ravine in the side of the cliff, 4 feet wide and 3 feet deep, and descended another 150 feet. He shouted for Jones, who provided a weak response. Following his voice, Bagley crossed the ravine again, searching the area with a flashlight. Finally, he spotted Jones 10 feet below him. He made his way down to Jones on the ledge, which was barely large enough for both of them, about 3 feet square.

Bagley put mittens on Jones and instructed him to grab the rope. Bagley turned to face the cliff and, with Jones clinging to the rope behind him, towed Jones up the slope retracing his steps as the men above drew the rope taut. At one point, Bagley told Hero Fund Investigator Joseph E. La Roca, that he noticed the rope was caught on an outcropping above them. He told La Roca that he feared the rope would slip from the rock, causing the men above to suddenly bear Bagley's and Jones's full weight and cause them to drop the rope. All he could do, however, was to keep climbing.

The duo had ascended 50 feet when Jones said he could no longer hold to the rope and begged Bagley to tie it around him. Bagley untied the rope from himself and tied it around Jones. Then holding to the rope below Jones, Bagley continued upward, pushing Jones, who was in and out of consciousness, ahead of him. They continued laboriously like this – Bagley pushing the full weight of Jones up the cliff and then, holding to the rope for dear life, scrambling up behind him -- for another 60 feet, until Bagley could not continue. He told Jones he would return to the top of the cliff, rest, and procure another rope for himself. Bagley climbed hand over hand using the rope attached to Jones to the cliff's ledge, arriving 90 minutes after he began his descent. Exhausted, he informed the rest of the men of the situation. Co-rescuer Guptill, aware of Bagley's exhaustion and the urgency of Jones's condition, volunteered to complete the rescue.

With the other rope affixed to his waist, Guptill descended 50 feet, guided by the rope attached to Jones. When Guptill reached Jones, he was unconscious. Guptill positioned himself behind Jones and pushed him up toward the top of the cliff as the other men pulled on both ropes until they reached the safety of the ledge 30 minutes later. Jones was taken to the hospital. His legs were so badly frozen that doctors feared they would need amputated, but his condition improved significantly with treatment, and he was released within three days. According to Investigator La Roca, his legs remained swollen for a month after the incident. Bagley experienced several days of soreness and bouts of nervousness that lasted three months as a result of the incident. Guptill was uninjured.

Bagley received the silver Carnegie Medal, Guptill the bronze. They each received \$750 from the Commission, which is equivalent to about \$7,300 today. Only 617 silver medals were awarded by the Commission before the conclusion of the gold, silver, and bronze medal program in 1980. ☼



**Carnegie Hero Fund Commission**

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

412-281-1302 • 800-447-8900

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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 death or serious injury to an extraordinary degree while saving or attempting to save the lives of others. • The Commission also provides financial assistance, such as scholarship aid and continuing grants to the heroes and 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

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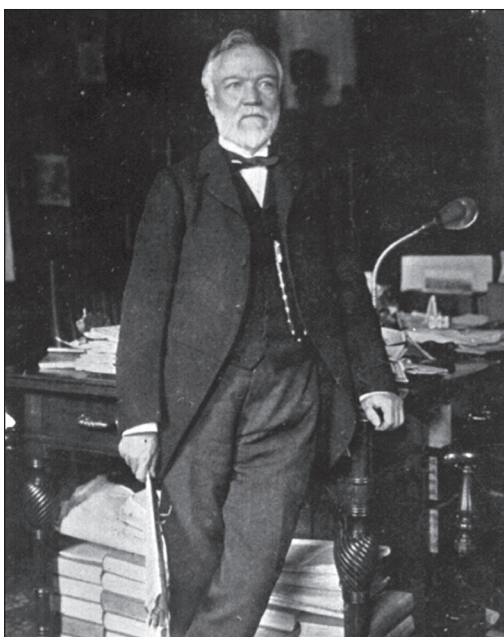
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THE QUOTABLE A.C.

True heroes think not of reward. They are inspired and think only of their fellows endangered; never of themselves.

— Andrew Carnegie autobiography

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.

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

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-

E-mail: carnegiehero@carnegiehero.org

Website: carnegiehero.org

