



CARNEGIE HERO FUND COMMISSION

Established April 15, 1904, by Andrew Carnegie, the Carnegie Hero Fund was created to recognize outstanding acts of selfless heroism performed in the U.S. and Canada. The Commission awards the Carnegie Medal to those who risk death or serious physical injury while saving or attempting to save the lives of others. The single event that stimulated Mr. Carnegie to organize the Fund was the Harwick mine disaster near Pittsburgh in January 1904, which claimed 181 lives. The victims included an engineer and a miner who went into the stricken mine in a valiant attempt to rescue others.

The tragedy and the sacrifices so moved Mr. Carnegie that he promptly took action on his then-novel idea of honoring and helping “heroes of civilization.”

Writing in the Commission’s founding Deed of Trust (see pg. 5), he specified that each hero recognized, or their next of kin, receive a medal reciting their heroic deed. The Commission was empowered to make monetary grants to the heroes or the next of kin in cases of death. The grants include continuing support, scholarship assistance, and death benefits. More than \$44 million has been given to more than 10,000 awardees or their survivors.

Rescue acts brought to the Commission’s attention are carefully evaluated, and those that appear to have award potential are then investigated and reported to the Commission for decision.

The Commission is a private operating foundation, classed as a charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code. Visit the Commission’s website for further information, including an in-depth history of the organization and summaries of recently awarded cases: carnegiehero.org.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

CHANGE HELPS HERO FUND CONTINUE TO DO GOOD — IN PERPETUITY



Throughout his life Andrew Carnegie accepted and encouraged change. In business, he sought out the latest in technology, methodology, and process to enhance efficiency at every turn and stay ahead of the ever-pursuing “pack.” In establishing his philanthropic institutions he crafted general criteria to be followed and meaningful goals and principles, but he left the details of the effort to others. He expected future generations to be grounded in his moral guidance in pursuit of the greater good, but those he appointed as leaders — and by extension those who would later inherit and further these missions — were charged with always refining, perfecting, and molding the institutions to keep them contemporary and relevant.

The Hero Fund has matured under the watchful eyes of notable and praiseworthy stewards. And though the principles bequeathed by Carnegie have been safely guarded and preserved, the details left to future generations have been set, changed, and tweaked over and over again; exactly as Carnegie would have it.

For the last two years, change has been as ever-present as Carnegie’s timeless ideals, but with change comes the responsibility of diligence and care.

Among the many changes, the Fund saw enhancements to board governance, the welcoming of new Commission and staff members, the modernizing of staff-level processes, the investigation of improvements to the Fund’s structure and technology, and a rare change in board leadership.

It is the last of these that I will address further with humility and gratitude.

In June 2022, I became only the eighth head of the Commission’s board,

following the long and remarkable tenure of Mark Laskow, who served first as president and then chair of the Commission.

Mark's legacy of principled, steady, and thoughtful leadership will long stand and is surely a tough act to follow. The honor of leading such a distinguished board and a committed and talented staff is the culmination of a journey, which over the last number of years, has led me to explore, experience, and strive to fully understand the meaning of human selflessness and sacrifice that so mystified and motivated Carnegie. It is a charge that I do not take lightly, and despite full effort and commitment to see it through and improve where I can, I always consider myself much more benefited by the work than the other way around.

That said, change is change. It will be in the years to come that the result of such change shall be felt, and those results will lead to future changes ... it goes on without end.

As an institution, we can never reach full satisfaction with our efforts in pursuit of excellence, following Mr. Carnegie's own example. But I trust that through the efforts and dedication of so many, these changes will be for the good of the purpose with which we are charged, and improve and prolong the good we can do in the world: for heroes, for those who depend on them, and for all who benefit from the evidence we offer that humankind remains watched over by heroes among us who refuse to give up or look the other way.

Eric P. Zahren
President & Chair

DEED OF TRUST

TO THE HERO FUND COMMISSION

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

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

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

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

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

the doer be uninjured, and also a sum of money, should the Commission deem such gift desirable.

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

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

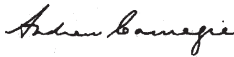
SIXTH. It seems probable that cities and employers on this continent will ultimately be placed under similar conditions to those of Britain, Germany, and other European States, and required to provide against accidents to employees. Therefore, the Commission, by a two-thirds vote, may devote any surplus that accrues beyond providing for heroes and their dependents (which provision must never be abandoned) to such other modes of benefiting those in want, chiefly caused through no fault of their own (such as drunkenness, laziness, crimes, etc.) but through exceptional circumstances, in such manner and to such extent as the Commission thinks advisable and likely to do more good than if such sums were given to those injured by accident, where the latter may be suitably provided for by law, or otherwise.

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

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

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

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



NEW YORK, MARCH 12, 1904

WITNESS, LOUISE WHITFIELD CARNEGIE

THE CARNEGIE MEDAL



The Carnegie Medal is a bronze medallion measuring 3 inches in diameter. Andrew Carnegie’s profile in relief dominates the obverse of the medal. The reverse carries a background, in low relief, of the outline of the United States and Canada, and the seals of the two countries appear in high relief. That side of the medal centers on the cartouche, or inscription plate, which carries an embossed statement naming the rescuer, the rescued, and the place and date of the heroic act. The cartouche is adorned with laurel, ivy, oak, and thistle, respectively signifying glory, friendship, strength, and persistence – the attributes of a hero. A verse from the New Testament encircles the outer edge: “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13).

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CARNEGIE MEDAL

- The life of a human victim must be in imminent danger of being lost without intervention; this must be believed by the rescuer.
- The rescuer must be a civilian who knowingly and voluntarily risks death or serious physical injury to an extraordinary degree.
- The rescuer must have rescued or attempted the rescue of another person.
- The risk to be undertaken by the rescuer must be perceived by the rescuer and that perception cannot be diminished by outside factors.
- The act of heroism must have occurred in the United States, Canada, or the waters thereof (12 nautical miles).
- The act must be brought to the attention of the Commission within two years of the date of its occurrence.
- The rescuer must not have intentionally or through negligence caused the situation threatening the victim. Those who bear vocational or other responsibility for the safety of the victim must have acted beyond the line of duty.
- There must be conclusive evidence to support the threat to the victim's life, the risk undertaken by the rescuer, the rescuer's degree of responsibility, and the act's occurrence.

AWARDS

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

HEROIC ACTS RECOGNIZED DURING 2021

The following 71 individuals were cited by the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission in 2021 for having performed outstanding acts of heroism. In each case, a Carnegie Medal and a financial grant were awarded.

RENATA BANDEL
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Renata Bandel helped rescue two 17-year-old girls from drowning, Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, June 3, 2020. Two girls, wearing life jackets, struggled in Lake Manitoba after they entered the water and attempted to swim the 600 feet to shore in strong winds and current. Renata Bandel, 52, who was in the water closer to shore, swam to one of the girls, grasped her by the back of her life jacket and swam toward shore, towing her. Upon reaching wadable water, Bandel was met by others who assisted her in aiding the girl to the beach. Bandel was alerted to the presence of second girl in the water who was even farther from shore. Despite failing to see the girl's precise location, Bandel reentered the water and swam out into the lake. Ultimately, she saw the second girl and swam to her. Bandel grasped the girl by the back of her life jacket and began to swim toward shore, towing her. Along the way they were picked up by a rescue boat, which returned Bandel and others to shore. The two girls rescued by Bandel were tired and cold, and one was taken to a hospital for treatment; they recovered. Bandel was cold and suffered from sore muscles; she also recovered. [91147-10236](https://www.carnegiehero.com/2021/06/03/renata-bandel/)

JONATHAN BAUER
Berlin, Maryland

Jonathan Bauer rescued a girl from drowning, Ocean City, Maryland, May 2, 2021. During a multi-vehicle accident on a bridge, a girl, 23 months old, was ejected from her family's pickup truck and landed in the cold water of a bay. Bauer, 51, information technology executive, who was involved in the accident, heard screaming from the pickup truck and responded. Bauer initially saw the girl floating supine in the water but within seconds she flipped over and was floating facedown. Bauer removed his shoes and positioned himself on the guide rail of the bridge, about 30 feet above the water, with his legs dangling over it. He pushed off and jumped feet first into the shallow water, landing in the bay at a point about 15 feet from the girl. He swam to her and, reaching her from behind, grasped her by her torso and lifted her so that most of her body was over his shoulder. Not getting a response from the girl, Bauer firmly tapped her back until she coughed, spit up water, and opened her eyes. Bauer held her above the water's surface until a pontoon boat arrived. The boaters assisted Bauer and the girl onto the boat, and took them to the nearer shore. The toddler was airlifted to the hospital and was released the following day. Bauer was sore but did not require medical treatment. He recovered. 91648-10270

ERNEST BEAUPARLAND
New Bedford, Massachusetts

Ernest Beuparland helped save Colin G. Jackson from burning, Fairhaven, Massachusetts, February 3, 2020. Jackson, 83, was in second-floor living quarters of a three-story building when fire broke out on the third floor and spread to the second. Jackson was non-ambulatory and used a wheelchair. Family members moved him from bed, but they were unable to move him down the stairway. Beuparland, 66, retired laborer, was driving nearby and saw the fire. He stopped and ran into the building and up the stairway to the hallway, where there was black smoke. Another man ran into the building and up the stairway, joining him. Jackson was dragged to the top of the stairway, where flames were on the ceiling, and Beuparland and the other man grasped him underneath his legs. The two men moved, backward, down the stairs, holding Jackson, as flames spread to the stairway's ceiling. Once Beuparland and the other man had moved Jackson to the bottom of the stairway he was

taken outside as flames extended from the shattered second-floor windows above the door, and glass, debris, and ashes fell onto the men. Jackson and Beauparland both inhaled smoke; they recovered. 91086-10252

CHRISTINE L. BEHELER
Niles, Ohio

Christine L. Beheler died attempting to rescue a boy from drowning, Cortland, Ohio, July 29, 2019. The boy, 12, was in a designated swimming area of Mosquito Creek Lake when he chased a ball into deeper water and began to struggle to remain afloat. Beheler, 41, stay-at-home mom, was on the nearby beach when she entered the water and reached the boy at a point about 150 feet from shore, but during the encounter between them, the boy submerged her. An off-duty police officer nearby was alerted and swam out to them, as did a teacher. The officer reached Beheler, who was facedown and unresponsive in the water, and the teacher approached the boy. The officer grasped Beheler, turned her over, grasped her, and swam, towing her to a point near shore. The officers and others brought her onto beach where efforts were made to resuscitate her. The teacher swam to shore, using a pool noodle to tow the boy. The boy vomited water and went to the hospital for observation. He was treated and released, and he recovered. Beheler was taken by ambulance to a hospital, but she could not be revived. She had drowned. 90689-10233

LYLE BERGLUND
Roy, Utah

Lyle Berglund helped to rescue Jason M. Sorensen and Andre Kostrzewa from burning, Centerville, Utah, June 25, 2020. Sorensen, 47, and Kostrzewa, 72, were seated in the cockpit of an airplane that had crashed in a pasture and caught fire, coming to rest in an upright position. Having observed the crash while driving nearby, Berglund, 32, contractor, and his passenger, his brother, pulled over and stopped. Berglund and the brother ran about 1,000 feet to the scene and approached the right side of the cockpit, the canopy of which was missing, where Sorensen was seated. Despite flames and smoke issuing from the plane's nose, Berglund stepped onto the wing and grasped Sorensen's arm, then was forced to retreat because of the blistering heat.

After his brother released Sorensen's seat belt, Berglund, having returned to the wing, and his brother both grasped Sorensen by the arms and pulled him from the right side of the plane and dragged him away from the fire. Returning to the plane with his brother, who released Kostrzewa's seat belt, Berglund, again on the right wing, helped his brother pull Kostrzewa by his arms from the right side of the plane and moved him near Sorensen. Others helped Berglund and his brother pull Sorensen and Kostrzewa further away as the grass fire spread. Kostrzewa died that afternoon, while Sorensen died at a hospital four days later. Berglund, who inhaled smoke, was treated at a hospital for burns up to second-degree on his right forearm and minor burns on his left arm and left calf. He recovered. **91201-10215**

BRADLEY JAY BERGLUND
Syracuse, Utah

Bradley Jay Berglund helped to rescue Jason M. Sorensen and Andre Kostrzewa from burning, Centerville, Utah, June 25, 2020. Sorensen, 47, and Kostrzewa, 72, were seated in the cockpit of an airplane that had crashed in a pasture and caught fire, coming to rest in an upright position. Having observed the crash as a passenger in his brother's truck on a nearby highway, Berglund, 34, and his brother pulled over and stopped. Berglund and the brother ran about 1,000 feet to the scene and approached the right side of the cockpit, the canopy of which was missing, where Sorensen was seated. Standing behind the wing, despite flames and smoke issuing from the plane's nose, Berglund grasped Sorensen's arm, then was forced to retreat because of the blistering heat. Returning to his position, Berglund released Sorensen's seat belt. With his brother, both grasped Sorensen by the arms and pulled him from the right side of the plane and away from the fire. Returning to the plane with his brother, Berglund released Kostrzewa's seat belt. Berglund and his brother then pulled Kostrzewa by his arms from the right side of the plane and moved him near Sorensen. Others helped Berglund and his brother pull Sorensen and Kostrzewa further away as the grass fire spread. Kostrzewa died that afternoon, while Sorensen died at a hospital four days later. Berglund, who inhaled smoke, was treated at a hospital for burns up to second-degree on his left forearm and felt pain in his right wrist. He recovered. **91200-10216**

STEVEN T. BOESL

Brandon, Minnesota

Steven T. Boesl died attempting to save Alex P. Boesl and Curtis F. Boesl from suffocation, Brandon, Minnesota, December 21, 2019. On their family farm, Alex, 11, and his father, Curtis, 47, were unresponsive inside an oxygen-limiting silo containing silage that released toxic silo gas. Alex and Curtis were about 7 feet below the narrow opening at the top of the silo, which had no interior ladder or lighting. Alex's brother called 911, then called Boesl, 49, farmer, who was Alex's uncle and Curtis's brother, and lived nearby. Arriving after the fire chief, who did not have a self-contained breathing apparatus, Boesl climbed the silo ladder to the top and entered the silo's opening despite not wearing any protective gear. Boesl shortly collapsed and stopped moving. A fire captain who responded later, wearing a breathing tank and attached to a rope, entered the silo and lifted Boesl, Alex, and Curtis to others at the silo opening, who fully removed all three then pulled him out of the silo. Firefighters lowered Boesl, Alex, and Curtis to the ground. Curtis and Alex were flown to hospitals; Curtis died the following day and Alex died six days after the accident. Boesl remained unresponsive, having succumbed from inhaling silo gas. [90933-10221](#)

D. RODERICK BOOTHE

Mableton, Georgia

D. Roderick Boothe rescued Kelly A. Wood from drowning, St. Augustine Beach, May 23, 2020. Wood, 42, was in the Atlantic Ocean when she was carried away from shore by a rip current. Boothe, 50, compliance director, was in the water when he was told that Wood was in trouble. Boothe swam, with difficulty in the rough waves, out to Wood, who submerged when Boothe was a few feet away from her. Boothe dived under the water, grasped Wood, who was unconscious, and brought her to the surface. Boothe then grasped Wood and swam, towing her toward shore. When he was able to stand, Boothe picked up Wood and began to carry her toward the beach before others responded and took her from the water. Wood was not breathing, and efforts began to resuscitate her on the beach. Wood was taken by ambulance to the hospital; she recovered. Boothe was nearly exhausted after the rescue; he recovered. [91134-10238](#)

DAVID J. BROWN
Shakopee, Minnesota

David J. Brown saved two men from drowning, East Gull Lake, Minnesota, May 26, 2019. Two men, aged 34 and 35, entered the Gull River to help a friend who was having difficulty returning to the bank. David J. Brown, 41, regional manager, was nearby and heard someone shouting for help. Brown went to the river, where he saw the 34-year-old man flailing in the water. Brown removed his shirt and shoes, waded, then swam to the man, whose head was barely above the surface. Despite a strong current in the 57-degree river, Brown grasped the man and pulled him to the bank and out of the water, where the man collapsed. Brown then saw the 35-year-old man in the water, bobbing up and down and gasping for breath, so he re-entered the water and swam to the man. He grasped the man and a nearby life ring. Brown held to the man and the life ring and swam back to a dock in wadable water, from where Brown and a woman helped remove the man from the water. The friend was rescued by a woman at the scene. The two men were taken to a hospital for observation. Brown was cold but uninjured following the incident. 90640-10223

CHRISTIAN ALEXANDER BURGOS
Miami, Florida

Christian Alexander Burgos saved a 9-year-old boy and died attempting to save Elvia Venegas from drowning, Miami, Florida, September 30, 2019. Venegas, 25, and her son, 9, were swimming in rough surf about 30 feet from the shore of a barrier island in Biscayne Bay when they began to struggle to stay afloat in a strong current. Burgos, 17, student, and his cousin were wading closer to shore when Burgos noticed Venegas and her son struggling and alerted his cousin. Burgos swam to them and upon reaching the son grasped him and quickly towed him closer to shore. Burgos then returned to Venegas. Venegas, panicking, clung to Burgos, who submerged. Shortly others helped Venegas to safety. Venegas and her son were not injured. Minutes later, others, forming a human chain, reached Burgos's motionless body in the water. Burgos was taken to shore but was unresponsive. He was taken to a hospital but efforts to revive him were unsuccessful, and he died two days later. 90763-10207

MICHAEL BYERS
Lexington, North Carolina

Michael Byers helped save a boy from drowning, Huntersville, North Carolina, October 3, 2020. A 2-year-old boy entered the swift-flowing Catawba River from a partially submerged boat ramp downstream of a hydroelectric dam. A man accompanying the boy's mother at the scene entered the water and grasped the boy but struggled to swim. Alerted by the mother's shouts for help while fishing near the ramp, Byers, 65, retired business operator, jumped fully clothed from the ramp into the river and swam to the man and the boy, whose arm he grasped. Swimming against the swift current, Byers towed the boy back to the boat ramp, where the boy safely exited the water. Nearly exhausted, Byers ultimately exited the river there, too. The boy was treated overnight at a hospital, while the man, who had drifted motionless downstream, later was pulled from the river and died at a hospital five days later. 91657-10267

STEPHEN P. CARKHUFF
Auburn, New Hampshire

Stephen P. Carkhuff helped save Cohen D. Bergeron and Fallon R. Andrews from burning, Auburn, New Hampshire, October 23, 2019. Bergeron and Andrews, both 23, were trapped, seat-belted, and semi-conscious, in Bergeron's burning vehicle after it left a two-lane, rural road at night and crashed into a roadside tree. The impact spun the car over the remnants of a rock wall, which scraped the bottom of the car and caused its fuel tank to leak, before coming to rest against another tree. The passenger door could not be opened. Carkhuff, 57, operations director, was awakened after the crash. Donning clothes, Carkhuff heard someone calling for a knife. Retrieving one from his kitchen, he ran to the scene, where his neighbor had pulled Bergeron from the vehicle. Carkhuff helped carry Bergeron a few feet farther from the burning vehicle. He then returned to the car, crawled across the driver's seat and console and struggled to move Andrews. Meanwhile, the neighbor had returned to the car and, reaching through Andrews' broken-out window, used a knife and began to cut her seat belt near her shoulder. Once Andrews was freed, Carkhuff braced his foot against the car's center console, grasped Andrews around the torso and inched her across the console and driver's seat and out of the car. There, the neighbor and others helped Carkhuff carry Andrews to safety. Andrews suffered extensive injuries in the crash, but she was not burned. 91305-10248

JOHN D. COLTER
Fenton, Missouri

John D. Colter died rescuing Kristine M. Kempf from assault, Fenton, Missouri, January 23, 2020. On the main floor inside her house, Kempf, 40, was in a hallway as she discovered that her estranged husband, 45, had entered the house and was in the adjacent living room with a handgun; he shot multiple rounds at Kempf, who ultimately was wounded in the right thigh and ankle. Kempf's father, Colter, 66, pharmacist, who was tending to Kempf's two children outside the house, ran inside at the front door and tackled the assailant to the living room floor. Colter wrestled with the assailant for control of the gun as they moved to the hallway floor, where Kempf 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; he fatally shot himself when authorities located him in another state eight days later. Kempf was hospitalized for treatment of her wounds. Colter died at the scene. 91479-10246

SEAN P. CONABOY
Brooklyn, New York

Sean P. Conaboy rescued Kelli A. Daley from assault, New York, New York, May 19, 2021. On a subway platform, Daley, 54, was awaiting a train when a 22-year-old man with a knife ambushed her from behind, repeatedly stabbed her upper body, and knelt over her with the weapon after she fell to the ground. Another subway rider, Conaboy, 52, television camera operator, ran about 30 feet to them and shoved the assailant to the ground, briefly separating them, as he, too, fell. Immediately, the assailant rose to his knees and returned to Daley, who remained on the ground. Conaboy regained his footing and, approaching the assailant from behind, wrapped his arm around the assailant's neck and pulled him off Daley as they both fell backward, with the assailant continuing to thrust the knife in a downward motion toward Daley as she lay on her side. Conaboy then rolled the assailant onto his stomach away from Daley, who stood. Conaboy pinned the assailant, restraining him, as others approached to help and the knife was kicked away. Police responded shortly and separated Conaboy from the assailant, who then was arrested. Daley was taken to a hospital, where she was treated for wounds to her neck, shoulder, and chest. 91689-10265

ALAN R. COTE
Auburn, New Hampshire

Alan R. Cote helped save Cohen D. Bergeron and Fallon R. Andrews from burning, Auburn, New Hampshire, October 23, 2019. Bergeron and Andrews, both 23, were trapped, seat-belted and semi-conscious, in Bergeron's burning vehicle after it left a two-lane, rural road at night and crashed into a roadside tree. The impact spun the car over the remnants of a rock wall, which scraped the bottom of the car and caused its fuel tank to leak, before coming to rest against another tree. The passenger door could not be opened. Cote, 54, public works superintendent, heard the crash from his home about 500 feet away. Donning clothes and running up his driveway, he saw an orange glow, which he assumed was the vehicle burning, and yelled for his wife to call 911 as he ran to the scene. A neighbor was awakened by the crash commotion as his adult daughter heard the crash and called out for help. He also dressed and left his home about 550 feet away. Arriving first, Cote saw Bergeron in the driver's seat. Cote forced open the driver's door and extended his torso across Bergeron's lap and attempted to unfasten his seatbelt as flames from the engine compartment intensified and lapped over the windshield area. Once freed, Cote grasped Bergeron from behind and pulled him out of the vehicle as another neighbor arrived and helped carry Bergeron to safety. Cote returned to the car, where the other neighbor was attempting to remove Andrews, and, reaching through the broken-out passenger window used a knife to cut her seat belt near her shoulder. The neighbor, grasping Andrews around the torso and pulling, inched her across the console and driver's seat and out of the car through the open driver's door. There, Cote and others helped carry Andrews to safety. Andrews suffered extensive injuries in the crash, but she was not burned. 91376-10247

RYAN KEITH COX
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Ryan Keith Cox died saving several coworkers from assault, Virginia Beach, Virginia, May 31, 2019. City employees who were inside the second-floor public-utilities department in a municipal building sought safety as a municipal engineer, armed with a handgun fitted with a suppressor, shot two men outside then entered the building and continued shooting people as he moved among floors. Inside the department,

attempting to flee, a group of several employees encountered a coworker, Cox, 50, account clerk, in a hall about the time the assailant was leaving another second-floor department and entered a public hall. Cox instructed the group to enter the nearest office and barricade themselves inside. While the coworkers encouraged Cox to secure himself in the office with them, he forfeited the option, telling them he had to help others. After the door was closed, the coworkers moved a file cabinet against it. Shortly, the assailant arrived outside that office, shot Cox in the upper body, and shot at the door, striking the file cabinet. The assailant continued shooting people on the upper floors until responding police located him on the second floor, where they, ultimately, wounded and apprehended him; he died that evening. Authorities safely evacuated the coworkers who sheltered inside the office. Cox was among 12 people who died; four others who were shot were critically injured. [90564-10237](#)

CHRISTOPHER ETRE
Upton, Massachusetts

Christopher Etre saved Esha Patel from drowning, Grafton, Massachusetts, December 13, 2019. Patel, 18, was a passenger in a vehicle that slid off the road, went down an embankment, and entered the Quinsigamond River at night. Etre, 48, construction company owner, was driving nearby and saw the car slide off the road. He stopped at the scene and went down to the river's edge, where he saw the car in the river. Etre returned to his truck and obtained a large wrench, then went back to the river and ran along the bank, to where the car had drifted downstream. Etre stepped into the river and then swam about 30 feet to the car. All but the rear of the car was submerged in the frigid water. Etre broke out the rear, driver's-side window but was unable to remove Patel. He then climbed onto the roof. Patel was positioned in an air pocket near the rear windshield. Etre used the wrench to break the rear windshield, then pulled the glass from it with his hands. He grasped Patel by the arms and assisted her from the vehicle and onto the trunk. Patel then swam a short distance to the opposite bank, where others helped her from the water, and Etre followed. Patel was taken to a hospital for observation; she was not injured. Etre was cold after the rescue and sustained lacerations to his hand; he recovered. [90891-10204](#)

KENDALL D. FLOWERS

Miami, Florida

Kendall D. Flowers died after helping to save a boy from drowning, Cutler Bay, Florida, September 27, 2018. A 16-year-old boy and a 17-year-old boy were swimming in a deep lake when the 16-year-old began to struggle and called out for help. While the 17-year-old swam to the 16-year-old to assist him, the boys' friend, Kendall, 17, high school student, entered the lake from a nearby bank, as did other teenage boys, and swam to them. Kendall reached the 16-year-old, positioned himself behind him, and pushed him back toward the bank before submerging and failing to resurface. The 16-year-old and the other boys safely returned to the bank, where they observed that Kendall was not with them. Divers responded, recovered Kendall, and removed him from the lake. Kendall was taken to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead. He had drowned. [90104-10206](#)

JOHN A. FRANCO

Willington, Connecticut

John A. Franco attempted to rescue Theodore E. DeMers, Sr., from assault, Willington, Connecticut, May 22, 2020. On the road in his rural neighborhood, DeMers, 62, was attacked by a 23-year-old man wielding a sword. As DeMers was on the ground, the assailant, wearing a motorcycle helmet, stood over him and slashed DeMers, inflicting severe wounds to his hands, head, and upper body. Having been alerted by screaming from the road and then seeing the assailant attacking, DeMers's neighbor, Franco, 80, retired auditor, called out for the assailant to stop and moved from his driveway onto the road toward him. As Franco approached the assailant, who was significantly larger than him, the assailant shifted his focus to Franco and attacked him with the sword; Franco fell near his driveway. The assailant slashed at Franco's hands and head. As alerted neighbors responded, the assailant fled the scene on a motorcycle; he was arrested five days later in another state. DeMers died that morning as he was being taken to a hospital. Franco, who was hospitalized for one week and spent another week in a rehabilitation center, underwent surgery to repair serious wounds to both hands, although his left hand remained disabled. [91373-10210](#)

ERICH M. FUNCCIUS
Kingston, New York

Erich M. Funccius saved three men from burning, Kingston, New York, October 1, 2020. Three men, ages 30, 20, and 19 were inside a burning car after a highway accident in which the car struck a utility pole. Funccius, 32, security officer who lived nearby, heard the collision, and ran to the scene. Electric power lines draped across the car's hood, which was also on fire. Funccius pried open the front, passenger-side door, and the 20-year-old man fell onto the ground. With fire spreading, Funccius dragged the man away from the car. Funccius then returned to the car where the 30-year-old driver was slumped against the steering wheel. With flames having entered the interior and on the dashboard, Funccius, opened the driver's door, extended his upper body inside, and released the man's seat belt. He then grasped the driver under the arms and dragged him away from the car. Learning that the 19-year-old remained inside the burning car, Funccius returned again to the car and located the 19-year-old in its rear seat. He opened the car's rear, driver's-side door, and removed him, taking him to safety. The car was shortly engulfed by flames. The three men were taken to hospitals and treated for their injuries, but they were not burned. Funccius sustained smoke inhalation; he recovered. [91413-10242](#)

NEIL ANDREW GARRETT
Santee, California

Neil Andrew Garrett helped rescue a girl from drowning, San Diego, California, May 14, 2020. A girl, 10, was unconscious and afloat in the Pacific Ocean about 375 feet from shore. The ocean was turbulent, with large and frequent waves and a strong rip current. Garrett, 39, aviation electrician, was at the beach with his family and saw the girl in the water. Garrett entered the 62-degree water and ran, then swam, with difficulty, to the girl. He grasped her by one arm, which he put over his shoulder and held to his chest while he used his other arm to swim sidestroke toward the shore, but made little progress in the rough conditions. Garrett and the girl were struck by waves and repeatedly submerged. At one point Garrett lost his grasp on the girl but quickly recovered her. A surfer approached them, and the surfer and Garrett placed the girl on the surfboard. The surfer moved to shore with the girl on the surfboard while Garrett swam behind them, and they exited the water. She was revived on the beach and taken to a hospital. Garrett was nearly exhausted after the rescue. Both recovered. [91135-10260](#)

JOSEF GLUCK
Monsey, New York

Josef Gluck rescued Josef Neumann and saved an indeterminate number of individuals from assault, Monsey, New York, December 28, 2019. A man armed with a machete with an 18-inch blade, entered a home following a religious ceremony and, swinging the machete, wounded Neumann, 71, and others in the home. Gluck, 32, synagogue manager, and others fled the home. Gluck reentered the house, saw Neumann in the dining room, and, unable to move him, shouted at Neumann to flee or hide. Neumann, badly injured, was unable to do so. As the assailant reentered the dining room Gluck tried to verbally draw the assailant out the front door. Gluck left the home and waited several seconds, but the assailant didn't follow him. Gluck reentered the home and found the assailant facing Neumann. Gluck again shouted at the assailant, who turned around, and Gluck threw a small table at him, striking the assailant, and ran outside. The assailant chased Gluck and threatened him. Gluck then ran to a nearby synagogue and warned those inside to lock the door, but the assailant did not attempt entry and shortly returned to his car, while Gluck followed him in the darkness. Gluck recorded the assailant's license plate number and gave it to police who arrested the assailant two hours later. Neumann died of his injuries three months later. Four other injured victims recovered. Gluck was not injured. **90930-10258**

JONATHAN L. GOLDFARB
Fairfield, Connecticut

Jonathan L. Goldfarb helped to save Anthony P. Belbusti from drowning, Fairfield, Connecticut, December 22, 2019. Belbusti had entered Lake Mohegan, which was partially-frozen, to retrieve a dog that had broken through the ice. Belbusti, who had difficulty swimming, was then unable to return to shore. Johnathan L. Goldfarb, 26, physical therapist, was nearby with his brother when they heard shouting. Goldfarb and his brother ran to the scene and saw Belbusti and the dog about 100 feet from shore. The two entered the water and moved ice out of their path as they made their way to Belbusti and the dog. Once there, Goldfarb grasped Belbusti and the brother grasped the dog, and they swam back to shore and exited the water. A group on shore provided warm clothing to the men until rescue personnel arrived and transported all three to the hospital. Goldfarb, his brother, and Belbusti were taken to a hospital and treated for hypothermia, lacerations, and contusions; all three recovered. **90938-10211**

MATTHEW GOLDFARB
Howell, New Jersey

Matthew Goldfarb helped to save Anthony P. Belbusti from drowning, Fairfield, Connecticut, December 22, 2019. Belbusti had entered Lake Mohegan, which was partially-frozen, to retrieve a dog that had broken through the ice. Belbusti, who had difficulty swimming, was then unable to return to shore. Matthew Goldfarb, 30, teacher, was nearby with his brother when they heard shouting. Goldfarb and his brother ran to the scene and saw Belbusti and the dog about 100 feet from shore. The two entered the water and moved ice out of their path as they made their way to Belbusti and the dog. Once there, Goldfarb's brother grasped Belbusti, and Goldfarb grasped the dog, and they both swam back to shore and exited the water. A group on shore provided warm clothing to the men until rescue personnel arrived and took all three by ambulance to the hospital. Goldfarb, his brother, and Belbusti were all treated for hypothermia and recovered. [90939-10212](#)

JASON J. HAHN
Mason City, Iowa

Jason J. Hahn helped to rescue Donna K. Rench from burning, Mason City, Iowa, April 5, 2021. Rench, 61, remained inside a truck after it traveled off a rural road, overturned, and came to rest on its passenger side. Suspended by her seat belt, Rench could not exit the truck. Jason J. Hahn, 48, business owner, was driving nearby and saw smoke issuing from the underside of the truck. He stopped and went to the truck, where he heard Rench yell for help, but failed to see her as smoke filled the cab. Hahn broke the front windshield with the help of another man. Flames had by then spread to the truck's engine and inside the cab onto the dashboard. Hahn extended his upper body inside through the windshield but, unable to remove Rench's seat belt, retreated and retrieved a knife from his vehicle. He entered the cab, cut the seat belt and released Rench, who fell into the back-seat area. Hahn, unable to see Rench due to the dense smoke, felt around in the back seat until he found her. Hahn held onto Rench as the other man grasped Hahn's belt and pulled Hahn, and ultimately Rench, out of the truck. Rench was carried to the other side of road, and the truck's cab was shortly engulfed by flames. Rench sustained fractures, lacerations, and contusions to her body. She was not burned. Hahn who had inhaled smoke, was treated at a hospital for an injured right shoulder and a laceration that required sutures. He recovered. [91611-10263](#)

NATHAN HAMMOND
Heber City, Utah

Nathan Hammond helped rescue Lori R. Walker from burning, Heber City, Utah, February 15, 2019. Walker, 37, arriving at her family's vacation home with her children, smelled a strong odor of propane gas outside the home and entered to investigate. As Walker entered the basement a powerful explosion occurred, during which she was pinned by a collapsed floor and debris. A neighbor, who was an off-duty firefighter, responded and entered the log home to search for Walker. Not finding Walker, but hearing her call for help from below him, the firefighter exited the garage, as the upper floors began to burn. Two neighbors, including a river guide, and Hammond, 34, general contractor, had, by then, also responded to the scene. The men waded through deep snow to the rear of the structure where Hammond and the river guide entered a blown out window opening which they immediately entered to access the basement. Guided only by their cellphone flashlights, Hammond and the river guide searched for Walker, who was ultimately discovered by Hammond beneath debris. Flames had grown and spread to engulf the floors above them and fiery debris fell into the basement. Hammond, joined by the firefighter and contractor amid deteriorating conditions, removed debris, freeing Walker's foot and allowing the river guide to pull her leg free. After Hammond and the river guide aided Walker into an upright position, the firefighter placed Walker over his shoulder, and carried her back through the heavily damaged basement to the window opening, following Hammond and the guide. Walker was removed through the window opening and the men, using the guide's coat as a sling to carry Walker, moved her through the deep snow to arriving firefighters and paramedics. The home was shortly engulfed by flames. Walker was treated at a hospital for burns to about one third of her body, broken bones, and serious injuries to her right leg and ankle; she continued to recover. Hammond and the river guide received oxygen at the scene but were not otherwise injured and recovered. 91008-10232

RYAN D. A. HORNE
International Falls, Minnesota

Ryan D. A. Horne saved Janet F. Mart from a burning vehicle, Birchdale, Minnesota, May 14, 2019. Mart, 74, was trapped inside a burning vehicle after it traveled off a rural road and crashed into a wooded area. The

vehicle came to rest in an area of trees and brush that blocked its two front doors. Mart, who had her small dog with her, was unable to open either door. Horne, 36, sales manager, was driving in the area and saw Mart's burning vehicle. After attempting unsuccessfully to open both doors on the driver's side of Mart's vehicle Horne opened the rear hatch door and saw Mart in the front passenger's seat. Flames had spread to the front windshield. Horne climbed into the cargo area and then to back seat area. Mart extended her arm between the front seats as the smoke intensified, and Horne grasped her underneath that arm and pulled her into the back seats, then to the cargo area where he removed her and the dog from the vehicle. The vehicle's tires burst as they walked away from the vehicle, which was shortly engulfed by flames. Mart sustained contusions and a concussion; she recovered. 91032-10222

JONATHAN A. HUDASH
Jarrell, Texas

Jonathan A. Hudash rescued a man from burning, Round Rock, Texas, April 15, 2020. The man, 22, was the front-seat passenger of a van that, after colliding with the truck, left the highway, and came to rest on the highway's shoulder against a curb. Hudash, 28, sheriff's deputy, was patrolling nearby and was dispatched to the scene. Upon arrival at the scene, Hudash ran to the van. Despite heavy smoke and flames issuing from the van, Hudash extended his arms and hands through the open passenger window and attempted to unlatch the man's seat belt but blistering heat made him quickly withdraw. Hudash again reached in, and using a pocketknife he carried with him, Hudash cut the shoulder strap, then grasped the man's arms and tugged, but he could not get a good grip due to burns Atwood sustained. Hudash then grasped his belt, pulling on it until the man's upper body came through the window opening. He then fully pulled him from the vehicle and placed him on the ground next to it. Hudash dragged the man farther from the vehicle to safety. The man was taken by ambulance to the hospital for treatment of his extensive injuries, including severe burns, but later died. Hudash was treated at a hospital for burns to his hands. He was released and later recovered. 91115-10208

EVAN PATRICK ISHIMA
Florin, California

Evan Patrick Ishima died attempting to rescue Tim Nguyen from drowning, Somerset, California, May 28, 2020. Nguyen, 20, while on a hike in a remote area, entered a river from boulders above a waterfall in the North Fork Cosumnes River and submerged in a shaft leading to an underwater chamber beneath the falls. Nguyen did not resurface. Ishima, 24, unemployed cabinet maker, who was hiking in another party and had stopped at the scene, alerted Nguyen's friends. Ishima knelt down and extended his arm into the water toward Nguyen, then lowered his body feet-first into the shaft, bracing his arms on the boulders on either side of the shaft while his friend held onto him. Though some of Nguyen's friends formed a human chain to hold onto Ishima's friend, Ishima was shortly pulled down into the chamber by the rushing water. Nearby, a college student who was a friend of Nguyen was alerted. The student ran along the river then entered the water near the shaft, attempting to help Ishima and Nguyen. Shortly the student was also drawn into the chamber by the rushing water. Nguyen's body was recovered a week later when it emerged from the chamber near the base of the waterfall. Family and friends, aided by underwater construction experts, recovered Ishima's body 13 days later, and the student's the following day. Both had drowned. 91144-10250

D'ANGELO CORDERO JENKINS
Rock Hill, South Carolina

D'Angelo Cordero Jenkins died after helping to save a boy from drowning, Huntersville, North Carolina, October 3, 2020. A 2-year-old boy entered the swift-flowing Catawba River from a partially submerged boat ramp downstream of a dam. Accompanying the boy's mother at the scene was Jenkins, 34, cable installer, who jumped fully clothed from the ramp into the river and reached the boy at a point where he had difficulty swimming with him. Alerted by the mother's shouts for help, another man entered the water, grasped the boy by the arm, and towed him back to the boat ramp, where the boy safely exited the water. Separated from the boy, Jenkins floated motionless downstream before others pulled him from the river. The boy was treated overnight at a hospital. Jenkins, too, was hospitalized, receiving life support for a brain injury. He died five days later. 91393-10266

SIVAD H. JOHNSON
Detroit, Michigan

Sivad H. Johnson died attempting to save three children from drowning, Detroit, Michigan, August 21, 2020. In the evening, three children were struggling in the swift-moving Detroit River off an island beach. Among those alerted along the island's shore was Johnson, 49, off-duty firefighter, who was accompanied by his 10-year-old daughter. Johnson entered the water and advanced toward the children, and a boat also responded to the scene. Ultimately, the children were safely removed from the water. Amid the commotion, Johnson submerged and did not resurface; his daughter sought help and Johnson was reported as missing. A dive team searched for Johnson for several hours that night and resumed the following day, locating him about 60 feet from shore. Johnson had drowned. [91284-10249](#)

HIEDI JOHNSTON
Willow Creek, California

Hiedi Johnston helped save a man from drowning, Eureka, California, January 2, 2021. While driving in a parking lot of a city marina adjacent Humboldt Bay, a 78-year-old man suffered a medical emergency and lost control of his truck, which entered the water. Upright, with its front end partially submerged, the truck drifted offshore with the outgoing tide. In the parking lot with family members, Johnston, 49, stay-at-home mom, moved to the shoreline rocks and saw that the man appeared to be in a daze and was not attempting to exit the truck. Johnston climbed down the rocks and stepped into the 51-degree water. After wading a short distance in waist-deep water, Johnston swam to the driver's door of the truck and, after the window was lowered, climbed inside to her waist and released the man's seat belt. Johnston then grasped the man's vest with both hands and, as she withdrew, pulled and twisted the man with her until he was free of the truck. Shortly, the truck submerged completely. Johnston, with one arm wrapped around the man's upper body, stabilized herself atop the front end of the truck while a man swam out and joined her at the scene. Another man piloting a boat responded to the scene, helped all three aboard, and took them to a dock. The 78-year-old man was taken to a hospital for treatment, then released. Johnston was cold and suffered a cut on her left forearm; she recovered. [91509-10239](#)

ERIC C. KEYS
LaPlata, Maryland

Eric C. Keys saved Kellie E. Secrist from burning, Upper Marlboro, Maryland, March 13, 2019. Secrist, 37, was unconscious inside her locked and burning sport-utility vehicle after the vehicle left a highway and crashed into a tree about 30 feet off the road. Keys, 35, sheriff's deputy, was riding in a van that was transferring a jail prisoner when he passed Secrist's vehicle and saw an older male bystander trying to break a window with a hammer. The van's driver parked nearby, and Keys exited with a fire extinguisher and ran to the scene. Keys gave the extinguisher to a passerby and gave instructions to aim it at his feet as he walked into grass that burned beneath, and in the vicinity of the vehicle. As fire intensified in the engine compartment and caught nearby trees on fire, Keys used his metal baton to break the driver's window, allowing him to unlock and open the door. Despite thick smoke issuing from the passenger compartment, Keys extended his body into the vehicle and, while kneeling on the driver's seat, grasped Secrist by the back of her pants and pulled her toward him. Then Keys bear-hugged Secrist from behind and dragged her from the vehicle to a point about 60 feet away. There, he performed CPR on Secrist and revived her. Shortly, the vehicle's tires exploded and worsening conditions caused Keys and other arriving first responders to carry Secrist farther from the vehicle. Secrist wasn't burned. The hair on Keys's legs was singed, and he was treated at an emergency room for smoke inhalation but recovered. [91063-10255](#)

MICHAEL ROBERT KEYSER
Hesperia, California

Michael Robert Keyser died attempting to save James E. Rhodes from being struck by a moving vehicle, Apple Valley, California, January 19, 2020. Rhodes, 48, commercial truck driver, was southbound on a six-lane interstate highway in the Mojave Desert at night when his truck drifted off the road and overturned onto its passenger side with its front end extending about 3 feet into the southbound lane. Keyser, 49, mine worker, was driving to work in the opposite direction and stopped his car near the center median. Exiting his vehicle in darkness, Keyser crossed the highway and stood in front of Rhodes' windshield, pounding on it with his flashlight as Rhodes stood inside his cab and raised his head through the open driver's side window. Within seconds a southbound trucker, pulling two trailers containing hundreds of pounds of flammable lighter fluid and caustic

acids, struck the front of Rhodes' truck pushing it and Keyser off the highway into the desert. The cab of Rhodes' tractor-trailer immediately caught fire, as did the entire rig which struck it. The driver and a passenger in the second truck escaped, but Rhodes died in the accident. Keyser also died of traumatic injuries he sustained in the collision. [90960-10209](#)

MATTHEW RYAN KIHLSRAND
Baroda, Michigan

Matthew Ryan Kihlstrand died attempting to save a boy from drowning, Sodus, Michigan, June 19, 2020. An 8-year-old boy, who entered the St. Joseph River near where his party had anchored a boat at the end of an island, struggled to swim in the swift current. Alerted, a member of the boy's party, Kihlstrand, 45, sales representative, left the boat and swam after the boy, whom the current carried downstream along with Kihlstrand, who ultimately submerged and did not resurface. Two men camping in the vicinity swam out and helped the boy safely exit at a river bank. Water-rescue crews searched the scene that night and the following day for Kihlstrand, who was found two days later at a point about 1.5 miles downstream. He had drowned. [91195-10271](#)

JAMEY RUTH KLASSEN
Guelph, Ontario

Jamey Ruth Klassen helped to rescue Christopher G. Robertson from drowning, Collingwood, Ontario, July 26, 2020. Robertson, 40, was kayaking in Georgian Bay when his kayak took on water and capsized. Robertson held onto his overturned kayak and called for help. Jamey, 16, high school student, was on the beach and became aware of Robertson's plight. She entered the water and swam about 600 feet to the kayak, but Robertson by then had submerged. Seeing Robertson on the bottom of the lake, which was about 12 feet deep at that location, Jamey dived down, grasped him underneath his arms, and swam to the surface. Robertson was unconscious and not breathing. Jamey positioned Robertson face up with his head on her shoulder. Grasping him around the chest with one arm, she used the other arm and her legs to swim toward shore with Robertson. Jamey, who was nearly exhausted, shouted for help. A man on a paddleboard responded to Jamey and Robertson, and they placed Robertson on the board. The man took Robertson to shore, where he

was removed from the water. Jamey swam to shore. Robertson was revived and taken to a hospital, when he was treated. He recovered. 91259-10224

MARK A. KREMPASKY

Youngstown, Ohio

Mark A. Krempasky attempted to rescue Christine L. Beheler from drowning, Cortland, Ohio, July 29, 2019. Beheler, 41, entered a designated swimming area of Mosquito Creek Lake to aid a boy who had entered deep water and struggled to remain afloat. During the encounter between Beheler and the boy, the boy submerged Beheler. Krempasky, 43, police officer, who was on the shore nearby, was alerted and, entering the water, swam to Beheler and the boy. Krempasky grasped Beheler, who was facedown in the water and unresponsive, turned her over and positioned her in front of him. He then wrapped his arm across her chest and towed her toward the shore, despite experiencing difficulty moving through vegetation on the lake's bottom. Krempasky, holding onto Beheler, ultimately reached a point near the shore and called for help as he was nearly exhausted. Others responded and assisted in moving her to the beach where efforts were made to resuscitate her. Beheler, taken by ambulance to a hospital, could not be revived and died of drowning. Krempasky was nearly exhausted but did not require treatment. 90705-10234

JEAN-PAUL LAPIERRE

Weymouth, Massachusetts

Jean-Paul LaPierre saved an indeterminate number of persons from assault, Chicago, Illinois, October 13, 2019. A man armed with a loaded handgun was robbing passengers on an eight-car transit train as the train was traveling between stations. LaPierre, 54, storage facility manager, who was seated in the rear car of the train, observed but did not immediately realize that robberies were occurring. When most of the passengers on LaPierre's car exited unexpectedly at the next station, LaPierre also exited, though it wasn't his stop. Other passengers told LaPierre that the gunman, who was now also on the platform, had been robbing people at gunpoint. LaPierre quickly followed the gunman who, walking briskly to the next car on the train, entered and walked up the aisle to the front of the car, apparently unaware that LaPierre was in pursuit. Once aboard the second car, LaPierre engaged the gunman and pinned him against closed doors near

the front of the car. LaPierre grasped the gun and pried it from his hand. A male passenger took the gun from LaPierre, put the safety on, and handed it to nearby transit instructor, who maintained control of the weapon until police arrived to arrest the gunman minutes later. No passengers were injured. LaPierre injured his arm during the encounter. 90796-10244

ALLEN ROBERT LINDER
Milan, Ohio

Allen Robert Linder died attempting to rescue Ashley N. Friedman from suffocation, Cleveland, Ohio, February, 20, 2020. In a trucking company's garage, Friedman, 30, entered a steel chemical tanker trailer through a small hatch at its top to clean its interior when she fell down and was unresponsive inside the oxygen-deficient confined space, which contained residual chemicals. Her mother, a coworker, who was positioned outside the trailer at its top, screamed for help, alerting those nearby, including Linder, 65, truck driver, who responded to the trailer without a respirator or air supply. Linder climbed the ladder at the trailer's side, reached the top, and entered the trailer through the hatch. Shortly, Linder, too, was unresponsive. After a responding firefighter, wearing a self-contained breathing apparatus, entered the trailer, firefighters used a cable hoist to remove Linder and Friedman. Friedman and Linder both were taken to a hospital but neither survived. Both had suffocated. 91026-10243

MARK S. MCAULIFF
Milford, New Jersey

Mark S. McAuliff helped rescue a girl from drowning, Seaside Park, New Jersey, August 16, 2019. The girl, 16, was in waist-deep water of the Atlantic Ocean off an unguarded beach when a swift rip current pulled her farther from shore into deeper water. McAuliff, 54, retired carpenter, was driving on the beach when the girl's sister alerted him that the girl was in distress. McAuliff, seeing the girl waving for help in the water, parked his vehicle and called 911. Despite a swift current and rough surf, McAuliff, a poor swimmer, donned a life jacket, ran into the water, and swam to the girl. Upon reaching her, the girl grasped McAuliff's neck. McAuliff turned her around and, grasping the girl under her arms, held her up above the water's surface. McAuliff attempted to swim toward shore with the girl, but the current thwarted his efforts. Lifeguards responded to assist and, towing a

rescue rope equipped with flotation buoys, swam out to McAuliff and the girl, reaching them at a point about 180 feet from shore. McAuliff and the girl each grasped a buoy, and the lifeguards towed them into shore using the line, as more emergency personnel on shore pulled in the line. Onshore, the girl vomited water and was taken to the hospital. McAuliff was nearly exhausted and checked at the scene, but he did not require further treatment. He recovered. [90700-10214](#)

KENNETH BRIAN MCCARTER
Statesboro, Georgia

Kenneth Brian McCarter rescued Carol S. DeLillo from an alligator attack, Okatie, South Carolina, July 3, 2020. DeLillo, 73, was working in her yard near the bank of an 8-foot-deep irrigation pond behind her home, when a 10-foot, 275-pound alligator emerged from the pond, bit down onto her lower right leg and dragged her into the pond. McCarter, 44, plant operations manager, who lived in the same community, was on a nearby bridge with his four children, including his teenaged son, when he saw DeLillo splashing and heard her faintly calling for help from the pond at a point about 10 feet from the bank. Driving the cart to her yard, McCarter, despite knowing that alligators were often present in the pond, removed his sandals and shirt and dived into the water. By this time DeLillo had been dragged about 70 feet from the bank by the alligator. McCarter swam to her, grasped her around the torso with his left arm, and pulled her up against resistance, but he and DeLillo were quickly pulled beneath the surface. McCarter pulled DeLillo to the surface a second time and dragged then pushed DeLillo toward the bank as he swam toward it. McCarter's teenaged son grasped DeLillo's arm and pulled her onto the bank then helped McCarter out of the water. Seeing DeLillo's injured leg, McCarter realized she'd been attacked by an alligator, and McCarter's son observed two alligators in the pond along the course McCarter had just swam. Unsuccessful efforts were made to staunch DeLillo's bleeding until the arrival of paramedics. DeLillo had multiple surgeries and regained the ability to walk with a cane, though she continued to receive physical rehabilitation. McCarter was not injured. [91279-10264](#)

SCOTT MCFARLAND
Beaverton, Michigan

Scott McFarland rescued Grant A. Smith from burning, Beaverton, Michigan, December 13, 2019. Grant, 11, was in a rear seat passenger of a van when the van left the road at night and struck a tree, where it caught fire at its front end. McFarland, 47, ironworker, heard the sound of the crash and looked outside through a window. Seeing the van in flames in his backyard, he left his residence and ran to the van, where he saw a boy exiting through a broken out rear window opening. McFarland assisted the boy out to safety, then heard screams coming from the van. McFarland returned to the window and, despite growing flames at the front end of the van, partially entered the van through the window opening and unlatched Grant's seat belt. Grasping Grant under his arms, McFarland tugged on him, but the boy's legs were trapped beneath the driver's seat. McFarland leaned farther into van and pulled on Grant's legs multiple times, eventually freeing them. By then, the driver's seat was on fire and flames were spreading toward them. McFarland again grasped Grant under his arms and torso, and holding him, backed through the window opening. McFarland placed Grant on the ground. Grant stood up, and McFarland aided him back to his residence to safety. Flames shortly grew to engulf the van. Grant, who suffered a neck injury and broke both of his arms, also sustained severe burns. He was taken to the hospital for treatment. McFarland was treated at a hospital for burns to both hands; he recovered. **90983-10241**

CAMERON MEADE
South Bend, Indiana

Cameron Meade helped save a boy from drowning, Sodus, Michigan, June 19, 2020. An 8-year-old boy, who entered the St. Joseph River near where his party had anchored a boat at the end of an island, struggled to swim in the swift current, as did a man who left the boat in an attempt to save him. Alerted while camping with his friend near a beach downstream, Meade, 31, courier, swam out and dived multiple times in an attempt to locate the man, who had submerged, while the friend reached the boy and began towing him on his back. Unable to find the man, Meade resurfaced and saw his friend struggling with the boy, who was panicked. Meade swam to them, ultimately tucking a life jacket he had collected from the water between the boy and the friend to help them float. Meade then aided the friend as they advanced with the boy into wadable water and brought the boy to safety at the beach. The man was found two days later; he had drowned. **91233-10273**

KINZO HEATH MIHARA

Hauser, Idaho

Kinzo Heath Mihara rescued James R. Charbonneau from burning, Rathdrum, Idaho, June 23, 2020. Charbonneau, 78, was in the cockpit of his two-seat helicopter with a flight instructor shortly after takeoff when the helicopter crash-landed in a field. The helicopter's twin 20-gallon fuel tanks ruptured and began to leak fuel, and flames broke out on the helicopter spreading to the cockpit under the instructor's seat. The instructor forced the right door open and rolled out of the helicopter through flames. Mihara, 42, attorney, was driving nearby when he witnessed the helicopter crash and pulled over. Mihara exited his vehicle and ran to the burning helicopter. Another motorist with paramedic training stopped and responded to the scene. Together, Mihara and the flight instructor opened the left door. Mihara, despite blistering heat and flames, then reached into the burning cockpit and grasped Charbonneau's arm, but lost his grip. Mihara then took off his outer shirt and, using it to cover his hands and forearms, reached farther inside the burning helicopter and grasped Charbonneau's shirt, pulling him from the cockpit. Mihara and the other motorist then shepherded the flight instructor and Charbonneau away from the wreckage to a point where the other motorist provided first aid. Charbonneau and the flight instructor were taken to a local hospital, then transferred to a major metropolitan hospital where Charbonneau, who suffered extensive burns, died three days later. The flight instructor was hospitalized for more than six weeks for treatment of his burns, and he continued to recover. 91237-10218

TERRELL MILLER, SR.

Houma, Louisiana

Terrell Miller, Sr., died attempting to rescue Dalvin A. Richardson, Jr., Davon J.J. Richardson, and helping to rescue Kierra Campbell from drowning, Grand Isle, Louisiana, June 5, 2020. Brothers Dalvin, 9, and Davon, 8, and their cousin Kierra, 13, were playing in wadable surf about 50 feet from shore when they were carried into deeper water about 100 feet from shore. The boys' mother, who was Kierra's aunt, briefly grasped Davon, and Kierra grasped Dalvin, but they became separated. The mother's partner, Miller, 33, marine industrial tank cleaner, who could not swim, entered the water to help the children. Kierra stated that Miller reached her, grasped her by the arm and pulled her about 25

feet toward the shore before they became separated. Miller submerged. Other bystanders and arriving first responders located and pulled Miller, unconscious, from the water, before also pulling the boys, Kierra, and the boys' mother from the surf. Dalvin died at the scene and Davon shortly thereafter at a hospital. The boys' mother and Kierra were treated by paramedics and recovered. Although paramedics were able to restore Miller's pulse, he died two days later of medical complications arising from near drowning. 91154-10269

JOHN MINER
Phillipsburg, Kansas

John Miner saved Ella Rae L. Sorensen-Wilkens and Emric C. Wilkens from burning, Long Island, Kansas, November 4, 2020. Ella, 4, and Emric, 2, were rear-seat passengers of a pickup truck that was parked along a rural highway when a tractor trailer struck a nearby police vehicle and trailer, and caused the rig's fuel tank to rupture and release diesel fuel onto the pickup. Flames shortly erupted on the passenger side of the pickup truck. Miner, 39, sheriff's deputy, who was already at the scene, was informed that there were children in the rear of the burning pickup. Miner quickly ran to the pickup's passenger side and opened the rear door. Seeing Ella harnessed into a booster seat, Miner extended his head and arms inside, unlatched Ella's harness and lifted her from the seat and out of the car to safety. Ella's father took her from Miner. Miner then ran back to the vehicle and extended most of his body inside the burning pickup to reach Emric, who was secured by a harness in his booster seat. Miner attempted unsuccessfully to unlatch the harness, then used a pocketknife to cut the harness and free Emric. Miner grasped Emric under his arms, lifted him from the seat, and carried him away as flames spreading from the truck's undercarriage came into contact with Miner's leg and set his pant leg on fire. Miner dropped Emric to the ground several feet away from the truck, and Emric's father carried him farther away to safety. Ella and Emric were not injured. Miner suffered second- and third-degree burns to his leg that required skin-grafting surgery. He was unable to return to work for two months, but ultimately fully recovered. 91395-10256

EDGAR F. MORENO ALBA
Aguascalientes, Mexico

Edgar F. Moreno Alba died helping to save a boy from drowning, Valley Springs, California, June 28, 2020. A 14-year-old boy entered Lake Camanche at a point at which there was an uneven bottom and began to have difficulty remaining above the surface. A member of his party, Edgar, 17, high school student, entered the lake, as did the boy's sister. Edgar, who did not know how to swim, advanced to the boy and pushed him to a point closer to shore at which the sister was able to help the boy safely exit the water. Edgar submerged and did not resurface, and rangers who entered the lake to search for Edgar could not locate him in the murky water. A dive team responded and recovered Edgar later that afternoon at a point about 30 feet from shore. He had drowned. **91452-10245**

ANTONIO MORGAN
St. Louis, Missouri

Antonio Morgan saved Keilen Robinson from burning, St. Louis County, Missouri, July 28, 2020. Robinson, 23, remained in the driver's seat of his car, unresponsive, after an interstate highway accident in which the car came to rest with its driver's side against a concrete median. Among the motorists who stopped and responded to the car's front, passenger door was Morgan, 34, business operator. After the door was opened, a fire broke out under the hood and flames issuing from the engine compartment burned against the windshield's exterior. Morgan entered at that door, knelt on the passenger seat, and grasped Robinson's upper body, pulling his torso toward the door opening. Morgan withdrew, re-entered, pulled Robinson, and withdrew again. Smoke issued through the passenger-door opening. Morgan entered a third time, knelt on the passenger seat, and released Robinson's seat belt, withdrawing upon hearing a loud explosive sound from the car's front end. Robinson's upper body then fell onto the road outside the car as another man sprayed the front of the car with a fire extinguisher. Morgan returned to the car, grasped Robinson, and dragged him about 10 feet to a point on the road where a responding police officer tended to him. Flames shortly engulfed the car. Robinson, who was taken to a hospital, was not burned. **91256-10228**

SCOTT D. MORRISON
Rescue, California

Scott D. Morrison rescued Raymond M. Jerrett III from burning, Rescue, California, August 13, 2019. Jerrett, 39, was trapped in his sedan following a nighttime accident in which his vehicle left the road, collided with a large boulder and tree, crashed through a barbed-wire fence and came to rest in a grassy field. The sedan caught fire and flames spread to the driver's side and beneath the sedan. Morrison, 59, retired diesel mechanic, heard the noise of the accident from his nearby home. With his wife, Morrison responded to the scene, approached the vehicle and, despite spreading flames, opened the front, passenger door and partially extended himself into the vehicle. Grasping Jerrett about his arms, Morrison pulled but was not able to remove Jerrett, as Jerrett's legs were stuck in the center console area. Morrison moved farther into the vehicle and freed Jerrett's legs. Morrison backed toward the door opening, again grasped Jerrett's arms but could not gain a grip due to severe burns on Jerrett's arms. Morrison grasped Jerrett's feet and pulled him from the vehicle. Morrison patted out flames burning on Jerrett's clothing, then dragged Jerrett about 40 feet southeast to the barbed-wire fence, where another man aided Morrison in dragging him farther to safety. Jerrett was airlifted to a burn center for treatment of severe burns. Morrison suffered smoke inhalation and burns. He received treatment at the hospital, and his burns healed after about three weeks. 90696-10226

SHANE MORRISON
Concord Township, Ohio

Shane Morrison helped to rescue Donovan Conwell from drowning, Mentor, Ohio, June 24, 2020. Donovan, 13, was swimming in Lake Erie when he had difficulty returning to the rock breakwater from which he had entered the water. Shane, 15, high school student, was atop the breakwater with friends when he saw Donovan bobbing up and down in deep water about 200 feet northeast of the 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. 91303-10257

KRISTOFF JALEEL MURRAY
Tampa, Florida

Kristoff Jaleel Murray died attempting to rescue Janosh and Daniel Purackal from drowning, Apollo Beach, Florida, June 11, 2021. Purackal, 37, and his son, Daniel, 3, were wading on a sandy shelf near a beach when a strong tidal current carried them into the deep water of a channel that flowed into Tampa Bay. The Purackals struggled to stay afloat and called for help. Murray, 27, was walking on the beach and noticed the Purackals' plight. Taking off his outer shirt, Murray entered the water and swam toward the Purackals who, by then, had been carried about 440 feet from the beach. Murray swam at least 150 feet in the strong current toward them but ultimately was unable to reach Purackal and Daniel. He was seen swimming back toward the beach but at some point submerged. Purackal and Daniel became separated as they were carried farther from shore by the current. They were recovered from the water about 90 minutes later by authorities about 1 mile west of where they had last been seen. Purackal had drowned. Efforts were made to revive Daniel. He was taken to a hospital where he was pronounced dead an hour later. He, too, had drowned. Murray's body was found three days later on a beach about 1.5 miles west of the scene. He had drowned. [91761-10262](#)

NORMAN TANNER OLSEN
Holladay, Utah

Norman Tanner Olsen rescued a man from burning, Kamas, Utah, September 1, 2019. At a remote mountain campground, the man, 59, attempted to light a campfire using gasoline when he accidentally spilled some of the fuel on himself, which ignited and engulfed him in flames. Olsen, 23, university student, was nearby and immediately ran to the man. Olsen grasped the man in a bear hug, lifted him, and took him to the ground several feet away. As the man, fully aflame, continued to burn, Olsen laid down atop him and used his arms and body to smother the flames, extinguishing the majority of the fire on the man. With the flames nearly extinguished, Olsen stood up and moved away. Others obtained water and poured it on the man's smoldering clothing. The man was shortly transported to a hospital and was treated for severe burns to his body. Olsen was also transported to the hospital for treatment of his injuries, which included severe burns to his upper extremities and neck that required surgery. Months later he had not fully recovered. [90814-10203](#)

KEAWE MICHAEL PESTANA
Donnelly, Idaho

Keawe Michael Pestana died attempting to save his three young cousins from drowning, Riggins, Idaho, April 26, 2019. The siblings, a 10-year-old boy, 6-year-old girl, and 3-year-old boy, were canoeing with their father in the Salmon River when their canoe's end tipped upward and the children and their father entered the cold, swift-flowing water. Pestana, 34 laborer, who was deaf and couldn't speak, and the children's uncle, were on the river's bank, downstream. They gestured to one another, and the uncle entered the water followed closely by Pestana. The uncle and Pestana swam into the river on a course to intercept the children, but the current carried the children downriver past them. The uncle, tiring, ultimately abandoned his efforts and exited the river. Pestana, who remained in the water, was seen in a circular current near the bank. Shortly, Pestana submerged and disappeared from view. Meanwhile, the current pushed the children and their father into a calm eddy about a half-mile downriver, where they were able to safely exit to the riverbank. They were not harmed. Pestana's body was found a month later in a harbor of a town about 15 miles downstream. He had drowned. 90501-10227

MARK PIERCE
Sandy, Utah

Mark Pierce helped rescue Lori R. Walker from burning, Heber City, Utah, February 15, 2019. Walker, 37, arriving at her family's vacation home with her children, smelled a strong odor of propane gas outside the home and entered to investigate. As Walker entered the basement a powerful explosion occurred, during which she was pinned by a collapsed floor and debris. A neighbor, who was an off-duty firefighter, responded and entered the log home to search for Walker. Not finding Walker, but hearing her call for help from below him, the firefighter exited the garage, as the home's upper floors began to burn. Two neighbors, Pierce, 50, river guide, and a general contractor, had, by then, also responded to the scene. The men waded through deep snow to the rear of the structure where the contractor and Pierce entered a blown out window opening to access the darkened basement. Guided only by their cellphone flashlights, Pierce and the contractor searched for Walker, who was ultimately discovered beneath debris. By then flames had grown and spread to engulf the floors

above them and fiery debris fell into the basement. Joined by the firefighter amid deteriorating conditions and working together, Pierce, the firefighter and the contractor removed debris, freeing Walker's foot and allowing Pierce to pull her free. After Pierce and the contractor aided Walker into an upright position, the firefighter placed Walker over his shoulder, and carried her back through the heavily damaged basement to the window opening, following Pierce and the contractor. Walker was removed through the window opening and the men, using Pierce's coat as a sling to carry her, moved Walker through the deep snow to arriving firefighters and paramedics. The home was shortly engulfed by flames. Walker was treated at a hospital for burns to about one third of her body, broken bones, and serious injuries to her right leg and ankle; she continued to recover. Pierce and the contractor received oxygen at the scene but were not otherwise injured and recovered. **91006-10232**

COREY A. PURINTON

Homosassa, Florida

Corey A. Purinton rescued Richard J. Broccolo from burning, Winter Garden, Florida, August 23, 2020. Broccolo, 62, was in a burning car after it traveled off a highway, struck a fence, and rolled over several times before coming to rest on its roof against a chain-link fence. The fence partially collapsed and the front of the vehicle was on the ground while its rear was about 4 feet above the ground. Broccolo, seriously injured, moved toward the rear windshield of the car, which was broken out. He shouted for help. Purinton, 19, laborer, was working at a property on the other side of the fence and heard the accident. He saw smoke and heard Broccolo shouting for help. Purinton ran to the fence and saw the car, its front end and undercarriage covered by flames. Purinton saw Broccolo's hand at the rear windshield, which was about shoulder-height to Purinton, and he extended his head and arms inside the car, where flames were then on the back of the front seats, and pulled Broccolo, whose shorts had caught fire, out through the rear windshield. The two tumbled to the ground and Purinton patted out the flames on Broccolo's shorts and dragged him away from the car. Broccolo, who sustained third-degree burns to his body, including on his legs and back, broke multiple bones, and had a head injury. Purinton inhaled smoke and suffered burns to his hands; he recovered. **91423-10268**

RONALD ROCK
Fairhaven, Massachusetts

Ronald Rock helped save Colin G. Jackson from burning, Fairhaven, Massachusetts, February 3, 2020. Jackson, 83, was in the second floor living quarters of a three-story building when fire broke out on the third floor and spread to the second. Jackson was non-ambulatory and used a wheelchair. Family members moved him from bed, but they were unable to move him down a stairway. Rock, 58, ferry boat captain, who was driving nearby and saw the fire, stopped at the scene. He ran into the building and up the stairway, where there was black smoke in the hallway, and joined another man there. Jackson was dragged to the top of the stairway, where flames were on the ceiling, and Rock and the other man grasped him underneath the legs. The two men moved, backward, down the stairs, holding Jackson, as flames spread to the stairway's ceiling. Once Rock and the other man had moved Jackson to the bottom of the stairway he was taken outside as flames extended from the shattered second-floor windows above the door, and glass, debris, and ashes fell onto the men. Jackson inhaled smoke; he recovered. 91085-10253

RAFAEL A. RODRIGUEZ
Las Vegas, Nevada

Rafael A. Rodriguez helped to save a woman from falling, Henderson, Nevada, June 1, 2020. The woman, 30, clung to the outside of a chain-link fence on an overpass bridge at night and threatened to fall to an interstate highway 40 feet below. Rodriguez, 38, state trooper, was called to the scene and saw the woman, who was distraught and crying, perched atop a concrete barrier and clinging to the fence above the highway. Rodriguez spoke to the woman in an effort to calm her, and when other officers arrived, one of them hoisted Rodriguez up onto the fence, which was curved toward the overpass. Chapman climbed up the fence with difficulty to its top and carefully maneuvered himself to a position on the fence above the woman. Releasing the fence with his right hand, Rodriguez removed two sets of handcuffs, one at a time, and put them on the woman's wrists, which he held with his left hand, and secured each handcuffed wrist to the fence. A fire truck arrived and extended a rescue ladder with a bucket to remove the woman, who was not injured, from the bridge. Rodriguez sustained a minor muscle injury; he recovered. 91176-10219

MARC F. ROMANO
Kailua Kona, Hawaii

Marc F. Romano rescued Jeri L. Douglas from a shark that had attacked her, Waikoloa, Hawaii, January 2, 2021. Douglas, 68, retired golf club pro, was swimming in a bay of the Pacific Ocean west of a beach when a shark attacked her in deep water about 600 feet from shore. She treaded water with her arms and left leg and, bleeding profusely, called for help. Romano, 26, deckhand, was on board a catamaran moored in the bay and heard Douglas's screams for help. Romano dived into the ocean and swam toward Douglas, towing a flotation device. Approaching her, he noted blood in the water, and Douglas shouted that she had been bitten by the shark. Romano spoke to Douglas to calm her, then instructed her to grab the flotation device. Romano towed her with his right arm, while swimming with his left arm and legs. Meanwhile, the captain of the catamaran and another deckhand navigated a touring boat to Douglas and picked them up. Romano put towels on her wounds and applied pressure to them as the captain navigated the boat to the beach. Romano and others then carried Douglas to arriving paramedics, who applied a tourniquet to her leg to staunch the bleeding. Douglas, who was taken to the hospital, sustained bite wounds to her calf, a broken leg bone, and wounds to her ankle and toe. She underwent emergency surgery to repair the wounds and spent five days in a hospital. Months later she continued to rehabilitate from her injuries. **91507-10225**

GABRIEL CEDRIK SAECHAO
Sacramento, California

Gabriel Cedrik Saechao died attempting to rescue Tim Nguyen and Evan Ishima from drowning, Somerset, California, May 28, 2020. Nguyen, 20, while on a hike in a remote area, entered a river from boulders above a waterfall in the North Fork Cosumnes River and submerged in a shaft leading to an underwater chamber beneath the falls. Nguyen did not resurface. Ishima, 24, who was hiking with a friend and had stopped at the scene, alerted Nguyen's friends. Ishima knelt and extended his arm into the water, then lowered his body feet-first into the shaft, bracing his arms on the boulders on either side of the shaft while his friend held to him. Though some of Nguyen's friends formed a human chain to hold onto Ishima's friend, Ishima was shortly pulled down into the chamber by the rushing water. Nearby, Saechao, 20, college student, who was a friend of

Nguyen's, was alerted. Saechao ran along the river then entered the water near the shaft. Saechao was also drawn into the chamber through the shaft. He submerged and did not resurface. Nguyen's body was recovered a week later when it emerged from the chamber near the base of the waterfall. Family and friends recovered the Ishima's body 13 days later, and Saechao's the next day. Nguyen, Saechao, and Ishima drowned. 91595-10251

LUCAS Y. SILVERIO MENDOZA
Bronx, New York

Lucas Y. Silverio Mendoza died after attempting to rescue Yasleen Moreno from burning, Bronx, New York, June 9, 2019. At night, Yasleen, 3, alone, descended the smoky stairwell of a 16-floor apartment building after fire broke out in the building's trash compactor chute. Silverio Mendoza, 19, student, was alerted to the fire and, along with other residents, began to evacuate the building via the same stairwell with his cousin and grandmother. As Silverio Mendoza descended he passed Yasleen, who was crying, and he continued to help his grandmother escape toward a lower floor. After descending partway to the lower floor, Silverio Mendoza told his cousin to tend to their grandmother so he could help Yasleen evacuate. Ascending the stairs to a landing between floors, he beckoned to Yasleen to follow him and began, again, to descend, but when she did not follow him he returned to the landing. As Silverio Mendoza reached out to her, nearly grasping her on the stairs, a sudden, powerful explosion in the trash compactor chute allowed fire, smoke, and blistering heat to enter the stairwell. Silverio Mendoza and Yasleen became separated in the blast. The force of the explosion buckled and charred walls, damaged apartments elsewhere on the floor, and knocked Silverio Mendoza down the stairs to a lower floor landing, where he lay, seriously injured with burns and a fractured skull. Silverio Mendoza's cousin returned to aid Silverio Mendoza to a lower floor. Though burned, Yasleen continued down the stairwell to a lower floor where a firefighter found her and carried her down the stairwell to safety. Yasleen, suffered burns to more than 80 percent of her body and died in a hospital the following day. Silverio Mendoza was hospitalized for treatment of burns to more than 70 percent of his body and a head injury, but he died three days later. 90578-10229

CHRISTIAN W. SMITH
Brookings, Oregon

Christian W. Smith rescued a 34-year-old man from drowning, Grand Rapids, Michigan, June 1, 2020. The man jumped from a pedestrian bridge into the Grand River. Smith, 27, was also on the bridge and saw the man in the river, which was higher than normal due to a recent storm. Smith ran from the bridge to the bank of the river, where he jumped into the 60-degree water and swam about 325 feet to the man, who was just below the surface of the water when he reached him. Smith held the man against his chest with one arm and used the other arm and his legs to swim, towing the man to the bank which was about 700 feet downstream from where Smith entered the water. Using all his strength Smith, pushed the man up onto the bank and then exited the water. A rescue boat arrived and took the man to safety. The man was treated at a hospital for near drowning. 91139-10254

AUSTIN MICHAEL STAHLY
South Bend, Indiana

Austin Michael Stahly helped to save a boy from drowning, Sodus, Michigan, June 19, 2020. An 8-year-old boy, who entered the St. Joseph River near where his party had anchored a boat at the end of an island, struggled to swim in the swift current, as did a man who left the boat in an attempt to save him. Alerted while camping with his friend near a beach downstream, Stahly, 30, manager, swam out to the boy, who climbed onto his back and held tightly to his neck. As Stahly swam with the boy, who was panicked, toward the beach, he began to have difficulty remaining above the surface as his friend searched for the man, who had submerged and did not resurface. While the boy remained on Stahly's back, the friend swam to them, ultimately tucking a life jacket he had collected from the water between Stahly and the boy to help them float. Stahly and the friend advanced into wadable water and brought the boy to safety at the beach. The man was found two days later; he had drowned. 91234-10272

DRAVEN M. STARR-HOWELL
Palmyra, New York

Draven M. Starr-Howell died attempting to rescue a 14-year-old girl from drowning, Sodus Point, New York, July 2, 2020. The girl and her younger brother were floating on an inflatable tube in Lake Ontario near a pier when a current carried them farther from a beach. Fearing for their safety, the girl and her brother left the tube and entered the water. The brother was able to swim to safety, but the girl struggled

in the waves several hundred feet from shore and called for help. Starr-Howell, 20, home improvement store clerk, who was fishing on the pier, placed his cellphone, wallet and fishing gear on the pier and jumped into the water. Starr-Howell struggled and called for help. Meanwhile, the girl's mother, alerted to her plight, ran from the beach onto the pier and jumped into the water. She grasped her daughter and pushed her closer to the pier. A deputy sheriff arrived and, donning a life vest, entered the water and took the girl, now unresponsive, from her mother. With the help of bystanders using a rope, the deputy and the girl were pulled to a ladder on the side of the pier. Bystanders ultimately helped the girl, her mother, and the deputy onto the pier. The girl was hospitalized overnight and recovered. A sheriff's rescue boat crew, helped by two bystanders, pulled Starr-Howell, who was unresponsive, from the water. He died the next day from complications of drowning. 91205-10240

ERIC ANDREW STATEN
Heber City, Utah

Eric Andrew Staten helped rescue Lori R. Walker from burning, Heber City, Utah, February 15, 2019. Walker, 37, arriving at her family's vacation home with her children, smelled a strong odor of propane gas outside the home and entered to investigate. As Walker entered the log home's basement a powerful explosion occurred, during which she was pinned by a collapsed floor and debris. Staten, 52, an off-duty firefighter and Walker's neighbor, heard the explosion and quickly responded to the home. Learning from Walker's daughter that Walker remained inside, Staten entered the home's main floor and called out to Walker as he searched for her. Not immediately finding her, but hearing her call for help from below him, Staten exited the garage, as the home's upper floors began to burn. Two neighbors, a river guide and a general contractor, had, by then, also responded to the scene. The men waded through deep snow to the rear of the structure where the contractor and the river guide entered a blown out window opening which they immediately entered to access the home's darkened basement. Guided only by their cellphone flashlights, the river guide and contractor searched for Walker. Staten shortly joined them inside after the contractor found Walker beneath debris. By then flames had grown and spread to engulf the floors above them and fiery debris fell into the basement. Working together, Staten and the contractor removed debris from around Walker's foot, allowing the river guide to pull her free. Staten placed Walker over his shoulder and, following the others, carried her back through the basement to the window opening. Walker was removed through the window opening and the men, using the guide's coat as a sling to carry Walker, moved

her through the deep snow to arriving firefighters and paramedics. The home was shortly engulfed by flames. Walker was treated at a hospital for burns to about one third of her body, broken bones, and serious injuries to her right leg and ankle; she continued to recover. 91007-10230

ANDREW J. SULLIVAN
Enfield, Connecticut

Andrew J. Sullivan saved Michael Corey from burning, Windsor Locks, Connecticut, October 2, 2019. Corey, 51, was trapped in a burning, vinyl-and-metal building at an airport after the wing of a crashed vintage military bomber detached and struck a front corner of the building containing an electrical transformer. Fuel caught fire and caused the building, and its vinyl exterior, to burn. After evacuating to a nearby parking lot, Sullivan, 28, operations supervisor and a co-worker in an adjacent building, went to search for Corey. Hearing Corey call for help but unable to enter Corey's building by doors blocked by fire, Sullivan ripped a hole in a vinyl maintenance flap and entered. In thick, black smoke down to his knees, Sullivan called out for Corey and shone his cellphone flashlight. As Sullivan moved farther into the building, Corey moved toward Sullivan, with Sullivan eventually finding Corey about 70 feet inside. Sullivan led Corey to the torn flap where they exited to safety. Corey wasn't injured. Sullivan was treated at a hospital for burns to his fingertips and forehead, and he recovered. 90782-10205

LESTER ROBERT TABER, JR.
Winchester, Massachusetts

Lester Robert Taber, Jr., attempted to rescue Deane K. Stryker from assault, Winchester, Massachusetts, February 24, 2018. Stryker, 22, was seated at a table in the reading room of a municipal library when a 23-year-old male assailant attacked her from behind with a 10-inch hunting knife, repeatedly stabbing her in the head, neck and upper body. Stryker screamed and Taber, 77, retired engineer, who was reading at an adjacent table got up and moved toward the assailant, shouting at him to stop. The assailant paused his attack on Stryker and attempted to stab Taber with an upper-cut motion, but missed. The assailant then swung the knife again at Taber and inflicted a wound to Taber's left upper arm, which began to bleed profusely. As Taber engaged the assailant, Stryker attempted to flee, but the assailant chased her, stabbing her until she collapsed several feet away, mortally wounded and with the knife still in her body. The assailant surrendered as other library patrons surrounded him until police arrived

and arrested him. Stryker was taken by ambulance to a hospital but died of her injuries. Emergency personnel applied a tourniquet to Taber, and he was taken to a hospital where he received treatment for a nearly 6-inch laceration to his left, upper arm. He recovered. [89710-10220](#)

GWENDOLYN THEUS
Delhi, Louisiana

Gwendolyn Theus died attempting to rescue a woman from burning, Delhi, Louisiana, November 23, 2020. The woman, 71, a paraplegic, was in her hospital bed in a bedroom of her one-story house when a fire broke out in the at the opposite side of the home. Theus, 64, caregiver, who was in the home and became aware of the fire, entered the woman's bedroom to alert her. Electing to remain inside the home as conditions worsened, Theus attempted unsuccessfully to push the woman's bed through the room's entrance, then grasped the woman's arms and pulled her off of the bed, and dragged her toward a bedroom window, which she had partially opened. The woman slipped from Theus's grasp and both women fell to the floor. Firefighters responded and removed Theus and the woman, both of whom were unresponsive, from the bedroom through the window. The woman shortly was revived while being taken to a hospital. Efforts to revive Theus at the scene were unsuccessful, and she died of smoke inhalation. [91427-10261](#)

SHAWN H. TURNER
Boca Raton, Florida

Shawn H. Turner helped to save Molly L. Pedrone from drowning, Boca Raton, Florida, February 23, 2020. Pedrone, 34, was driving when she suffered a medical emergency and lost control of her vehicle. Her vehicle traveled off the road and entered an adjacent canal containing deep, murky water. Turner, 33, plumber, was driving nearby and stopped at the scene. Turner removed his pants and shoes, entered the canal, and swam about 15 feet to the passenger side of Pedrone's vehicle where he saw her unconscious inside. Unable to open the door, Turner lowered the window and fully entered the vehicle's passenger compartment through the front, passenger's window and released Pedrone's seat belt. Turner then pushed her out through the driver's window to another man at the side of the vehicle as the car continued to sink deeper into the canal. Turner exited under water through the front, passenger's window as the front half of the vehicle submerged. Turner and the other man untangled Pedrone from the strap of her seat belt and swam her to safety on the bank. Pedrone was hospitalized overnight and treated for minor injuries; she recovered. [91031-10213](#)

JONATHAN WIESE
San Diego, California

Jonathan Wiese saved a man and two girls from drowning, San Diego, California, June 13, 2020. Before sunrise, a 47-year-old man, who had been the driver of a truck that left a road and entered the Pacific Ocean at the base of a cliff, held his 2-year-old twin daughters in the water beside the heavily damaged, overturned vehicle. One of the girls was motionless. Having responded to the scene while on duty, Wiese, 43, police officer, removed his uniform top, ballistic vest, and duty belt and wrapped one end of a 100-foot-long dog leash twice around his chest. Moving to a point on the cliff about 30 feet above the ocean, Wiese gave the other end of the leash to officers, who used it to lower Wiese to rocks that had collapsed from the cliff. Wiese removed the leash, entered the ocean, and swam to the man, who was much larger than him. Wiese then grasped the man, as he held the girls, and pushed them back to the rocks and pulled them out of the water. Wiese carried the unresponsive girl to the point where he descended the cliff and secured her to a backpack that officers lowered with the leash; officers hoisted her to safety. With help from a firefighter who had swum to the scene, officers similarly hoisted the second girl. A helicopter lifted the man to the top of the cliff. Both girls were hospitalized with serious injuries. The man was treated at a hospital then taken into police custody for charges related to the incident. Using a surfboard, Wiese paddled to a point where he could exit the ocean. 91167-10217

RANDY WILKINSON, JR.
Lake Jackson, Texas

Randy Wilkinson, Jr., saved a boy from drowning, Freeport, Texas, October 7, 2019. After entering the Old Brazos River, an 11-year-old boy with a severely injured leg called for help as he clung to a fender at a bridge pier more than 200 feet from the nearest river bank. Outside a friend's house along the river, Wilkinson, 31, electrician, heard the boy screaming but was not immediately aware of the boy's location in the water. Wilkinson drove across the bridge to the opposite river bank, parked, and went to a dock, where he heard the boy's cries from the middle of the river. Wilkinson removed his shoes, jumped into the river,

and swam about 300 feet to the boy, whom he directed to climb onto his back. Towing the boy, Wilkinson then swam back to the dock with his friend, who had swum to the scene from his house. At the dock, a police officer helped to lift the boy to safety, and Wilkinson and the friend exited the river. The boy was hospitalized for treatment of his injuries. 90842-10259

MELINDA J. WILMS
Salem, Oregon

Melinda J. Wilms rescued a boy from drowning, Cortland, Ohio, July 29, 2019. The boy, 12, was in wadable water of Mosquito Creek Lake when he chased a ball into deeper water where he began to struggle to remain afloat. A stay-at-home mom entered the lake and reached the boy but during the encounter between them, the boy submerged her. The boy then drifted away from the stay-at-home mom, who was facedown in the water and unresponsive, and he continued to struggle in the water. Wilms, 49, special education teacher, entered the water and swam to them, as did an off-duty police officer. The police officer grasped the stay-at-home mom and swam, towing her, to a point near shore, from which the stay-at-home mom was removed from the water. Wilms, who had a pool noodle, extended it to the boy, who grasped it. Grasping the noodle, Wilms towed the boy to the shore and assisted him to the beach. The boy vomited water, and was taken by ambulance to the hospital to be monitored. He was treated and released, and he recovered. Efforts to revive the stay-at-home mom were unsuccessful. 91492-10235

HEROIC ACTS RECOGNIZED DURING 2022

The following 67 individuals were cited by the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission in 2022 for having performed outstanding acts of heroism. In each case, a Carnegie Medal and a financial grant were awarded.

CHRISTOPHER BRYANT ABOYTE

Arleta, California

Christopher Bryant Aboyte helped save Mark Jenkins from being struck by a train, Pacoima, California, January 9, 2022. Jenkins, 71, was inside a single-engine, fixed wing airplane that crash-landed at a railroad crossing. Aboyte, 28, one of several police officers who responded to the scene, went to the cockpit to monitor Jenkins's condition and keep watch over a fuel leak from one of the plane's wings. Shortly, a crossing gate descended and a five-car, 600-ton commuter train traveling at least 72 m.p.h. was approaching the crossing from a point about 3,500 feet away. Two of several other officers on-scene joined Aboyte at the plane and when one of them couldn't open what remained of the mangled cockpit door, all three reached into the plane and hoisted Jenkins over the dashboard and through the broken-out windshield area. Aboyte and the other two had dragged Jenkins about 15 feet from the plane by the time the train struck it four seconds later. Jenkins was not injured in the rescue and recovered from crash-related injuries. Aboyte and the other officers were not injured. **92166-10312**

CHAD AMMERMAN

Little Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey

Chad Ammerman helped save John L. McKenna from drowning, West Creek, New Jersey, June 21, 2021. Unable to re-enter a righted sailboat after it capsized, McKenna, 82, swam and floated to a point in Little Egg Harbor within distant sight of bystanders atop a bulkhead along a bank. Fatigued, McKenna called for help. Ultimately alerted, Ammerman, 41, corrections officer, was near the bulkhead's parking lot and called 911 upon seeing McKenna. Concluding that a rescue boat might arrive too late, Ammerman collected an emptied, 29-pound plastic cooler, jumped into the bay with it, and swam through choppy waves toward McKenna, following hand signals from those on the bulkhead to direct him. Responding to McKenna, Ammerman instructed him to grasp the handle on one end of the cooler. Ammerman then backstroked with one arm, occasionally alternating, as he held the handle on the other end, towing McKenna toward the bulkhead. A boat, piloted by a firefighter, responded, and they entered the boat and exited at the bulkhead. First-responders tended to McKenna, who recovered without medical treatment. Ammerman was not injured. [92052-10336](#)

KENNETH S. ANDREEN

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Kenneth S. Andreen rescued Carsten B. Molt from burning, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, February 24, 2022. Molt, 45, was on couch in a first-floor living room of a two-story house after fire broke out on the home's second floor. Andreen, 48, delivery driver, was in the neighborhood and saw smoke and flames coming from windows of the second floor. After learning that someone remained inside the home, Andreen opened the front door and entered the smoke-filled house. He shouted and heard a voice, then walked into the living room, where he saw Molt on the couch. Andreen told Molt that the house was on fire and that they needed to get out. He picked up Molt and put him over his shoulder, then exited through the front door as conditions inside the home deteriorated. Molt sustained smoke inhalation, was treated at a hospital, and he recovered. Molt was not burned. Andreen inhaled smoke; he recovered later that day. [92249-10317](#)

CHRISTOPHER B. ARIAS

Walnut Grove, California

Christopher B. Arias rescued a man from drowning, Walnut Grove, California, March 11, 2021. The man, 67, remained inside his vehicle after it left a roadway and entered the Sacramento River, coming to rest at a point about 75 feet from the nearer bank. Arias, 35, low voltage technician, was driving nearby and witnessed the accident. Arias ran down the bank and, without stopping to remove his clothing or boots, entered the 55-degree water and swam out to the vehicle, which had fully submerged, the driver sitting on the vehicle's roof. Arias grasped the man by an arm and told him to float on his back. With a hold on the man under his back, Arias swam toward the bank as a swift current carried them downstream. The man turned onto his stomach, and Arias grasped the man's shirt. Arias used his other arm and legs to swim toward shore, while the man also moved his arms in the water. Ultimately, they reached a point about 15 feet from the bank, 200 feet downstream from where Arias had reached the man, and Arias aided him onto the rocks. The man was taken by ambulance to the hospital. Arias was fatigued and cut his arm, but did not require medical treatment. He recovered. 91557-10329

FRANK P. AXIOTES

Elkhorn, Nebraska

Frank P. Axiotes helped save Madison R. Daly from burning, Lincoln, Nebraska, September 25, 2020. Daly, 21, was inside a sport utility vehicle that was pinned between a tractor trailer, a concrete barrier and a third vehicle after a multi-vehicle highway accident. Fuel tanks on both the tractor trailer and Daly's vehicles ruptured, and flames broke out immediately after the crash. Daly's legs were pinned beneath the dashboard and steering wheel, and she was unable to free herself. Axiotes, who was driving nearby, stopped at the scene. He ran across the highway to the barrier, reached over it, extended his arms through the window, and grasped Daly. Unable to remove Daly through the open window, Axiotes jumped atop the vehicle's hood and kicked and punched the windshield, creating a small hole, but he failed to gain access to Daly. Another man arrived and Axiotes returned to the driver's window. Axiotes and the man reached through Daly's window, grasped her, and pulled her from the vehicle. As the three walked away from the vehicles and crossed the highway to the south shoulder and safety, tires popped and flames

grew. Shortly, Daly's vehicle was engulfed by flames, as was the passenger compartment of the tractor trailer. Daly sustained broken ribs, a concussion, and contusions to her legs. She was not burned. Axiotes sustained lacerations to his hand and was treated at the scene. He recovered. [91989-10318](#)

BRANDON BAIR

St. Anthony, Idaho

Brandon Bair rescued Steven W. Jenson from burning, St. Anthony, Idaho, May 6, 2021. Jenson, 25, remained pinned and severely injured in the driver's seat of a semi-truck that, in a daytime accident with a train, overturned onto its driver's side and was propelled about a quarter-mile along the railroad tracks before coming to a stop. As fire burned at the truck's front end by the front of the train and dark smoke issued, Jenson was unable to free himself. Among those who stopped at the scene, Bair, 36, businessman, went to the truck and heard Jenson calling out. Entering to his waist through the truck's broken-out rear windshield, Bair removed Jenson's seat belt, pushed the steering wheel away from Jenson, and grasped him under the arms. As Jenson used his feet to push off, Bair withdrew from the truck, pulling Jenson with him until he was outside the truck. Bair aided Jenson off the tracks then, with help from another man, moved Jenson farther away as the fire grew to consume the truck. Jenson, who suffered burns to his legs and other injuries, was flown to a hospital and underwent treatment for about three weeks. Bair was not injured. [91649-10307](#)

PAUL W. BANDY

Folsom, California

Paul W. Bandy helped rescue Stephen F. Bruemmer from a shark attack, Pacific Grove, California, June 22, 2022. Bruemmer, 62, was swimming in the Pacific Ocean at a point about 450 feet from shore when a great white shark, later determined to be at least 14.5 feet long, attacked him. During the attack, Bruemmer's upper left arm was severely lacerated, and he sustained wounds to his lower abdomen and both legs, just above the knees. After being pulled under water for about 15 seconds, the attack ceased, and Bruemmer, bleeding profusely, rose to the surface and, floating on his back, called for help. Bandy, 42, off-duty police officer, and his wife were in the ocean on paddleboards about 900 feet away when they heard his calls for help. Responding, they saw Bruemmer afloat surrounded by bloody water

as they approached his position. Meanwhile, a business owner on the beach had been alerted to Bruemmer's plight and used two stacked surfboards to paddle to Bruemmer. Bandy, his wife, and the business owner pushed, pulled, and rolled Bruemmer onto one of the surfboards, and the business owner towed Bruemmer toward shore by paddling on a board while Bruemmer grasped his right ankle. Meanwhile, Bandy's wife entered the water and grasped the back of the towed board to keep Bruemmer's injured legs from sliding off the board. The wife also kicked her legs to help propel the board. Bandy followed on his paddleboard while pushing his wife's board toward shore and called 911 on his cellphone. When Bruemmer's board reached the beach, Bandy, his wife, and the business owner helped bystanders -- which included a doctor, an intensive care nurse, and a nurse anesthetist, who put tourniquets on Bruemmer's limbs -- carry Bruemmer toward arriving paramedics. Bruemmer, who suffered significant blood loss, underwent emergency surgery to repair his wounds. He continued his recovery several months later. Bandy wasn't injured. 92565-10330

STEVEN BARNETT
Worcester, Massachusetts

Steven Barnett attempted to help rescue Enmanuel Familia, Worcester, Massachusetts, June 4, 2021. Familia, 38, was searching for a 14-year old teenager in the cold, murky water of a pond about 60 feet from its bank when he submerged and did not resurface. Barnett, 56, police officer, who was standing near the bank and saw Familia submerge, alerted an officer and a state trooper already in the water that Familia remained below the water's surface. The officer and state trooper broke off their unsuccessful search for the teenager and swam to a point where Familia had submerged. Barnett removed his duty belt and radio, entered the 52-degree water from the bank, and swam to where he had last seen Familia. Barnett, in attempts to locate Familia, dived repeatedly with the other officer and state trooper, but they could not locate him. A fire department arrived and officials ordered all officers out of the water. Barnett remained in the water to mark Familia's position for divers, then exited to safety. Barnett was nearly exhausted, and he was taken by ambulance to the hospital to be checked for injuries. He was released, and he recovered. Familia was recovered later that day from the pond but efforts to revive him were unsuccessful. He had drowned. 92555-10324

DARBY BICKING
Coatesville, Pennsylvania

Darby Bicking rescued Anna L. Holms from an attacking dog, Coatesville, Pennsylvania, August 18, 2020. Anna, 8, was attending a youth camp at a horse-riding center. In a grassy area encircled by chairs she was bitten in the left arm by a male, 1-year-old English Mastiff dog, and she screamed for help. Darby, 15, high school student, who was inside a nearby barn, heard Anna's screams. Responding to the scene and seeing the dog biting Anna about her arm, Darby stepped in front of the dog to separate it from Anna. The dog then directed its attention to Darby, releasing its hold on Anna. The dog aggressively bit Darby about her left arm, and Darby attempted to use her right arm to push the dog away but was unsuccessful. Darby then turned to grasp a chair, and the dog then bit and shook her left leg and dragged her to the ground. Darby screamed for help. The center's director responded and grasped the dog by its collar, and moved it to a stall inside the barn. Anna was taken to the hospital, where she received stitches. She recovered. Also taken to the hospital, Darby received stitches for severe bite wounds. [92005-10340](#)

HEATH BRADDOCK
Salinas, California

Heath Braddock helped rescue Stephen F. Bruemmer from a shark attack, Pacific Grove, California, June 22, 2022. Bruemmer, 62, was swimming in the Pacific Ocean at a point about 450 feet from shore when a great white shark, later determined to be at least 14.5 feet long, attacked him. During the attack, Bruemmer's upper left arm was severely lacerated, and he sustained wounds to his lower abdomen and both legs, just above his knees. After being pulled under water for about 15 seconds, the attack ceased, and Bruemmer, bleeding profusely, rose to the surface and, floating on his back, called for help. An off-duty police officer and his wife, a registered nurse, were in the ocean on paddleboards about 900 away from Bruemmer when they heard his calls for help. Responding, they saw Bruemmer afloat and surrounded by bloody water as they approached his position. Braddock, 43, business owner, who was on the beach, had been alerted to Bruemmer's plight and used two stacked surfboards to paddle to Bruemmer. The rescuers pushed, pulled, and rolled Bruemmer onto one of the surfboards, and Braddock towed Bruemmer to shore by paddling on a board while Bruemmer grasped his right ankle. Meanwhile, the nurse entered the water and grasped the back of the board

to keep Bruemmer's injured legs from sliding off the board. The nurse also kicked her legs to help propel the board toward the beach. The police officer followed on his paddleboard while pushing his wife's board toward shore and called 911 on his cellphone. When Bruemmer's board reached the beach, the police officer, the nurse, and Braddock helped bystanders -- which included a doctor, an intensive care nurse and a nurse anesthetist, who put tourniquets on Bruemmer's limbs -- carry Bruemmer toward arriving paramedics. Bruemmer, who suffered significant blood loss, underwent emergency surgery to repair his wounds. Bruemmer continued his recovery several months later. Braddock wasn't injured. [92567-10332](#)

ARTHUR R. CABALLERO, SR.
Fresno, California

Arthur R. Caballero, Sr., died helping to save a girl from drowning, Sanger, California, June 9, 2020. A 7-year-old girl struggled in the Kings River after moving from a shallow area into deeper water, where the current was swift, and the adults in her party, including her mother, were unable to reach her. Fishing from the near bank, Caballero, 62, painter, entered the cold river fully clothed, advanced to the girl, and thrust her back toward the bank. As others helped the girl safely exit the water, the current pulled Caballero downstream. Responding authorities located Caballero, unresponsive, almost an hour later and removed him from the river. He was taken to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead. He had drowned. [91152-10280](#)

ANTHONY STEPHEN CAPUANO
Jersey City, New Jersey

Anthony Stephen Capuano helped save Joseph M. Kadian from drowning, Jersey City, New Jersey, November 10, 2020. Kadian, 68, was parking his vehicle in a lot in a county park when the vehicle plunged into Newark Bay and began to submerge in the 50-degree water. Capuano, 29, aquatic program administrator, was nearby and saw the vehicle in the bay. Capuano removed his prosthetic lower right leg, climbed over a fence, and moved toward the water on large rocks that lined the bay. He then entered the water and swam to the vehicle's driver's door. Kadian removed his seat belt and lowered the driver's door window. The water inside the vehicle was up to Kadian's waist. Capuano grasped Kadian, who could not swim, under the arms and pulled him out of the vehicle as water entered through the window opening and the front

end of the vehicle submerged. Capuano placed Kadian on his back and held his arm under him, then started to swim toward shore. Another man entered the water and swam to them and assisted Capuano in getting Kadian to shore, where others on the rocks helped all three men from the water. Kadian was cold after the rescue; he recovered. Capuano was nearly exhausted, dizzy, and cold after the rescue; he recovered. [91405-10300](#)

DAMIEN CASTRO
Tustin, California

Damien Castro helped save Mark Jenkins from being struck by a train, Pacoima, California, January 9, 2022. Jenkins, 71, was inside a single-engine, fixed-wing airplane that crash-landed at a railroad crossing. Castro, 28, one of several police officers who responded to the scene, was directing traffic nearby, when a crossing gate descended and a five-car, 600-ton commuter train traveling at least 72 m.p.h. was approaching the crossing from a point about 3,500 feet away. Castro and another officer joined an officer at the cockpit, and Castro tried in vain to pull open what remained of the mangled cockpit door. When that failed, all three reached into the plane and hoisted Jenkins over the dashboard and through a broken-out windshield area. Castro and the other two officers had dragged Jenkins about 15 feet from the plane by the time the train struck it four seconds later. Jenkins was not injured in the rescue and recovered from crash-related injuries. Castro and the other officers were not injured. [92169-10313](#)

MAGDALINI CHORMOVA
Charlotte, North Carolina

Magdalini Chormova rescued Thomas Chormovas from assault, Charlotte, North Carolina, March 5, 2020. Chormovas, 51, was in his restaurant when a man entered, pointed a pistol at him, and demanded money. Magdalini, 48, non-profit executive and Chormovas's sister, was nearby and to the rear of the assailant. She ran up behind the assailant and grasped him by the shoulders. Chormovas moved to the assailant and the three struggled, during which time the assailant fired the pistol several times, four bullets striking Magdalini. The assailant was taken to the floor and held down by Magdalini and Chormovas and forced to release the pistol, which was removed from the immediate area. Police arrived and apprehended the assailant. Chormovas sustained broken ribs; he recovered. Magdalini was hospitalized several weeks for extensive surgery related to the gunshot wounds and other serious injuries. [91297-10284](#)

ROGER COMBS
Oneida, New York

Roger Combs helped rescue Jack H. Pylman from burning, Westmoreland, New York, June 21, 2021. Pylman, 72, was the driver of a pickup truck that left a highway, struck a utility pole, overturned onto its roof, and came to rest a short distance from the pole, the top portion of which fell onto the truck's undercarriage. A fire broke out, engulfing the truck's undercarriage, and a downed electrical wire along the grass shoulder sparked and smoldered. Driving toward the scene when he saw the flames, Combs, 74, retired information technology specialist, stopped at the scene, approached the truck, and found Pylman, whose upper body was severely burned, screaming for help at the driver's window, where his lower body was pinned inside the truck. The fire was intense. At his side, another man had difficulty removing Pylman on his own and called for help. Combs stepped over the wire and went to the truck despite popping sounds. With each grasping Pylman's arms and hands, Combs and the man pulled Pylman free and dragged him about 15 feet. Arriving medics tended to Pylman, who was taken to a hospital. He died one week later. 91967-10299

ANGELA C. CONSIGLIO
Worcester, Massachusetts

Angela C. Consiglio attempted to help rescue Troy A. Love and Enmanuel Familia from drowning, Worcester, Massachusetts, June 4, 2021. Troy, 14, who had been swimming, submerged in the murky, 52-degree waters of a pond. Familia, 38, entered the pond and swam about 60 feet from the bank to locate Troy. Consiglio, 51, police officer, responded to the scene and approached the bank along with a female state trooper. Consiglio removed her boots, socks, pants, and duty belt, entered the water, and swam to a point where she believed Troy had submerged and made several shallow dives. A male officer on the bank alerted Consiglio and the state trooper that Familia had submerged and did not resurface. Consiglio and the state trooper swam about 45 feet and dived several times to search for Familia, unsuccessfully. Fire officials responded and ordered all of the officers out of the pond. Consiglio exited the water to safety. She was nearly exhausted and was taken by ambulance to be checked for injuries. She was released, and recovered. Troy and Familia were recovered by divers later that day, but they could not be revived. 92024-10323

DANIEL L. COOK
Alexandria, Louisiana

Daniel L. Cook helped rescue Justin A. Richmond from burning, Derry, Louisiana, June 9, 2020. Richmond, 28, remained pinned in his burning boom truck following an accident on an interstate highway. The truck came to rest partially on its passenger side and caught fire. Cook, 48, field operations manager, was driving nearby and stopped at the scene, running to the boom truck's broken-out driver's window. Another motorist also responded and both men each extended one arm inside, pulling on Richmond's belt and pants. The other motorist retreated for air, and Cook continued to pull on Richmond, but his lower body was trapped in the wreckage. Cook and the other motorist then grasped Richmond under his arms and pulled as flames started to burn Richmond. Richmond's legs came free of the wreckage, and Cook aided him down to the ground. Cook and the motorist dragged Richmond farther from the vehicle, and others responded and aided Richmond to Cook's vehicle. Richmond was severely burned and was airlifted to a burn trauma center for treatment, which included skin-grafting surgery. Cook was not injured. [91149-10286](#)

ALLEN NOBLE CORSON, JR.
Taftville, Connecticut

Allen Noble Corson, Jr., attempted to rescue Amanda Dabrowski from assault, Worcester, Massachusetts, July 3, 2019. Dabrowski, 31, was in a pub-restaurant when an assailant, armed with two large knives, attacked her in a hallway. Dabrowski screamed for help as the assailant, wielding a knife in each hand, stabbed her in the front of the torso from behind. Corson, 26, slot machine attendant, was dining with his parents and fiancée when he heard Dabrowski's screams. Corson immediately engaged the assailant and wrestled with him, ultimately pinning him face-down on the floor. As they struggled, the assailant stabbed Corson in his left side. Dabrowski, meanwhile, had slipped from the assailant's grasp into a seated position against the wall, bleeding profusely. At least two other patrons joined Corson in subduing the assailant, one of them men prying a knife from his hand. Police then arrested the assailant, who was charged with Dabrowski's murder and other charges. Dabrowski died of her wounds a short time later. Corson's wound was stitched closed, and he recovered. [90635-10315](#)

ALEC DAVIAU
Kirkland Lake, Ontario

Alec Daviau rescued Emilia I. Fontana from drowning, Kirkland Lake, Ontario, May 2, 2021. Emilia, 7, fell from a large rock into the Blanche River and was carried downstream in the swift current that contained branches, leaves, and other debris. Daviau, 39, university student, was nearby and ran downstream as he watched Emilia bobbing up and down in the water. Daviau jumped into the 42-degree, murky water, the water's temperature taking his breath away and forcing him to exit the river. The current continued to carry Emilia downstream; eventually she submerged and did not re-surface. Daviau, who ran downstream and lost sight of her, climbed a hill above the river to better see below the water's surface. After spotting an object below the water's surface that he believed might be Emilia, Daviau slid down to the bank, again entered the water, and waded and swam a short distance into the river. Searching with his hands beneath the surface of the water, he felt Emilia's hair. Daviau grasped Emilia, then swam and waded out of the water with her. Emilia was not breathing and did not have a pulse. Daviau and others who arrived resuscitated Emilia, who was hospitalized overnight for hypothermia; she recovered. Daviau was cold after the rescue and had difficulty breathing and walking. He also sustained lacerations and contusions to his legs; he recovered. [91825-10308](#)

JOSEPH DIENER
Columbia, Missouri

Joseph Diener helped save a woman from drowning, Columbia, Missouri, June 25, 2021. On a basketball court in a city park submerged by rapid-flowing floodwater, an 18-year-old woman, nearly exhausted, was struggling to hold onto a metal basketball-hoop post, where the water was at least 7 feet deep. Riding his bicycle nearby, Joseph, 15, high school student, became aware of the woman's plight, removed his shoes, and entered the cool water from a sloped, grass embankment, wading a short distance and then, with a friend, swimming about 50 feet to the woman, who released her hold on the post and grasped one of Joseph's shoulders and one of the friend's. Joseph and the friend then swam, towing the woman across the submerged basketball court to the embankment, where they helped her from the water. First-responders soon arrived and tended to the woman, who had swallowed water. An ambulance took her to a hospital; she recovered shortly. Joseph was not injured. [92545-10333](#)

PATRICK J. DRISCOLL
Centerville, Ohio

Patrick J. Driscoll saved Joyce A. Seymour and Timothy J. Seymour from burning, New Carlisle, Ohio, October, 13, 2020. Seymour, 72, and her husband, Timothy, 73, remained inside the cockpit of a two-seat airplane that had overturned during its landing on a grass runway at a small airport and came to rest with a fire having broken out in the engine. Seeing the crash, Driscoll, 56, pilot, rushed to the cockpit's passenger side, crouched atop the plane's wing, which contained a fuel tank, reached inside 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, reached inside, 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. Seymour, who had suffered a minor head injury, and Timothy were taken to a hospital but neither was admitted. Driscoll recovered from minor singeing to the side of his head. [91465-10276](#)

ENMANUEL FAMILIA
Worcester, Massachusetts

Enmanuel Familia died attempting to rescue Troy A. Love from drowning, Worcester, Massachusetts, June 4, 2021. While swimming in a pond, Troy, 14, submerged and did not resurface. On duty, Familia, 38, police officer, responded to the scene and, upon arrival, removed his duty belt, entered the water, and swam about 60 feet from the pond's bank to locate Troy. Familia submerged beneath the water's surface several times, ultimately failing to resurface. Other officers at the scene swam to where Familia was last seen and attempted to locate him but were unsuccessful. Fire department divers responded to the scene and located Familia about 58 feet from the bank in water that was 13 feet deep later that day. Firefighters removed him from the water and began resuscitation efforts. Familia was taken to a hospital where he was pronounced dead. He had drowned. Troy was also located and recovered later the same day. He was taken to a hospital but efforts to revive him were also unsuccessful. He too had drowned. [91712-10321](#)

SUZANNE FORTIN

Wotton, Quebec

Suzanne Fortin rescued David M. Munce from burning, Duncan, British Columbia, March 6, 2021. Munce, 75, remained inside his mobile home in a recreational-vehicle park after a daytime explosion in his home in which he was burned on his head and hands. In her nearby home, Fortin, 70, retired cleaner, heard the explosion, and stepped outside to see smoke issuing from the roof of Munce's home. Concluding that Munce was inside, Fortin went to the scene, opened the porch gate, crossed the porch, and opened the mobile home's door. As flames burned behind the stove and along the rear wall, Fortin entered and moved to Munce, who was inert and standing by the stove, seemingly dazed. Fortin put Munce's arm around her neck, grasped him around the waist, and escorted him outside the mobile home and across the porch to safety. She then led him to her home and tended to his injuries. The fire shortly spread, engulfing the mobile home. Munce was hospitalized for more than one month and needed grafting surgery on his hands and physical therapy. 91554-10319

ROBERT Z. FORTNER

Waverly, Tennessee

Robert Z. Fortner rescued two boys from burning, Clarksville, Tennessee, May 2, 2022. The two boys, brothers who were 7 and 8, remained in a rear bedroom of a one-story house after a fire broke out in the kitchen. Fortner, 29, K-9 handler for the sheriff's department, went to the scene, where he saw smoke at the house's exterior. He kicked in the front door and, unable to enter due to flames and heavy smoke, went to the backyard, where he was directed to the bedroom window. Fortner used a ladder to reach the window, smashed it open, and pulled out the glass. Fortner then went headfirst through the window and landed on the bedroom floor in a partially enclosed play structure beneath a lofted bedframe that had an opening at the opposite end. Fortner crawled through the structure, where heat was intense and visibility was precluded by dense smoke, and then out the opening to the 7-year-old boy, who was crying. Fortner grasped him and put him under his arm, then crawled back through the structure to the window, where he handed the 7-year-old boy outside to a sheriff's deputy. Fortner turned around and crawled back through and out of the structure into the room, where he found the 8-year-old boy. Fortner grasped the boy, who lost consciousness, and dragged him by his arm back through the structure to the window. Fortner handed him outside to the deputy

and exited. Both boys were both taken to a hospital, where they were treated for inhaling smoke. They recovered. Fortner sustained smoke inhalation and carbon monoxide poisoning and was hospitalized until the next day. He recovered. [92393-10338](#)

LISA MARIA FOX
Chemainus, British Columbia

Lisa Maria Fox saved Kellee M. Brown from drowning, Mill Bay, British Columbia, January 26, 2022. Brown, 39, was driving a truck that left a road and plunged into Saanich Inlet, where it overturned, and began to submerge about 100 feet from shore. Brown, injured, exited the truck and struggled to swim in the frigid water. Fox, 51, was inside a nearby house when she heard the crash and went outside. She descended a stairway to the water and was able to see a small portion of the mostly submerged truck a few hundred feet from her location. She also saw Brown reach the surface of the water near the truck. Fox walked in shallow water along the shore in the direction of Brown until she reached a narrow beach directly across from Brown, who was in water over her head. Fox, fully clothed and wearing boots, entered the water, which was chest-high after she had gone a few feet. When Fox was a short distance from Brown, she swam to her and grasped her by the back of her shirt. Fox moved Brown onto her back, grasped her shirt again, then swam and towed Brown to wadable water, where she helped Brown stand. Fox walked with Brown the rest of the way to shore, where she placed towels on Brown to warm her. Brown, nearly exhausted, was taken to a hospital and treated for lacerations, contusions, and an injury to her jaw. Fox was cold after the rescue; she recovered. [92207-10335](#)

MARK ANTHONY GONZALES
San Antonio, Texas

Mark Anthony Gonzales rescued a police officer from assault, San Antonio, Texas, August 22, 2021. On a street in a residential neighborhood, a 27-year-old police officer chased a 44-year-old man wanted on a felony warrant, who tripped and fell. The officer struggled on the street with the man, who shouted obscenities and attempted to strike the officer. Mark Anthony Gonzales, 35, gym employee, was driving nearby and stopped at the scene. He exited his vehicle and approached the officer and the assailant as they continued to fight. The assailant was moved onto his stomach and Gonzales pinned his legs to

the pavement. The officer attempted to subdue the assailant, who grabbed the officer's gun and attempted to pull it from its holster. The officer placed his hand over the assailant's hand, and Gonzales pried the assailant's fingers from the gun. The officer secured his gun and handcuffed the assailant, who continued to struggle, with Gonzales's assistance. The assailant was ultimately placed in handcuffs and restrained. 91950-10339

LAYNE PAUL GRAVOIS
Gray, Louisiana

Layne Paul Gravois died attempting to save two children from drowning, Miramar Beach, Florida, April 8, 2021. Alerted on the beach that children were in distress in the turbulent Gulf of Mexico surf, Gravois, 21, college student, and several friends, entered the water, swimming toward multiple people in the water. A human chain was formed from shore in an attempt to reach those in distress. Buffeted by heavy waves, Gravois and two friends were removed from the water by others. Further information about the children was not confirmed. Gravois, who was unresponsive, was among 11 people who needed medical attention from first-responders on the beach. Gravois was taken to a hospital, where he died the following day; he had drowned. 91609-10288

JASON HADFIELD
Kingsley, Michigan

Jason Hadfield helped save a girl from drowning, Honor, Michigan, July 25, 2020. The girl, 5, was on a float in Lake Michigan when strong winds blew it away from shore. At a point several hundred feet from shore, the float flipped, tossing the girl into the water. Hadfield, 42, creative director, was at the beach and saw the girl in the water. He obtained a child's plastic kayak and entered the water, in which there was a strong rip current and 4-foot waves, and swam toward the girl. The waves submerged Hadfield a few times and also overturned the kayak as he made his way toward the girl. Another man had swum out to the girl with a child's life ring, and he had placed the girl partially on the life ring. Hadfield swam to the other man and girl and the men put the girl on the kayak, held to either side, and swam her to shore. The girl was not injured. Hadfield was tired after the rescue; he recovered. 91255-10278

CODY HARTMAN

Advance, Indiana

Cody Hartman rescued Jeffrey M. Rachford from burning, Whitestown, Indiana, December 5, 2020. Rachford, 63, was on the second floor of his two-story house when fire broke out in a second-floor bedroom at night. Rachford, badly burned, went down a stairway to the first floor of the house. Hartman, 29, oil company line leader, was driving in the area and stopped at the scene where he saw flames issuing from a window of a second-floor bedroom and black smoke issuing from the roof. Hartman ran to the front porch, looked through a window in the front door, and saw Rachford's silhouette inside the house. Hartman pounded on the locked door and then forced it open with his shoulder. He then stepped inside the house, where there was black smoke, intense heat, and the glow of flames visible near the top of the stairway. Rachford, who was conscious, was now lying on the floor. Hartman pulled his shirt over his mouth and nose and went about 15 feet into the house to Rachford. Hartman grasped Rachford and pulled him to his feet, then walked him through the front door and outside to safety. Hartman opened the garage door and entered it, then kicked in a door that opened into the kitchen. He shouted to see if anyone else was inside the house, and when no one replied, he exited the garage. Rachford sustained serious burns and damage to his airway. Hartman inhaled smoke and sustained a contusion to his shoulder; he recovered. [91446-10326](#)

ZACHARY JOHNSON HAUGEN

Phoenix, Arizona

Zachary Johnson Haugen helped rescue Thanya Huerta and a girl from drowning, San Diego, California, July 3, 2020. Huerta, 18, and the girl, 11, were swept by 5-foot waves during a rising tide from a low-lying rocky point into a cove of the Pacific Ocean. Haugen, 16, student, saw the pair in distress and jumped from the cliff into the cove. He swam to Huerta and the girl and, grasping the girl with one arm as she clung to his waist, Haugen swam with the other arm along the cove's rocky northern edge toward a low-lying point where he could help Huerta and the girl from the water. While stopping to rest and readjust his grasp on the girl, a large wave separated Haugen from the girl and knocked him onto a rocky barrier near the back of the cove where he became stranded. Haugen called to his friend, who was standing on the cliffs above, and told him to help Huerta and the girl. The friend jumped into the cove and swam across it, reaching Huerta and the girl. Placing the girl on his

back with her grasping his neck, the friend swam along the rocky coast, both coaxing and intermittently supporting Huerta who later reported she was in and out of consciousness from swallowing water. Reaching a low-lying ledge, the friend pushed the girl onto the ledge. The friend then exited and, standing on the ledge, attempted to pull Huerta from the water. Unable to do that, he repositioned himself and grasped Huerta's arms, holding her above the surface of the until life guards arrived. Huerta and the girl were treated and released at a hospital for the effects of swallowing water and recovered; and Huerta suffered a head injury and shortly recovered. Haugen was assisted from the rocky barrier by his friend and life guards assisted them to safety. Haugen was tired and suffered scratches, but recovered. **92007-10290**

ANTHONY HOGAN
Haslet, Texas

Anthony Hogan saved Michael A. Loya, Jr., from burning, Fort Worth, Texas, August 12, 2020. Loya, 40, was semi-conscious, badly injured and pinned in a burning work truck, the bed of which contained flammable items, including welding tanks, after a highway accident. Hogan, 48, off-duty assistant police chief, witnessed the accident and responded, running to the truck, where flames extended from its underside. The driver's door was crushed, its window broken out, so Hogan extended his upper body inside and released Loya's seatbelt. He grasped Loya underneath one arm and pulled his upper body out through the window opening, but he had difficulty getting Loya fully out, as his legs were pinned in the wreckage. Hogan placed one of his feet on the driver's door and pulled on Loya until he freed him. He removed Loya from the truck and carried him away to safety as the flames quickly spread and engulfed the truck. Loya sustained a broken leg, fractures to his spine and neck, and other serious injuries. He was not burned. **91335-10285**

RAPHAEL JAFRI
New York, New York

Raphael Jafri helped save a man from drowning, New York, New York, October 4, 2021. As a middle-aged man floated motionless in the East River between two piers at a popular waterfront overlook, a bystander on the pier nearest the man called for help. Alerted on the opposite pier was Jafri, 24, machine learning support engineer, who was exercising with his friend. Jafri removed his shoes, climbed over a railing, dived into the cold river, and swam

toward the man's location, following his friend, who submerged and resurfaced with the man. Reaching them, Jafri positioned the man, who appeared to be unconscious, face up on his chest and grasped him with one arm while the friend held the man's legs. Jafri, using his free arm, and the friend then swam the man at least 100 feet back to the wooden, barnacle-covered fender of the far pier, where they had entered the water. While Jafri held the man to the fender about 8 feet below the pier's deck, the friend climbed onto a beam, and they used a rope and life ring lowered by others to secure the man as he became responsive. With help from Jafri and the friend, bystanders then lifted the man onto the pier. Arriving first-responders tended to the man, who was taken to a hospital. Nearly exhausted, Jafri, who suffered cuts on his arms, remained in the river until the arrival of a police boat. He ultimately went to a hospital for precautionary treatment. [92042-10310](#)

AIMEE JOHNS
Folsom, California

Aimee Johns helped rescue Stephen F. Bruemmer from a shark attack, Pacific Grove, California, June 22, 2022. Bruemmer, 62, was swimming in the Pacific Ocean at a point about 450 feet from shore when a great white shark, later determined to be at least 14.5 feet long, attacked him. During the attack Bruemmer's upper left arm was severely lacerated, and he sustained wounds to his lower abdomen and legs, just above the knees. After being pulled under water for about 15 seconds, the attack ceased, and Bruemmer, bleeding profusely, rose to the surface and, floating on his back, called for help. Johns, 49, a registered nurse and her husband, 42, an off-duty police officer, were on paddleboards about 900 feet north of Bruemmer when they heard his calls for help. Responding, they saw Bruemmer afloat and surrounded by bloody water as they approached his position. Meanwhile, a business owner who was on the beach had been alerted to Bruemmer's plight and used two stacked surfboards to paddle to. Johns, her husband, and the business owner pushed, pulled, and rolled Bruemmer onto one of the surfboards, and the business owner towed Bruemmer toward shore by paddling on a board while Bruemmer grasped his right ankle. Meanwhile, Johns entered the water and grasped the back of the towed board to keep Bruemmer's legs from sliding off the board. Johns also kicked her legs to help propel Bruemmer's towed board toward the beach. Her husband followed on his paddleboard while pushing hers toward shore and called 911 on his cellphone. When Bruemmer's board reached the beach, Johns,

her husband, and the business owner helped bystanders -- which included a doctor, an intensive care nurse and a nurse anesthetist, who put tourniquets on Bruemmer's limbs -- carry Bruemmer toward arriving paramedics. Bruemmer, who suffered significant blood loss, underwent emergency surgery to repair his wounds. Bruemmer continued his recovery several months later. Johns had a strained shoulder and missed a week of work due to acute stress but recovered. 92566-10331

ROSS C. JOHNSON
Jacksonville, Florida

Ross C. Johnson helped rescue a 13-year-old boy from drowning, Neptune Beach, Florida, May 17, 2020. The boy was swimming in the Atlantic Ocean in rough conditions when he was carried away from shore by a rip current and struggled to stay afloat. Johnson, 19, college student, who was on the beach and alerted to the situation, removed his shirt and shoes and entered the water, despite 4-foot waves. Johnson swam to the boy, who was about 450 feet from shore, grasped his forearm and swam back toward shore, but the boy grabbed his shoulders and repeatedly submerged Johnson. Johnson then held the boy across the chest with one arm, and with the boy's back to his chest, he swam backward toward the beach using his other arm and kicking his legs. When he was about 75 feet from shore Johnson had difficulty keeping them both above the surface of the water, and two men took the boy from him. Rescue workers arrived and took the boy to shore. The boy was treated at the scene; he recovered. Johnson was nearly exhausted after the rescue and had swallowed water. His body was sore for two days; he recovered. 91968-10305

RALPH LEO JOYCE
Lark Harbour, Newfoundland and Labrador

Ralph Leo Joyce saved John K. Parsons from falling, Lark Harbour, Newfoundland and Labrador, February 7, 2019. Toward the end of a trail atop a steep cliff overlooking the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Parsons, 68, fell onto his back and slowly slid down an icy, 30-degree slope until his foot struck a rock, stopping his momentum about 3 feet from the cliff's edge. Parsons remained on his back, fearful of dislodging the rock and falling into the rocky cove below. The only other person at the remote location, which was more than a half-mile from a parking lot, was Joyce, 72, retired cleaner, who had been walking with Parsons. Joyce ran to find something sturdy to lower to Parsons,

eventually collecting a dead tree at least 10 feet long. Joyce then went to the top of the icy slope, lodged one foot on a rock protruding through the ice, and extended the tree to Parsons, who grasped it with his left hand. Joyce then pulled, gradually dragging Parsons, who was larger than him, as much as 10 feet to a point near the trail where Parsons was able to stand safely. [91260-10328](#)

MARENA L. KOUBA
St. Cloud, Minnesota

Marena L. Kouba rescued Eric E. J. Benac and two children from drowning, Marquette, Michigan, July 19, 2020. Benac, 37, writer, along with a boy, 11, and a girl, 10, were wading atop a shoal in Lake Superior when a swift current carried Benac and the girl into deep water. The boy swam toward them and also became caught in the current. The boy and girl screamed for help. Kouba, 21, college student, was walking on the shoal with her partner when they saw Benac and the two children struggling in the water and screaming for help. Despite rough water in the lake, Kouba dived from the shoal and swam several hundred feet to Benac, and told him to hold onto her. Kouba, with Benac holding her hand, then swam to the boy and girl who were nearby. As they floated supine atop the water's surface, Kouba told the boy and girl to take hold of her hand, and she swam, using one arm and kicking with her legs, toward shore. Kouba yelled out for someone to bring rescue equipment, and others on shore swam about 100 feet to reach them. They assisted Benac, the boy, and the girl to the beach. Kouba left the water under her own power. Benac had ingested water and was taken by ambulance to the hospital. He recovered. The boy and girl were checked at the scene but had no injuries. Kouba was nearly exhausted, and she recovered. [91283-10283](#)

JAMESON LOBB
New York, New York

Jameson Lobb helped save a man from drowning, New York, New York, October 4, 2021. As a middle-aged man floated motionless in the East River between two piers at a popular waterfront overlook, a bystander on the pier nearest the man called for help. Alerted on the opposite pier was Lobb, 24, banking analyst, who was exercising with his friend. Lobb climbed over a railing and, fully clothed, jumped into the cold river and swam toward the submerging man's location. Lobb submerged, grasped him, and resurfaced as the friend swam to them and positioned the man, who appeared to be unconscious, face up on the friend's chest. Lobb

held the man's legs, and they swam, towing the man at least 100 feet back to the wooden, barnacle-covered fender of the far pier, where they had entered the water. While the friend held the man to the fender about 8 feet below the pier's deck, Lobb climbed onto a beam, and they used a rope and life ring lowered by others to secure the man as he became responsive. With help from Lobb and the friend, bystanders then lifted the man onto the pier. Arriving first-responders tended to the man, who was taken to a hospital. Lobb, who suffered cuts on his arms, climbed back onto the pier and went to a hospital for precautionary treatment. [92041-10309](#)

SAUL ORTIZ MARQUEZ
Justin, Texas

Saul Ortiz Marquez died helping save his 8-year-old son from drowning, Fort Worth, Texas, June 13, 2020. The boy was on the bank of the West Fork of the Trinity River when he slipped into a tributary stream and was carried into a river. Marquez, 28, laborer and the boy's father, entered the river, swam to the boy, and grasped him. Marquez, in deep water, held the boy above the water and attempted to swim toward the bank, but was unable to make progress. A woman entered the river, took the boy from Marquez, and returned him to the bank with assistance. Marquez was pulled beneath the surface of the water by a strong current. Divers located and removed Marquez from the river about an hour later. The boy was not injured, but Marquez drowned. [91175-10311](#)

KIM A. MCGRADY
Dunwoody, Georgia

Kim A. McGrady died attempting to save an indeterminate number of people from drowning, Miramar Beach, Florida, April 8, 2021. In the Gulf of Mexico, multiple swimmers struggled in the turbulent surf and several onlookers, some of whom formed a human chain extending from the beach, entered the water in an attempt to reach them. Observing the scene on the beach, McGrady, 55, business consultant, told his wife that he saw someone in distress, ran into the water, and, separate from the chain, swam toward them. His son and the son's friend followed McGrady, who responded to a group of people. By the time the son and the friend returned to the beach and the chain dispersed, they had lost sight of McGrady. Bystanders on shore pulled McGrady from the water. Unresponsive, McGrady was among 11 people who needed medical attention from first-responders on the beach. Efforts to revive McGrady, who was taken to a hospital, were unsuccessful; he had drowned. [91594-10289](#)

CARNEGIE HERO FUND COMMISSION

LEWIS A. MEDINA
Aurora, Illinois

Lewis A. Medina saved a man from being struck by a train, Aurora, Illinois, October 9, 2021. The man, 72, was driving his sport utility vehicle at night, when it became stuck on a rail of a train track about 50 feet west of the nearest road. Medina, 60, construction driver, was driving nearby when he saw the man's vehicle on the track. Parking, he called 911 to report the emergency and stopped; he then observed a train on the same track and approaching the man's vehicle. Medina ran to the driver's side of the vehicle, shouted to the man to get out but received no response. Medina then pulled open the driver's door and shouted to the man, who appeared to be dazed, that he needed to leave his vehicle. Crossing alarms sounded and the gates descended. Medina unbuckled the man's seat belt and pulled him out of the vehicle; the man fell to the track. Medina dragged and rolled the man across a rail and down a hill to safety. The train, traveling at an estimated speed of over 40 m.p.h., struck the vehicle about six seconds after the man had been removed from the track. The vehicle was thrown off the track and into vegetation about 1,000 feet away. The man was taken to a hospital for injuries. 91998-10302

BRANDON MELANCON
Church Point, Louisiana

Brandon Melancon helped rescue Justin A. Richmond from burning, Derry, Louisiana, June 9, 2020. Richmond, 28, remained pinned in his burning boom truck following a serious accident on an interstate highway. The truck came to rest partially on its passenger side and caught fire. Melancon, 36, operations executive, responded with another motorist. The other motorist and Melancon each extended an arm inside, pulling on Richmond's belt and pants. They pulled on him several times to no avail, as Richmond's legs were pinned in the wreckage of the truck's cab. Melancon retreated briefly for air but returned to the window opening where he and the motorist then each grasped Richmond under an arm and tugged on him. Melancon again retreated for air. Richmond's legs came free of the wreckage and the other motorist aided Richmond to the ground. Melancon and the motorist dragged Richmond farther from the vehicle, and others responded and aided in moving Richmond to the other motorist's vehicle, placing Richmond inside. Richmond was severely burned and was airlifted to a burn trauma center for treatment, which included skin-grafting surgery. Melancon was nearly exhausted and was short of breath but did not require medical treatment. He recovered. 91150-10287

JASON R. MILKS
Astoria, Oregon

Jason R. Milks rescued a woman from drowning, Seaside, Oregon, May 26, 2020. A woman, 35, was swimming in the Pacific Ocean with a kickboard when she was pulled away from shore by a rip current. The woman shouted for help and waved her arms. Milks, 40, clam digger, was at the scene and saw the woman. He ran 300 feet down the beach, removed his chest-high waders and most of his other clothing, and grabbed another kickboard before entering the 50-degree water. Milks swam to the woman, who was by then 450 feet from shore with her kickboard. Milks released his kickboard, turned on his stomach, and instructed the woman to place her kickboard underneath her chest and grab his ankles. Milks started toward shore against the current using his arms to swim. Waves crashed over the pair several times and each time Milks positioned himself upright in the water and pulled the woman to his chest and held to her so the waves would not separate them. He then turned back over and swam with the woman holding his ankles. Once they were in wadable water the two stood up and walked out of the water. The woman was taken to a hospital and treated for hypothermia; she recovered. Milks was cold and nearly exhausted; he recovered. 91137-10297

SCOTT MORIN
Worcester, Massachusetts

Scott Morin saved a boy and girl from drowning, Worcester, Massachusetts, June 4, 2021. The boy, 15, and girl, 14, struggled to stay afloat in the deep water of a pond about 35 feet from its bank. Morin, 26, police officer, was dispatched to the scene. Morin, wearing boots, body armor, and his uniform, quickly entered the 52-degree water and swam to them. Grasping them each by a hand, he used his feet to kick, with difficulty, toward the bank, towing them. Nearly exhausted, Morin reached wadable water with Joseph and Kristen and released his holds on them. Joseph and Kristen exited the pond to safety. Morin too exited the water. Morin was taken by ambulance to the hospital to be checked for injuries. He recovered. 92021-10320

ANDREW PARENT
Oneida, New York

Andrew Parent helped rescue Jack H. Pylman from burning, Westmoreland, New York, June, 21, 2021. Pylman, 72, was the driver of a pickup truck that left a highway, struck a utility pole, overturned onto its roof, and came to rest a short distance from the pole, the top portion of which fell onto the truck's undercarriage. A fire broke out, engulfing the truck's undercarriage, and a downed electrical wire along the grass shoulder sparked and smoldered. A passing motorist driving a tow truck, Parent, 65, business owner, found Pylman, whose upper body was severely burned, screaming for help at the driver's window, where his lower body was pinned inside the truck. The fire was intense. Parent stepped over the wire and approached the truck but, despite his best efforts, was unable to pull Pylman free or put out the fire with extinguishers. As Parent called for help from bystanders, another man approached the truck despite popping sounds. With each grasping Pylman's arms and hands, Parent and the man pulled Pylman free and dragged him about 15 feet. Arriving medics tended to Pylman, who was taken to a hospital. He died one week later. 91803-10298

JUSTIN LELAND PERRY
Interlochen, Michigan

Justin Leland Perry helped save a girl from drowning, Honor, Michigan, July 25, 2020. The girl, 5, was on a float in Lake Michigan when strong winds blew it away from shore. At a point several hundred feet from shore, the float flipped, tossing the girl into the water. Perry, 33, musician, was at the beach and saw the girl in the water. He obtained a partially-inflated, child's life ring and entered the water, in which there was a strong rip current and 4-foot waves, and swam toward the girl. Perry reached the girl, placed her partially on the life ring and held to her and the ring as he kicked toward shore. Another man entered the lake with a child's kayak and swam to Perry and the girl. The men placed the girl on the kayak, held to either side, and swam her to shore. The girl was not injured. Perry was nearly exhausted after the rescue; he recovered. 91254-10277

ANTHONY R. PERRY
Chicago, Illinois

Anthony R. Perry rescued a man from electrocution, Chicago, Illinois, June 5, 2022. A man came into contact with the energized conductor rail of a commuter-train track carrying 600 volts of electricity and was being shocked after falling on his back across the electrified rail in front of a stopped train. Perry, 20, store associate, who had exited a train and was on a nearby platform, saw the man undergoing spasms, jumped onto the track and carefully approached him, avoiding contact with the rails. Ultimately, Perry positioned his right foot near the energized rail as he grasped the man's forearm. Perry attempted to pull him up, but he was shocked and released him. Perry quickly grasped his arm a second time, but again Perry was shocked and released him. Catching the man's arm, Perry successfully lifted the man up and off the energized rail and placed him in a narrow space between that rail and a concrete barrier. Authorities responded to the scene, and power to the rail was turned off. The man was later taken to a hospital for treatment. Perry, though shocked, was not injured. [92459-10337](#)

ADEN SPENCER PERRY
Sunrise, Florida

Aden Spencer Perry died attempting to save a man from drowning, Sunrise, Florida, April 19, 2022. While driving at night, an 18-year-old man was in an accident in which his car struck a tree, was launched airborne, and traveled into a pond, where it came to rest upright about 40 feet from the bank in water about 25 feet deep. The man exited and remained at the car as he called out for help. Walking his dog nearby with his mother, Aden, 17, high school student, called 911 as he approached the dimly lit pond, then handed the phone to his mother, who spoke with a dispatcher. Aden entered the pond. Shortly, the car, the man, and Aden all submerged. Multiple responding police officers entered the pond before divers located Aden and the man and removed them from the water. The man had drowned. Aden also did not survive, with a neck injury and drowning contributing to his death. [92334-10327](#)

ANTHONY PETERKIN
Fayetteville, North Carolina

Anthony Peterkin helped rescue Russell D. Cox from burning, Fayetteville, North Carolina, April 11, 2021. Cox, 88, was lying on the kitchen floor of a burning house after fire broke out at the rear of the house. A neighbor, Peterkin, 52, training technician, went to the house with his son and learned

that Cox was inside. The two ran through the garage to an interior door; the son stayed at the door while Peterkin moved down a hallway and into the kitchen where he encountered flames on the floor, ceiling, and walls. Peterkin could not find Cox. Unable to breathe, he and his son exited the house. Informed that Cox was in the kitchen, Peterkin returned to the house through the garage while his son again stood at the door. Crawling, Peterkin found Cox on the kitchen floor, unconscious with flames nearby. Peterkin grasped Cox under the arms and pulled him back to the hallway, where Peterkin's son helped him move Cox into the garage. Peterkin and his son placed Cox on a small rug and dragged Cox out of the garage and into the driveway. Cox sustained smoke inhalation and serious burns to his legs and back; he died the next day. Peterkin was hospitalized two days for smoke inhalation; he recovered. 91658-10303

JADEN DESHAWN PETERKIN
Fayetteville, North Carolina

Jaden DeShawn Peterkin helped rescue Russell D. Cox from burning, Fayetteville, North Carolina, April 11, 2021. Cox, 88, was lying on the kitchen floor of a burning house after fire broke out at the rear of the house. Jaden, 17, high school student, who lived nearby, saw a glow in the sky and went to the scene with his father to investigate. Upon learning that Cox remained inside, the two ran into the garage and to a door that opened into a hallway; Jaden stayed near the door while his father ran down the hallway and into the kitchen. The father was unable to locate Cox and after encountering flames and smoke, he and Jaden exited the house. Informed that Cox was in the kitchen, Jaden and his father reentered the garage and moved to the door. The father got down on his hands and knees and crawled inside to the kitchen, while Jaden remained at the door again. The father found Cox unconscious on the floor amid smoke and flames throughout the kitchen. The father grasped Cox underneath the arms and pulled him back to the hallway, where Jaden helped him move Cox into the garage. Jaden and his father placed Cox on a small rug and dragged Cox out of the garage and into the driveway. Cox sustained smoke inhalation and serious burns to his legs and back; he died the next day. Jaden, who inhaled smoke and experienced an irritated throat, was examined at a hospital. He recovered. 91659-10304

ANTONIO RAUL RIVERA
Bolingbrook, Illinois

Antonio Raul Rivera rescued a man from assault, Bolingbrook, Illinois, April 21, 2021. Inside his house in a residential neighborhood, a man, 64, called for police to intervene in a dispute with his 26-year-old son, who then stabbed the man in the head with a knife. The man fled the house to the front yard, where he collapsed and screamed for help. The assailant followed and continued to stab the man's upper body as they struggled on the grass. A neighbor, Rivera, 50, nonprofit executive, who had been alerted by his daughter, responded, seeing that the assailant wielded a knife. Rivera rushed to the assailant and grasped his arm, impeding him from stabbing the man again, and tackled him to the ground next to the man. Rivera remained atop the assailant, restraining him, while another neighbor removed the knife from the scene, and the daughter and neighbor tended to the man until police and other first-responders arrived. Arriving police took the assailant into custody. The man was hospitalized for about three weeks as he recovered from wounds to his head, neck, and back and the partial amputation of a finger. 92136-10301

DUSTIN WAYNE ROACH
Ashdown, Arkansas

Dustin Wayne Roach rescued Lucia M. Mendoza from drowning, Texarkana, Texas, April 4, 2021. Mendoza, 29, was in turbulent waters of a spillway after the vehicle in which she was a passenger entered the water from an adjacent road and submerged. Roach, 35, construction worker, who was fishing nearby, witnessed the accident and saw Mendoza submerge and resurface twice in the strong current. He climbed atop a wall that bordered the spillway, dived into the water, and swam about 50 feet to reach Mendoza. Roach grasped Mendoza, and used his other arm and legs to swim toward the bank. When they reached a point about 40 feet from the bank, Roach became short of breath and spit up water he had swallowed. He repositioned Mendoza but maintained his hold on her. About then, others threw them a fishing line. Roach grasped the line, wrapped it around his torso, then swam with Mendoza as the others pulled them toward the bank. When they reached a point about 10 feet from the bank Roach and Mendoza were aided to the top of the bank to safety. Mendoza sustained injuries for which she received treatment. Roach exited the water under his own power. He suffered fatigue and a cut to his hand but did not require treatment. 91685-10316

CARL J ROBINETTE II
Hartsville, South Carolina

Carl J. Robinette II died helping to save a boy from drowning, McBee, South Carolina, April 26, 2020. The boy, 13, student, was wading on a sandbar in about 3 feet of water in Lake Robinson when the 18-foot boat on which he had been a passenger drifted about 70 feet away. Alarmed, the boy waded then swam toward the boat and struggled in water about 8 feet deep. Meanwhile, the boat's pilot had re-started the boat and moved toward others in the water, leaving the boy about 50 feet from the boat. He frantically treaded water. Robinette, 48, internet sales and marketing manager, was one of several adults on the boat who saw the boy struggling. Robinette dove into the water and swam to the boy, grasped him from behind, pushed him so that his head remained above water, and moved them toward the sandbar. Another man, 27, had also jumped into the water and, after helping other swimmers back to the boat, swam toward Robinette and the boy. While en route, someone threw a life vest to him, and he held it in front of him while swimming toward the boy. Reaching the pair, the man handed the life vest to the boy and then helped him back to the boat, where others helped the boy aboard. The adults then realized that Robinette, who had stopped swimming, had submerged. Someone on the boat called 911 while others entered the water in an unsuccessful search for Robinette until first responders arrived. The boy was frightened and tired, but otherwise unharmed. 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. 91448-10281

PETER ROSENGREN
Batavia, Illinois

Peter Rosengren died after helping rescue a boy from drowning, Miramar Beach, Florida, March 28, 2021. The boy, 9, struggled in the rough water of the Gulf of Mexico after being carried away from shore and into deeper water by a current. Among the adults in the boy's party was a family friend, Rosengren, 42, newspaper executive, who was on the beach. At a time when the water was closed to the public, Rosengren left the beach and swam to the boy, whom he reached but was unable to tow to safety before they separated. Others, using flotation devices, brought the boy and then Rosengren, who was unresponsive, back to the beach. The boy recovered after being treated at a hospital for swallowing water. Attempts to revive Rosengren were unsuccessful, as he had drowned. 91583-10279

KATELYNN SAENGDALA
Kitchener, Ontario

Katelynn Saengdala rescued Jeremy D. Figueroa and Laila M. Zorychta from drowning, Port Colborne, Ontario, August 27, 2020. Figueroa, 39, was in Lake Erie with his daughter, Laila, 12, when large waves and a strong current, carried them away from shore. Saengdala, 32, manufacturing worker, was in the water near shore when she was alerted and saw them in distress. She swam about 50 feet to reach them, at which point Figueroa held Laila above the water's surface, causing him to submerge. Saengdala grasped Laila under her arms, and took her from Figueroa who was nearly exhausted and short of breath. Saengdala grasped both Figueroa and Laila each by one arm, and kicked her legs and feet to move them toward shore. At a point about 25 feet from shore, Saengdala, nearly exhausted, struggled to swim any farther. A man arrived at their location with a child's flotation toy and aided Figueroa and Laila the remaining distance to shore. Saengdala too exited the water to safety. Figueroa had swallowed water, was nearly exhausted and short of breath, and was taken by ambulance to the hospital. Laila was checked by paramedics at the scene but did not need further treatment. They both recovered. Saengdala suffered back pain for the following month. She recovered. **91390-10295**

ROBERT MICHAEL SHEROCK
Santa Clarita, California

Robert Michael Sherock helped save Mark Jenkins from being struck by a train, Pacoima, California, January 9, 2022. Jenkins, 71, was inside a single-engine, fixed-wing airplane that crash-landed at a railroad crossing. Sherock, 34, was one of several police officers who responded to the scene. A crossing gate descended and a five-car, 600-ton Metrolink commuter train traveling at least 72 m.p.h. approached the crossing from a point about 3,500 feet away. Sherock, who saw the train, and another officer ran to the plane, joining another officer. The other newly arrived officer tried to pull open what remained of the mangled cockpit door. When that failed, Sherock squeezed in between the other two officers, and all three reached into the plane and hoisted Jenkins over the dashboard and through the broken-out windshield area. Sherock and the other two officers had dragged Jenkins about 15 feet from the plane by the time the train struck it four seconds later. Jenkins was not injured in the rescue and recovered from crash-related injuries. Sherock and the other officers were not injured. **92170-10314**

WYATT TUCKER SHIELDS

Atlanta, Georgia

Wyatt Tucker Shields saved Kevin Alkinburg from assault, Washington, D.C., July 31, 2021. Alkinburg, 24, and his female partner, 23, were walking on a public street in a metropolitan area when a man approached, harassed, and followed them. The man eventually pulled out a fully loaded revolver and aimed it at Alkinburg's midsection. Nearby, Shields, 22, law firm intern, saw the assailant engage, then follow Alkinburg and his partner and sensed something amiss. Following the assailant, Shields saw him aim the gun at Alkinburg and immediately ran toward the assailant and tackled him to the ground as the gun discharged near Shield's left ear. The gun clattered to the ground a few feet away. As Shields knelt on the assailant's back and used both of his arms to pin the assailant's left arm behind the assailant's back, Alkinburg grasped the gun and placed it in a concrete planter nearby, out of the assailant's reach. Alkinburg then knelt down and helped Shields control the assailant by holding onto the man's right arm until police arrived. Alkinburg wasn't injured. Shields chipped some teeth and cut his lip and lost hearing in his left ear from the gunshot for about a month, but he has since recovered. The assailant was arrested and pleaded guilty to assault with a dangerous weapon and an illegal gun charge; he was sentenced to 367 days in prison. [91852-10296](#)

JACOB M. SMITH

Tulalip, Washington

Jacob M. Smith rescued Wendy M. Smith from burning, Arlington, Washington, May 22, 2019. Smith, 52, was in a second-floor bedroom of a house at night when fire broke out on the rear deck and spread. Smith walked down to the first floor with her partner, where they were separated, with Smith losing consciousness in a first-floor closet. The partner attempted to re-enter the house but could not due to thick smoke and blistering heat. Jacob, 27, realtor and Smith's son, was in another second-floor bedroom and escaped through a bedroom window, onto the roof, and then to the ground. When the partner told him that Smith was still inside, Jacob ran into the garage and re-entered the home through the laundry room, where he was forced to his hands and knees due to the heat and smoke. Jacob crawled toward the stairs and found Smith in the closet. He grasped her and dragged her backward, with flames following them, to the garage, where the partner helped Jacob carry Smith out and away from the house, which was quickly engulfed by flames. Smith

was hospitalized more than a month for smoke inhalation, inhalation burns, and serious burns to the right side of her body and underwent several surgeries. Jacob was hospitalized nearly a week for smoke inhalation and burns to his nose, ears, arms, and hands; he recovered. 90869-10292

RICKY LEE SNEVE
Hudson, South Dakota

Ricky Lee Sneve died saving a girl from drowning, Hudson, South Dakota, June 12, 2021. The girl, 5, was playing on the bank of the Big Sioux River when she stepped or fell into water which was about 3 feet deep. The girl, who couldn't swim, struggled in the water and Ricky, 10, student, dove into the water and moved behind her where he was able to thrust the girl from the water back onto the bank, a few feet away. While doing so, Ricky was moved backward where an undertow flowed into water 12 feet deep. Younger boys in Ricky's party and his stepfather entered the water to help him, the two youngest boys immediately struggling. The stepfather and an older boy helped the two younger boys to the riverbank but, by the time they were safe, Ricky had submerged about 50 feet from the river bank. Ricky's stepfather drove into town about 1.5 miles away to contact authorities and notify relatives because there was no cellphone service at the rural river bank. The girl was not injured. 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. 91757-10275

CHRISTOPHER LEE TAYLOR
Greenville, Ohio

Christopher Lee Taylor saved David Miles from burning, Greenville, Ohio, October 31, 2020. Miles, 30, was semi-conscious at night in a two-story house that lacked power after flames broke out in a second-story bedroom. Miles was lying on a stairway between the first and second floors. Taylor, 36, forklift operator, was in a car passing the scene and saw flames in the house's second floor. Taylor ran to a door at the side of the house. Unsure if anyone was inside, he extended his head into the home, and called out. He heard Miles moaning. Bending forward to keep his head out of the smoke, Taylor walked inside and made his way through thick smoke and intense heat to the stairway, where he found Miles, then unconscious, near the top. Flames on the second floor near the stairway were moving close to Miles. Taylor ascended the stairs to Miles, picked him up and cradled him, then carried him to the side door and exited. He placed

Miles on the ground, where Miles regained consciousness. Miles inhaled smoke but was not burned. Taylor inhaled smoke; he recovered. 91387-10282

ADAM LAYMAN THOMAS
Louisville, Kentucky

Adam Layman Thomas died attempting to save a woman from drowning, Louisville, Kentucky, January 13, 2022. From a bicycle trail along a city road, a 36-year-old woman climbed over a railing and entered the swollen, swift-flowing Ohio River. As the woman swam in the 41-degree water away from the near bank, multiple bystanders congregated on the trail. Thomas, 34, business owner, who stopped his vehicle on the road, went to confer with them. Removing his outer clothing, Thomas also climbed over the railing and entered the river. As he swam toward the woman, she continued moving downstream. Shortly, Thomas struggled and ultimately submerged. The woman, who reached the vicinity of an island before witnesses lost sight of her, has yet to be located and is presumed dead. Nearly three months later, authorities recovered Thomas from the river about 100 miles from the scene. He had drowned. 92193-10306

EVAN DANIEL TOWNSLEY
Los Angeles, California

Evan Daniel Townsley rescued a woman from an attacking dog, Los Angeles, California, July 23, 2021. The woman, 66, was walking on a sidewalk when a pit bull mix, weighing about 70 pounds, slipped free of its leash, and attacked her. She retreated and, grasping a rain gutter, attempted to fend off the dog, which bit her arms and torso and lunged at her neck. Townsley, 53, was driving nearby when he heard the woman screaming for help and saw her being attacked; he ran to the scene. Townsley, who had martial arts training, wrapped an arm around the dog and used a small knife to stab it. The dog attacked Townsley, enabling the woman to flee and take refuge between two cars parked in a nearby garage. As Townsley continued to fight the dog, the knife blade broke off and the dog bit down on his right forearm and wrist. Crouching, Townsley swept the dog's legs from beneath it and pinned it to the pavement. While the dog was down, bystanders used various means, including a stun gun and tow truck chain, to subdue it, but none were successful. A police officer then arrived to assist while Townsley retreated, nearly exhausted. Ultimately, other bystanders helped secure the dog, followed by three officers,

until the animal could be brought under control and removed from the scene. The woman was treated for serious bites to her arms, abdomen, and back and has recovered. Townsley was hospitalized for several days, during which he underwent surgery, then spent eight weeks in rehabilitation for treatment of 18 deep puncture wounds to both of his arms – some of which pierced bone – and an open fracture of his right wrist. He was still recovering the full strength of his arms. 91851-10274

DOMINIC VIET
Columbia, Missouri

Dominic Viet helped save a woman from drowning, Columbia, Missouri, June 25, 2021. On a basketball court in a city park submerged by rapid-flowing floodwater, an 18-year-old woman, nearly exhausted, was struggling to hold onto a metal basketball-hoop post, where the water was at least 7 feet deep. Riding his bicycle nearby, Dominic, 15, high school student, became aware of the woman's plight, removed his shoes, and entered the cool water from a sloped, grass embankment, wading a short distance and then, with a friend, swimming about 50 feet to the woman, who released her hold on the post and grasped one of Dominic's shoulders and one of the friend's. Dominic and the friend then swam, towing the woman across the submerged basketball court to the embankment, where they helped her from the water. First-responders soon arrived and tended to the woman, who had swallowed water. An ambulance took her to a hospital; she recovered shortly. Dominic was not injured. 92546-10334

MIKALA VISH
Brighton, Michigan

Mikala Vish saved Tyron H. Vish and Lillyanna M. Thompson, and rescued Torin C. Vish from burning, Gregory, Michigan, October 26, 2021. Tyron, 4; Lillyanna, 13; and Torin, 6; were inside bedrooms in a second-story apartment at night with their mother, Vish, 32, preschool teacher, when fire broke out inside the apartment. Vish was asleep and sharing a bedroom with her 11-month old daughter and Tyron when she awoke to heat and heard the crackling of flames. Vish picked up the 11-month-old and removed her from the apartment to a second-story deck outside the apartment's front door. She returned into the apartment twice more and got Tyron, then Lillyanna, outside to the deck. Vish reentered the apartment a final time and went up a small

stairway to Torin's bedroom, which was in flames. Vish found Torin under a bed, grabbed him, and took him into the hallway, which was also in flames. Vish tripped and stumbled down steps and into the living room. She stood, then fell again when a ceiling panel fell on her back. Getting up, she ran to the front door carrying Torin and exited to the deck. Vish then took the children down an exterior stairway to the ground. The 11-month-daughter, Tyron, and Lillyanna were not injured. Torin sustained smoke inhalation and serious burns, and Vish sustained an inhalation injury and serious burns to 60 percent of her body. Both underwent skin graft surgeries for their injuries. [92062-10325](#)

AMY M. WATERMAN
Brimfield, Massachusetts

Amy M. Waterman attempted to help rescue Troy A. Love and Enmanuel Familia from drowning, Worcester, Massachusetts, June 4, 2021. Troy, 14, who had been swimming, submerged in the murky, 52-degree water of a pond and did not resurface. Familia, 38, entered the water and swam from the bank to locate Troy. Waterman, 47, state police trooper, responded to the scene and approached the bank along with a police officer. Waterman removed her shoes, gun, and handcuffs, entered the water, and swam to a point where she believed the Troy had submerged and made several shallow dives. A male officer on the bank alerted Waterman and a police officer that Familia had submerged and did not resurface. Waterman and the officer then swam about 45 feet and made several additional shallow dives to locate Familia. Fire officials responded and ordered all of the officers out of the water. Waterman exited the water to safety. She was nearly exhausted and was taken by ambulance to be checked for injuries. She was released and recovered. Troy and Familia were recovered by divers later that day, but they could not be revived. [92022-10322](#)

JAKE VAGELI WATSON
Scottsdale, Arizona

Jake Vageli Watson helped rescue Thanya Huerta and a girl from drowning, San Diego, California, July 3, 2020. Huerta, 18, and the girl, 11, were swept from a low-lying rocky point by 5-foot waves during a rising tide and into a cove along the Pacific Ocean. Watson, 15, student, was above the scene atop a cliff with a friend when they witnessed Huerta and the girl struggling. The friend jumped from the cliff into the cove and swam to Huerta and the girl and aided them along the cove's northern edge toward an area where they

could exit the water. At some point, a large wave separated the friend from the victims. The friend called to Watson and asked him to help Huerta and the girl. Watson jumped from the cliffs and swam across the cove to them. Placing the girl on his back with her grasping his neck, Watson swam along the rocky coast, both coaxing and intermittently supporting Huerta who later reported she was in and out of consciousness from swallowing water. Reaching a low-lying ledge, Watson pushed the woman onto the ledge and then exited the water. There he held to Huerta's arms, keeping most of her body above the surface of the water until lifeguards arrived. Huerta and the girl were treated and released at a hospital for the effects of swallowing water and recovered; and Huerta suffered a head injury and shortly recovered. Watson, who helped lift his friend from area of rocky barrier to safety, was tired and suffered scratches, but recovered. 92008-10291

WILLIAM WERTS, JR.
New Castle, Delaware

William Werts, Jr., attempted to rescue a woman from burning, Wilmington, Delaware, November 25, 2020. A 58-year-old woman remained inside the front bedroom of a second-floor apartment in a two-story row house after a fire broke out in the apartment. Alerted, Werts, 56, maintenance worker, responded with a fire extinguisher to the front of the building, where he observed flames breaching the bedroom windows. Bystanders screamed that the woman was inside. Werts, who was familiar with the building layout through his job duties, went to the apartment's open first-floor door but was repelled by intense smoke and retreated when debris fell on him. Werts then ran to the building's rear, where he ascended the fire escape and entered the kitchen through an open door. Smoke extended from the ceiling to about 3 feet off the floor. Crawling with the extinguisher toward the bedroom, Werts called to the woman, who responded that she could not move to him before she stopped answering. Werts sprayed the extinguisher at flames at the bedroom door frame. As smoke conditions worsened, Werts backed toward the rear door. By then, Werts's uncle, who worked with him, entered the kitchen and helped Werts exit and descend the fire escape to safety. Arriving firefighters extinguished the fire; the woman did not survive. Werts sustained an inhalation injury and suffered a small burn on his head. He was hospitalized overnight and recovered. 91547-10293

DARNELL J. WILSON
Rochester, New York

Darnell J. Wilson saved Evangela Stanley from assault, Rochester, New York, December 23, 2019. Stanley, 53, was preparing to close her restaurant and standing in the partially open front door when a 27-year-old man armed with a .40-caliber pistol rushed into the business. Stanley fled and repeatedly screamed for Wilson, 32, fast food clerk, who was inside the restaurant. Wilson saw Stanley flee past him toward a hallway leading to the kitchen and turned to confront the assailant following her. Wilson punched, kicked, and pushed the assailant back toward the front door, where the assailant stumbled onto his back at which point Wilson saw the man's weapon, which police later determined was loaded with six rounds. Two shots were fired as Wilson struggled with the assailant for control of the weapon. During the struggle, Wilson pushed the assailant through plate glass windows and out onto the sidewalk, where the gun was dropped or knocked from the assailant's hand. Another worker in the rear kitchen, hearing the gunfire, rushed out the front door and joined Wilson, who jumped through the window opening after the assailant. Wilson picked up the gun on the sidewalk and he and the other man chased, punched, and beat the assailant until he struggled free and ran away. The assailant was arrested at a later time and charged with the robbery and possessing the weapon. Stanley was not injured. Wilson was taken by ambulance to a hospital for treatment of multiple lacerations from broken glass, which included a deep cut to his right hand, and cuts to his right torso. His lacerations were repaired at the hospital and he has for the most part recovered, though his right hand has yet to regain its full strength. 92065-10294

2021-2022 AWARD STATISTICS

MEDALS

Seventy-one Carnegie Medals were awarded in 2021 and 67 in 2022, bringing the total to 10,355 since the Hero Fund was established in 1904. To date, the Commission has considered more than 92,000 rescue acts.

Especially do we remember those who gave their lives saving or attempting to save others. Thirty such sacrifices were honored in 2021 and 2022, bringing the total to date to 2,105.

Christine L. Beheler	Saul Ortiz Marquez
Steven T. Boesl	Kim A. McGrady
Christian Alexander Burgos	Terrell Miller, Sr.
Arthur R. Caballero, Sr.	Edgar F. Moreno Alba
John D. Colter	Kristoff Jaleel Murray
Ryan Keith Cox	Aden Spencer Perry
Enmanuel Familia	Keawe Michael Pestana
Kendall D. Flowers	Carl J. Robinette II
Layne Paul Gravois	Peter Rosengren
Evan Patrick Ishima	Gabriel Cedrik Saechao
D'Angelo Cordero Jenkins	Lucas Y. Silverio Mendoza
Sivad H. Johnson	Ricky Lee Sneve
Michael Robert Keyser	Draven M. Starr-Howell
Matthew Ryan Kihlstrand	Gwendolyn Theus
Allen Robert Linder	Adam Layman Thomas

MONETARY GRANTS	2021	2022	TO DATE
For continuing support of widows, widowers, and other dependents, and disabled heroes	\$268,802	\$261,590	\$19,844,879
Monetary awards including educational assistance and medals	\$785,157	\$685,036	\$24,343,508
TOTALS	\$1,053,959	\$946,626	\$44,188,388

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(Shown with year of election)

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Linda T. Hills 2007
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Mark Laskow 1992
Nathalie Lemieux 2012
Christopher R. McCrady 1999
Nancy L. Rackoff 2002
Andrea Ross 2022
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Arthur M. Scully III 2011
Michael A. Thompson 2012
Lee Tilghman 2023
Joseph C. Walton 2011
Susanne C. Wean 2011
Thomas L. Wentling, Jr. 1991
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Priscilla J. McCrady 1989
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¹The Chair is ex officio a member of each committee, except Audit

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