



# Impulse

A periodic newsletter of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission

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## CARNEGIE HERO RECOGNIZED BY U.S. CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR SOCIETY

The Congressional Medal of Honor Society recently announced that five individuals and one nonprofit organization were recognized at the Citizen Honors Awards on March 25 for National Medal of Honor Day. The event is meant to recognize civilian courage, sacrifice, and selfless service.

Among those recognized was recently awarded Carnegie Hero **Anderson Chase Childers**, who died July 13, 2025, in an attempt to save a group of people from drowning near Pawleys Island, South Carolina.

Caught in a longshore current and a strong rip current in the Atlantic Ocean, several swimmers were stranded in the crosscurrent about 150 feet from the beach and bystanders overheard calls for help. No lifeguards were stationed near the beach, where Childers, 38, was with his wife and three young children. Childers immediately responded and ran into the ocean, swimming out and, ultimately, reaching a point beyond some people in the crosscurrent. Police concluded that Childers might have perceived another person was in danger. Another man, also left the beach and swam out, later reaching an unresponsive Childers. The man attempted to tow Childers, but they separated in rough surf. All of the struggling swimmers safely returned to shore, as did the man who had reached Childers. Childers was later found after he drifted a considerable distance from where he was last seen. He had drowned.

The Congressionally-chartered organization comprised of the 64 living Medal of Honor recipients created the Citizen Honors Awards to inspire future generations and [▶ p. 4](#)



*Hero Fund President Eric Zahren presents at the University of Pittsburgh's AI + Data Sci Forum, a two day event held March 26-27 that showcased the projects that Pitt's data science department is developing. Zahren spoke about the value in researching data about altruism and how it could inspire peace through example.*

## Moments of courage, now measurable: AI project examines human altruism

At a time when public discourse often centers on division and conflict, the collaboration between the Carnegie Hero Fund and the University of Pittsburgh's data science department is turning attention toward something else entirely: the enduring capacity for human beings to act selflessly.

In March, that effort took center stage when Hero Fund President Eric Zahren presented at the University of Pittsburgh's HAIL (Hub for AI and Data Science Leadership) DataSci + AI Forum, a gathering of researchers, students, and faculty exploring how artificial intelligence can be applied to some of society's most complex challenges. Zahren's presentation — and the panel discussion that followed — focused on a question that is both timeless and newly measurable: What can we learn from acts of extraordinary altruism?

For more than a century, the Carnegie Hero Fund has documented civilian heroism across the United States and Canada, awarding the Carnegie Medal to individuals who risk serious injury or death to save others. Behind those awards lies a vast archive: more than 10,000 recognized acts of heroism, along with over 90,000 additional nominations that, while not ultimately awarded, reflect similarly powerful moments of courage, compassion, and moral decision-making.

Until recently, much of that history has remained largely inaccessible [▶](#)

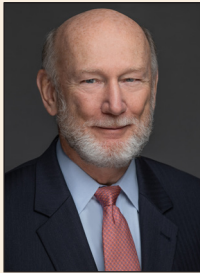


BOARD NOTES

## HEROISM AND A CULTURE OF CARING

By Mark Laskow, Chair Emeritus Carnegie Hero Fund Commission

The Carnegie Medal for Heroism, by design, recognizes a very special kind of heroism: a person who risks life and limb to save the life of another person, without any obligation to take such a serious risk.



Mark Laskow

This excludes professional rescuers obligated by their jobs. Andrew Carnegie also excluded military members. He reasoned that they were always on duty and carried a general obligation to defend their community, and that the military had its own system of recognition of heroism. He wanted his award to be distinctively civilian in nature.

But still, we can learn something about heroism from acts outside the Hero Fund's definition. I think we all just saw such an act in the rescue of the Air Force weapons systems officer downed in Iran, which I personally found breathtaking.

Even more, the surprising negative reaction in some quarters in the U.S. and abroad pushed me to think carefully about this military rescue, compare it to our Carnegie heroes' rescues, and learn what I could from the juxtaposition of the two.

I set aside the Hero Fund's "no active-duty military" rule and just applied our other criteria to what happened here.

I immediately ran into the Carnegie requirement that the rescuers have no obligation to act. Our military rescuers in Iran had every obligation to act... They were under direct, binding orders from their chain of command.

But ask yourself this: if this had been a volunteer-only operation, can you imagine that anyone involved would not volunteer? Most of them would act out of personal virtue and character, but all of them are immersed in a culture of "mutual care." This is the powerful ethos of "No man left

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## AI project

— preserved in case files, reports, and narratives that could only be reviewed individually. Now, through a new initiative under the umbrella of the Roddey Altruism Program, the Carnegie HERO (Hero-inspired Education and Research Outreach) Project, allows those records to be digitized and transformed into a structured, searchable dataset for academic research. The goal is not simply preservation, but discovery.

"This is an unprecedented opportunity," Zahren explained during the forum. "For the first time, enabled by technology and AI-driven tools, we can examine patterns across thousands of real-world decisions — moments where individuals chose to act for the benefit of others, often at great personal risk."

The implications extend far beyond historical interest. Researchers involved in the project are seeking to better understand the conditions and motivations that lead to prosocial behavior: What factors influence someone to intervene in a dangerous situation? Are there identifiable patterns in how people respond to crisis? And perhaps most compellingly, can those insights be used to encourage more cooperative, compassionate behavior in society?

The forum session highlighted these possibilities. Following Zahren's presentation, he was joined by a panel of scholars and practitioners, including HAIL Director Michael Colaresi, Drexel University professor emeritus John Clarke, and Pitt data curator Nathan Catlin — in a panel discussion on how responsible data practices and emerging technologies can generate new insights into human behavior. Their conversation emphasized both the promise and the responsibility inherent in this kind of work: using advanced tools not simply to analyze data, but to deepen understanding of the human experience.

Central to the initiative is a commitment to ethical stewardship.

The records being digitized often contain sensitive personal details, and the process includes careful review and redaction to ensure privacy while preserving the integrity of each story. The aim is to honor the individuals behind the data while making broader patterns accessible for study.

The scope of the project has also drawn international attention. A multidisciplinary committee of researchers — from fields including psychology, sociology, philosophy, and ethics — has been convened to guide the work. Together, they are helping to shape how this unique dataset can be used to advance knowledge across disciplines.

Yet for all its technical sophistication, the project remains rooted in a simple, enduring idea first articulated by Andrew Carnegie more than a century ago: that through recognizing and understanding acts of heroism, a researchable model of exemplary selflessness can provide a road map to make the world a more peaceful place.

Each case in the archive represents what might be called a "moment of truth" — a split-second decision in which an ordinary person chose to act on behalf of someone else. By examining thousands of these moments collectively, researchers hope to better understand not only what people have done, but what they are capable of doing. ►



*We can examine patterns across thousands of real world decisions – moments where individuals chose to act for the benefit of others."*

In that sense, the HERO Project is as much about the future as it is about the past. As Zahren noted, “What can we learn? What can be emulated? And what do these moments teach us about the choices we all face?”

Those questions resonated throughout the forum — and they continue to guide the work moving forward.

At a time when technological advancement is often framed in terms of efficiency or disruption, this initiative offers a different perspective: that data and artificial intelligence can also be used to illuminate humanity at its best.

And in doing so, perhaps it will help shape a world that reflects it.

As this work moves forward, the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission remains committed to protecting the privacy and dignity of those whose stories form the foundation of this research. The datasets developed through the Carnegie HERO Project will not include personally identifiable information (PII) not already made public. In addition, all materials are subject to careful review and redaction protocols.

The goal is to preserve the integrity of each act while ensuring that individuals and families are respected throughout the process.

Those with questions or concerns about privacy, data use, or participation are encouraged to contact the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission directly at [carnegiehero@carnegiehero.org](mailto:carnegiehero@carnegiehero.org) for more information. ☼

— *Jewels Phraner,*  
*Director of Administration and External Affairs*

## *Widow of Carnegie hero publishes Christian devotional*

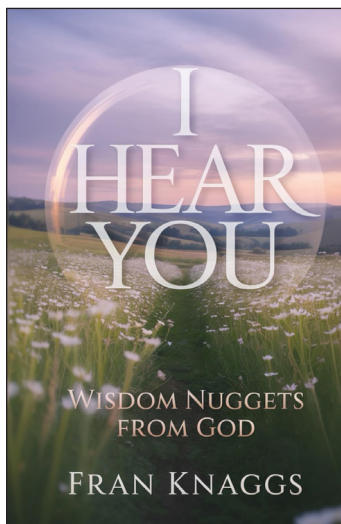
Throughout her life, Fran Knaggs’ faith has carried her through every chapter of her life, including the loss of her husband **Gary Richard Knaggs Sr.** in 1977 when she was just 32-years-old. That unwavering faith is now offered up to others in a recently published book, *I Hear You: Wisdom Nuggets from God*.

Gary Knaggs and another man died assisting in an attempt to save two people from drowning after their sailboat was in danger of breaking up in the Atlantic Ocean near Center Moriches, New York. While trying to help, Knaggs attempted to take the sailboat in tow with their motorboat when it capsized. Both rescuers drowned.

The tragedy left Knaggs widowed and her two young children without a father, but through her faith she was able to persevere and raise both children to adulthood. In addition to that, she is a devoted author and spiritual guide that has helped thousands through similarly dark times.

For over 40 years, Knaggs has shared her truths about prayer to navigate times of joy and hardship with others. In, *I Hear You: Wisdom Nuggets from God*, Knaggs crafted a “yearlong devotional from a lifetime of prayer, intimacy with Jesus, and daily listening to the Holy Spirit”.

The book is available on Amazon and all royalties from the book will benefit single moms with young children. ☼



► from p.2

### BOARD NOTES

behind” which permeates our military. I think that ethos and sense of community would have moved our armed forces to perform this complex rescue as volunteers with the same aggressiveness displayed by those acting under orders.

I have seen this same community ethos in action in some of my favorite Carnegie hero rescues, especially within small communities that face isolation and share hardships or risks. For example, we awarded a harrowingly dangerous rescue by two Canadian fishermen in a small boat who saved two fellow fishermen caught in a storm. I just can’t imagine those two men going back to their coastal village and telling everyone that they had not attempted a rescue.

If I am right, that in certain situations there is a “social obligation to rescue,” does that mean that we can’t award a medal because of our rule? Not at all. One of Carnegie’s objectives was to shape our culture to support and celebrate heroic acts. While we do not want to encourage individuals to willy-nilly undertake specific risky rescues, we do want to encourage a culture of mutual care and support, a culture in which we try to take care of each other. That kind of culture exists, but we hope that telling the stories of our Carnegie heroes will spread it still wider.

My best and worst moment as president of the Hero Fund was in the rotunda of the Alabama capitol where we presented the Hero Medal to the families of 12 miners who died in a mine disaster. The men were making their way out of the mine toward safety when they realized that one of their numbers was missing back in the mine. So, they turned away from safety and went back to get him. We presented the Carnegie Hero Medal to their parents, wives, and children, but none of the miners had survived to be there. “No man left behind” indeed. There was a strong culture of care and rescue among miners, but in the moment each individual had to make the personal decision to answer the call and turn back toward danger.

To those 12 miners, to all Carnegie heroes, and to our rescue team in Iran, “Thank you.” ☼



FRIENDS REMEMBERED

▶ from p.1

CARNEGIE HERO RECOGNIZED BY MEDAL OF HONOR SOCIETY

demonstrate that the values represented by the Medal of Honor are relevant to all Americans, according to a press release on the announcement.

"This Citizen Honors Awards ceremony is a powerful reminder of why we, the 64 living Medal of Honor recipients, remain steadfast in championing the legacy and values of the medal across our nation," stated Britt Slabinski, a Medal of Honor recipient serving as president of the society.

"The Medal of Honor is not just about war or the battlefield - it stands as proof that every individual holds the capacity for extraordinary courage, sacrifice, and unwavering dedication in their own corner of the world. Whether at home, in school, in their communities, or at work, Americans must embody the values of the medal every day. The medal represents the best in all of us and we are honored to celebrate these remarkable individuals who have gone above and beyond in service to others, right where they are, she stated.

A panel assembled by the Congressional Medal of Honor Society reviewed the nominations and selected national finalists. From those finalists, the six entities were chosen to receive the Citizen Honors Awards by a second panel made up exclusively of Medal of Honor Recipients.

Launched in 2007, the Citizen Honors Awards program reflects the mission of Medal of Honor Recipients to show that the values associated with the Medal of Honor -- : courage, sacrifice, integrity, commitment, patriotism, and citizenship -- apply to all Americans. The tradition is also in keeping with the preference of recipients to shine a light on others rather than themselves as they believe that the Medals of Honor should be seen more broadly as a symbol of the sacrifices and service of others. Each year a nationwide search is conducted to select five U.S. citizens and one organization to receive the Citizen Honors Awards. The awards were created to encourage others to recognize acts of heroism and selfless service.

Childers was one of two posthumously honored for a single act of heroism Honoree. The other 2026 recipients include honorees in the categories of young hero, service act, youth service, and community service. 🌀

Friends Remembered is a collection of tributes to Carnegie heroes, beneficiaries, and others we have lost since the last edition of Impulse. They are listed chronologically by date of passing.

For Carnegie heroes, the tribute appearing here will also be added to their hero page on the Hero Fund's website.

This edition includes Norman E. Mattson, Charles R. Crickenberger, Phillip S. Snowden, Melvin L. Ashbrook Jr., Wilfred E. Morin, Pierre Joseph Gibbons, and Donald F. Melanson.

NORMAN E. MATTSON

Carnegie Hero Norman E. Mattson, 78, died Monday, Jan. 12, 2026, at his home in Clinton, Maine.

Mattson was born Jan. 13, 1947, in Richwood, New Jersey, to W. Elwood and Constance Mattson.

On April 27, 1958, in China, Maine, 4-year-old Norman J. Moulton broke through rotted boards around an abandoned well and dropped 12 feet before striking cold water 20 feet deep. Norman, 11 at the time, and four other children were nearby; Norman ran over to the well. Although he could not swim, Norman secured foot and handholds on stones and carefully descended to the water level, where the boy was floating at the surface. With his feet on stones at one side and his back pressed against the opposite wall of the narrow well, Norman lifted the child from the water onto his chest. Mattson held him there with one hand and began climbing, moving one foot at a time, shifting his free hand to a higher stone, and then inching his back farther up the wall. Stopping several times to obtain a better hold on the boy as the latter began to slip from his grasp. Norman climbed to within 18 inches of the well opening. From a prone position on the ground a girl then lifted the boy from the well, after which Norman climbed through the opening. The 4-year-old was treated for exposure and Norman sustained bruises from the stones. They recovered.



Norman E. Mattson

Mattson served in the U.S. Navy for 20 years and retired in 1986 at the rank of Chief Petty Officer. After his retirement from the Navy, he served as a water treatment operator for the City of Manassas, Virginia, for several years.

Mattson enjoyed riding a motorcycle in his younger days and was a lifetime member of Fairfield Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6924. He was always up for a game of pool, enjoyed going out to eat, and spending time with friends. Spending time with family was also important to Mattson, and he enjoyed sharing Sunday coffee with his sister, as well as visiting his daughters and grandchildren in Virginia.

Mattson is survived by five brothers, Charles, Randy, Jeffrey, Steve, and Keith Mattson; two sisters, Lisa Sherwood and Debra Marttson; daughters, Sherry

CHARLES R. CRICKENBERGER

Mattson Noud, Christina Mattson, and K.C. Krytusa; and six grandchildren, Ashlynn, Julia, Maya, Ryleem Lila, and Jackson.

Carnegie Hero Charles R. Crickenberger, 77, died Monday, Jan. 26, 2026.

Crickenberger was born Dec. 8, 1948, to Leo and "Tootsie" Crickenberger.

On Aug. 21, 1966, 26-year-old truck driver Kent A. King was driving a tractor-trailer with 100 gallons of gasoline in its two fuel tanks and an additional 7,500 gallons of gasoline in its tank when it veered from the highway, overturned, and rolled to an angle with all wheels in the air. Crickenberger, 17, saw the overturned vehicle and ran to the tractor to aid anyone in it. King was badly dazed and attempted to climb through the door window, which was 2 feet ▶

FRIENDS REMEMBERED

above the ground because of the angle of the vehicle. Crickenberger extended his arms into the cab, grasped King, and aided him to the ground. He then lifted King to his feet and took him to the road where he asked if there was anyone else in the cab, but King was too dazed to answer. Crickenberger ran to the front of the tractor and peered through the windshield. Just then, one of the fuel tanks exploded and gasoline was sprayed onto Crickenberger, igniting his clothing and singeing his hair. He ran to King and together they ran across the road to a field. There, Crickenberger removed his burning shirt as he ran and rolled on the ground to extinguish the flames on his trousers. The other fuel tank and then the tank trailer exploded. Flames rose 50 feet into the air. It required two hours for firefighters to quell the fire. King sustained burns to his face and arms. Crickenberger suffered more extensive burns. Both recovered after being hospitalized.



*Charles R. Crickenberger*

Crickenberger enjoyed fishing, where he felt most at peace, and was said to be an amazing cook. He was a loving family man and will be remembered in the hearts of those he created many memories with.

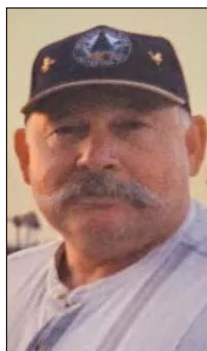
Crickenberger is survived by his wife of 58 years, Wilma Crickenberger; sisters Debbie Ashley and Wanda Kidd; brother Barry Crickenberger; daughter Cindy Powell; son Jeff Crickenberger; grandson Dexter; step-grandchildren, Lacey and Matthew; and six great grandchildren.

**PHILLIP S. SNOWDEN**

Carnegie Hero **Phillip S. Snowden**, 76, died Friday, Jan. 30, 2025.

Snowden was born in August 1948 to Paul and Verneal Snowden.

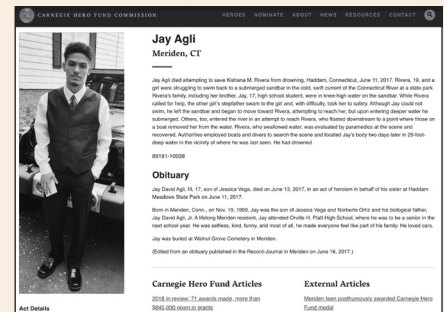
At night on June 6, 1964, a speeding vehicle on an eight-lane highway struck and badly damaged the rear end of a four-door sedan containing Loretta K. Mittan, 63, and Marry L. Marriot, 55, who were unable to open the jammed doors. Gasoline from the ruptured fuel tank caught fire, and flames broke out on the sedan as it slid to a stop against the highway's median strip, blocking one lane of traffic. Phillip, who was 15 at the time, and Jerry W. Plunkett, 17, and Daniel Lee Ables, 18, where driving nearby when they saw the accident and stopped at the scene. All three teens ran to the burning sedan as flames rose 8 feet at the rear of the automobile and along the driver's side. Snowden braced his knee against the other side of the vehicle and jerked open the front door. The sedan was filled with dense smoke, flames having burned through the trunk compartment and into the back of the rear seat. Snowden extended his head and shoulders into the front compartment and pulled. Mittan from the sedan. Ables then leaned into the vehicle and removed Marriott. Plunkett extended his upper body into the sedan and searched the front compartment but found no one else. He unlocked the rear door and probed the floor and seat there. Finding no one, Plunkett aided Ables and Phillip in taking the two women across the highway. The flames consumed all but the metal parts of the sedan.



*Phillip S. Snowden*

Snowden was described as an incredible athlete and student, as well as being full of courage, curiosity, laughter, and love. He embraced his freedom fully after he retired in 2005 and traveled the world before ultimately settling in the Fiji Islands.

Snowden is survived by sister Paula Snowden; daughter Regina Snowden; grandchildren Lilac and Mya; and stepson Thor Redstone. ▶ p. 15

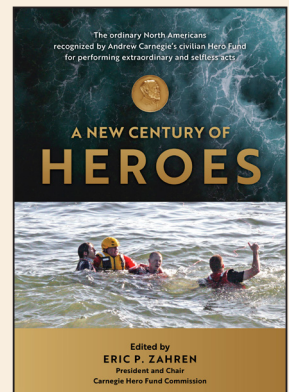


**OBITUARIES SOUGHT TO COMPLETE HERO FUND'S HISTORICAL RECORD OF MEDAL RECIPIENTS**

Written accounts of the recipient's life, such as contained in an obituary, are sought for addition to the Medal recipient's page on the Commission's website. Please send to the Hero Fund at [carnegiehero@carnegiehero.org](mailto:carnegiehero@carnegiehero.org).

**'A NEW CENTURY OF HEROES' NOW AVAILABLE**

*A New Century of Heroes* (2023, Lyons Press) was recently released. The book is the updated and expanded edition of *A Century of Heroes* (2004, University of Pittsburgh Press). Edited by Hero Fund President Eric Zahren, the book tells the stories of over 200 rescues from the Hero Fund archives dating back to 1904.



New sections include a chapter on the Hero Fund's response to disasters including the more recent Covid-19 pandemic.

In addition, several pages are dedicated to the Fund's 2018 celebration of 10,000 heroes.

Available from book retailers, including Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Books-A-Million, Bookshop, and Target, or by contacting the Hero Fund at [carnegiehero@carnegiehero.org](mailto:carnegiehero@carnegiehero.org) at a discounted rate of \$20.



PRESENTING

St. Catharines, Ontario, Mayor Mat Siscoe presented the Carnegie Medal to police officer **Aidan James Loughlin** at a Feb. 9 presentation held at St. Catharines City Hall.

Loughlin was off duty Dec. 6, 2023, when he and Carnegie Hero **Justin Baird** helped rescue Glen Havers, 63, from burning inside his St. Catharines apartment.

Havers, 63, lay unconscious inside a second-floor doorway at the top of an interior staircase inside the burning apartment building. Off-duty officers Loughlin, 24, and Baird, 25, were walking nearby when they smelled and saw smoke. Both men ran to the scene and told bystanders to call 911. Loughlin kicked and shattered a locked glass door before he climbed under the push bar, followed by Baird. The two men crawled up the stairs through heavy smoke and saw an open door at the top of the stairs. Loughlin entered through the doorway and tripped over Havers' feet. He moved farther inside the room and bent over as the flames poured out of the doorway near the ceiling above him. He grabbed Havers by his boots with both hands and pulled him out to the stair landing, then passed Havers' legs to Baird. Loughlin could feel his head getting hot and feared his hat had caught on fire, prompting him to discard it. Baird grabbed Havers' legs as he started to crawl backward down the stairs while Loughlin held the man under his arms and slid down on his buttocks. They navigated around and stumbled over clutter on the stairs while carrying Havers to the first floor. The three men eventually made it outside to the sidewalk. Havers suffered severe burns to his head and face. He was hospitalized for several weeks but recovered. Loughlin suffered from smoke inhalation and was treated at an emergency room. Baird also recovered from smoke inhalation.



"Today we are proud to present Aidan Loughlin with the prestigious Carnegie Medal for his act of heroism and selflessness in saving the life of his fellow man," Mayor Siscoe said. "In risking his own life to save Glen's, Aidan truly defines what Carnegie referred to as a 'hero of civilization.' Thank you, Aidan, for your bravery."

Upon accepting the medal, Loughlin thanked the man who nominated him for the medal, who had passed away a few weeks prior.

"Today I found out that the gentleman who had nominated me for this award had passed away a few weeks ago," Loughlin said. "Peter Gill, a lifelong resident of St. Catharines, 30-years with the Niagara Regional Police, retired as an inspector in 2000, and he's the reason I graduated high school. He's the reason I am doing what I am doing today. Thank you to Peter." ❄️



Texas State Police Lt. Daniel Crooks presented the Carnegie Medal to state Trooper **George W. Greenway IV** at a presentation held at the Texas Department of Public Safety in Mount Pleasant, Texas, on March 17.

Greenway was awarded the medal in September 2025 after he saved a woman from drowning in El Paso, Texas, on Sept. 5, 2024.

At night, a 27-year-old woman had fallen from the border fence separating El Paso and Mexico into the American Canal. As she was carried downstream, she grabbed hold of a cable that was strung across the canal about 80 feet upstream from the headgates of a wastewater treatment plant. Greenway, 45, was sitting in his patrol car a mile upstream when he heard the woman scream. He found a border agent who opened the border fence gate for him. Using his flashlight, he saw the woman in the middle of the canal clinging to the cable. Without hesitation, Greenway moved to help the woman. He removed his duty belt, jumped into the canal, and used the cable to pull himself hand-over-hand to the woman. As he continued to fight the current, Greenway grabbed the woman with one arm, told the border agent to instruct her to let go, and wrapped his legs around her as she went limp. He grabbed the cable with both hands as he secured the woman between his legs and pulled her toward a steep embankment. Greenway released his grip of the cable and grabbed a rebar step before he hoisted the woman up the step to a level surface. An ambulance soon arrived and took the woman to a hospital. Greenway was not injured.

The Texas Department of Public Safety posted on Facebook to congratulate Greenway for the reception of his medal and his bravery saving a life.

"Yesterday, Trooper George Greenway was awarded the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission Medal, recognizing his extraordinary courage and selfless action in saving a life. Lt. Crooks presented the honor on behalf of the Commission, marking a proud moment for Trooper Greenway, his family, and Texas [Department of Public Safety]. We are grateful for his bravery and unwavering commitment to others," the post stated. ❄️

PRESENTING



Carnegie Hero Fund President Eric Zahren presented the Carnegie Medal to City of Asylum co-founder **Ralph Henry Reese** at a well-attended, invitation only ceremony held Sunday, March 8, at Alphabet City in Pittsburgh.

Reese was awarded the medal in September after he and **Patrick Haskin** helped rescue novelist Salman Rushdie from an attempted assassination on Aug. 12, 2022, in Chautauqua, New York.

During a morning lecture, Rushdie, 75, was seated on an amphitheater stage preparing to speak at an event when a 24-year-old man with a knife ran up onto the stage and attacked, stabbing Rushdie repeatedly. Rushdie stood and attempted to flee, but fell to the ground as the assailant leaped on top of him to continue his assault.

Seated on the stage with Rushdie was Reese, 73, from Pittsburgh. He responded to the attack immediately along with event supervisor Haskin, 30, of Mayville, New York, and a communications director, both responding from backstage. The director ran at the assailant and dove, striking the assailant with his shoulder, knocking him off-balance and distracting him briefly. Meanwhile, Reese charged the assailant and held his legs down. At some point, Reese suffered a stab wound above his right eye, and the assailant managed to keep his upper body free to continue his attack on Rushdie.

Haskin saw the assailant still had the knife and punched his arm in an unsuccessful attempt to loosen the assailant's grip of the weapon. Haskin then laid on the assailant's upper body to hold him down. Rushdie was able to move a few feet away, out of the assailant's reach, as he lay bleeding on the floor. Others from the audience responded, including a man who sat on the assailant's back and held down his arm possessing the knife. Someone else managed to remove the knife from the assailant's grasp and handed it off to someone in the audience area.

On-site police soon responded to take the assailant into custody. The assailant was found guilty in state court of attempted murder and assault. He was sentenced to 25 years in prison. Rushdie was flown to a hospital for his injuries, including 15 stab wounds, some of which required surgery. One wound blind his right eye permanently. Reese was taken by ambulance to a hospital, where he was treated for the wound above his eye. He recovered. Haskin was not injured.

Zahren spoke about the similarities between the work of the Hero Fund and Reese's work at the City of Asylum, a haven where endangered creatives can continue to be heard.

"Dark and light are ever present in our neighborhoods and in our world," Zahren said. "The darkest places can always be overcome by the light of our better angels. But it requires a hard-fought understanding that we are the help that's coming. We are the better angels of civilization, present and available, as hope to those around us, even strangers."

Reese was honored to receive the medal and felt it was personally very dear to him. He followed by speaking on the culture of responsibility.

"Responsibility is something we learn from one another and share together. That day in Chautauqua I was not alone. Many of you were there and rushed the stage to help," Reese said. "Momentary acts of responsibility like Chautauqua, like defending Salman Rushdie, depend on a culture and a like-minded community of support, and I want to thank you for your help and your care."

Established in 2004 by Reese and Diane Samuels, City of Asylum provides sanctuary to endangered writers and artists, so that they can continue to create and their voices are not silenced. ☼



PRESENTING



Boone County Sheriff Les Hill presented the Carnegie Medal to police Officer **Jacob Sander** and sheriff's Sgt. **Jonathon Ball** at the Boone County Sheriff's office in Burlington, Kentucky, on March 12.

Sander and Ball were awarded the Medal in September 2025 after they saved a woman from drowning on Jan. 12, 2025, in Florence, Kentucky.

Kristin Barbiea, 47, was walking her dogs along a partially ice-covered pond at the center of her apartment complex when one of them got loose and ran onto the ice. The dog fell into a hole and Barbiea attempted to retrieve the dog but the ice broke beneath her feet, plunging her and the dog into the water. She was unable to grasp the edge of the crumbling ice sheet and tried to keep herself and the dog above water. A neighbor called 911 and on-duty, Sander, 30, and Ball, 34, were in the area to respond to the scene. Sander was informed that officers were on their way with rescue ropes, but he later said he felt she might drown if he did not intervene. Sander removed his equipment before stepping onto the ice, breaking through it twice. He located a solid patch before he laid flat on the ice and army-crawled to Barbiea. Once there, Sander grasped her and unsuccessfully attempted to remove her. Meanwhile, Ball arrived at the scene and called out to Sander

to ask how he could assist. Fully clothed, Ball made his way out onto the ice while Sander shouted instructions at him on where the ice was most safe. He crawled on his hands and knees to Sander and Barbiea where he grasped Sander by his boot. The two men pulled her up and onto the ice where they stood to each grasp one of Barbiea's arms before dragging her across the ice to shallow water near the bank. Emergency personnel helped them move Barbiea to safety on land and took her to the hospital. Sander was cold as a result of the rescue but was otherwise unharmed. Ball was cold and fatigued following the incident. He recovered.

The Boone County Sheriff's Office stated in a press release that they were proud of both officers and how honored they were to present the medal to them.

"Their actions are the embodiment of what it means to serve," Sheriff Hill said. "They represent the values we hope to instill in our children and grandchildren: bravery, compassion, commitment, and a willingness to act when others cannot," stated Hill. "Many people enter law enforcement because they want to help others. On that night, Officer Sander and Sgt. Ball didn't just help someone, they saved her life." ❄️

Conroe, Texas, Mayor Duke Coon presented the Carnegie Medal to **Robert E. Chance** at a March 26th presentation held during a Conroe city council meeting at city hall.

Chance was awarded the medal in September 2025 after he rescued a man from a submerging vehicle during a flood in Spring, Texas, on May 28, 2024.

During heavy rainfall, 53-year-old Jeffrey Jones attempted to exit a flooded parking lot in poor visibility when he unintentionally drove into a drainage channel. His vehicle was pulled along the channel by fast-moving water before it came to rest atop a submerged pipe and against the dividing column of a concrete culvert. Robert E. Chance, 38, was returning to a worksite for his job as a contractor when he drove over the culvert where Jones was stuck. Seeing Jones inside pounding on the windshield, Chance retrieved a small homemade sledgehammer. He then jumped from the road to the rain-slicked hood of the truck. Chance attempted to break the windshield with the hammer but was unsuccessful. He then climbed onto the roof and lowered himself into the bed of the truck. From there, Chance indicated to Jones that he was going to break the rear passenger window after he determined the rear windshield would be too small. With one strike of the hammer, Chance shattered the window and Jones climbed into the rear of the truck's cab, Jones then moved to exit through the opening and placed his right foot on the windowsill. Chance helped steady Jones by leaning over the truck bed's rail. He extended his right arm through the window opening to assist Jones and then helped him move into the truck's bed. Both men climbed onto the roof of the truck and onto the hood where a bystander brought a collapsible ladder that they used to climb from the truck's hood to safety atop the culvert.

At the presentation, Chance was joined by his wife and had the opportunity to speak after receiving his medal. He took the moment to respond to people who wondered what made him act to save the life of another, explaining that it was just his natural instinct.

"My life is not above another. I don't tell people to go out there and save people's lives, or put theirs in danger, but I would do it. Again and again. Over and over," Chance said. ❄️



PRESENTING

Carnegie Hero Fund President Eric Zahren presented the Carnegie Medal to **Matthew Duffiney** and **Jack France** at a March 21 ceremony held at the Cheboygan (Michigan) Carnegie Community Center.

Duffiney and France were awarded the medal in September 2025 after they rescued a local man from drowning on March 10, 2025.

Charles Grenier, 73, was riding a powersports vehicle across thin ice on the Black River when it broke through the ice and sank 13 feet to the bottom. Grenier unbuckled his seat belt, swam to the water's surface, and clung to the ice, shouting for help in the frigid water. Duffiney and his friend, France, both 28 of Cheboygan, were ice fishing on the other side of the river when they saw Grenier plunge through the ice.

Both men jumped on France's powersports vehicle and raced over to Grenier. They parked on thick ice, ran, and then walked, across increasingly thin ice as they approached Grenier. Duffiney crouched down and crawled on the ice before he reached out to grab Grenier's hands. The ice soon broke under him and he tumbled into the water headfirst. France also plunged into the water, and both men then moved to either side of Grenier. They grabbed his arms and tried unsuccessfully to lift him onto the ice. Pushing himself up on the ice, Duffiney spread out on the ice on his belly and pulled Grenier toward him. Simultaneously, France pushed on Grenier from behind and the two men pulled and pushed until he got onto the ice. Duffiney dragged Grenier to safety on thicker ice while France clawed his way up from the water. All three lay nearly exhausted on the ice, but no one was injured.

Zahren spoke about the mission of the Hero Fund and how fostering a care for others allows for brave action to take place.

"Before heroic action, there must be care and concern for others, there must be awareness of their plight. It's first about community. Only then does bravery and valor emerge. The essential message of the Hero Fund is that we are all in this together, no matter how bad it gets," he said. ❁



Carnegie Hero **Lilly Baker** was presented the Carnegie Medal on Sunday, April 12, at her church, Kelly's Creek Baptist Church in Ardmore, Tennessee, with her family and friends in attendance. Left photo: From left, Warren Herring, a mentor to Baker, presented the award to her.

Baker was awarded the medal in September 2025 after she rescued a woman from the path of an oncoming train in Ardmore on Feb. 5, 2024.

At a railroad crossing, a 53-year-old woman struggled to walk across a set of train tracks while pushing her wheelchair in front of her. At the same time, a freight train approached at approximately 35 m.p.h., but it could not yet be heard or seen from the scene. Baker, 18, from Elkmont, Alabama, was driving nearby and stopped to offer the woman a ride. Baker exited her vehicle to move toward the woman, but as she reached her the crossing arms came down, the bells and train horn sounded, and the train continued to rapidly approach. She moved behind the woman, grabbed her under the arms, spun her around, and began to walk backward while dragging her. Baker fell down twice but stood up about halfway to again grab the woman under her arms. She pulled as hard as she could as the two of them fell to the ground beside the tracks as the train passed and hit the woman's legs. The woman was taken by ambulance to a hospital where she was treated for two broken ankles and severe lacerations on her legs. She recovered. Baker was not injured.

Herring was surprised when he learned that Baker wanted him to present the medal, not realizing how much he had impacted her right after the incident.



"Warren actually helped me out a lot after everything happened," she said. "He is a really kind man to me who did a lot and means a lot. It would be an honor and a blessing to have him present it to me."

The affection is mutual, with Herring telling the Hero Fund how honored he was to present the award.

Following the service and presentation, the sister of the woman Baker saved was in the audience and came up to speak with Baker. Right photo: Rose Lynn Jones, right, thanked Baker for saving her sister's life in what Herring described as a humbling and touching moment. ❁



LATEST RECIPIENTS OF THE CARNEGIE MEDAL

Since the last edition of Impulse, the following 18 individuals have been awarded the Carnegie Medal for Heroism, bringing the total number of recipients to 10,563 since the Hero Fund's inception in 1904. The latest awards were made in March. The next announcement will be made in June.

A 6-year-old boy was playing on a rocky bank of the Rideau River at Hog's Back Park on June 30, 2024, in Ottawa, Ontario, when he slipped and fell into the rushing water. He was swept into some rapids as he struggled to remain afloat. Along the rocky riverbank nearby was Ottawa researcher **Sadia Khan**, 36. Upon seeing the boy being swept downstream, she immediately lowered herself in the water then waded and swam about 10 feet in chin-deep water until she was able to grasp the boy under his arm. She struggled to keep him above water as the current continued to pull them. Khan slammed into various rocks and submerged several times. She attempted to dig her feet into the rocks at the bottom of the river but was unable to maintain a foothold until she and the boy were about 300 feet down river. There, Khan wedged her feet between riverbed rocks and grabbed onto a dry rock above the surface. She then pushed the boy up onto the rock before pulling herself up next to him. The boy sat in Khan's lap atop the rock until first-responders arrived. At the scene, paramedics evaluated the boy, who was cold and suffered a cut on his arm. Khan suffered multiple cuts on her legs, back, arms, and feet. She went to the hospital a week later and was prescribed to undergo long-term physiotherapy for pain in her lower body. More than a year later, Khan was still experiencing hip and lower back pain.



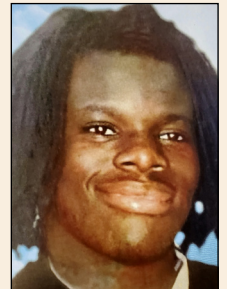
Sadia Khan



Matt Vasey



Volodymyr Zubko



Gulson Elvé

A floatplane piloted by Anthony L. Jurcan, 80, was flying over Lake Sammamish in Bellevue, Washington, on Sept. 15, 2023, when it flipped and crashed into the lake, at a point more than a half-mile from land. Jurcan was trapped upside down inside the submerged cabin, strapped into the pilot's seat underwater, while his passenger, his stepson, managed to escape and was pulled by a boater onto his boat. Technology executive **Matt Vasey**, 54, from Bellevue, was working at his lakefront house when he was alerted to the crash by his neighbor. Vasey jumped into his ski boat and raced to the plane when he was told by the boater that the pilot remained inside. Vasey then jumped off his boat into the cold, deep water and swam 60 feet to the plane before submerging to reach inside the partially open canopy. Unable to move Jurcan, Vasey resurfaced to get a breath and dived back down.

He then forced open the canopy with his hands and feet. Vasey climbed inside, unbuckled Jurcan's lap belt, and pulled him to the surface. He moved an unresponsive Jurcan, who was heavier than him, to a wing of the plane and started CPR. Another boat arrived and the passengers helped pull Jurcan aboard the boat. With both men aboard, the boat raced to shore where Vasey and others performed CPR until paramedics took over. Jurcan ultimately succumbed from injuries incurred in the crash and died at the scene. He did not drown. Vasey suffered cuts on his hands and face but did not seek medical treatment.

On Sept. 19, 2023, a 37-year-old man intentionally sped his vehicle into a Freeport, New York, marina, crashing through a bulkhead and plunging into a canal. As the vehicle began to sink, the man submerged upside-down and remained unconscious near his vehicle. Software engineer **Volodymyr Zubko**, 37, who, at the time of the rescue, had arrived in the country four days prior from Ukraine and was in his house across from the marina and heard the crash. He ran outside where he saw a man's leg sticking out of the water. Zubko jumped into the canal and swam 80 feet to the man where he grabbed both of his legs to pull him away from the sinking SUV. He then slipped an arm under the man's arm and swam toward a dock. Zubko towed the man underwater to waiting first-responders and police who pulled the man onto the dock. They started CPR, but the floating dock flipped over, dumping Zubko, the driver, and all first responders into the water. At that point, the man regained consciousness and attempted to drown himself by dunking his head. He fought first-responders before they eventually pulled him onto the dock again. The man was taken to a hospital and treated for injuries from the crash as well as swallowing water. Zubko was not injured.

While wading in the shallow water of a pool ▶



Photo by Sadia Khan

The rapids in front of **Sadia Khan** moments before a 6-year-old boy fell into the water on June 30, 2024, in Ottawa, Ontario. Khan saw the boy being swept downstream and immediately acted, entering and then pulling him from the water. The boy was cold but survived the incident.

**Jason Leary****Major Metzger****Jeffery Edward  
Brady****Mark Bryson**

near the base of a Signal Mountain, Tennessee, overflow dam on Apr. 28, 2024, Greffania Merilus, 23, slipped off algae-covered rocks into water, 6 feet deep. In Merilus' hiking party was student **Gulson Elvé**, 20, from Birchwood, Tennessee, who reacted immediately and moved to the water's edge. Elvé waded and then swam to Merilus. He attempted to move back toward wadable water with Merilus, but she became panic-stricken, flailing, and grasped him. Within seconds, both submerged and did not resurface. One of their friends called 911 and police responded to a trailhead about a mile from the pool. Police reached the dam and entered the water about 20 minutes after the incident occurred where at that point they retrieved Merilus. Police attempted CPR, but were unsuccessful in reviving Merilus. She drowned. Elvé was retrieved from the water by a dive team about an hour-and-a-half after his attempted rescue. He also drowned.

After floodwater in Spring Hope, North Carolina, swept a minivan to the edge of a ravine that overflowed its bank and flooded a nearby highway on Aug. 6, 2025, its driver Lottie R. Alston, 24, stood on the frame of the vehicle's front passenger window with her stepfather in the driver's seat. On-duty police lieutenant **Jason Leary**, 52, from Washington, North Carolina, had responded to the highway and saw Alston holding onto the vehicle in the water. Leary used his radio to request fire rescue personnel when he was alerted by an officer that Alston had fallen into the water. Seeing her taken downstream by the swift current, Leary gave the officer his radio and ran toward the water's edge. He jumped into the ravine still wearing his uniform and boots. Leary came within 5 feet of a completely submerged Alston and attempted to locate her when he, too, submerged. He felt around for her in the water but was unsuccessful and taken downstream by the swift current about 90 feet. As he was carried, his body struck a downed tree that extended across the ravine about 5 feet below the water's surface. Leary tried to climb over it but could not, so he rolled his body so that the force of the water pushed him under it. He resurfaced and was taken another 90 feet, where he saw an oak tree on the bank and grasped it. The water repeatedly splashed his

head and went into his mouth, causing him to have difficulty breathing and to let go of the tree. Leary was taken downstream to a point about 300 feet from the van, where he grasped trees on the bank. He braced his legs on one of the trees for stability and used his flashlight to signal for help. A police sergeant and fire personnel responded to the opposite bank where they threw him a rescue rope. Leary grasped it and they pulled him from the water to safety. Alston and her stepfather, who had at some point exited the vehicle, were later found as water receded. They both had drowned. Leary suffered scratches and bruises to his ribs. He recovered.

At a ski resort in Nellysford, Virginia, on Jan. 26, 2025, 6-year-old Bryce Rader was loading onto a four-person bench seat on a chairlift when he had difficulty and was sliding off the seat. Bryce was one of four children on the seat, including 10-year-old **Major Metzger** from Virginia Beach. Major was seated immediately beside Bryce. The lift began to ascend as Bryce continued to struggle to sit safely with his heavy gear that included a helmet and skis. Major grasped onto him and attempted to pull him onto the seat. By the time workers were alerted to bring the lift to a complete stop, Bryce had fallen entirely off the seat. At that point, the bottom of the seat was about 16 feet above the rugged, sloped ground, and Major was leaning forward and down. He continued to hold Bryce's arms with both of his gloved hands while wearing a helmet and skis of his own until a ski patrol arrived with a safety mat. They stood below the seat and advised Major to let Bryce go after he dangled precariously for about four minutes during the incident. Bryce fell down to the pad, bounced off it, and suffered a small bump on his head. Medical staff evaluated Bryce and he did not require additional treatment. He recovered. Major rode the chairlift to the top of the ski run and offloaded with the girls. His arms were sore and he was shaken. He did not require medical treatment.

During a family outing on the Colorado River near Martinez Lake, Arizona, on July 5, 2025, a 10-year-old boy entered deeper water from a nearby submerged sandbar and struggled to swim. He soon was followed by his 12-year-old

brother and he, too, had difficulty when he tried to help his brother. Also in the boys' party was 51-year-old manager **Jeffery Edward Brady** from Yuma, Arizona, who was on a boat with his partner, the boys' aunt. The boat was anchored on the sandbar where Brady heard calls for help and left the boat to the deeper water. Brady submerged as he struggled to keep both boys above the surface. Brady's twin brother and the brother's partner soon joined them in the river. A passing boat stopped and the boys, along with the partner, all boarded it. By then, Brady had submerged and did not resurface. His brother dived to search the immediate area, but could not find him and exited the river. First-responders evaluated the boys and they did not require medical treatment. Brady was recovered downstream hours later. He had drowned.

In shallow water about 20 feet from shore in Daytona Beach, Florida, on June 2, 2023, Roland P. Bryson and Miah L. Gonzalez, both 11, were with Miah's mother Andrea L. Rogers, 41, when the sand beneath their feet gave way and a strong rip current pulled them farther from shore. Roland's father **Mark Bryson**, a 42-year-old Lakeland, Florida, construction worker, was on the beach when he heard them shout for help. He immediately ran to the shoreline and swam to reach the three of them. They remained together and were pulled to a point about 300 feet from shore. Rogers held Roland and Miah by their wrists as Bryson approached. She pushed them both to him, but Roland soon grasped her wrist and she no longer saw Bryson or Miah. At some point, ►



**Major Metzger**, right, poses with Bryce Rader whom, on Jan. 26, 2025, he saved from falling from a ski lift at a Nellysford, Virginia, resort. Bryce slid off the seats and was hanging off the lift as it ascended. Major, then 10, held to him until a ski patrol got a safety mat for him to fall on.

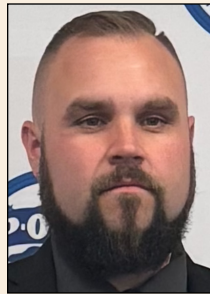


## LATEST MEDAL RECIPIENTS

Bryson had submerged, and Miah let the rip current take her as she was pushed out of the current toward shore. Roland, too, escaped the rip current and was pushed toward shore. Rogers had lost consciousness and awoke in shallow water where others pulled her to safety. Another man in the party was nearby and had heard a scream for help. Using a surfboard, he swam out to Bryson. By that point, Bryson was facedown in the water. The man positioned Bryson on the board and returned to shore with difficulty before reaching a sandbar. Lifeguards responded to take Bryson from him and then brought him to the beach. Rogers ingested water and was treated at the hospital. She was detained to have her heart monitored and was released after five days. She recovered. Roland also ingested water and was checked by paramedics at the scene and at the hospital, but did not require further treatment. He recovered. Miah was uninjured. Attempts to revive Bryson were unsuccessful. He had drowned.

While swimming with friends in the Au Sable River in Mio, Michigan, on Aug. 1, 2024, a 17-year-old boy struggled to stay afloat in the turbulent water that emerged from the powerhouse of the Mio Dam. One of the friends with him tried to pull him from the water while another friend called 911. Responding to the call was on-duty deputy sheriff **Ryan Blair**, 36, from Fairview, Michigan. Blair drove to the scene, ran to the river, and he dived in, swimming about 100 feet to reach the boy. As Blair tried to help, the boy grabbed him and dragged him under multiple times. Blair wrapped a rescue disc rope around the boy and held onto the end of the rope as he towed him toward the end of a concrete pier. He submerged several times as the boy fought to keep his head above water and the rope became entangled around Blair's legs and arms. Near the pier, a fisherman and two firefighters in wadable water formed a human chain to pull Blair and the boy to shore. Once there, Blair performed sternum rubs to revive the boy and he vomited water. The boy was taken to a hospital and treated for symptoms related to near drowning. Blair was treated at a hospital for inhaling water and near drowning. He was off work for two weeks while he underwent breathing treatments. He recovered and returned to duty.

Following a July 8, 2022, collision on a Midway, Georgia, highway, 11-year-old Alexa Tschantz was trapped in the rear seat of her mother's burning sedan. The vehicle had collided with a dump truck, striking its fuel tank, which caused both vehicles to burst into flames. Driving on the same road and witnessing the accident



**Ryan Blair**



**Brian K. Patterson**



**Esperanza Gutierrez**



**Matthew Atchley**

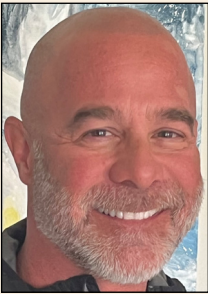
was 36-year-old aircraft mechanic **Brian K. Patterson** from Ludowici, Georgia. Patterson and his teenage son exited their vehicle and ran to the sedan where they escorted Alexa's mother to safety about 50 feet from the vehicle. She told Patterson that Alexa remained in the back seat and he ran back to the burning vehicle. He was able to see Alexa's left arm from being illuminated by flames amid thick smoke in the passenger cab. Patterson then leaned into the vehicle to his shoulders, grasped Alexa's left arm, and then pulled her across the seat, out of the vehicle. At that point, he dragged her to safety and removed his shirt in an attempt to smother flames burning on Alexa's clothing. A bystander arrived with a fire extinguisher and successfully helped Patterson extinguish the flames. Patterson and

his son then stayed with Alexa until emergency personnel arrived to take her to a nearby hospital. Alexa suffered fractures to each of her orbital bones and burns that covered 70 percent of her body. She spent about three months in the hospital recovering from her injuries. Patterson suffered singeing to hairs on his arms and face but did not seek medical attention.

On Dec. 30, 2024, in Sevierville, Tennessee, 8-year-old Mateo Gutierrez, who was severely autistic and nonverbal, was trapped in his second-floor bedroom as a fire began to spread up the stairs and filled the house with smoke. The fire had originated from the first floor after a kerosene heater overturned in the living room. Mateo was originally with his 15-year-old sister **Esperanza Gutierrez** when he became frightened by the blaze and ran ▶



Photo by Trisha Weybright-Jack  
*The July 8, 2022, scene of a burning vehicle in Midway, Georgia. After being told the woman's daughter was still inside, **Brian K. Patterson** ran to the car. As flames burned around them, he leaned into the vehicle, grabbed the girl, and pulled her out to safety. Both the girl and the mother survived.*



**Judd Bronson**



**Anderson Chase Childers**



**Sean Hayes**

upstairs to his bedroom. Esperanza, her older brother, and their mother's friend, who lived in the house, had all exited through a side porch off the kitchen. Esperanza asked where Mateo was and realized he was not with them. She ran back inside the burning house and upstairs to Mateo's bedroom. The fire then spread up the stairs and flames engulfed the bedroom. Firefighters later found Mateo and Esperanza deceased in Mateo's bedroom.

After attempting to retrieve a flotation ring that drifted away from the shore of Lake Anna in Bumpass, Virginia, on May 25, 2024, 14-year-old Tyler D. Atchley began to struggle to stay afloat in the murky, deep water about 100 feet from the shore. His father **Matthew Atchley**, a 41-year-old Erie, Pennsylvania, quality engineer, was alerted by Tyler's sister and responded to the shore. Atchley saw his son struggling in the water and swam out toward him. He reached a point about 10 feet from where Tyler was last seen. Tyler had submerged and Atchley repeatedly submerged in an attempt to locate him. Atchley then

started to struggle and submerged again. He did not resurface. Others in the party obtained life jackets and goggles and entered the water to try to locate Atchley and Tyler, but limited visibility in the murky water beneath the surface impeded

their efforts. Police and rescue divers arrived to find both Atchley and Tyler. They located them submerged in a cove. They had drowned.

A group of people were caught in a longshore current and a strong rip current in the Atlantic Ocean near Pawleys Island, South Carolina, on July 13, 2025, and could be heard calling for help. Several swimmers were stranded in the crosscurrent about 150 feet from the beach and no lifeguards were stationed. On the beach, 38-year-old contractor **Anderson Chase Childers** from Dallas, Georgia, was with his wife and three young children when he heard the calls for help. Childers immediately responded and ran into the ocean. He swam out and, ultimately, reached a point beyond some people in the crosscurrent. Police concluded that Childers might have perceived another person was in danger. Another man reacted to Childers' urgency and also left the beach to swim out. When the man later reached Childers, he was then unresponsive. The man attempted to tow Childers, but they separated in the rough surf.

All of the struggling swimmers safely returned to shore, along with the man who had reached Childers. Police, firefighters, and the Coast Guard then searched for Childers. He was later found after he drifted a considerable distance from where he was last seen. He had drowned.

Near a partially ice-covered pond on Jan. 27, 2025, in Windsor, Colorado, Tara Vreeland, 41, was walking her two golden retriever dogs when one of the dogs ran out onto the ice after geese. The dog then fell into a 45-foot diameter area of open water about 150 feet from the bank. Vreeland ran onto the ice after the dog, and while on her stomach attempting to retrieve it from the frigid water, her other dog jumped onto her back, causing both her and the second dog to break through the ice. Windsor resident **Judd Bronson**, 52, chiropractor, was walking on a nearby trail when he heard faint calls for help, then moans, and saw the two dogs and Vreeland struggling to stay afloat. Bronson removed his winter coat and jumped over a short, barbed-wired fence near the walking trail to gather three large sticks. He jumped back over the fence and ran to the edge of the pond, at some point calling out for a bystander to call 911. Bronson began to walk approximately 75 feet out onto the ice. As the ice became thinner, Bronson proceeded to get down on his stomach, using the sticks underneath him to help distribute his weight, and crawled the remaining 75 feet to the unfrozen section of the pond. After realizing that Vreeland was unresponsive and unable to grab onto the stick he was holding out to her, Bronson ▶



*The van of Lottie R. Alston in Aug. 6, 2025, floodwater in Spring Hope, North Carolina. Police Lt. **Jason Leary** was on-duty when he attempted to rescue Alston after she fell into the water and swept her downstream. Leary was unable to reach her amid the dangerous conditions. Alston was later found and she had drowned. Photo courtesy of Spring Hope Police Department.*



*Photo by Tara Vreeland*  
*The ice-covered pond in Windsor, Colorado, where Tara Vreeland fell in with her dogs on Jan. 27, 2025. **Judd Bronson** was nearby when he heard Vreeland call out for help. Bronson made his way onto the ice by crawling toward Vreeland and pulled her and her dogs from the frigid water.*



hooked the stick into the hood of her parka and pulled her toward him. The dogs followed, and while holding onto Vreeland with one arm, Bronson was able to pull both dogs atop the ice. Bronson then was able to repeatedly slide backward a few feet while pulling Vreeland until she was completely out of the water. He dragged her across the ice to the bank where first-responders were waiting. Vreeland was taken to the hospital with a body temperature of 83 degrees. She recovered. Bronson was exhausted and cold as a result of the rescue but was otherwise uninjured.

Walking in the hallway of a Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, high school between class periods on Sept. 5, 2024, a 15-year-old girl was approached by another student who doused her with a water bottle full of gasoline. The student then used a lighter to set her on fire and flames quickly spread along the girl's head and torso. A 33-year-old teacher, **Sean Hayes**, was in the hallway when the attack occurred. He immediately instructed a co-worker to call 911 and instructed the girl to move to the ground. Hayes moved to his hands and knees beside the girl to try to roll her, but was impeded by her backpack. He then rocked her back and forth to extinguish the flames but that, too, was ineffective. Hayes then attempted to pat out the flames using his hands and realized the flames had jumped to his own clothing. He stood and pressed himself against a set of nearby lockers in an effort to extinguish the flames on him before removing his overshirt and T-shirt. Hayes then used the overshirt to pat out the flames on the girl's body before requesting a co-worker's shirt after Hayes' overshirt had been damaged by the flames. The co-worker handed the shirt

to Hayes and he used it to continue patting out the flames. A school police officer arrived after most of the flames were extinguished and relieved Hayes. Flames spread on the hallway floor and Hayes retrieved a discarded fire extinguisher that he used to extinguish puddles of flaming gasoline. Others tended to the girl and emergency personnel took both the girl and Hayes to a nearby hospital. The girl suffered burns to 40 percent of her body and was hospitalized for about three months. She recovered. Hayes suffered burns to the left side of his body, including his face, neck, side, and hand. He, too, recovered.

On May 23, 2025, Colin McNary, 25, who was severely autistic, ran into the Duck River at a boat ramp in Chickasaw Trace Park in Columbia, Tennessee, and was swept downstream by the current. On the south side of the boat ramp, auto assembly plant tool coordinator **Samuel Hardin Adcock**, 26, and network engineer **James Alan Garner**, 41, both from Columbia, were with Garner's family when they saw McNary get carried downstream. Adcock immediately waded out to the channel and began swimming freestyle downstream to try to catch up to McNary. Garner instructed his two children to leave the water and go to their car. He entered the water and swam downstream to catch up to McNary and Adcock. About 1,000 feet downstream, McNary was swept into a calmer area of the



**Samuel Hardin Adcock**



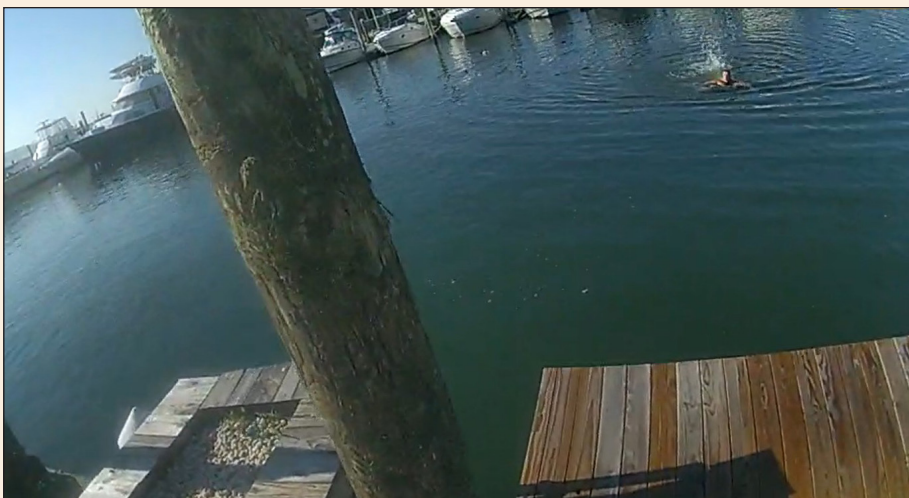
**James Alan Garner**



**Matthew Lubieniecki**

river, where Adcock caught up with him and grabbed him. McNary struggled to stay afloat and submerged Adcock, who pushed McNary away to get air. Adcock stood on an underwater tree limb and grabbed McNary before he pushed him toward the riverbank. Garner had then arrived and positioned himself behind McNary. The two men pushed and pulled McNary to a large tree root on the riverbank, where they waited for first-responders. The riverbank had a steep, rocky ledge that prevented them from climbing up into the woods. Garner swam upstream about 120 feet to find an alternative route to climb out of the river but was unable to locate one and swam back to the others. Garner kept McNary calm until a rescue boat could take him back to the boat ramp, where his parents waited. An ambulance took him to a hospital. The boat then returned to pick up Adcock and Garner. McNary, Adcock, and Garner were tired and cold but not injured. Adcock and Garner were still wet when they later visited the hospital to check on McNary.

At a Portage, Indiana, marina dock on July 6, 2025, a 38-year-old man was in electrified water caused by a faulty connection between his boat and the marina's power source in water about 6.5 feet deep and about 3 feet from the dock. The man had jumped in to help his dog that had slipped from his boat into the water and was in obvious distress. He felt a shock and alerted others, including **Matthew Lubieniecki**, 52, assistant manager, from Ogden Dunes, Indiana. Upon hearing the man shout and knowing he was being electrocuted, Lubieniecki approached the edge of the dock. He bent over, used one hand to brace himself on the dock surface, and extended his other arm down to the man. Just above the water, the man had his forearms raised and Lubieniecki grasped his right hand to pull him up onto the dock. With his wife, Lubieniecki removed the dog from the water and placed it on the dock. The man was taken to the hospital by an ambulance and it was verified that he was electrocuted. He was treated and released. His dog also survived. Lubieniecki suffered a bite wound on his left hand from the dog as he pulled it from the water and also sustained an injury to his left arm. ☹️



*A still shot taken from Freeport, New York, police bodycam video on Sept. 19, 2023, showing Volodymyr Zubko swimming toward a dock while towing a man underwater. Zubko entered the canal after the man had driven his vehicle into the water and remained unconscious. Zubko towed the man to police on a nearby floating dock where he was taken to safety.*

FRIENDS REMEMBERED

► from p.5

**MELVIN L. ASHBROOK JR.**

Carnegie Hero **Melvin L. Ashbrook Jr.**, 80, died Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2026, in Charleston, West Virginia.

Ashbrook was born July 25, 1945, in Wheeling, West Virginia, to Melvin Lawrence Ashbrook Sr. and Elizabeth Davidson Mushet.

On Oct. 13, 1966, in Short Creek, West Virginia, a twin-engine airplane containing Lenor W. Balcar, 50; Gertrude W. Lear, 86; and Carl and Lillian A. Walter, crash-landed near an airport on a narrow strip of ground between a wooded area and a steep bank. The wings of the damaged plane rested atop the bank and in the trees, holding the front end above the ground. Fire broke out on the left engine as gasoline leaked from at least one of the fuel tanks. Ashbrook, who was 21 at the time, and other airplane service men — **Joseph Martin Remias, John I. Tominack, William P. Valput, David Brian Lehr, Howard W. Friedrichs, Robert A. Wiesner, Glenn Lee Bemiss, and Paul C. Bailey** — drove to a road near the wrecked airplane along with the airport's fire truck. They ran near the airplane but, anticipating an explosion, retreated when the flames suddenly increased to 20 feet high. Despite the danger, all would play a part in getting the passengers out of the plane. Ashbrook was able to help by lowering Balcar from the plane wing and then carried her to safety. Ashbrook returned to help further as others in the group removed Carl Walter from the cabin and carried him away as well. He then came back to help remove Lillian Walter through an opening created by the crash and carried her away. Once all the passengers were removed, the flames spread swiftly, and other fuel tanks of the plane exploded. Flames rose 180 feet into the air Carl Walter could not be revived, and his death was attributed to a cardiac seizure. All others who sustained injuries recovered.



*Melvin L. Ashbrook Jr.*

Ashbrook was a pilot for 32 years and retired a Senior Pilot from the State of West Virginia, Aviation Division. He received the Most Distinguished West Virginian Award by then Gov. Bob Wise, upon his retirement in 2001.

Ashbrook was a religious man who cherished spending time with his family, NASCAR, and woodworking. He was considered a positive role model for his entire family, especially to his sons-in-law and grandsons.

**WILFRED E. MORIN**

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Debra Ashbrook; daughters Heather Pennington and Heidi Edwards; four grandchildren David, Haley, Jarret, Alyson, and Tara; and four great grandchildren.

Carnegie Hero **Wilfred E. Morin**, 91, died Friday, March 13, 2026.

Morin was born Oct. 7, 1934, in Van Buren, Maine, to John and Mary Morin.

On May 25, 1966, in Burlington, Connecticut, Morin saved 6-year-old Michael S. Albee from being shot after he was kidnapped by a man and held hostage at the man's home. (Read more about the rescue in this edition's From the Archives, page 17.)

Morin enjoyed hunting trips with his sons and nephews as a cherished pastime with the joy of nature and family bonds.

Morin was described as having charm, quick wit, and a vibrant personality that made him the life of every gathering. He brought joy and laughter to those around him, living on in the countless hearts he touched.

Morin was preceded in death by his wife of 69 years, Marie, and their son, Jay Morin.

Morin is survived by sisters Gerry Kovalski and Terry Poharczyk; daughter Lori Hackling; son Jeffrey Morin; six grandchildren, Zachary, Tyler, Lauren, James, Michael, and Ray; and six great-grandchildren. ►



*Wilfred E. Morin*

**'HEROES FOR HEROES' PEER NETWORK**

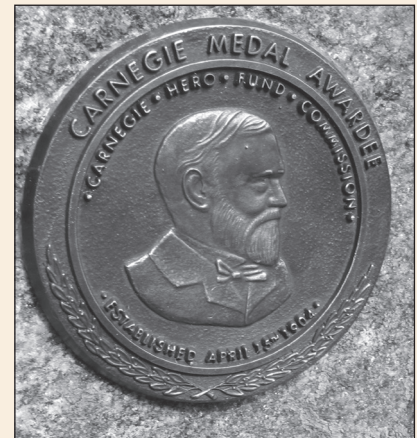
The Hero Fund has initiated a peer support network for Carnegie heroes to speak with each other about their common experience in taking on great risk to save another person, often a stranger.



Participants will be paired with one of a handful of volunteer coaches to discuss after-rescue issues and challenges where there is need for supportive communication.

Beyond the initial connection, the conversations will remain confidential from the Hero Fund, in case that, too, is an obstacle for some heroes.

To participate, e-mail [carnegiehero@carnegiehero.org](mailto:carnegiehero@carnegiehero.org).



**GRAVE MARKERS AVAILABLE TO FAMILIES OF DECEASED HEROES**

The Hero Fund is pleased to offer at no cost a bronze grave marker to the next of kin of any recipient who has died. The 3.75-inch medallion is designed to replicate the look of the Carnegie Medal, and can be displayed on a recipient's stone or bronze headstone or on a flat-faced urn. For information, e-mail us at [carnegiehero@carnegiehero.org](mailto:carnegiehero@carnegiehero.org).



OVERHEARD

Someone screamed for help. It was instinct – it was gut. If was someone in trouble, and I just ran toward it. – **Allen Noble Corson Jr.**, Carnegie Hero #10315

A thanks should go to my parents for raising me how to act in these situations. Because of them, there was no hesitation. – **Paul Galotti**, Carnegie Hero #10350

Some say they wouldn't do it, but if you see somebody swimming for their life, who wouldn't jump in and try? I think any human would. – **Justin Scott Slater**, Carnegie Hero #10487

It took all my strength and all my might. It's either we're going to die or we're going to get out of here. – **Lilly Baker**, Carnegie Hero #10523

It will never be known just how many lives could have been lost that night had these two brave lifelong friends not found the courage to confront this mentally disturbed man and attempt to disarm him. The critical seconds that Jason and Mike were able to occupy him provided time for others to hide, escape, and find safety. – Widow of Carnegie Hero #10524 **Jason Walker** who acted with Carnegie Hero #10525 **Michael Robert Deslauriers II**

Josh's story is one of enduring courage, profound strength, and extraordinary love, and, ultimately, sacrifice. His life leaves an enduring legacy that inspires all who knew him and serves as a reminder of the power of sacrifice and heroism. – Obituary of Carnegie Hero #10533 **Joshua A. Curtis**

Without a doubt, they saved his life and you know it's just great to know there are people like that in this world and in our community. – Police chief on the actions of Carnegie Hero #10536 **Clayton E. Poindexter** and Carnegie Hero #10537 **Mark Amoroso**

Heroism has nothing to do with your job, it has nothing to do with who you are. It has to do with when you act if someone needs you. – Police lieutenant lauding the actions of Carnegie Hero #10551 **Major Metzger**, 10, who kept a 6-year-old from falling from a ski lift.

PIERRE JOSEPH GIBBONS

Carnegie Hero **Pierre Joseph Gibbons**, 63, died Saturday, March 18, 2026, in Baltimore.

Gibbons was born Sept. 7, 1962, to B. David Jr. and Johanna Mia Gibbons.

On Sept. 23, 2019, in Baltimore, 77-year-old Mary Sterling remained in the basement of her burning row house as fire spread inside. Gibbons, 57, was at a neighbor's home when he was alerted and approached the home. He saw Sterling through an open basement door with flames on the ceiling above her and entered the home through its front door. Gibbons moved through thick smoke and found a door to the basement stairs. He descended the stairs into the basement where he found and grasped Sterling to carry her up the stairs to the first floor. The heat was intense and Gibbons grasped a towel or blanket to shield them from intensifying flames and smoke. Gibbons collapsed while attempting to move with her toward the front door. Minutes later, firefighters entered the first floor and found Gibbons laying atop Sterling. They removed both unconscious victims from the house. Sterling was hospitalized and died about a month later from complications of her injuries. Gibbons suffered burns to more than 70 percent of his body along with inhalation injuries, underwent more than 20 surgical procedures, and suffered two strokes during his nine-month hospital stay. He was released from the hospital but continued to undergo rehabilitation at home following the rescue.

Gibbons proudly served in the U.S. Navy and embodied a sense of duty. His courage defined his character. Gibbons was said to possess a personality that would linger in the hearts of those who knew him.

Gibbons fostered countless friendships and became an integral party of his community. He was a passionate fan of the Baltimore Ravens and the organization recognized him as a hometown hero in 2021.

Gibbons was preceded in death by his son Jeremiah Murray Gibbons and brother, Christopher Gibbons.

Gibbons is survived by his father; daughter Taylor Gibbons; daughter-in-law Rachel Gibbons; brother David Gibbons; sisters, Patricia Elizabeth Gibbons and Mia Julianne Engel; and three grandchildren, Spencer, Mia, and Scarlett.



Pierre Joseph Gibbons

DONALD F. MELANSON

Carnegie Hero **Donald F. Melanson**, 78, died Thursday, March 19, 2026, in Fredericton, New Brunswick.

Melanson was born to David and Ruth Melanson.

On Oct. 16, 1992, in Moncton, New Brunswick, Daniel J.E. Williams, 30, lay on the floor of the living room of his basement apartment after fire erupted in the adjoining kitchen and filled the apartment with dense, black smoke. Melanson, 44, was his neighbor and entered the apartment. He searched for Williams and was guided by his moaning. Melanson located Williams, then grasped him and pulled him to the door. Firefighters arrived shortly and removed Williams to safety. Williams was seriously burned and required lengthy hospitalization. Melanson suffered ill effects from exposure to smoke, causing him to seek medical treatment. Both men recovered.

Melanson dedicated 38 years of his life to the Moncton Fire Department and rose to the rank of Captain before retiring in 2009.

Melanson had a true love for stock car racing and a passion for the outdoors. He also found great joy in cooking and spending time at his family's camp. He was described as a generous man and had a unique ability to make everyone feel valued.

Melanson is survived by wife, Wanda; daughter Lynn Killam; son David Melanson; stepsons, Matthew and Jesse; two grandchildren, Emily and Justin; two step grandchildren, Ethan and Alex; and three great grandchildren. ☹️



Donald F. Melanson

## FROM THE ARCHIVES



*A photo taken from the 1966 edition of The Bristol Press with Wilfred E. Morin carrying 6-year-old Michael S. Albee following his rescue from a 33-year-old man armed with two shotguns in Bristol, CT, on May 25, 1966. Michael was waiting for a school bus with a group of other students when the man pulled up in his pickup truck and abducted Michael. He took the boy to a fortification he had built nearby atop a hill where he had a standoff with police. Morin was at the scene and intervened in order to ensure Michael's safety. Morin approached the abductor and reasoned with him before he brought Michael back down the hill to safety. The abductor then would be fatally shot by police after he opened fire upon them.*

## 1966: CONNECTICUT MAN SAVES ABDUCTED 6-YEAR-OLD FROM ARMED ASSAILANT

It was about 8:15 in the morning on May 25, 1966, when 6-year-old Michael S. Albee and other students were at a school bus stop in Burlington, Connecticut, when a 33-year-old man in a pickup truck stopped near them.

The man had been reported to the police in the past for disorderly conduct and was known locally to be an excessive drinker. He approached the group of children and attempted to grab two girls, but they eluded him. He then turned his attention to Michael and forced him into the truck.

“He couldn’t get them, so he grabbed me around my stomach,” Michael later told William Borders in the 1966 edition of the New York Times. “I kicked him and tried to stop him, but he

threw me in the truck anyway.”

The man sped away while keeping hold of Michael as the boy continued to flail wildly. Two men in a vehicle saw the situation and followed the truck while some of the other children ran to a nearby dwelling and notified the police.

The abductor drove 6 miles to his home at the foot of nearby Wildcat Mountain and took Michael into the house. The two men following them parked their vehicle in front of the house’s driveway to block the man from leaving the scene by vehicle.

Inside his house, the abductor obtained two loaded single-shot shotguns and 30 to 40 live shells. ►



FROM THE ARCHIVES

“First he took me to his house -- I didn’t know where we were,” Michael said to Nancy Mirto in the 1966 edition of *The Bristol Press*. “We went in and he got two guns and some bullets.”

The abductor then left the house on foot with Michael while swearing wildly and leading the boy up the hill. Above the base of the hill, the abductor and Michael reached a ledge where the man had earlier constructed a semicircular fortification of rocks at the edge of the ledge that was about 7 feet long and 4 feet high.

Within about 20 minutes, at least 25 policemen had arrived at the scene.

From the edge of a wooded section at the foot of the hill, officers saw the abductor behind the barricade and shouted to him that they would not harm him if he released the boy. The man refused, believing that he

would be shot.

“Go away or I’ll kill the boy,” the abductor repeatedly shouted.

The police chief pleaded with the abductor for 45 minutes as a police sergeant made his way up the south side of the hill. The sergeant hoped to reach the abductor and Michael from above as he was distracted.

During that time, the abductor became increasingly disturbed and shouted that he feared the National Guard would kill him. There were no members of the National Guards present.

“He kept shouting that the National Guard was after him, and that he needed the kid for a hostage, but that doesn’t make sense,” the Bristol, Connecticut, Police Chief Robert Grace told the *New York Times*.

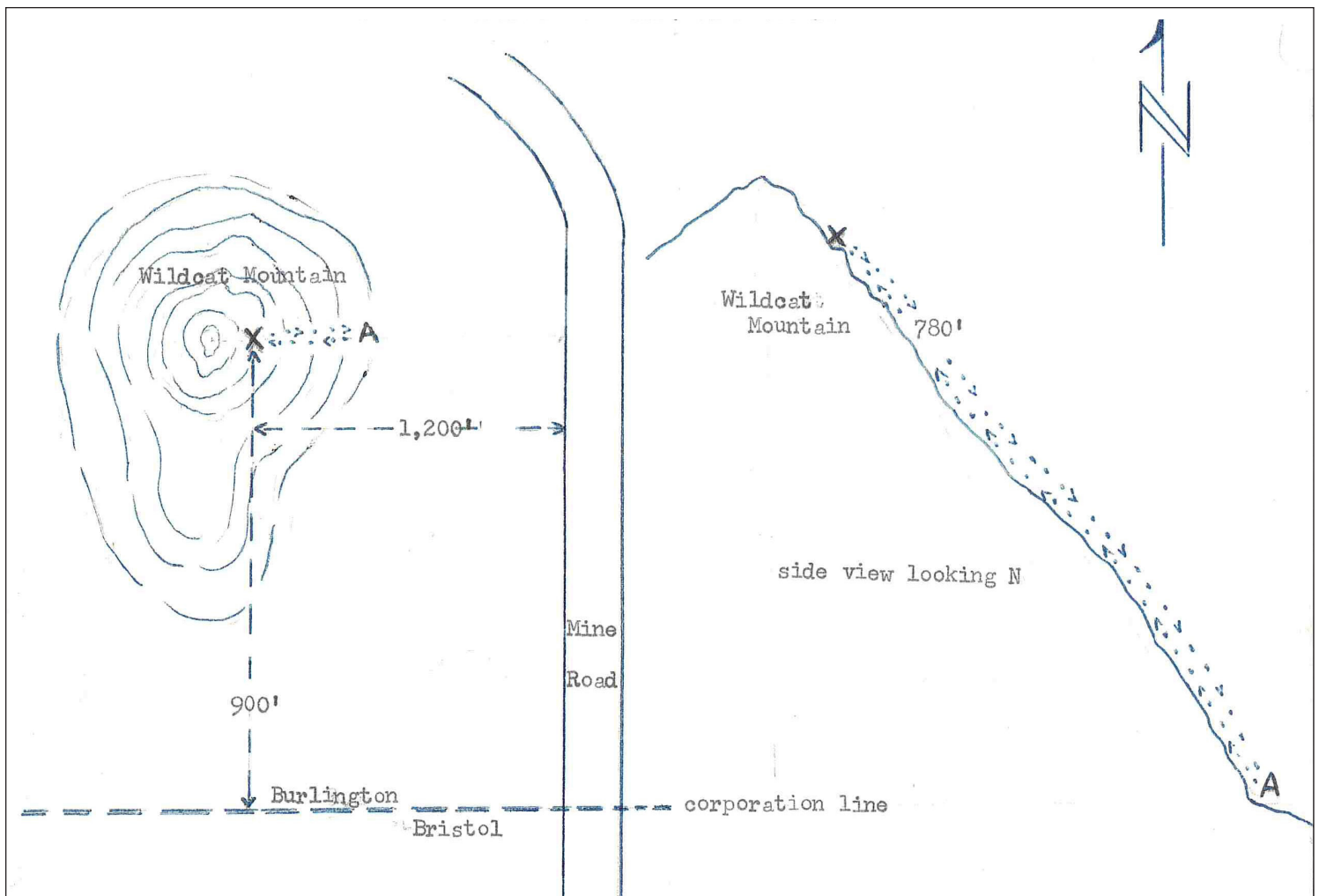
The abductor’s sister had then arrived at

the scene where she then asked the police to permit her to go to her brother and join the pleas to release Michael. A policeman volunteered to go with the woman and they continually talked with the abductor in order to placate him while they approached.

Meanwhile, nearly two hours after police arrived, 31-year-old Bristol dog warden **Wilfred E. Morin** heard about the kidnapping on the police radio in his vehicle.

Morin rushed to help and reached the scene when he noticed Michael’s abductor leaning forward over the edge of the barricade with a shotgun. The police chief shouted for the sister and the accompanying policeman to drop to the ground when they were about 300 feet from the ledge.

The woman dropped to the ground, rolled down the hill, and returned to the woods. It was then that the abductor fired at the ▶



*A visual drawn by Hero Fund investigator Ronald E. Swartzlander that depicts the course of Wilfred E. Morin to the abductor of Michael S. Albee who held the 6-year-old boy hostage with two shotguns in Bristol, CT, on May 25, 1966. Following a standoff with police and failed attempts to speak to the abductor, Morin was able to reason with the abductor and obtained the release of Michael. From there, Morin carried Michael to safety to where the police were set up down the hill from the abductor, who had then shot at police and was then fatally wounded.*



*I could visualize one of my own kids up there."*

policeman, shot pellets striking his arm, shoulder, and face. He stumbled back down the hill and was taken to a hospital.

Morin was a part-time bartender and knew the abductor casually from having talked with him at the tavern where he worked. Concerned for the safety of Michael, Morin felt he might be able to persuade the man to release the boy to him.

"I could visualize one of my own kids up there," Morin told Jim Petersen in the 1966 edition of the *The Bristol Press*.

The father of three got permission from a police captain, who had taken over for the police chief, to talk to the abductor.

Morin shouted to the abductor and identified himself on a first-name basis. The two men talked for about five minutes when the man said to Morin he would like a drink of water. Morin

offered to bring him water if he would release Michael, and the man agreed to do so.

The police captain felt it was unwise for Morin to approach, fearing he would be shot as the policeman had been. Morin pleaded with the captain, stating he was willing to risk his life to make sure Michael would be released and the captain agreed to it. Morin urged the captain not to shout or for the police to take any action that might irritate the man.

Meanwhile, a radio call had brought additional police to the area and, unbeknownst to Morin, some had started up the west side of the hill to proceed over the top above the abductor. He continued his conversation with the man while he was getting the bottle of water and then proceeded slowly up the hill.

The abductor then shouted to Morin that he had changed his mind and would not give up Michael. He continued to fear that the National Guard would shoot him since he had shot a policeman.

The police captain then called to Morin not to go any farther and Morin feared that the man might start shooting at him. He dropped to the ground behind a tree, but after a few minutes felt that the abductor had calmed and proceeded up the hill.

He called to the abductor that he had no weapons and that there were no police with him. Morin was able to see through a clearing in the brush and lifted the water bottle to show the abductor, who then peered over the barricade with the shotgun aimed at Morin.

Morin continued to go behind the barricade as the abductor took the water and placed the shotgun against a rock. As he drank some of the water, Morin saw Michael sitting calmly about 3 feet away.

"He was as cool as a cucumber," Morin said.

Morin considered attempting to grab the shotgun, but noticed the other weapon and feared he could not obtain both guns. He decided not to risk it so as to not put Michael in harm's way.

He continued to talk with the abductor and told him it would be to his advantage to surrender, which the man refused. Morin reminded him that he had promised to release Michael. The abductor then told Morin to take the boy, saying he would not harm them.

About five minutes had elapsed since Morin reached the barricade and the police captain feared that Morin had also been taken hostage. Morin picked up Michael and told the man that he appreciated that he kept his word. As Morin left the fortification with Michael, the abductor crouched behind the barricade with his gun aimed below.

Fearing that some policeman might disturb the man and cause him to fire, Morin tried to remain calm but was nervous as he moved down the hill with Michael. On his descent, Morin slipped several times but did not fall.

It took about three minutes to reach the wooded area at the base of the hill where a nervous and shaking Morin informed the police captain that the abductor had two weapons.

The man again was urged to surrender but he refused. He put his shotgun aside and began adding stones atop the barricade.

The sergeant who climbed the hill earlier and another policeman on the hill above the ledge shouted to the man that he was covered, and in response, the abductor quickly picked up the shotgun to fire at the policemen. Both policemen would return fire, and fatally wounded the abductor.

Following the incident, Morin was still shaken, but patiently answered questions from newsmen about the events that had unfolded. Several police officers came up to him and praised him for his bravery, saying, "You did a good job, Willie."

Young Michael told the *New York Times* that he was confident that he would return home.

"I knew I'd get back here," the boy said. "I always come home. I prayed to God and then I wasn't scared anymore."

— Griffin Erdely,  
Communications Assistant



*I knew I'd get back here. I always come home."*



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

Further information is available online or by contacting the Commission.

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

**Address change?** Please keep us posted.

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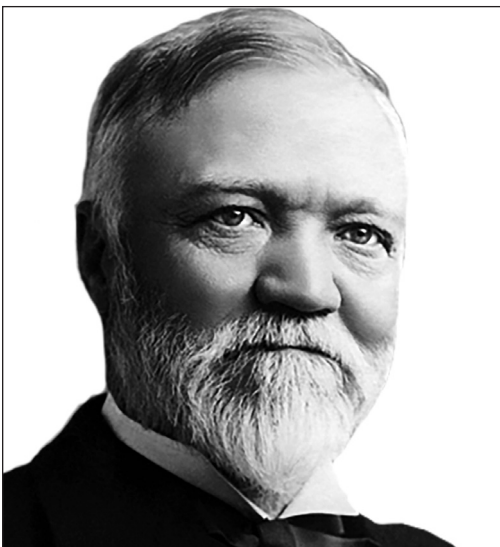
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*"Peace wins her way not by force; her appeal is to the reason and conscience of man."*

— University of St. Andrews address, Oct. 17, 1905

➤ CONTINUUM ➤

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

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

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

**ANNUAL REPORTS** Copies of the Hero Fund's most recent annual reports (2021-2022) are available online or by contacting the Hero Fund.

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