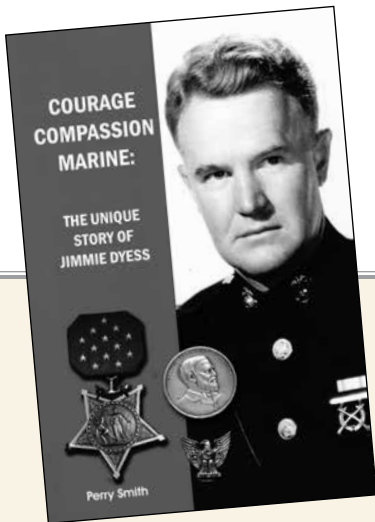




imPULSE

A Periodic Newsletter of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission ISSUE 43 • SEPTEMBER 2015



MILITARY, CIVILIAN HERO

When **A. James Dyess**—"Jimmie"—was an undergraduate at Clemson (S.C.) Agricultural College, now Clemson University, he helped to save a woman from drowning in the Atlantic Ocean off Sullivans Island, S.C. Then 19, he received America's top award for heroism by a civilian, the Carnegie Medal. Sixteen years later, Marine Lt. Col. Dyess led his battalion into combat against the Japanese, going behind enemy lines to save four wounded Marines at Roi-Namur in the Pacific's Marshall Islands. The next day, Dyess was killed as he led his troops against an enemy machine gun position. For his extraordinary valor and leadership in combat, he received the Medal of Honor.

Dyess is the only person to have received both top honors for heroism. The story of his life of service and self-sacrifice has been captured by Maj. Gen. Perry M. Smith (ret.), U.S. Air Force, of Augusta, Ga., in *Courage, Compassion, Marine: The Unique Story of Jimmie Dyess*, iUniverse, 2015. Smith, who is Dyess's son-in-law, is also the author of *Assignment Pentagon*, *Rules and Tools for Leaders*, and *How CNN Fought the War*.

"This nation is well served by these two awards," Smith writes. "The military services and the Carnegie Hero Fund commissioners are to be congratulated for ensuring that these awards remain at such a high standard and that those few who earn them fully deserve to be so honored."

Copies of the book are available online through Amazon.



SCHOLAR, SAILOR

Clerc Higgins Cooper of New Orleans, La., a 2009 Carnegie Medal awardee, is having a big year: She was graduated summa cum laude by the College of Charleston, S.C., with a near-perfect academic record this spring and was recently named to the Inter-Collegiate Sailing Association All-American Team. This fall she starts law school. See page 11.

Truckers braked to save lives and became national highway heroes

Clinton D. Blackburn of Winchester, Ky., and **McKenzie McKay Guffey** of Gainesboro, Tenn., are both truck drivers, were both on the road when they effected extraordinary acts of lifesaving within four months of each other, were named two of the three finalists for the 32nd annual national Goodyear Highway Hero Award, and both had their heroic acts reviewed back-to-back by the Hero Fund when its executive committee met in late June. Each was given a Carnegie Medal, the awards announced together.

Separately, Blackburn was named the Goodyear awardee for 2014 and Guffey was named a "Highway Angel" by the Truckload Carriers Association, a national trade

(continued on page 2)



CARNEGIE'S NINE HERO FUNDS ADVANCE A COMPELLING MISSION

By Mark Laskow, Chair
Carnegie Hero Fund Commission



Little did I suspect when I joined the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission in 1992 that I would one day travel to Norway and Denmark to meet the leaders of their Carnegie hero funds. But this spring Walter Rutkowski, Commission president, and I did just that. It was a delight

to meet our counterparts in those two countries, but more importantly, it was a milestone in the effort to link, strengthen, and energize the nine surviving Carnegie hero funds in the Atlantic community.

Andrew Carnegie pursued his work of establishing his original 11 hero funds in a pragmatic, logical way. He began in the United States, where he was most familiar with conditions and where he found impetus to act in the Harwick Mine Disaster in January 1904. Carnegie personally drafted the charter and selected the initial board members for a new organization born just three months later, the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission. He seemed then to take some time to evaluate his work in action. In 1908 he took his next step, establishing the Carnegie Hero Fund Trust for the United Kingdom and Ireland. Again, this seems logical. Carnegie knew his native country well and had found inspiration in an 1886 rescue attempt by a young man in his home town of Dunfermline, Scotland.

Carnegie must have been pleased with his efforts, for he then unleashed a burst of creative philanthropy that has few parallels even in our modern era. He invited the monarchs or heads of state of nine countries on continental Europe to organize hero funds following guidelines he suggested, and he offered to endow their efforts. In retrospect, it was a significant experiment in philanthropy, a field none too well developed at the time. He proposed to create perpetual organizations in nine different cultures with very different ideas about philanthropy, and to do it by mail, no less. His effort was more successful than he had any right to expect, as all nine of his new seedlings sprouted in the very different soils of their host countries.

Two of the European hero funds eventually failed. The German fund fell under Nazi control and seems to have been looted around 1934, certainly something Carnegie could not prevent. The French fund

(continued on page 3)

Truckers braked to save lives

(continued from cover)

group based in Alexandria, Va. Since its inception in August 1997, the Highway Angel program has recognized hundreds of professional truck drivers for unusual kindness, courtesy, and courage shown to others while on the job, the good deeds ranging from fixing a flat tire to heroic lifesaving efforts, such as pulling someone from a burning vehicle.

The latter is exactly what Guffey was cited for. A driver for Atlantic Bulk Carrier of Providence Forge, Va., he was northbound on Interstate 95 in Rye, N.Y., at 3 a.m. on July 17, 2014, when he came upon the burning wreckage of a sport utility vehicle, which lay on its driver's side. He parked, took a fire extinguisher with him, and fought the flames, enabling him to see the vehicle's driver inside, his head against the windshield. Guffey, then 39, used the fire extinguisher to break out the window of the passenger door, which at that point was atop the wreckage. Being six-foot-five, he had the leverage to do so.



Mr. Blackburn

engulfed by flames, Guffey sustaining minor burns to both feet. The driver was not burned, but he required two weeks' hospitalization for treatment of his injuries. "I have since recovered and resumed normal activities," he told the Hero Fund. "I do feel that Mr. Guffey acted in a heroic and courageous manner, placing himself at personal risk in close proximity to a developing inferno."

Established in 1983, the Goodyear Highway Hero Award is given to professional truck drivers who put themselves in harm's way to help others as they travel North America. Blackburn is not the first Carnegie Medal awardee to have received the honor, which carries a \$5,000



Mr. Guffey

grant. Recent others include **Michael F. Schiotis** (2011) of Spring Hill, Tenn., who saved a woman from assault by a gunman, and **Jorge L. Orozco-Sanchez** (2008) of

(continued on page 3)

Truckers braked to save lives

(continued from page 2)

Firestone, Colo., who saved two children from a burning sport utility vehicle.

Blackburn, who hauls oil and automotive parts for Apollo Oil of Winchester, was eastbound on the Bluegrass Parkway near Bardstown, Ky., on March 12, 2014, when he saw a police cruiser going the opposite direction lurch into the median and stop. As he passed it, Blackburn, then 44, saw that its driver, jailer Darrel L. Herndon, 56, was being choked by the prisoner he was transporting. The prisoner had freed himself of his handcuffs and climbed partially through the small window in the partition separating the cruiser's front- and back-seat areas.

Blackburn reacted immediately, parking and running to the cruiser, where he found that the prisoner by then had completely entered the front seat. He separated the two men, but the prisoner then pulled Herndon's gun from its holster and threatened Blackburn and Herndon. Blackburn struggled against the prisoner for control of the weapon and was able to wrench it free. Herndon then re-secured the prisoner.

"I'm not a hero," Blackburn later told a reporter. "I'm just an old country boy. The men and women out here who got the badges, wearing the uniforms, driving the fire trucks and ambulances, fighting the wars. They're the heroes. They do it every single day. All I did was repay the debt that is owed to him and every other person that had put their life on the line for someone else." ❏

THE JUST MADE PERFECT

Sally Laubin of South Deerfield, Mass., recently honored the memory of her great-grandfather, **John Morris**, with the placement of a bronze grave marker on his headstone at Mt. St. Benedict's Cemetery, Bloomfield, Conn. At age 60, Morris died May 19, 1905, saving an unknown woman from being struck by a train at a crossing in Hartford, Conn., where he was employed as a railroad gatekeeper. Morris was successful in pushing the woman to safety—and she then fled the scene—but the oncoming train struck and killed Morris instantly.



His priest eulogized him: "To give life for life was a crystallization of the great law of charity exemplified by Him who said, 'Greater love than this no man hath than that he should lay down his life for his friend.' . . . May the applause evoked by his magnificent heroism prove but an echo of that with which he is greeted on entering the company of the just made perfect."

Morris was posthumously awarded a silver Carnegie Medal in 1907. It was given to his widow, Fanny, as was a monthly grant of \$40 that continued until her death in 1929. Grave markers cast in the likeness of the medal are available from the Hero Fund at no charge to the families of deceased awardees (see back page).



HERO ASSEMBLY

Carnegie Medal awardee **John Nash Hale**, left, of Toms River, N.J., joined the Hero Fund's director of external affairs, Douglas R. Chambers, for an assembly at Rae Kushner Yeshiva High School, Livingston, N.J., in May. It was a repeat performance, as both men visited the school last year, both times Hale describing to the high school seniors his actions of Jan. 14, 2013, by which he intervened in a dog attack on his neighbor. Shown with Hale is Rabbi Richard Kirsch, sociology teacher.

BOARDNOTES

(continued from page 2)

ran out of money in 2009, and that gets to the point of our visits to Norway and Denmark.

As Carnegie's hero fund "seeds" fell in differing soils, they grew into rather different trees. Some, such as the Swedish fund, would be readily recognizable to someone familiar with Anglo-American charitable organizations. In other countries, such as Italy and Denmark, the hero fund is managed by a government department, a format seldom seen in the U.S. The French fund was managed in this way, but we can't say that was the reason for its insolvency. After all, many conventionally organized nonprofit organizations run out of money.

There was no reasonable way Carnegie could have foreseen and protected his funds against all the ravages of two World Wars and the Great Depression. What he did do, though, was provide the hero funds with a mutual mission so compelling that those honored to be involved today are willing to work hard and work collectively to preserve and advance it. As a result, the Carnegie hero funds have begun to organize loosely into a community, the Carnegie Hero Funds World Committee, in order to link, strengthen, and energize the remaining funds.

It was this work that took us to meet this spring in Oslo with Liv Arnesen and Emilie Bruchon of the Norwegian hero fund and in Copenhagen with Astrid Mavrogenis of the Danish fund. With these meetings, we have now established face-to-face contact with all of the European funds and are ready to begin the collective effort to carry Andrew Carnegie's hero fund project forward for another hundred years. The last century taught us that this might not be easy, but we are resolved to face those risks together.



NO RUBBER-STAMPING OF FEEL-GOOD NOTIONS HERE

By Chris Foreman, Case Investigator
Carnegie Hero Fund Commission



Some days, it seems like there is no shortage of heroes in the headlines. In recent weeks, I've spotted news websites with large followings apply the "hero" tag to a Maine diner owner who yelled at a crying 21-month-old girl; a Colorado man who ate lunch at a Mexican fast-food chain for 100 straight days; and a U.S. soccer star who shunned her heels after an awards show to go barefoot.

Clearly, each example is a mind-bendingly casual use for a title that shouldn't be tossed around so flippantly. Since starting with the Hero Fund as a case investigator in May, I'm surrounded daily by stories of heroism—and I'm finding myself much more careful when I use the word "hero."

As I'm learning, most of the people that the Commission recognizes as heroes receive just a sliver of the public attention—and often a morsel of the praise—that is bestowed upon celebrities and athletes. But it's our medal recipients' acts that deserve to be recorded, retold, and shared widely. It's these types of stories—those about people freely choosing to make themselves vulnerable to help someone in dire need—that lured me from a nearly 14-year career as a newspaper reporter in Pennsylvania and Ohio to join the Commission.

I'm impressed by the commitment that our staff puts into researching a heroic act. This isn't just a matter of rubber-stamping a rescuer's reputed performance as some feel-good notion. Investigators are tasked with recreating the setting of an act so the Commission's board members fully may appreciate the risks involved. This includes factors like the hazardous conditions, the availability of rescue aids, and the health and skills of those performing the heroic act.

In doing so, sometimes we encounter the involvement of another rescuer who never before received credit in the public eye. Sometimes, we find that the scene was even more imposing than initially reported, or that an act was even more remarkable because of a hero's physical limitations. Through our investigations, we also learn

(continued on page 5)

Hero Fund tour of U. S. Steel plant highlights shared Carnegie legacy

The Carnegie Hero Fund Commission has long benefitted from a relationship with the United States Steel Corporation, the largest integrated steel producer headquartered in the U.S. Both entities share in the legacy of Andrew Carnegie, the steel company having been formed with the 1901 sale of Carnegie's steel business to J.P. Morgan in what was the largest business enterprise ever launched, and the Hero Fund established three years later with some of the \$480 million in proceeds from the sale.

From early on and for most of its existence, the Hero Fund was the beneficiary of office supplies from its downtown Pittsburgh neighbor, and in 2002, in an acknowledgement of the relationship, the Hero Fund looked to U. S. Steel to fill an opening on its board. Dan D. Sandman, then the vice chair of U. S. Steel and its secretary and chief general counsel, joined the Commission at that time and subsequently became its treasurer in addition to his duties on the Hero Fund's executive and finance committees.

It was to Sandman that the Commission turned when the idea of a tour of U. S. Steel's manufacturing facilities in the Pittsburgh area was broached at a board meeting. The tour was arranged by Sandman, and nine of the Hero Fund's board, plus guests, participated in the June 26 event. For at least one board member, Linda T. Hills of Littleton, Colo., the tour was a dream come true; Hills is the great-granddaughter of Andrew Carnegie and his wife, Louise. She was accompanied by her son Scott, one of the "great-greats."

"We always felt proud to be connected" to Carnegie, Hills said. "For me personally to experience the dynamic nature of the industry, to which my own history is so personally and intimately tied, was a lifetime dream."

To be sure, U. S. Steel pulled all stops to accommodate its visitors, first by bussing them the 10 miles from Pittsburgh to Braddock, Pa., where basic steel production takes place at the company's Mon Valley Works. The works comprises four separate facilities, with three of them—the Clairton plant (cokemaking), the Edgar Thomson plant (steelmaking operations), and the Irvin plant (finishing)—located in the Monongahela River Valley. The "E.T." plant, constructed in the early 1870s by Carnegie and his partners, was named after the president of the Pennsylvania Railroad, J. Edgar Thomson. Carnegie biographer David Nasaw (*Andrew Carnegie*, The Penguin

(continued on page 5)



Members of the Hero Fund's U. S. Steel plant tour included, from left, W. Duff McCrady, Scott R. Hills, Linda T. Hills, Amy Smith-Yoder (Mon Valley Works General Manager), Peter Burchfield, Sybil P. Veeder, Dan D. Sandman, Susanne C. Wean, Mark Laskow (Hero Fund Chair), Lisa Laskow, Priscilla J. McCrady, Joe C. Walton, Frank Brooks Robinson, and Walter F. Rutkowski.

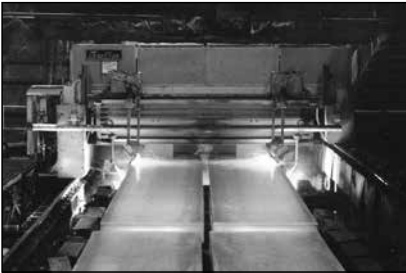
Hero Fund tour

(continued from page 4)

Press, 2006), writes that “the name would provide the works—and the rails it produced—with an instant reputation for reliability.”

It was at the E.T. plant where the Hero Fund tour group was greeted by the Mon Valley Works’ general manager, Amy Smith-Yoder. Though not new to the company, having joined in 2001 as a senior quality assurance engineer, Smith-Yoder was only 26 days on the job in her current capacity. She previously held management positions at U. S. Steel facilities in Indiana and was manager of the Irvin plant when she hosted another “tourist,” President Barack Obama, in early 2014.

Smith-Yoder’s enthusiasm and commitment to the company’s processes, product, and people were virtually palpable, starting with an introductory film over lunch, a safety briefing that included fitting her guests with head-to-toe protective gear, and a running commentary throughout the two hours spent in the depths of the mill. Pours from the facility’s two blast furnaces, where raw materials are combined to produce liquid iron, were observed, as was the transfer of the iron to the facility’s two top-blown basic oxygen process (BOP) vessels, where it is refined to create steel. The product then emerges in slab form from the plant’s dual-strand continuous caster. Steel slabs from the facility are sent by rail to the nearby Irvin plant, where they are rolled into sheet products that serve customers in the appliance, automotive, metal building, and home construction industries. The Mon Valley Works has an annual raw steel production capability of 2.9 million net tons.



Continuous slabs cast (photo courtesy of U. S. Steel Corp.).

and each of whom was obviously proud of his or her role. The whole experience left Hills with goose bumps as she found herself embraced by the full experience of the physical nature of steel manufacture. “It is a very sensual experience,” she said. “The sights, the sounds, the smell, and the feel of this material as it transforms from a raw state into a highly versatile and useful commodity. We came to appreciate the many intricacies of steel manufacture in those few hours.”

In reply, Smith-Yoder said, “I honestly don’t know who had more fun...all of you or all of us. We love what we do and take great pride in working for the iconic company Andrew Carnegie built for us.”

Though more than a century beyond Carnegie’s control, the E.T. operation still bears his influence. Two years ago, the corporation adopted a business model called “The Carnegie Way” to enhance its competitiveness. “Through a disciplined approach,” wrote Mario Longhi, U. S. Steel’s president and chief executive officer in the corporation’s 2013 annual report, “we are working to strengthen our balance sheet, with more intense focus on cash flow, and have launched a series of initiatives that we believe will enable us to add value, get leaner faster, right-size, and improve our performance across our core business process capabilities.

“Our starting point for leading and managing The Carnegie Way is our company’s long-held commitment to operating in a highly principled and ethical manner. Cultivating a culture built on solid core values and ethical conduct is as critical to the current and future success of our company as it was to Andrew Carnegie’s ventures in the late 1800s.”



Steel pour during basic oxygen process (photo courtesy of U. S. Steel Corp.).

Each step along the tour was described in detail by department managers, all of whom were knowledgeable and accommodating,

BEHIND THE SCENE

(continued from page 4)

about the fallout long after the news reporters disappear, when some of our heroes continue to experience pain or need more medical treatment simply to return to some semblance of normalcy after offering to sacrifice themselves for another.

The mass media might indeed devalue the word “hero,” but they cannot diminish the clout of a heroic act. In our work, we see proof of that in the lives that are changed when somebody shakes aside fear and doubt to insert themselves into danger.

These are the heroes whose stories I’m gratified to discover, study, and share.

LONG SERVICE RECOGNIZED

The longest-serving member of the Hero Fund’s staff, Myrna J. Braun, was honored at the Commission’s 111th annual meeting on June 25 with a certificate that was presented by Frank Brooks Robinson, the longest-serving member of the board. Braun joined the staff as a telephone operator and clerk 60 years ago—in June 1955, at the time of her high school graduation—and, although she took time off in the 1960s to raise two sons, she never had another employer. After she worked as an administrative assistant for many years, her title was changed to “awards coordinator” to reflect the specialized nature of her duties, which include oversight of new-award correspondence and administration of the Hero Fund’s beneficiary payments.

A gift and a standing ovation by the board accompanied the certificate. Of her tenure, which extended during the administration of six of the Commission’s eight presidents, Braun, now in



the office two days a week, said, “I have enjoyed working here all these years—it doesn’t seem that long of a time.” Robinson joined the Commission in 1966 and serves on the Hero Fund’s executive and finance committees.



'MOTHER OF THE CORNER' SAVED TWO FROM DRUNKEN DRIVER

It's been 31 years since **Geraldine T. McBride** died saving two elementary school-age boys from being hit by a drunken driver at a Hartford, Conn., school crossing, but her memory lives on at the neighborhood school and city intersection.



Ms. McBride

McBride, 67, worked for 17 years as a crossing guard at an intersection that was about 100 yards from her home and about a five-minute walk from the boys' school. On July 3, 1984, she was assigned to work at the intersection so she could

escort children to the school's playground even though classes were out for the summer.

At 1:45 p.m., two boys, aged 6 and 7, were crossing the street at the intersection when a pickup truck, driven by a 53-year-old man, approached. Witnesses said he appeared to accelerate to about 40 m.p.h. McBride screamed for the boys to run, grabbed one of the 6-year-old's hands, and ran along with them to try to get out of the pickup's path. With the truck getting closer, she pushed both boys toward the curb. The vehicle brushed the 6-year-old but struck McBride, who died that afternoon.

McBride's last act inspired a proud community, with *The Hartford Courant* estimating that nearly 400 people were at her funeral service at Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church, where she was a deaconess. Besides government officials and police officers, the newspaper reported, 26 crossing guards attended in support of McBride.

In 1985, the Hartford Board of Education named the elementary school's auditorium for McBride. Also that year, school officials dedicated a memorial bust. This past May, school officials installed a new plaque to accompany the bust, as the previous one identifying McBride went missing a few years ago when the school halls were repainted, said Emma Thomson, an office assistant to the principal.

"That way, the children can understand what happened because nobody knew the story behind it," Thomson said.

(continued on page 7)

Several awardees of the Carnegie Medal volunteer their services in presenting the medal to newly named awardees. Two such presentations were made in May to awardees announced earlier this year.



FIRE RESCUER

Dean Ronald Nelson, center, of Mondovi, Wis., was awarded the Carnegie Medal for saving a small girl from a house fire on Feb. 8, 2014, and the fire department turned out for the medal presentation. The medal was delivered by La Crosse County, Wis., Sheriff's Deputy, **John P. Williams**, to the right of Nelson, who himself was an awardee, in 2012, for a drowning rescue. On hand were, from left, Mondovi Fire Department members Greg Bauer, Jim Rud, Chief Steve Anderson, Dennis Olson, and former chief Dennis Brion; Gretchen Anderson, Nelson, Williams, Mondovi Emergency Medical Technicians Lisa Bishopp, Nathan Nelson, Shari Gaulke, and Jackie Spoo, and Buffalo County, Wis., Sheriff's Deputy Colin Severson.

OFFICER CITED

Rochester, N.Y., Police Officer **Christina Alicia Wilson**, of West Henrietta, N.Y., was off duty on Nov. 23, 2013, when she witnessed a highway accident involving a minivan. The vehicle caught fire at its front end, and Wilson sprang into action to rescue



three of the four young children secured inside as the flames spread. She was given her medal by **Michael T. Chura**, retired fire district chief from Syracuse, N.Y., who received his medal in 2011, also for a burning vehicle rescue. Wilson was honored at police headquarters in Rochester, and in attendance were family members and a number of her colleagues.

Exploring similarities and differences in characteristic profiles of heroes

By Brian R. Riches

School of Social Science, Policy & Evaluation
Claremont (Calif.) Graduate University

Anyone can be a hero. A civilian who rescues another person from a fire at great physical risk is a hero. Holocaust rescuers who risked life or social standing to help others were heroes. An employee who is aware of unethical or illegal activities in their organization and reveals them at the risk of their job, income, and social standing is also a hero. Current conceptions in psychology define heroism as a voluntarily act for the good of one or more people at significant risk to the self, without being motivated by reward. Risk to the hero makes heroism a distinct form of altruism, and it can come in the form of physical or social risk.

The psychology literature on heroes is sparse. There are studies comparing the traits and characteristics of heroes to more typical individuals, and studies investigating laypersons' views of heroes. There is also a growing understanding that not all heroes are the same. Recently, I completed a study of many heroes who took different risks—both social and physical—to help others. The purpose of the project was to take a wider look into the profiles of characteristics that heroes possess in an attempt to discover if there are different types of heroes, and if there are distinct and shared characteristics among them.

An analysis of the data obtained from recognized heroes, including many awardees of the Carnegie Medal, revealed two groups of heroes with distinct psychological characteristics. Characteristics ranked differently distinguished the groups, although some shared characteristics emerged. Specifically, participants in both groups ranked courage, perseverance, honesty, humor, bravery, and kindness as like them, but public self-awareness, hedonism, shame, contempt, and wisdom as unlike them.

In addition to characteristic rankings, participants commented on why they felt any given characteristic was like, or unlike, them. These free responses go beyond the list of characteristics to flesh out the experiences of heroes with these characteristics and virtues. One participant discussed the shared characteristic of perseverance: "Plain and simple, I will not give up. I will always keep going regardless of how miserable I am, how painful...my situation is."

The first group of participants, which I refer to as *open, loving, and risk-taking* heroes, differed most dramatically from the second group in their rankings of the characteristics of curiosity, love of learning, love, and risk taking as "exactly like me." These participants were open and curious to explore in the world. Although all of the study's participants took significant risk to help others, this group claimed to take risks more generally in their daily life, whereas the second group reported being generally prudent.

One participant in the *open, loving, and risk-taking* group said, "I have always thrown caution to the wind." Meanwhile, one participant from the other group said, "I have a constant internal dialogue. I do not do things without carefully thinking about the consequences and costs."

The second group—*spiritual, socially responsible, and prudent* heroes—distinguished themselves with high rankings on spirituality, social responsibility, and prudence rather than risk taking. In contrast, the *open, loving, and risk-taking* heroes did not claim a sense of spirituality or faith. While both groups have a deep concern for the welfare of others, the *spiritual, socially responsible, and prudent* heroes tended to claim that a spirituality or faith provides purpose and guides their goals and interactions with others. The *open, loving, and risk-taking* heroes do indeed have concern for others, but this concern is not rooted in spiritual purpose or belief in a higher power. Further, the *spiritual, socially responsible, and prudent* heroes ranked both zest and joy far lower, indicating that they may be less happy or more stoic than the other group.

(continued on page 12)

15:13

(continued from page 6)

The Commission, which posthumously awarded the Carnegie Medal to McBride in 1985, mailed a grave marker to school officials this spring so they could display it with the bust. School officials also hung a framed certificate from the Commission that describes her heroism.

McBride's memory also lives on at the intersection, which Hartford City Council named as "Geraldine McBride Corner" in 2010. The designation refers to "the mother

of the corner," which is how her eldest son, Lester McBride, Jr., portrayed her relationship with the school's students in news accounts after the incident. Lester accepted his mother's medal and a financial grant from the Commission. A retired Hartford firefighter, he died in 2013.



Geraldine T. McBride

The medal now is held by McBride's surviving son, Jasper McBride, Sr., of Wethersfield, Conn., who has given back to the community in his own way. Besides his day job with the U.S. Postal Service, he's been a part-time cab driver in the Hartford area since the late 1970s. For much of that time, he's participated in a New Year's Eve program that offers free rides to people who have had too much to drink to get behind the wheel. "I lost a loved one," Jasper said. "If I can save one (person), that's all that matters."—Chris Foreman, *Case Investigator*

15:13 calls to mind those in the Hero Fund's 111-year history whose lives were sacrificed in the performance of their heroic acts. The name identifies the chapter and verse of the Gospel of John that appears on every medal: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Of the 9,775 medal awardees to date, 2,004, or 21% of the total, were recognized posthumously. **They are not forgotten.**

LATEST AWARDEES OF THE CARNEGIE MEDAL

SINCE THE LAST ISSUE OF *imPULSE*, THE FOLLOWING 18 INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN AWARDED THE CARNEGIE MEDAL, BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS TO 9,775 SINCE THE HERO FUND'S INCEPTION IN 1904. THE LATEST AWARDS, WHICH WERE ANNOUNCED ON JUNE 30, ARE DETAILED ON THE COMMISSION'S WEBSITE AT WWW.CARNEGIEHERO.ORG. THE NEXT ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARDEES WILL BE MADE ON SEPT. 24.

Christopher Brooks King, 29, a police officer from Roswell, N.M., rescued Kimberly N. Rodriguez from her burning house in Roswell on Jan. 31, 2014. Rodriguez, 38, was inside the one-story house after fire broke out in a bedroom and filled the structure with dense smoke. On duty, King responded to the scene, entered the living room, and searched for her. Unsuccessful in the deteriorating conditions, he exited and re-entered, through the back door. Going to the floor in the dense smoke, he crawled through the kitchen and found Rodriguez lying on the floor near flames that were advancing from the bedroom. Nearly overcome by smoke himself, he dragged her through the kitchen and outside to safety. He collapsed there. Both were taken to the hospital for treatment of smoke inhalation.



Lester J. Trafford III braved rough surf conditions in a Long Island, N.Y., bay inlet to search for victims of an overturned fishing vessel. "I should have turned around," he said later, "but knowing anyone in the water in these conditions wouldn't last long. I continued out, taking a considerable pounding in the process."



A build-up of natural gas in the house behind him exploded as Michael D. Campbell was driving by. Hearing screams for help, he entered the structure, although it was collapsing and burning, and made his way to the second floor, where he freed a man from debris and then took him downstairs. "My parents always raised me to do the right thing and help out," he told a reporter from the Hamilton, Ohio, Journal-News. "Instinct kicked in." Photo by Greg Lynch of the Journal-News and provided as a courtesy.

Martin V. Hohenstein, 51, a contractor from Dakota City, Neb., saved Fermin Urenda, 40, from a burning sport utility vehicle after a highway accident in Dakota City on May 25 last year. Hohenstein came upon the scene just after the accident, finding Urenda in the driver's seat, his legs trapped under the dashboard. With the driver's door jammed shut, Hohenstein leaned through the window opening and pulled on Urenda, but Urenda did not move. Making repeated entries through both front doors, Hohenstein struggled to free Urenda as flames on the vehicle grew. Successful in freeing only one of Urenda's legs, Hohenstein stepped back to shield himself from the intense heat. Despite flames entering the vehicle, he then leaned inside, pulled hard on Urenda, and freed him. He took Urenda from the car as flames grew to engulf it.

Lester J. Trafford III of Hampton Bays, N.Y., saved Scott C. Finne and attempted to save Stian Stiansen from drowning in the Atlantic Ocean at Hampton Bays, N.Y., May 12, 2013. Finne, 42, and Stiansen, 85, were aboard a 45-foot fishing boat when it capsized in rough surf near the inlet leading to a bay on Long Island. Thrown into the 51-degree water, Finne drifted to a point about a mile off shore. Learning of the accident, Trafford, 55, captain of a 24-foot towing boat, proceeded in the bay to the inlet. Winds engendered five-foot seas with waves reaching nine feet breaking in the

inlet and just off its mouth as a strong ebb current was emptying the bay. Although first-responding boats turned back, Trafford went through the inlet and toward the wreckage, where he searched for survivors before being directed to Finne by a police helicopter. Trafford took Finne aboard and then returned to the wreckage and looked for Stiansen. Relieved by a Coast Guard vessel, they traversed the inlet to reach safe harbor in the bay. Stiansen drowned.

Craig Randleman and **Thomas Joy** rescued Diamond D. White, 8, from attacking dogs on April 3, 2014, in their Spokane, Wash., neighborhood, and Joy and another neighbor, **Jason Connerley**, rescued Randleman. Diamond was walking in an alley when two dogs escaped from a nearby yard and began to maul her. Randleman, 50, heard screaming and with Joy, 28, customer service representative, kicked and punched one of the dogs, removing it from Diamond. When Randleman bent over her, that dog lunged at him, inflicting a severe bite wound to his face. As Randleman fought the 50-pound pit bull, Joy took Diamond to safety and then returned and helped free him. Randleman ran to a nearby yard, but the dog followed and resumed its attack. Breaking free again, he climbed over a fence and went to the ground, nearly exhausted. The dog followed, and as it tried to

(continued on page 9)

LATEST AWARDEES*(continued from page 8)*

scale the fence, Connerley, 28, nutrition services employee, responded with a shovel and struck it but was bitten by it and the other dog. Both dogs fled. Diamond and Randleman required hospital treatment for numerous wounds, Randleman needing sutures.

Robert A. Pritchard, Jr., 13, a student from Jacksonville, Fla., saved Hattie Fowler, 6, from her family's burning mobile home in Jacksonville on June 17, 2014. Hattie was in a bedroom of the structure after flames erupted there. Standing at a window, she attracted the attention of Robert, who was in the vicinity. Robert went to the front door and entered, finding visibility inside obscured by smoke. Hearing Hattie cry, he proceeded to a hall that accessed the bedroom and, standing in the bedroom doorway, called to her. She ran into his arms. He picked her up and, carrying her, retraced his steps to the front door and exited the house to safety with her as flames spread rapidly in the structure. Four members of Hattie's family died in the fire.



Craig Randleman is one of three Spokane, Wash., neighbors who saved an 8-year-old girl—and then each other—from two attacking dogs. “Nothing can match the satisfaction of having intervened,” he told the Hero Fund. “Who gets a chance to save a little girl?” Now of Bend, Ore., Randleman is shown in 2008 while on a bicycle ride from Death Valley, Calif., the lowest point in North America, to the top of Mt. Evans, Evergreen, Colo., the highest paved point.

*Ms. Groves**Mr. Koczan**Mr. Joy**Ms. Crecelius, with husband John*

Delivery truck driver **Michael D. Campbell**, 21, of Hamilton, Ohio, rescued Danny J. Carroll, 30, from a burning house on June 6, 2014. Carroll was on the second floor of a two-story house when natural gas that had leaked into the structure exploded. Walls of the house and a portion of its roof were blown away, and the structure caught fire. Badly injured, Carroll was pinned by debris from the collapsed chimney. Campbell, a neighbor, witnessed the explosion. Hearing Carroll yelling for help, he entered the house, ascended a spiral staircase, and found him. He removed the debris from Carroll, dragged him to the top of the stairs, and descended backward with him, passing flames that were issuing from a wall vent. When they reached the first floor, the second story partially collapsed. Another man took Carroll outside to safety, Campbell following. Carroll and Campbell required hospital treatment, Campbell for smoke inhalation.

S. Alexander Smith, 16, a high school student from Aloha, Ore., died attempting to save his brother, Christian G. Smith, 13, from drowning in the Row River at Dorena, Ore., on July 1 last year. Christian fell while trying to wade across the river at a point above a 15-foot-high falls, and the swift current carried him toward its brink. Alexander, who was on the bank, immediately ran about 35 feet to the river and entered it at a point just above the falls. He grasped Christian's wrist when Christian came within reach, but the current pulled them both downstream. Separated, they were carried over the falls. Christian surfaced in a pool and made his way to safety, but Alexander became lodged in the falls by a log submerged there. His body was recovered when the log was removed. He had drowned.

Deputy sheriff **Cheryl A. Crecelius**, 46, of Gaston, Ore., saved Jason K. Eaton and helped to save

(continued on page 10)

S. Alexander Smith, 16, center, was a devoted brother who immediately jumped into action when his brother, Christian, 13, left, fell into the Row River near Dorena, Ore., and was carried by the current toward the brink of a waterfall. From nearby, Alexander ran to the bank and grasped Christian as he approached, but both boys were carried over the falls. Christian made it to safety, but Alexander, who would have been a high school senior, drowned. The boys are shown with their sister, Emma.



LATEST AWARDEES

(continued from page 9)

Mark A. Vanvleck, both 25, from a burning sport utility vehicle after an accident in Gaston on March 29 last year. When Crecelius, who was off duty, responded to the scene, she found that both front doors of the vehicle were jammed shut. Despite flames issuing from the engine compartment, she fully entered the passenger compartment through the rear, passenger-side door. After releasing both men's safety belts, she reclined Eaton's seat, pulled him into the back-seat area, and then backed from the vehicle, pulling him out. Re-entering, flames then reaching the floor of the passenger compartment, Crecelius pulled on Vanvleck, but he remained trapped. A motorist who had stopped was successful in removing Vanvleck. Crecelius and the motorist then moved Vanvleck and Eaton farther away to safety.

Jamison S. Koczan of Winter Park, Fla., and **Kimberly Lynn Groves** of Winter Springs, Fla., rescued a woman from an assault in Winter Park on June 16, 2014. After her husband forced her into his pickup truck and threatened her with a handgun, a 40-year-old woman opened the passenger door and screamed for help. At work in a nearby building, Koczan, 38, video editor, and Groves, 52, company vice president, witnessed the attack. They approached the truck, where Koczan grasped the woman and pulled her from the assailant, who then pointed the gun at Koczan and Groves and threatened to shoot Koczan if he did not release her. Koczan and Groves ran with



Sheriff Chris Kleinberg of the Dakota County, Neb., Sheriff's Department, left, presented a medal to Dakota City, Neb., resident Martin V. Hohenstein last year to recognize his pulling a man from a burning vehicle after a late-night accident. "That's just Marty," said members of the department, where Hohenstein himself was employed as a deputy from 1985 to 1992. Photo provided as a courtesy by the Dakota County Star.

the woman back to the building, the assailant in pursuit. Groves took the woman inside and locked themselves in an office. Koczan entered the building and locked the door behind him, but the assailant broke through. He proceeded to the office and, threatening Groves with the gun, demanded that

she release his wife. Groves refused him. The assailant left the building and fled the scene in his truck but later turned himself in to police.

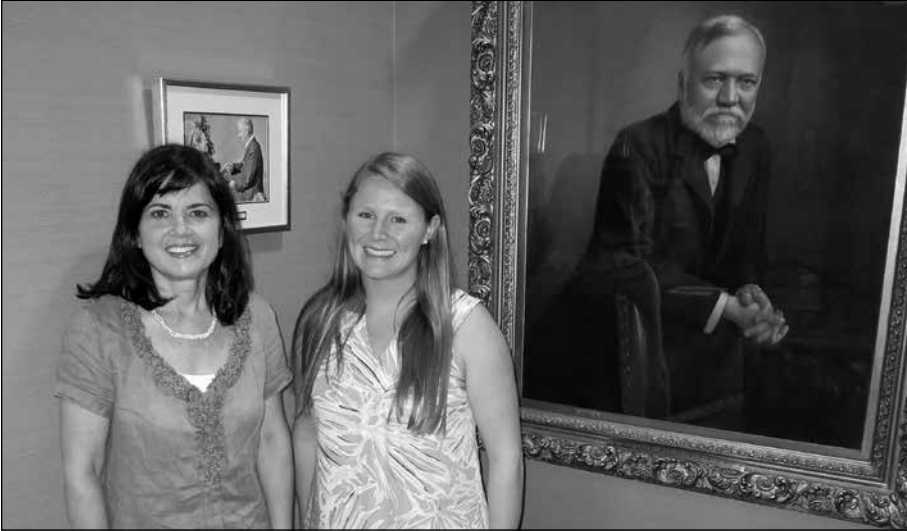
Meghan O'Reilly-Green, 31, a student from Perth Amboy, N.J., helped to save Thomas J. Wadkins, Jr., 26, from drowning in the Atlantic Ocean at Hatteras, N.C., on July 14, 2013. While swimming, Wadkins attempted to return to shore but made no progress against a very strong current, which took him farther out. O'Reilly-Green was on the beach and heard him. Although she was seven months pregnant, she took a boogie board and swam to Wadkins, then about 300 feet out. After giving Wadkins the board, which was then lost to the surf, she tried to position him for towing, but a struggle ensued, submerging her. Freeing herself, O'Reilly-Green swam to another responding rescuer, took a boogie board from him, and returned. Securing Wadkins to the board, she pushed him out of the current to a sandbar. First responders took Wadkins, and others who had been caught by the current, to safety.

Clinton D. Blackburn, 44, rescued Darrell L. Herndon, 56, from an assault in Bardstown, Ky., on March 12, 2014. Herndon, a jailer, was transporting a male prisoner in a police cruiser when the prisoner slipped from his handcuffs and partially entered the front-seat area through a small opening in the passenger compartment partition. He

(continued on page 11)



Officer Christopher Brooks King of the Roswell, N.M., Police Department was given a lifesaving award by the department for saving a Roswell woman from her burning house. Concluding, along with the department, that he acted well above and beyond the call of duty, the Hero Fund awarded a Carnegie Medal to him. But the woman's neighbors knew first that he was a hero. "One minute he was there, and the next minute he was gone," said a witness who watched King arrive and disappear into the smoky structure. King needed hospital treatment for effects of the smoke.



Ms. Cooper, right, with Susan M. Rizza, the Hero Fund staffer who investigated her 2008 heroic act.

Sailing as child, hero, and competitor: awardee now sets sail for law school

Summer visitors to the Hero Fund's offices included medal awardee **Clerc Higgins Cooper**, 22, of New Orleans, who was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 2009 for a heroic rescue in 2008 that she performed when she was only 14. With scholarship aid from the Hero Fund, Cooper went on to study history at the College of Charleston, S.C., where, graduated this year, she earned a grade-point average of 3.9. She was accepted by several top law schools and has entered Tulane University Law School, New Orleans.

Cooper's passion is sailing, in which she competed at Charleston, her team this year winning the Leonard B. Fowle Trophy for the best all-around sailing team in the nation. An individual honor was Cooper's being named one of six women skippers to the Inter-Collegiate Sailing Association All-American Team for the 2014-15 season. She competed in both the Women's Singlehanded National Championship and the Women's Doublehanded National Championship, as well as a host of regattas around the country during the past school year.

A native of New Orleans, Cooper has been sailing since she was 8, launching her sailing career out of a yacht club on Lake Pontchartrain. "Both of my parents sailed," she told *Scuttlebutt Sailing News*, "and they wanted me to sail too, so they started having me take lessons, which led me to making friends and getting more involved in summer sailing camps." The College of Charleston's nationally renowned sailing teams was one of the major reasons she chose the school.

It was while she was sailing on Lake Pontchartrain that Cooper earned her hero's stripes. On Jan. 13, 2008, she and two friends had just left the harbor in a 19-foot boat when they spotted a disabled craft about 500 feet from shore. They responded, and as they drew close, a woman aboard the disabled boat began to swim toward them. Cooper removed her lifejacket and threw it to her.

The disabled boat capsized about then, sending the two men aboard into the 58-degree water, where they struggled in its two-foot chop. Cooper took a flotation device and, without removing any items of attire, entered the water, swam to the two men, and gave the device to one of them. She then swam to the capsized boat and located another flotation device, which she gave to the second man. As her friends took the woman to shore, Cooper waited atop the exposed hull of the overturned boat. Two others arrived shortly in an inflated dinghy and returned the men to shore as the overturned boat with Cooper atop it was carried by the wind and waves toward a seawall along the shore. Her friends returned and took her—cold and bruised—to safety. ☒

LATEST AWARDEES

(continued from page 10)

began to choke Herndon, who maintained control of the vehicle as he pulled from the highway. Approaching the scene, Blackburn, a trucker from Morehead, Ky., witnessed the assault. He pulled over and ran to the driver's side of the cruiser. By then, the assailant had completely entered its front-seat area. Blackburn pushed him away from



Mr. Snyder, with daughter Carsyn

Herndon, breaking his chokehold, but the assailant then grasped Herndon's gun and threatened to kill them both. Blackburn struggled for control of the gun as Herndon dropped from the vehicle to the ground. Able to twist the gun from the assailant, Blackburn held him at gunpoint until Herndon recovered and secured him.



Mr. Pritchard

Truck driver **McKenzie McKay Guffey** of Gainesboro, Tenn., saved Jeffrey Hakner, 45, from his burning sport utility vehicle after an accident in Rye, N.Y., on July 17, 2014. Hakner was trapped in the vehicle after it overturned onto its driver's side and caught fire at its front end. Guffey, 39, came upon the scene and stopped. He emptied a fire extinguisher on the flames but did not extinguish them, and



Mr. Cavener

they grew, entering the passenger compartment. Guffey then used the fire extinguisher to break out the front passenger door window, which was then atop the vehicle. As Hakner stood and reached toward the opening, Guffey, despite flames at his feet, stepped onto the wreckage, reached into the opening, and grasped him. Stepping down, he pulled Hakner free, taking him to the pavement, and then dragged him to safety.

College student **Ryan Thomas Nelson**, 21, of Eagan, Minn., rescued his friend and roommate, Matthew J. Heisler, also 21, from a burning house

(continued on page 15)

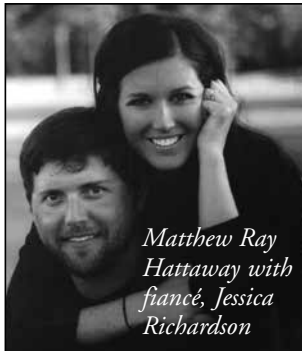


HE WAS A WONDERFUL CHILD, AN EXTRAORDINARY YOUNG MAN

By Janet D. Hattaway
Shreveport, La.

I am the proud mother of a man, **Matthew Ray Hattaway**, who has been recognized by the Hero Fund for his outstanding act of heroism. Matt was awarded the Carnegie Medal in March for his attempt to save a teenaged boy from drowning in the Gulf of Mexico at Fort Morgan, Ala., on June 9, 2013. He lost his life that day, but another precious life was spared.

It gives me great pride to share with others that Matt received this honor. As a grieving mother, my biggest fear was that my child would be forgotten, but the



Matthew Ray Hattaway with fiancée, Jessica Richardson

generosity of the Hero Fund and having the medal with its exquisite design detailing his honorable act ensure that he will be remembered. Future generations will see his name and know he lived and died as a hero.

Matt was born in 1988, the oldest of my three children. He was a wonderful child, grew into an extraordinary young man, graduated from high school with honors, and was a graduate of the University of Louisiana at Monroe. After college he went to work for a construction company as a foreman and was the inspiration behind the company's first annual employee of the year award for outstanding performance and dedication. Matt received that award in 2012. He was to be married to Jessica Richardson in April 2014; it was Jessica's younger brother whom Matt tried to save. Jessica's mother said of Matt, "He is the kind of man a mother dreams about for her daughter and the type of man most men desire to be."

As his mother, I know how deserving Matt is of this award, but with the Hero Fund's recognition others who never met him will also know. Along with the Carnegie Medal, we have received an acknowledgement from our governor, Bobby Jindal, and a letter from U.S. Rep. John C. Fleming, M.D. It is overwhelming and warms my heart that so many now know the name Matthew Ray Hattaway. As I read the accounts in the book *A Century of Heroes* and *impULSE*, I feel it is my honor that his name has been added to a list of other deserving extraordinary people who acted with bravery and selflessness in a time of crisis to save another.

(Note: Ms. Hattaway references Matthew 6:9-13—which corresponds to the June 9, 2013, date of her son's death—as containing the Lord's Prayer in the New Testament.)

Exploring similarities

(continued from page 7)

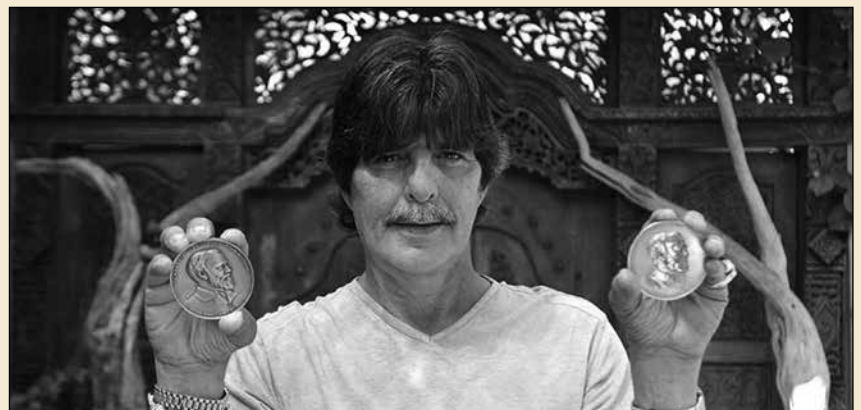
As a clear example of their spirituality, one *spiritual, socially responsible, and prudent* hero said, "I believe Jesus Christ is the son of God and the savior of the world. Therefore I commit my life to his will, purpose, and plan." In contrast, an *open, loving, and risk-taking* hero said, "There is no higher power. We are all equal and we are all worthy. Our 'purpose,' if we need one, is to survive. It is that simple."

The two groups of heroes revealed in this research had almost an equal number of those who took physical and social risks in each group. It may be easy to conceptualize heroic acts based on their risks, whether social or physical, and assume all heroes are impulsive when they act, but the truth appears more nuanced. It may be more useful to conceptualize, categorize, and assess heroic persons based on their characteristic profiles. Doing so acts as a step toward understanding the full picture of the development of heroes over their lifespan as they interact with various situations, not only those requiring heroic action. I intend to use this work as a stepping-stone toward understanding how individual characteristics influence heroes as they interact with the world around them and develop across the lifespan. ☒



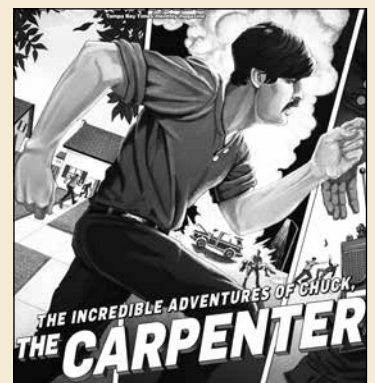
Prof. Riches is a doctoral student in positive developmental psychology. He can be reached by email: Brian.Riches@cgu.edu.

12



ACTION HERO

Charles T. Carbonell, Sr., of Tampa, Fla., is one of only five recipients of the Carnegie Medal to have been awarded the medal twice, and that fact was not lost on the local media. In June, Carbonell was the cover story of *Floridian* (circulation of 350,000), the monthly magazine of the *Tampa Bay Times*. Under the headline, "Action Hero," the five-page spread featured not only Carbonell's rescue acts of Nov. 14, 2011, by which he saved a woman from a burning car, and Feb. 12, 2007, by which he rescued a police officer under assault, but it describes other instances of Carbonell's intervention in behalf of others. The article's writer, Caitlyn Johnston, sums up her subject: "...since childhood, (he) has never been able to stand by and watch an injustice unfold. Something within compels him to act. And in those moments, the hands that work to restore furniture and old cars become the hands that save lives." The other double-awardees of the medal are now deceased: **Daniel Elwood Stockwell** (for heroic acts in 1963 and 1991), **Rudell Stitch** (1958, 1960), **John J. O'Neill, Sr.** (1954, 1956), and **Henry Naumann** (1924, 1927).



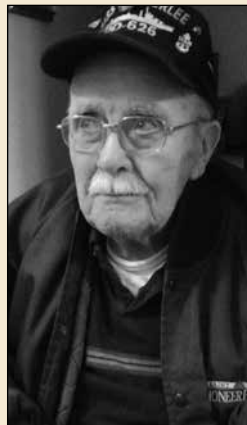
❁ FRIENDS REMEMBERED ❁



Philip Bevacqua, 85, of Totowa, N.J., died May 17. Awarded the Carnegie Medal at age 77 in 2008, Bevacqua was a police captain for the Paterson, N.J., Police Department, having worked there for 26 years before retiring in 1988. On July 16, 2007, Bevacqua was at home, on his back deck, when a police officer stopped a hit-and-run driver outside his house. The driver produced a gun and shot the officer twice, and then he struggled against the officer to take the officer's gun. The men were fighting in the middle of the street as Bevacqua, alerted by the gunfire, approached. Later stating that his instincts took over, Bevacqua ran to the assailant and punched him repeatedly in the face, allowing the officer to recover and control the situation. Bevacqua is shown at right, a day later, being congratulated by his old boss, former Paterson Police Chief Lawrence Spagnola.

Howard R. Giles II, 73, of Henderson, Nev., died June 28. Giles was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 1955 in recognition of his actions of Aug. 26, 1954, by which he, then aged 12, and another boy, 14, helped to save an 18-year-old boy from falling over a 150-foot precipice on Mount Charleston, near Las Vegas, while at summer camp. The victim lost his footing while climbing and slid to a point only eight feet from the edge of the drop off, where he lay, dazed and bleeding from deep cuts. Without ropes or other protection, Giles and the other boy descended on loose shale to him and supported him for 40 minutes, until other help arrived. The victim was moved to a ledge on the mountainside, where the group spent the night. He was then evacuated to safety, and Giles and the other rescuers descended the mountain. Giles later served in Vietnam.

Paul H. Olson, 92, of Anoka, Minn., died June 9. At age 38 on March 13, 1961, he saved a woman from drowning in the Mississippi River at Minneapolis. A taxi driver, Olson had seen the fully clothed woman, 29, walk slowly along the river bank, and he became suspicious of her actions. The woman then ran down the steep bank and plunged into the water, which contained ice floes. Olson jumped from his taxi, removed his outer clothing, and entered the river after seeing the woman struggle and submerge at a point about 75 feet from the bank. He swam to her, took hold of her, and returned her to the bank even though she resisted him halfway back. Both were taken to the hospital for treatment of exposure. Olson and his wife had five dependent children at the time, and the monetary grant that accompanied the award of his Carnegie Medal later that year "was used for a new baby and our home, and we are sure thankful," he wrote.



Mr. Olson

❁ OVERHEARD ❁

No one should be a spectator when someone is in danger.—Carnegie Medal awardee #9740 **Charles David Jordan**, who saved a woman from a vicious dog attack.

Hell, I was shaking like a leaf in a hurricane.—**Clinton D. Blackburn**, Carnegie Medal awardee #9771, who saved a jailer from assault by a prisoner.

Not much in this life is better than being remembered kindly.—Laurie Conine Schmolz, daughter of **Arthur M. Conine**, Carnegie Medal awardee #1912.

This event proved to myself that if a situation like this occurs, I have it in me to do the right thing.—**Jacob Daniel Richie**, Carnegie Medal nominee #87203, who helped to subdue a gunman.

Who has not yearned to be a hero? To plunge into the raging waters of a foaming river, how easy in perspective and how difficult in fact. To descend into the choking gases of a mine; to plunge into the fiery recesses of a building in flames; these are tasks that delight the imagination but daunt the heart. They are also tasks to which in these modern times few are called and fewer are chosen, as is shown by the last report of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission.—May 17, 1909, news account in *The Day* of New London, Conn.

He said "thank you" a hundred times in those couple of minutes. He was very grateful.—**Martin V. Hohenstein**, Carnegie Medal awardee #9759, who pulled a man from a burning car.

You go to sleep with everything...wake up with nothing...—Widow of Carnegie Medal nominee #87050, who died after saving their young son from a house fire at night.

(F)ear is a powerful emotion. And just because we think we are brave doesn't mean that we are.—Marianne Seregi, writing in *I Was Attacked on the Train. No One Helped Me*, as appearing on *Slate*, July 13, 2015.

❁ TO THE HERO FUND ❁

THIS WILL BE MY LEGACY

This is the greatest gift I have ever received. Beautiful does not describe how magnificent the medal and case mean to me. I will treasure them always. This will be my legacy to my children and grandchildren.

Charles David Jordan, Houston, Texas

Jordan was awarded the Carnegie Medal in March for saving a woman from attack by two pit bull dogs while she was jogging on a trail near his home.



HERO IN WAR AND IN PEACE

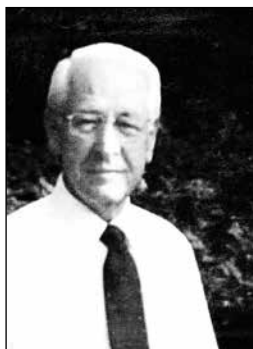
Gale O. Shreffler of Plum, Pa., who died May 31, 2014, at 90, was a certified hero in both war and peace. He compiled an impressive record as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army Air Forces during World War II, during which he was awarded a Purple Heart, and upon resuming civilian life after the war he was awarded the Carnegie Medal for saving a small neighbor boy from a house fire.

But more so, he was a devoted father and grandfather, according to his daughter, Linda Sundin of Monroeville, Pa. "He was humble; he would do anything for anyone," Sundin told the writer of his obituary. Shreffler stepped in as father



figure to Sundin's son when the boy's father died.

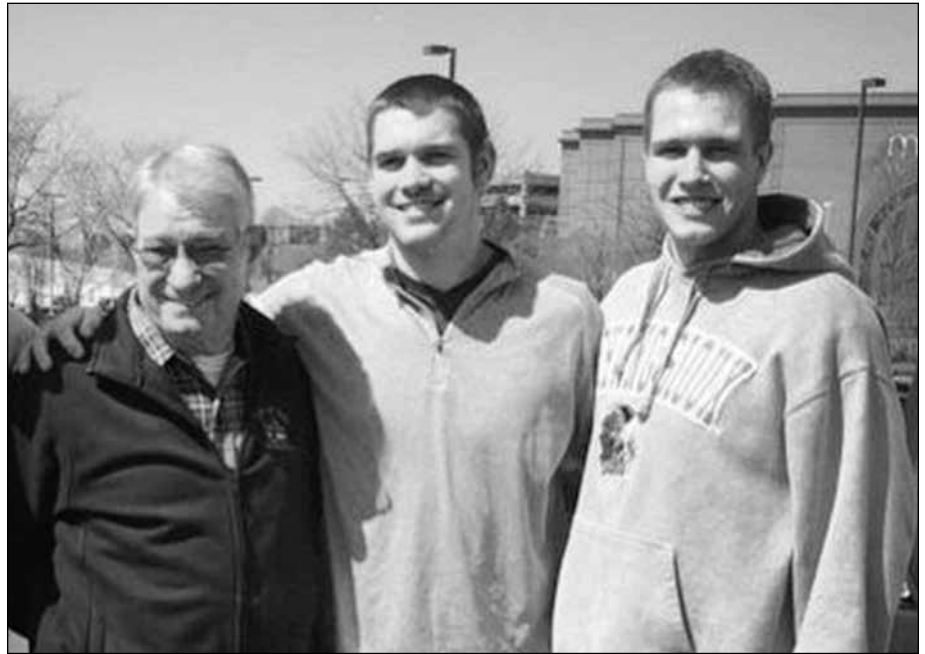
Shreffler was a teenager when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in 1941. Telling his father that he could not swim far, he opted for the Army Air Forces rather than the Navy and served as a navigator, flying numerous B-29 bombing runs over Japan. He received the Purple Heart for injuries suffered when his plane crashed on Iwo Jima. None of the crew was lost.



Mr. Shreffler

In keeping with his character, Sundin said, Shreffler packaged up the medal and sent it off to a veteran who thought he should have received a Purple Heart but did not.

Shreffler's award of the Carnegie Medal came in 1961. Then an accountant for National Tube Co., a subsidiary of U. S. Steel Corp., Shreffler was at his family's home in Pittsburgh in the early afternoon of Sunday, March 19 of that year, when he heard an explosion at his neighbor's two-story brick house. Gas that had leaked into the structure exploded, buckling its walls and setting fire to it. Shreffler and another neighbor, **Albert Collins**, responded to the scene, forced entry, and proceeded to the second floor, where they found their neighbor woman and her two children, 3 and 10, in a bedroom. Shreffler carried the younger child downstairs and outside to safety, followed by Collins, leading the older child and her mother. Collins was also awarded the medal.



Carnegie Medal awardee Ryan Thomas Nelson, right, and Sam Roth, center, were college roommates of Matthew J. Heisler, who died as the result of a house fire last year after being pulled from the smoke-filled structure by Nelson. Heisler was an organ donor, and Tom Meeks, left, received his heart.

He couldn't save his oldest friend, whose heart hasn't stopped beating

Not only were **Ryan Thomas Nelson** of Eagan, Minn., and Matthew J. Heisler of Lakeville, Minn., roommates at the University of North Dakota at Grand Forks, they were best friends "since before we could talk," according to Nelson. Further, their fathers grew up together as best friends—and still are—and both also went to the university and roomed together.

The younger men's bond remained secure in the early hours of March 16 last year when Nelson returned to the small off-campus rental house they shared with two others and found the structure aflame and filled with smoke. Knowing that Heisler was alone in the house when he left earlier that evening, Nelson screamed for him, but it took only a few steps past the front door for him to realize that he was about to pass out in the thick smoke.

Retreating, Nelson circled to the rear of the house, broke out a window to Heisler's bedroom, and entered, but he soon discovered Heisler was not there. He dove out the window, returned to the front door, and re-entered the house. The smoke was clearing somewhat, allowing Nelson the sight of Heisler lying unconscious on the living room floor. Nelson quickly removed Heisler from the house and worked to revive him although by then Nelson was suffering from smoke inhalation himself. Both men were taken to the hospital for treatment. Nelson was not detained there, and he fully recovered.

Heisler died the next day. His father, Jared Heisler, said Nelson's actions "enabled our family and friends to say goodbye to Matt, which was a huge comfort after such a tragedy." He nominated Nelson for the Carnegie Medal, and the award was approved by the Commission at its June 25 meeting. Jared announced the award the following day, at the second annual Matt Heisler Scholarship Golf Classic. Nelson got a standing ovation, "and there wasn't a dry eye in the house," Jared said.

"I don't remember the heat of the fire or anything too descriptive about it because I was worried about one thing, and that was Matt," Nelson told the Hero Fund.

(continued on page 15)

GREAT SCOTT

Andrew Carnegie's Hero Fund Commission is administered carefully to ensure its existence into perpetuity, and a visitor to the Commission's 111th annual meeting on June 25 was a symbol for that commitment. The visitor was Scott R. Hills, right, of Torrance, Calif., one of the founder's 32 great-great-grandchildren. Hills, 34, who works for the Boeing Company as an engineering manager, is the son of Linda Thorell Hills of Littleton, Colo. (herself a member of the Commission), and the late Harold Hills and is related to Andrew Carnegie and his wife Louise through his mother, who is one of the 15 great-grandchildren. Hills was welcomed to the meeting by Dan D. Sandman, left, who as both the Commission's treasurer and an ardent student of history plays a pivotal role in keeping Carnegie's legacy of recognizing civilian heroism strong.



He couldn't save his oldest friend

(continued from page 14)



Friends from early on: Ryan Thomas Nelson, left, and Matthew J. Heisler as boys and as young men.



"Matt was the kind of kid that would drop everything for his friends, and he always had my back. He always fought for what he believed and he touched so many lives."

Many lives. The phrase was prophetic: When Heisler was 16, he decided that if life was ever taken from him, he wanted to be an organ and tissue donor, and he indicated that on his driver's license. After his death, his heart, kidneys, liver, and corneas were given to six people, and tissue, bone, and skin grafts benefitted 50 or more others. Vietnam Veteran Tom Meeks was the recipient of Heisler's heart. Eight months after the fire, the Heisler family met with Meeks and his wife... and got to hear Heisler's heart beating once more. The emotional meeting was filmed and aired by *NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams*.

"Knowing that Matt is still helping people, as he did during his time here on earth, is a comforting feeling," Nelson said. "Matt had the biggest heart in the world, but it hasn't stopped beating. His eyes haven't

stopped seeing. His organs are now part of someone else's body, keeping that person healthy and living a normal life." ❧

LATEST AWARDEES

(continued from page 11)

in Grand Forks, N.D., on March 16, 2014. Heisler was alone in the house after fire broke out in the kitchen at night. Returning home, Nelson discovered the fire. He opened the front door to dense smoke and entered, shouting for Heisler, but was forced back outside. Nelson then ran to the rear of the structure and broke out a window to Heisler's bedroom. He climbed into the room and then exited after not finding Heisler there. Returning to the front of the house, he re-entered again, crouched, and in dissipating smoke saw Heisler lying unconscious on the floor of the living room. Nelson went to Heisler, grasped him under the arms, and dragged him to the front door and to safety, where he worked to resuscitate him. Heisler was taken to the hospital but died there of smoke inhalation.

Alan Cavener of Nampa, Idaho, rescued a man from an out-of-control vehicle in Meridian, Idaho, on Aug. 11, 2013. An elderly man was driving a sport utility vehicle the wrong way on an interstate highway, the speed limit on which was 65 m.p.h. Driving on the same highway, Cavener, 54, an off-duty police officer from another municipality, saw other motorists swerving around the vehicle. He drove to a point ahead of it and parked on his lanes' inner shoulder. Cavener then climbed over a concrete barrier and ran across three lanes of traffic to meet the man's vehicle, which was approaching at a speed of less than 5 m.p.h. When he shouted at the man to stop, the man rolled down the window of the driver's door but continued. Running alongside the car, Cavener reached inside and grasped the steering wheel. After continuing for about 75 feet, Cavener saw a break in the oncoming traffic and steered the vehicle off the highway to safety.

Bryon Snyder saved a woman from an assault in Topeka, Kan., on June 30, 2014. A woman, 44, ran toward a convenience store to escape a man, who, armed with a handgun, had abducted her. Snyder, 36, a computer application analyst from Topeka, was entering the store. He held the door for the woman, and she ran inside and locked herself in the office. From inside the store, Snyder then saw the assailant approach, but he remained at the door to hold it shut against the assailant. The assailant produced his gun and at point-blank range fired into the door, striking Snyder in his right hand and torso. Snyder fell to the floor. The assailant entered the store and demanded to know the woman's location, and he threatened to shoot Snyder again. As the assailant searched the store, Snyder crawled outside and shouted for help. The assailant exited the store shortly and fled the scene but was later apprehended by police.

“Why not extend the Hero Fund to my native land, Britain and Ireland?” On the morning of Dec. 29, 1907, Andrew Carnegie had that “revelation” while lying in bed listening to organ music—it had been almost four years since the Pittsburgh-based Commission was up and running, and he was pleased with it. Not only did a hero fund serving the U.K. and Ireland come into being within the next several months, but by 1911 Carnegie had established nine other such funds in Western Europe.

*More than a century later, nine of the 11 funds remain in existence, each operating independently of the others, and within the past decade they have made a serious attempt to form a collaboration—the **Carnegie Hero Funds World Committee**—to voice concerns, offer advice, or just plain share experiences and fellowship. The group will next meet in New York City on Oct. 14 during the biennial presentation of the Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy. A few recent notes:*



*The **Carnegie Rescuers Foundation** of Switzerland held its annual Heroes Day Ceremony in the Swiss capital of Bern on May 8, under the direction of the foundation’s executive director, Hans-Ruedi Hübscher, center left, and president, Edith Graf-Litscher, center right, who is also a member of the Swiss Parliament. They are shown among the year’s 17 awardees and other guests, including Laetitia Guarino, Miss Switzerland 2014, who is standing to the left of Hübscher, and Roger de Weck, general director of the Swiss radio and television network group RG, who is in the top row, behind Graf-Litscher.*



*On April 24, the board of **Carnegiestiftelsen**, the hero fund in Sweden, visited Dunfermline, Scotland, Carnegie’s birthplace and home to the **Carnegie Hero Fund Trust**, the hero fund serving the U.K. and Ireland. The visit began in the Andrew Carnegie Birthplace Museum and was followed by lunch in the Glen Pavilion of Pittencrieff Park, which was a gift from Carnegie to the residents of Dunfermline. Shown outside the pavilion are, first row from left: Douglas Scott (U.K.), Carnegiestiftelsen Board Chair Ann-Christine Lindeblad, and Angus Hogg (U.K.). Top row, from left: Robin Watson, Anne-Line Solberg, Andreas Arvidsson, Carina Vangstad, Mats Vangstad, Ulf Köping-Höggård, Hans Lagerhorn, Agneta Ahlbeck, Greger Ahlbeck, George Murray, Nora Rundell, David Lorr, and Eva Svanborg.*



*Arctic explorer Liv Arnesen, second from right, is the newly named board chair of **Carnegies Heltefond for Norge**, the hero fund serving Norway, and on May 25 she met in Oslo with representatives of the **Carnegie Hero Fund Commission**, Walter F. Rutkowski, president, left, and Mark Laskow, board chair, right. Shown with them is Emilie S. Bruchon, then the deputy public affairs officer for the U.S. Embassy in Norway; the Ambassador fills one of the seats on the Heltefond board. Arnesen is the first woman ever to ski solo and unsupported to the South Pole, which she did over the course of 50 days in 1994. After their visit, Laskow and Rutkowski went to Copenhagen, Denmark, to meet with Astrid Mavrogenis, who is the board chair and president of the Danish fund, **Carnegies Belønningsfond for Heltemod**.*



*One of the more enthusiastic awardees of the hero fund in Italy, **Fondazione Carnegie Per Gli Atti D’Eroismo**, has to be Dario Minati of Vignola, Italy, a police officer who received a silver medal in December last year. He was cited for intervening in a gun assault in 2013, during which he was wounded in an arm. Proud of his honor, Minati initiated correspondence with the Commission in April and was sent memorabilia from the Hero Fund to cement a fraternal relationship.*



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Tragedy at Fourth of July picnic

By Mark Petzel
O'Fallon, Mo.

As we gather here today to remember our ancestors Hermann J. and Mary G. Ernst Petzel, as well as the rest of the Petzel and Ernst family members buried here, I have a story to tell. The main points are all true; some of the details are as I imagined them.

July 4, 1905, was a Tuesday and, weather wise, it would turn out to be a delightful, sunny day with the high temperature reaching 81 degrees. It was to be a perfect day for celebrating the nation's birthday. Hermann and Mary were probably up very early to get their eight children dressed, fed, and ready for a long day of fun and celebration. With eight children, the older ones surely helped Mom and Dad get the younger ones ready to go.

The family was to celebrate Independence Day by traveling out to the country, to Roth's Grove, with the men's choir from St. Liborius Catholic Church, which was right down the street from their small city flat in the north-side, St. Louis neighborhood of German immigrants. But first things first: Being devout Catholics, the family probably started the day off with Mass—perhaps at 6 a.m., surely no later than 7, because it was to be a long trip. The entire choir was to be there, along with their families. Little did they know that by the end of the day, one of their members, as well as the son of the president of the choir, would no longer be with them.



Hermann Petzel

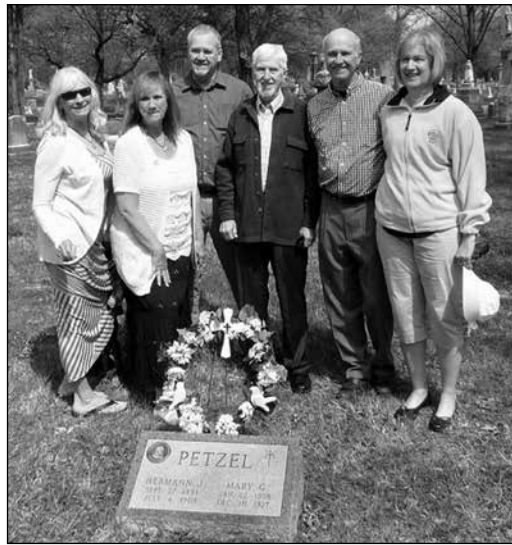
After Mass, the families loaded up onto horse-drawn wagons or trolleys that would transport them the 15-20 miles from the crowded city to the relaxing countryside. There must have been much laughter and singing from the children as they moved along. The choir members probably sang good old German songs as well as some of the patriotic songs of the day as they made the trip.

They would have arrived at the grand entrance to Roth's Grove off unpaved Olive Street. An advertisement from that era shows a large structure that included a grocery and saloon—most certainly the saloon was for men only, as in those days it was improper for a respectable lady, much less a mother, to be found there. In addition, there were a dance floor, beer garden, bowling alley, dining hall, and boarding apartments. And in the back was a park-like setting for picnics, along with two small, connected ponds. With pavilions and benches, it was a great place to relax and watch the children play.

At about 4 in the afternoon, as Hermann was sitting at the edge

Three generations of descendants of Hermann J. and Mary Ernst Petzel gathered on April 11 in Calvary Cemetery, St. Louis, Mo., to dedicate a newly installed monument on the Petzel graves.

Included was a bronze marker cast in the likeness of the Carnegie Medal, as Hermann was a posthumous awardee. Here are the remarks of one of the great-grandsons.



Among those gathered for the Petzel-Ernst memorial dedication were, from left, Anne Petzel House, Mary Petzel Marchant, Jim Petzel, Jerry Petzel, and the writer, Mark Petzel, with wife, Jane Lipke Petzel.

of the pond with his friends from the choir—perhaps sipping on a longneck bottle of beer, maybe even singing a song in celebration of their country—suddenly he heard a commotion and looked up to see two young men that he knew, Joseph Hellwig and Joseph J. Heet, struggling in the water. The account from the *St. Louis Globe Democrat* on July 5, 1905, relates that “Heet...had gone in bathing in an open-air swimming pool in the grove with a number of other young men.

He had been in the water probably half an hour when he was attacked with cramps. He cried out for help and almost immediately sank from view below the surface.


“Joseph Hellwig...who was swimming in the pool, attempted a rescue, but failed to locate Heet, who was struggling under the surface. Petzel, who is said to have been an excellent swimmer, was on the bank of the pool. Realizing the grave situation, he leaped into the pool in an effort to save Heet, after removing only his coat and shoes.

“When the bodies were brought up, Petzel was found, it is claimed, clutched about the throat by one of Heet's hands. It was thought from this that Petzel was caught in a death-like grip by the younger man when he reached the body, and that in attempting to fight off Heet the older man was strangled.”

The article stated that “probably fifty persons witnessed the tragedy, among them being the eldest son of Petzel [my grandfather, George Petzel]...who was helpless to assist his father.”

I cannot imagine the horror, as the entire Petzel family, including the eight children, were present when Hermann drowned. Ironically, Hermann, 54, had been a swimming instructor while serving in the German Army as a young man, before immigrating to the U.S. He had given his life to save another.

In early 1907, Hermann was posthumously awarded a silver Carnegie Medal by the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission, which had been established only three years earlier. He was the Hero Fund's 72nd awardee, the total number of which now exceeds 9,700. The medal went to Mary, as did a grant of \$1,500. That certainly was a large sum of money back then and helped a widow to continue to raise her family without her loving husband. For this and preserving Hermann's memory, we are forever thankful to Andrew Carnegie and his foundation.

And so today, we dedicate and bless this monument to Hermann and Mary Petzel and all the faithfully departed, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen. 

**Carnegie Hero Fund Commission**

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

412-281-1302 • 800-447-8900

www.carnegiehero.org

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

Address Service Requested

NOTICES: © Carnegie Hero Fund Commission and/or its suppliers, 2014, U.S.A. All rights reserved. This newsletter is governed by our terms & conditions (see <http://carnegiehero.org/terms-conditions/>), including our privacy notice (see <http://carnegiehero.org/privacy-policy/>) (or direct an inquiry to us directly by using the above contact information).

 [facebook.com/carnegiehero](https://www.facebook.com/carnegiehero)

imPULSE is a periodic newsletter of the CARNEGIE HERO FUND COMMISSION, a private operating foundation established in 1904 by Andrew Carnegie. • The Hero Fund awards the CARNEGIE MEDAL to those throughout the United States and Canada who risk their lives to an extraordinary degree while saving or attempting to save the lives of others. • The Commission also provides financial assistance, which may include scholarship aid and continuing grants, to the heroes and to the dependents of those awardees who are disabled or die as the result of their heroic acts.

Further information is available on-line or by contacting the Commission.

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

Address change? Please keep us posted!

Carnegie Hero Fund Commission

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

Editor: Walter F. Rutkowski, President

Telephone: 412-281-1302 Toll-free: 800-447-8900

Fax: 412-281-5751

E-mail: carnegiehero@carnegiehero.orgimpulse@carnegiehero.orgWebsite: www.carnegiehero.org**MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION**

A. H. Burchfield III

Robert J. Cindrich

David McL. Hillman

Linda T. Hills

Of the Carnegie Family

Peter J. Lambrou

Mark Laskow

Chair

Nathalie Lemieux

Christopher R. McCrady

Priscilla J. McCrady

Vice Chair

Ann M. McGuinn

Nancy L. Rackoff

Frank Brooks Robinson

Dan D. Sandman

Treasurer

Arthur M. Scully

Michael A. Thompson

Sybil P. Veeder

Chair, Executive Committee

Joseph C. Walton

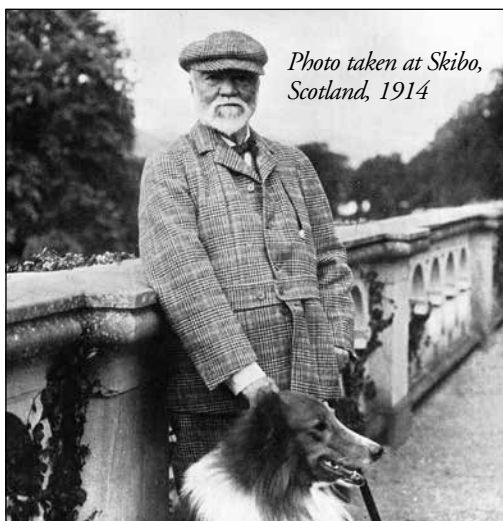
Susanne C. Wean

Thomas L. Wentling, Jr.

*Chair, Finance Committee***HONORARY MEMBER**

James M. Walton

✦ THE QUOTABLE A.C. ✦



*Photo taken at Skibo,
Scotland, 1914*

When war ceases, the sense of human brotherhood will be strengthened and heroism will no longer mean to kill, but only serve or save our fellows.

—From *War as the Mother of Valor and Civilization*, 1910

✦ CONTINUUM ✦

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

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

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

ANNUAL REPORTS Copies of the Hero Fund's most recent annual reports (2013-2014) are available by contacting Gloria Barber (gloria@carnegiehero.org).

A CENTURY OF HEROES The centennial book describing the first 100 years of the Hero Fund is available through the Commission's website (www.carnegiehero.org).

imPULSE ON LINE? Should you wish to receive *imPULSE* in PDF rather than in your mailbox, let us know: impulse@carnegiehero.org

CARNEGIE HERO FUND COMMISSION

436 Seventh Avenue, Suite 1101, Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1841

Telephone: (412) 281-1302 Toll free: (800) 447-8900

Fax: (412)-281-5751

E-mail: carnegiehero@carnegiehero.orgWebsite: www.carnegiehero.org