



The Goodness of America

Honoring Heroics

Indiana pizza delivery driver Nicholas Bostic was recently awarded a Carnegie Medal for rescuing five siblings from a burning house last July. According to the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission, the Carnegie Medal “is awarded to civilians who risk death or serious physical injury to an extraordinary degree saving or attempting to save the lives of others.” Bostic’s heroic actions certainly fit the bill.

While delivering pizzas late at night on July 11, he spotted a house ablaze and immediately parked his car. He yelled to warn any occupants still in the house that the house was on fire, and when he did not hear a response, he decided to enter the house himself to confirm it was empty. He found four children and their 18-year-old sister in the home.

Three of the children, two of whom were 13 and the other just 20 months old, were with their 18-year-old sister upstairs when Bostic found them. He led them down the stairs and out of the house through the back door, as the blaze had already consumed the porch and front door and had spread to the living room. He then asked if there was anyone else in the house, to which the children responded that their six-year-old sister was still in the house, but they did not know where she was.

Bostic ran back into the house and frantically searched for the child, though the smoke and heat made it difficult. He eventually found her on the first floor just outside the living room when he heard her cries, but by that time, it was evident their only means of escape would be through the upstairs windows. He scooped up the girl and ran back upstairs, and, using his fist, shattered one of the windows and jumped outside to the ground with the child in his arms.

“We looked out the window and I went shoulders first through it and I landed on my right side with her on my left side,” he recalled to WHTR.

Bostic’s heroics nearly cost him his life. He suffered from smoke inhalation, first- and second-degree burns, and a laceration to his right arm. He was hospitalized in critical condition for several days. Fortunately, his condition improved and he was released from the hospital. The little girl suffered a minor leg injury from the broken glass and recovered.

Bostic’s actions earned him the highest honor for civilian heroism in the country. And in response to his incredible feat, people all over the country donated to a GoFundMe page created by Bostic’s cousin to help with the financial burden of his medical bills. Though the goal was to raise \$100,000, the GoFundMe page collected a whopping \$640,000.

May I Have This Dance?

Five Texas state troopers stepped in to take the place of their injured colleague when he was unable to take his daughters to their school’s daddy-daughter dance in March.

Texas Department of Public Safety Trooper Curtis Putz was injured on January 31 while investigating a crash during February’s winter storm. He was struck by a vehicle and has required multiple surgeries for his injuries, which included a broken hip, pelvis, ribs, femur, forearm, and shoulder, as well as a lacerated liver and lacerated arteries. Doctors did not believe Putz was going to make it, but by some miracle he survived and is recovering.



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Putz's recovery made it impossible for him to escort his fifth-grade daughters to their daddy-daughter dance, so five of his colleagues escorted the two girls instead. They even brought the girls flowers and gave their patrol cars a good wash before picking them up.

Putz's harrowing ordeal has brought out the best in his small-town community in Navarro County. The *Corsicana Daily Sun* reports that area residents have hosted several fundraisers and events throughout the county to raise money for the family while Putz continues on his long path to recovery. A GoFundMe page for the family raised more than \$28,000.

"That's the thing I love about small towns and close communities like ours; we help each other through hard times," said Navarro County Commissioner Eddie Perry.

Hot Meals

A North Carolina church has long made it its goal to help children in the community in need of clothes, housing, or even a family (through its foster and adoption ministry), and its most recent mission was to pay off the school-lunch debt of every student in Gaston County so that all students would be able to get a hot meal for lunch.

Pastor Dickie Spargo of City Church in Gastonia read in his local media that families in Gaston County owed a total of \$13,000 in school-lunch debt. Pastor Spargo knew his church community was incredibly generous and had had great success with Hope Closet, a clothing giveaway started in the church for kids who were displaced or needed new clothes, the Good News Network reported.

He decided he was going to share the news of Gaston County's lunch debt with his church and take up an offering to see if his congregation could help with the costs.

"We want to show the love of Jesus in a real way that meets the needs of people," Spargo told the *Charlotte Observer*.

Within one week, more than 400 people from the congregation managed to raise more than \$26,000, which is enough to not only pay off this year's debt, but to pay off debt for the next school year.

"What a great opportunity to bless these kids," the pastor told his congregation after delivering the check.

Director of school nutrition Angela Calamia said the church's check will have a tremendous impact.

"Certainly, donations like the one received from City Church and others that come in from individuals, civic groups, and organizations help our school cafeterias with managing school meal debt and balancing it with providing healthy, nutritious meals for students," she said.



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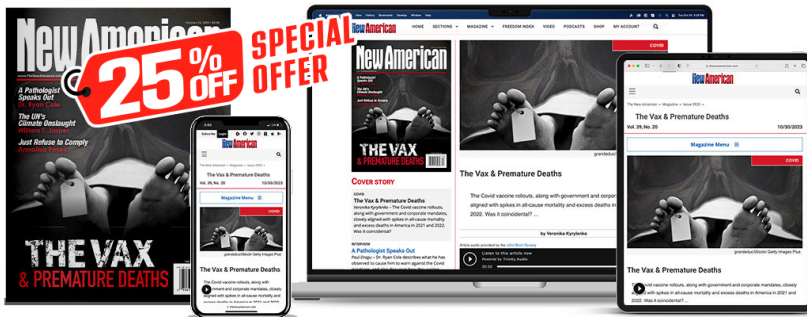
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