

# Children, Teens Receive EMSC 'Right Care When It Counts' Awards

On May 21, MIEMSS honored five children and teens; each had assisted in providing a life-saving service to someone. Their actions had ensured that people had received the "right care when it counts." MIEMSS Executive Director Robert R. Bass, MD, FACEP, EMS Board Chairman Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq., Cyndy Wright-Johnson, MSN, RNC (EMS for Children Program Director at MIEMSS), and Dr. Joseph L. Wright, MD, MPH, FAAP (Associate State EMS Medical Director for Pediatrics at MIEMSS) presided over the awards presentation.

The following received special certificates for "giving the right care when it counts."

## Alexus Epps (from Prince George's County)

On September 17, 2007, **Alexus Epps**, then 4 years old, saw smoke coming from a bedroom door and told everyone in her home of the immediate danger. Alexis and two other small children, along with four adults, escaped the fire that was extinguished by Prince George's County firefighters.

## Tyler Wilkerson (from Charles County)

Last October, 12-year-old Tyler Wilkerson was awakened at 4 AM by strange sounds outside his home. Looking out the window, he saw flames and went into action. Tyler woke up his parents and both his younger brothers, and they all ran out the back door of the house. Before the smoke alarm went off upstairs, the entire front of the house was in flames. Tyler and his entire family were safely away from the fire and watched as firefighters from Charles and Prince George's Counties fought the flames.

## Bryden Bibbens (from Wicomico County)

At 4 AM last January, first-grader Bryden Bibbens was awakened by the sound of a smoke alarm. He saw fire in the kitchen of his home and immediately "got adult help" by waking up his mother and then his sisters and brothers, and they went outside. Then they called 9-1-1. Bryden learned how to respond to a fire at school during Fire Prevention and Safety Week.

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Award winner **Alexus Epps** with Joseph L. Wright, MD, MPH, FAAP (Assoc. State EMS Medical Director for Pediatrics, MIEMSS), Cynthia Wright-Johnson, MSN, RNC (EMSC Program Director, MIEMSS), and Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq. (Chairman, Maryland EMS Board).



Award winner **Tyler Wilkerson** with Joseph L. Wright, MD, MPH, FAAP (Assoc. State EMS Medical Director for Pediatrics, MIEMSS), Cynthia Wright-Johnson, MSN, RNC (EMSC Program Director, MIEMSS), and Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq. (Chairman, Maryland EMS Board).

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## Laight Phelps (from Caroline County)

Late last summer, on his way to have his high-school senior picture taken, 18-year-old Laight Phelps noticed something unusual—a car in the water with someone inside. He put on boots and waded out to try and help the 80-year-old occupant. Laight helped to break open the window and move the victim to safety.

## Nicole Harding (from Dorchester County)

On April 4, 2007, Nicole Harding, then 15 years old, watched as her mother carried her 6-year-old sister into the house after she had been struck by a ball in the chest and was unconscious. After her mom dialed 9-1-1, Nicole took the phone and relayed to her mother the dispatcher's instructions on how to do CPR. She stayed on the phone with 9-1-1 and watched for rescuers to arrive as her mother did CPR on her young sister.



Award winner **Laight Phelps** with Joseph L. Wright, MD, MPH, FAAP (Assoc. State EMS Medical Director for Pediatrics, MIEMSS), Cynthia Wright-Johnson, MSN, RNC (EMSC Program Director, MIEMSS), and Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq. (Chairman, Maryland EMS Board).



(L-r) Joseph L. Wright, MD, MPH, FAAP (Assoc. State EMS Medical Director for Pediatrics, MIEMSS), Cynthia Wright-Johnson, MSN, RNC (EMSC Program Director, MIEMSS), **Tammy Griffen** who accepted the award for **Bryden Bibbens**, and Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq. (Chairman, Maryland EMS Board).



Award winner **Nicole Harding** with her sister Lindsey standing in front of Joseph L. Wright, MD, MPH, FAAP (Assoc. State EMS Medical Director for Pediatrics, MIEMSS), Cynthia Wright-Johnson, MSN, RNC (EMSC Program Director, MIEMSS), and Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq. (Chairman, Maryland EMS Board).