

Maryland EMS News

For All Emergency Medical Care Clinicians

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May 2019

MIEMSS Presents Annual EMS Awards

The annual Stars of Life and Right Care When It Counts awards ceremony was held in Annapolis during EMS Week (May 19–25) on May 22, 2019, a day also recognized statewide and nationally as EMS for Children Day. **Maryland Lt. Governor Boyd K. Rutherford** joined the celebration and presented two proclamations: one recognizing EMS Week and a second naming May 22 as EMS for Children Day. The Stars of Life and Right Care When It Counts award winners who are selected by a statewide committee of career, volunteer, and commercial EMS clinicians, were nominated by peers or a member of the public. The Stars of Life awards were presented by MIEMSS' Executive Director Dr. Ted Delbridge, and Maryland EMS Board Chair Clay Stamp. They were joined by the Associate State EMS Medical Director for Pediatrics Dr. Jennifer Anders and Maryland EMS for Children Program Director Cynthia Wright-Johnson for the Right Care When it Counts Awards. MIEMSS congratulates this year's award winners and salutes all of Maryland's outstanding EMS clinicians.



Maryland Lt. Governor Rutherford presents two Proclamations, one declaring May 19 – 25, 2019 as EMS Week and another naming May 22, 2019, EMS for Children Day in Maryland. From left, Lt. Governor Rutherford, MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Ted Delbridge, Associate State EMS Medical Director for Pediatrics Dr. Jennifer F. Anders, Maryland EMS for Children Program Director Cynthia Wright-Johnson, EMS Board Chair Clay B. Stamp.

Maryland Star of Life Award

The Maryland Star of Life Award is given for an outstanding rescue under extreme circumstances. This year's recipients are **EMT Dana Insley; Fire Chief Lindsey Bradshaw; Larry Laird, Boat Captain; Volunteer FF Brian Corbin; Volunteer FF Casey Corbin; Volunteer FF Ronnie Corbin; Volunteer FF John Laird; Volunteer FF Margaret Evans; Volunteer FF Alan Smith; Volunteer FF Dustin Smith; Volunteer FF Lee Smith; Volunteer FF Daniel Smith; and Volunteer FF Dennis Clary.**

On the night of July 21, 2018, the weather conditions on Smith Island were treacherous. Winds were sustained at 30 knots, with gusts over 40 mph. At approximately 10:30 PM, a call was made to the Tylerton Fire Department to respond to a patient who was extremely short of breath. Eleven volunteer

firefighters responded to the call and arrived at the firehouse. Water was at the level of the sidewalk and the firefighters had to wade into the station. While on the way to the patient, the firefighters contemplated how they would get the patient off of the island to the hospital. Due to the high winds, the helicopter was not an option, and with rough seas, it didn't seem that a boat was an option either - but it was the only option. Once inside the house, they found the patient struggling to breathe. The patient was loaded onto the stretcher and as the ambulance made its way to the dock, the water in the road was white-capping. It took nine people to transfer the patient to the boat and carry all the equipment. The trip to the mainland by boat was extremely hazardous. Firefighters wedged themselves on either side of the gurney to keep it from overturning. The crew had an ambulance meet them at the dock and instructed them to bring additional oxygen. It took an hour to travel the ten miles to

(Continued on page 2)

CONTENTS

Upcoming Pediatric Education Opportunities.....	3
2019 Educational Programs	3
L and C Tidbit	3
The Maryland-National Capital Emergency Response System (MDERS) Symposium.....	7
Carroll County Emergency Services Personnel Honored.....	8
Dr. Carla Bailey Receives Legacy in Nursing Award for Maternal Child Health.....	9
National EMS Memorial Bike Ride Comes Through Maryland	10
MD Fire-Rescue Services Memorial Annual Gala	11

MIEMSS Presents Annual EMS Awards

(Continued from page 1)

Crisfield, and the last bottle of oxygen ran out just as the boat came ashore. The patient was transported as a Priority 1, directly to Peninsula Regional Medical Center. Once at the hospital the patient was taken immediately to the Cath Lab, where she received three stents. It was a little past midnight, when the crew started back to Smith Island. The weather was even worse than when they had made the trip to Crisfield. They found refuge in the Coast Guard marina until the wind let up enough for them to finally return home around 5:00 AM. Despite such a dangerous trip under terrible conditions, the patient survived due to the extraordinary efforts made by these individuals.

Maryland EMS Citizen Award

The Maryland EMS Citizen Award was presented to **Eric Brumburgh, Megan Evans, Dr. Andrew Kovacs, and Murayah Nieves, RN**. On October 28th, 2018 Salisbury EMS was alerted for a subject that had fallen at the YMCA. A gentleman had collapsed in the locker room and a child ran for help. The YMCA staff, along with two YMCA members, called 9-1-1, began CPR, and attached an AED to the patient while awaiting EMS arrival. The AED was used to deliver defibrillation once, and upon arrival of EMS, the crew delivered an additional counter shock. The patient regained a pulse and was awake and talking to the crew as they pulled into the hospital. The patient was discharged a few days later. Thanks to the quick actions of these four citizens, the patient has made a full recovery and is able to continue his life. This call is an excellent example of how important early CPR and the use of an AED is to the chain of survival.

EMD of the Year

EMD Dispatcher Angela Puskarich received the EMD of the Year Award. On July 22, 2018, Dispatcher Puskarich processed a 9-1-1 call from a man that was trapped in a tree in high flood water. The call was from a deactivated cell phone that was only able to make an emergency call. It had no physical phone number to call back in the event that the call was disconnected. Dispatcher Puskarich immediately processed the call and it was dispatched. Emergency personnel initially could not locate the individual. She instructed the man to yell as loud as he could



Pictured from left to right: Clay Stamp, Chair, EMS Board, Missy Evans, Lindsey Bradshaw, Ronnie Corbin, Dennis Clary, Dana Insley, John Laird, (members from the Tylerton Fire Department), Dr. Ted Delbridge, MIEMSS Executive Director.



Pictured from left to right: Clay Stamp, Chair, EMS Board; Megan Evans; Eric Brumburgh; Dr. Ted Delbridge, MIEMSS Executive Director.

and to turn on his flashlight. When the fire department finally located the man, they were not able to make access due to a fast moving current. They requested additional support from the Harford County Swift Water Rescue Team. After mobilizing and arriving on scene, the Team was able to rescue the patient unharmed. Dispatcher Puskarich stayed on the line with the man for five hours while attempts were made to rescue him. Without her actions, the outcome of this event would not have been successful.

EMS Clinician of the Year

This year, there were two awardees for Clinician of the Year. The first was **EMS Lt. Jorge Alfaro** of the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department. During 2018, Jorge Alfaro put in a total of 2,518 hours at the Department's station. His total number of standby hours since joining the department totals 17,763 hours. While on standbys, he always helps members to improve their skills, espe-

(Continued on page 4)

MIEMSS Presents Annual EMS Awards

(Continued from page 2)

cially new members. Jorge responded to 525 emergency calls in 2018. Over the last ten years, he has been the department's top responder. In October 2018, Jorge celebrated a milestone with his five thousandth emergency call. All of this dedicated time to his the community and Jorge has a family and full-time job. With a large Spanish speaking population in the City of Takoma Park, Jorge's fluency in Spanish allows him to work effectively within the community, especially on emergency calls. Once a month, Jorge assists in a radio talk show on Takoma Radio. The program operates in English and Spanish. Fellow Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department member Jim Jarboe does the English segment while Jorge facilitates the Spanish segment. Some of topics covered include fire and injury prevention, safety, smoke alarms, as well as questions and answers for the listeners. Jorge continues to participate in many of the department's community outreach events throughout the year. His commitment and dedication to the delivery EMS care, along with his prevention efforts are extremely commendable.

The second awardee for EMS Clinician of the Year was **FF/EMT Donald R. Johnson**. He joined the Odenton Volunteer Fire Company (OVFC) in January 2015, after retiring from the U.S. Army. In 2018, he made 194 ambulance calls, the most of any OVFC member, and 69 fire calls. He is known for his maturity, confidence, and professionalism while providing patients with the best possible medical care. He is continuously complimented on his excellent rapport with patients and his ability to comfort them in their most stressful moments, while at the same time exhibiting exceptional abilities as an EMT. Don also serves as a preceptor for EMT students. He helps prepare new members to become EMTs by working with them and assisting in completing EMT training requirements. He is also a trainer for new drivers once they complete the Emergency Vehicle Operators Course. He ensures that the new drivers operate safely, understand the obligations of being an emergency driver, and realize their responsibility to the crew, the patient, and the general public. Don exemplifies the highest standards in EMS service through his steady leadership, continual self-improvement, and valuable service to the community.

Leon W. Hayes Award for Excellence in EMS

This year **Chief Donald R. Howell** was the recipient of the Leon W. Hayes Award for Excellence in EMS. This award is given to individual who has devoted a lifetime of dedication and commitment to excellent patient care, compassion and respect for all patients, and continuous improvement of the Maryland EMS System through their professional and personal life. Donald R. Howell, retired Battalion Chief from the Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services, has dedicated over 50 years to emergency medical services in Maryland. Don is recognized as a pioneer in EMS, not only in Howard County but throughout Maryland. He is highly respected by his peers and he continues to serve as a role model for those around him. Don started his career in EMS as a volunteer at the Ellicott City Volunteer Fire Department in the 1960's. Over the next five decades, he has continually been active in promoting EMS and elevating the standards of patient care. Don constantly worked, and continues to work, to move EMS further into the forefront of the fire service. Chief Howell retired as the Executive Officer of Emergency Medical Services for the Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services in 1996 after 28 years of career service to the citizens of How-

(Continued on page 5)



Pictured from left to right: Clay Stamp, Chair, EMS Board; EMD Angela Puskarich; Dr. Ted Delbridge, MIEMSS Executive Director.



Pictured from left to right: Clay Stamp, Chair, EMS Board; Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department Chief James Jarboe; EMS Lt. Jorge Alfaro; current Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department Chief Thomas Musgrove, Sr.; Dr. Ted Delbridge, MIEMSS Executive Director.



Pictured from left to right: Clay Stamp, Chair, EMS Board; FF/EMT Donald Johnson; Dr. Ted Delbridge, MIEMSS Executive Director.

MIEMSS Presents Annual EMS Awards



Pictured from left to right: Clay Stamp, Chair, EMS Board; Chief Donald Howell; Dr. Ted Delbridge, MIEMSS Executive Director.

(Continued from page 4)

ard County. He continues to teach EMS Programs and evaluate students as they test for their NREMT credentials. Chief Howell has served as a role model to EMS clinicians and instructors throughout the country. His leadership and influence has led countless individuals in all aspects of emergency service to expand their abilities and careers.

Right Care When It Counts Awards

For 16 years, the Maryland EMS for Children's Program has recognized children and youth from across Maryland who have learned about prevention and how to act when they see someone in need of help. Six young heroes received Right Care When It Counts awards for bravely taking action to help someone in need.

Amara Monroe

While home with her grandmother, Amara witnessed her grandmother fall down the steps. She immediately recognized the extent of the emergency and called 9-1-1. She was able to provide the needed information for help to be dispatched to her grandmother. Amara then proceeded to a neighbor's house in order to get additional adult help to her grandmother's side. The neighbor provided further information to the dispatcher and the call was upgraded. Amara gave the EMS crew the full story of what had occurred which greatly helped with medical treatment. The patient received prompt care and attention due to Amara's ability to recognize the emergency, activate the EMS system by calling 9-1-1, and stay extremely calm at a critical time. Amara bravely made the right call for help and made a difference during this frightening incident.

Taurian L. Jones-Duke

With his mom and dad at work and schools closed due to icy conditions, sixteen year old Taurian Jones-Duke knew it was his job to keep an eye on his sister and little brother. They were upstairs in the kitchen, joking, and cooking something for lunch. Suddenly he heard



Pictured from left to right: Clay Stamp, Chair, EMS Board, Cynthia Wright-Johnson, Director for the Maryland EMS for Children (EMSC) Program; Amara Monroe; Adam Miller, FF/NRP; Dr. Jennifer Anders, Associate State EMS Medical Director for Pediatrics; Dr. Ted Delbridge, MIEMSS Executive Director.



Pictured from left to right: Clay Stamp, Chair, EMS Board, Cynthia Wright-Johnson, Director for the Maryland EMS for Children (EMSC) Program; Taurian L. Jones-Duke; Dr. Jennifer Anders, Associate State EMS Medical Director for Pediatrics; Dr. Ted Delbridge, MIEMSS Executive Director.

some popping sounds and smelled smoke, which instantly concerned him. Seconds later he heard his sister scream and the smoke detector went off. Taurian sprinted up the stairs to find a smoke filled kitchen with flames shooting out of a cooking pan. He moved his sister and little brother aside and instructed them to get out of the house right away. Taurian then grabbed a pot holder to lift the pan off the stovetop. As he turned toward the sink, a strong wind rushed through the open door his siblings had just exited, splashing the boiling grease onto him and the floor. Taurian sustained deep third degree burns and was transported to the Pediatric Burn Center at the Johns Hopkins Children's Center. Despite all the pain and surgeries Taurian had to endure, he would do it over again to protect his brother and sister.

(Continued on page 6)

MIEMSS Presents Annual EMS Awards



Pictured from left to right: Clay Stamp, Chair, EMS Board, Cynthia Wright-Johnson, Director for the Maryland EMS for Children (EMSC) Program; James "Wyatt" Toulson; Dr. Jennifer Anders, Associate State EMS Medical Director for Pediatrics; Dr. Ted Delbridge, MIEMSS Executive Director.

(Continued from page 5)

James "Wyatt" Toulson

Early on Sunday, April 8, 2018 Wyatt and his father, who is a Firefighter/Paramedic and a tow truck driver, went to the middle of New York State to tow a truck for a friend. Wyatt often rode with his dad when he was towing vehicles. As his father was finishing the tow and securing the truck to return home, he caught his right hand in between two moving pieces of the truck, which caused a crush injury and partial amputation of two of his fingers. Wyatt immediately grabbed towels from the truck, while his father called 9-1-1. After giving his father the towels Wyatt put the rest of the equipment back in the truck, secured and locked it, while constantly checking to make sure his dad was okay. He picked up the glove with the tip of the fingers and gave it to the EMS clinicians to take with them to hospital. As the ambulance crew was loading his father, he called his aunt who is a nurse/paramedic, and very calmly stated that "We have a problem, dad has cut his fingers and may need stitches". He continued to periodically call to relay information to his aunt, remaining calm the entire time. His father required emergency surgery to repair his partially amputated finger and de-gloved finger. Wyatt remained with his dad, keeping him calm and reassured. Once his father got home, Wyatt was quick to offer to help change dressings or do whatever else he could do to help. Wyatt's quick thinking and actions likely saved his father from further injury.

LaTrelle Wiggins

Last December, nine year old LaTrelle was the only other student in the room with his teacher at the Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School in Southern Maryland when one of his classmates had a seizure. While his teacher assisted the student, LaTrelle was asked to go find another teacher to help. LaTrelle walked across the hall and loudly and clearly asked for help. He led the other teacher to his classroom to assist in providing care to his friend. LaTrelle remained calm while understanding how important it was to help his teacher and his friend, and to keep himself safe while following directions under a stressful situation.



Pictured from left to right: Clay Stamp, Chair, EMS Board, Cynthia Wright-Johnson, Director for the Maryland EMS for Children (EMSC) Program; LaTrelle Wiggins; Dr. Jennifer Anders, Associate State EMS Medical Director for Pediatrics; Dr. Ted Delbridge, MIEMSS Executive Director.

Gabrielle Keener

On the evening of January 20, 2018, 12 year old Gabrielle called 9-1-1 to report that her grandfather was having trouble breathing. Based upon a clear description of what was happening, units from Prince Georges County EMS were dispatched. Upon arrival, the EMS clinicians found an unresponsive male with a pulse. Gabrielle was the only one on the scene and was able to provide pertinent information regarding her grandfather to the crew. Gabrielle remained calm during this stressful event. Her quick thinking and fast actions allowed for the medics to assess and treat her grandfather. He ultimately went into cardiac arrest and cardiopulmonary resuscitation efforts were administered. He regained his pulse and was transported to the hospital. Although he did not survive post arrest, Gabrielle was recognized for her quick thinking and heroism during this difficult time.

2019 EMS Week

The 45th annual National EMS Week was observed this year during May 19 - 25, 2019. In 1974, President Gerald Ford authorized EMS Week to celebrate EMS clinicians and the important work they do in our nation's communities. This observation ensures that the important contributions of EMS clinicians in their communities are fully celebrated and recognized. This year's EMS Week theme was EMS STRONG - "BEYOND the CALL." Governor Larry Hogan declared this week EMS Week and Wednesday, May 22 as EMS-C Day in Maryland with proclamations.

EMS STRONG
BEYOND
THE CALL