

Maryland EMS News

For All Emergency Medical Care Providers

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MIEMSS Presents Statewide Awards During EMS Week

In a two-part ceremony at the Annapolis Sheraton on May 17, MIEMSS honored children from across the State and also presented its annual Stars of Life Awards to honor EMS personnel, citizens, and EMS programs. Photos of the winners receiving their awards, as well as summaries of why they received them, follow.

Eight children were recognized for their actions which ensured that people in Maryland received “the right care when it counts,” by assisting in providing a life-saving service to someone in their community. Each of the following received a “Right Care When It Counts” Award.

Michael Tanner Shoemaker (Washington County):

On March 24, 2008, Tanner called the 9-1-1 operator to ask for help. His mother had fallen down the stairs and was unconscious; they needed an ambulance. Tanner (then 8 years old) talked to the dispatcher while his father ran to

the aid of his mother. Tanner knew his home address, his mother's age, and how many steps she fell down. He answered all the questions and only checked with his dad to be sure the dogs were not going to be in the paramedics' way when they arrived. When touring the 9-1-1 center later that month, Tanner told the staff he learned when to call 9-1-1 while he was on a visit to the Children's Safety Village in Hagerstown as part of a school safety curriculum.

Kevin Steven Tchato (Howard County):

On December 18, 2008, Kevin Steven Tchato recognized that something was wrong with his mother. She was 9 months pregnant and 5-year-old Kevin found her unresponsive; so he called 9-1-1. When EMS arrived, he opened the door and took the crew to his mother's side. He knew his father's cell phone number and gave it to the EMS team. Kevin's quick action and calm reactions helped not only his mother but also his unborn sibling.

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Award winner Michael Tanner Shoemaker with his family, EMSC Program Director Cyndy Wright-Johnson (behind Tanner), and MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Robert Bass (extreme right).



Award winner Kevin Steven Tchato with (l-r) Howard County Deputy Chief for EMS Operations John Butler, EMSC Program Director Cyndy Wright-Johnson, Kevin's family, and MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Robert Bass.

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Award winners Jordan and Cole Becker with (l-r) Howard County Deputy Chief for EMS Operations John Butler, their mother, EMSC Program Director Cyndy Wright-Johnson (behind Jordan and Cole), their dad, and MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Robert Bass



Award winner Traevon Brown with his family, Capt. Holly Trego (Cecil County Emergency Communications), EMSC Program Director Cyndy Wright-Johnson (behind Traevon), and Dr. Robert Bass (MIEMSS Executive Director).



Award winner Emily Cox with her family, EMSC Program Director Cyndy Wright-Johnson (behind Emily), and MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Robert Bass. Emily's step-dad is Kevin Gillespie, Assistant Director, EMS Division, Caroline County Department of Emergency Services.



Award winner Douglas Edward Buck with his family, EMSC Program Director Cyndy Wright-Johnson (behind Douglas), and MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Robert Bass. Douglas' mom Laraine Buck is a member of Salisbury Fire Department, Station #1.

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Cole Becker and Jordan Becker (Howard County):

Early in the morning of October 14, 2008, Cole Becker (8 years old) heard a loud bang coming from the upstairs of his home. He went upstairs and found his mother on the floor of the master bathroom; she was unconscious. Cole dialed 9-1-1 and spoke with the dispatcher, checking his mother's breathing; when she started to wake up, he told her to stay still. Jordan, his 4-year-old sister, stayed with her mom while her brother Cole provided key information to the EMS crew about what happened and how to contact his Dad and neighbors.

Emily Cox (Caroline County): Eleven-year-old Emily Cox was riding in the car with her mother and her two younger sisters in August 2008 when suddenly Mom said she felt like she was going to pass out. Just then, Mom fainted, going 35 miles per hour on a rural road, and the car moved off the road and toward a field. Emily reached over and took control of the steering wheel, moving the car back onto the shoulder of the road, stopping the car, and turning off the ignition. Emily called her dad Steve Cox who was only a mile or two away. By the time he arrived at the scene, Emily's mom had regained consciousness, so he safely drove everyone home. Emily's quick actions prevented a more serious vehicle incident from happening.

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Traevon Brown (Cecil County): In August 2008, 8-year-old Traevon found his mother in distress. She was experiencing a medical emergency, and he dialed 9-1-1, remaining calm throughout the call and giving the dispatcher important information to relay to the paramedics who arrived and were able to help his mother.

Douglas Edward Buck (Wicomico County): Sitting in class in February 2008, Douglas Buck (then 9 years old) was listening to his third-grade teacher give the class instructions when he noticed that her eyes were closed and she was going to fall. His teacher was already using crutches from a previous surgery, and Doug was able to catch his teacher's head to lessen her fall. He then asked one classmate to come hold the leg in a cast and asked (or maybe told) a second classmate to go and get the school nurse. Doug remained calm and pretty much in control of the class until other teachers and the school nurse arrived. Doug used some of the first-aid skills he learned in Cub Scouts to help his teacher that day.

Isaac Curry (Prince George's County): In October 2008, Prince George's County Fire & EMS paramedics responded to the scene where an adult had been struck by a car. They were having difficulty communicating with the person who was using American Sign Language, when 8-year-old Isaac Curry walked by and bravely stepped forward. He knew sign language and offered to help the crew talk with the victim. Isaac was able to calm the injured man and help the crew determine the location of injuries. The victim was able to learn what was going to be done to help him and that he would be taken to the hospital. Isaac's action demonstrated what is meant by the name "Good Samaritan."

There were nine categories of EMS Star of Life awards, with two winners in the category "MIEMSS Director's Award for Excellence in EMS."

Maryland Star of Life Award

Calvert County Rescue Dive Team:

Dan Furth (diver)
Chief Kenneth Gray
Chris Heyer (diver)
Lori Lodge (diver)
Assistant Chief John Mowatt

During a severe storm across the Chesapeake Bay in the early morning hours of September 20, 2008, a 45-foot boat with four passengers on board broke free of its mooring and was blown toward shore. It became grounded in extremely shallow water against 30-foot high cliffs, while 4-foot surf and high winds pounded it continuously. Several hours later, after multiple rescue attempts had failed due to the dangerous conditions and remote location of the boat, the Calvert County Rescue Dive Team was called in.

At approximately 4 AM, in total darkness, they began their rescue operation, knowing that one passenger had a serious head wound and another was suffering a diabetic emergency. Dan Furth helped launch two Jet Skis. After a difficult ride aboard the first Jet Ski, Chief Gray and Assistant Chief Mowatt found the boat blown against the cliffs and listing to one side. They boarded the wrecked vessel and began giving first-aid to the panicked passengers. Divers Chris Heyer and Lori Lodge soon arrived on

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Award winner Isaac Curry with his family, EMSC Program Director Cyndy Wright-Johnson (behind Isaac), and MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Robert Bass.

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MIEMSS Director's Award for Excellence in EMS Loyola Blakefield AED Program Don Kraft Jeremy Parr

Loyola Blakefield has a Public Access Defibrillation Program. So when Joseph Roberts, a parent of a ninth-grade soccer player from Archbishop Curley High School, slumped in his bleacher seat before the start of a late-afternoon soccer game on October 8, 2008, Loyola staff knew what to do and did it!

Physical Education Chairman Don Kraft rushed to the side of Mr. Roberts and carried him from the bleachers to the ground so he could begin CPR. He also sent a student to get Jeremy Parr, an athletic trainer, so he could bring the AED. By the time Mr. Parr arrived, 9-1-1 had been called and a small group of parents were assisting Mr. Kraft. These included two Loyola fathers who were physicians and took over breathing and chest compressions and an Archbishop Curley father who held Mr. Roberts' head and neck in the right position to maintain an open airway.

After Mr. Parr applied the AED pads to Mr. Roberts, the AED indicated that a shockable rhythm was detected and, after responders moved clear of Mr. Roberts, delivered one shock. Following additional CPR, Mr. Roberts started to breathe and had a pulse. Mr. Parr applied a pulse oximeter to a finger of Mr. Roberts to monitor his

oxygen saturation and also continued to monitor his heart rate until Baltimore County EMS arrived. Paramedics then took over the medical assessment, treatment, and transport of Mr. Roberts.

At St. Joseph Medical Center, Mr. Roberts had a stent inserted into his completely blocked left main artery. Following quadruple bypass surgery when he was stable neurologically, Mr. Roberts is completely recovered and has no brain damage. His stay at St. Joseph Medical Center had a happy ending, but his story would have ended differently if Loyola Blakefield did not have an AED Program.



Right Care When It Counts Award Winner Emily Cox with her three sisters.



Student members of the Garrett County Emergency Services Clubs (Outstanding EMS Program) attended the awards ceremony and cheered on their advisors