

Maryland EMS News

For All Emergency Medical Care Providers

Vol. 38, No.1

July 2011

MIEMSS Presents Statewide Awards During EMS Week 2011

In a two part ceremony during EMS Week 2011, MIEMSS honored children from across the State and also presented its annual Stars of Life Awards to honor EMS personnel, citizens, and EMS programs. The first part of the award ceremony recognized children whose actions have ensured that people in Maryland receive “the right care when it counts.” These children assisted in providing a lifesaving service to someone in their community. The second portion was the Annual “Stars of Life” Awards where individuals and groups were nominated and selected by a Statewide Review Committee to receive these distinguished recognitions. Governor O’Malley provided two Proclamations, one recognizing EMS Week in Maryland and a second one naming May 18, 2011 as EMS-C Day in Maryland.

The award program began with the Emergency Medical Services for Children Right Care When It Counts Awards. The very first priority in the EMS for Children Program is to prevent injuries before they happen and to teach children and youth how to respond when they see or hear an emergency occur.

Kathryn (Katie) Hagan (Frederick County) was the first recipient. On December 21, 2010, both Katie and her mother woke up not feeling well, both had headaches. Although Katie wanted to stay home, her Mom insisted that she go to school. While at the bus stop, Katie realized that she was beginning to feel better but sensed that something was wrong at home. She went back home and found her mother was still not feeling well. Suddenly her Mom collapsed to the floor and started vomiting. Katie immediately called 9-1-1 as she held her Mom on her side. When EMS arrived, they found that the family car had been left running in the garage all night and both were suffering from the effects of carbon monoxide. Katie made the right decisions that

saved both their lives. Katie and her Mom were seen at the hospital and discharged home the same day.

The next award went to **Craig S. Nelson, III (Carroll County)**. At the age of 13, Craig has already demonstrated his commitment and desire to provide valuable service to his community and school. Craig has been a member of the Arcadia Junior Volunteer Fire Company since 2005 and has served in various offices, currently serving as Junior President.

Craig has passed the written and practical exams for CPR techniques for Infants, Children, and Adults. He has achieved certification in the National Safety Council’s Standard First Aid Course, as well as achieving certification in the use of AEDs by the American Heart Association. Craig demonstrates leadership and motivates the other Junior members around him to promote prevention and preparedness.

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Kathryn (Katie) Hagan receives her award from (L) Dr. Robert R. Bass, MIEMSS Executive Director and Cynthia Wright-Johnson, MIEMSS EMS for Children (EMSC) Program Director.



Craig S. Nelson, III is given his award by (L) Dr. Robert R. Bass, MIEMSS Executive Director and Cynthia Wright-Johnson, MIEMSS EMSC Program Director.

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Maggie McCormick (Cecil County)

received her award for calling 9-1-1 for her mother who was having a medical emergency while driving. Mom pulled the car off to the side of the road while she was experiencing severe pain. Maggie used a cell phone to call 9-1-1. She was able to provide their location and vehicle description. She answered the dispatcher's questions regarding her mother's medical emergency. During the incident, Maggie also kept her younger siblings calm, remaining in the car, and reminded them to stay buckled up. She called their father to come to the scene, who picked them up while Mom was transported to the hospital. On March 21, 2011, Maggie was presented a commendation from Cecil County Department of Emergency Services for a job well done and for taking care of both mom and her siblings.

The final award was presented to **Devin Skidmore (Montgomery County)** who recently moved to Montana with his family. His award will be presented to him by EMS professionals in Montana. On January 28, 2010, Devin Skidmore was helping his stepfather with household repairs. They were working on the roof when his stepfather fell from a ladder; leaving him confused, disoriented, and bleeding from his head. Devin dialed 9-1-1 and got an ice pack and held pressure against his stepfather's head injury. Once EMS arrived, Devon stayed with his stepfather in the ambulance, through the ED visit, and admission to the hospital. The staff

of the Trauma Center at Suburban Hospital nominated Devon for this award because of his response and quick actions to be sure that the right care was received and that his stepfather was not left alone.

The EMS Stars of Life Awards ceremony began with the presentation of the **Maryland EMS Star of Life Award**. This award went to the **Ewell Volunteer Fire Department (Somerset County)** and its members; Otis Tyler, FF, Chief; Mark Kitching, FF, Deputy Chief; Dale Tyler, FF, 3rd Assistant Chief; Janet Tyler, FF/EMT-B, EMS Lt., and Fire Department President; Richard Edmund, FF, EMT-B; Deric Tyler; Lisa Evans, EMT-B; Ed-die Evans; and Kristin Smith.

On February 6, 2010, Maryland was experiencing blizzard conditions during one of the worst weather events in the State's history. At the time of this EMS response, winds were gusting at 40 to 60 miles per hour and whiteout conditions existed on Smith Island. More than 12 inches of snow had accumulated with three foot drifts. At 1445 hours, the Ewell Volunteer Fire Department received a call for an elderly patient who had fallen down a flight of stairs and impacted a wall at the bottom. The patient had multiple facial fractures and severe bleeding. The attending EMTs concluded that transport to a facility on the mainland was needed for the patient to survive. Because of transportation difficulties due to the weather, they would have to undertake a dangerous transit of the Chesapeake Bay by boat. The rescuers endured

six to eight foot waves, while freezing water covered the boat in ice, and high winds with blowing snow making visibility near whiteout conditions. After two hours and forty minutes, the rescuers delivered the patient to Crisfield where she was transported to the Trauma Center at the Peninsula Regional Medical Center in Salisbury.

Julia Phillips (St. Mary's County) was presented with the **Maryland Citizen Award** for her actions while at the scene of a call for a child not breathing resulting from a drowning. Julia was at the residence where she was a summer nanny for some of the children in attendance at the pool. Julia saw a six year old child go to the bottom of the pool. She quickly dove into the water and pulled the victim up. Bystander adults assisted in getting the child onto the side of the pool and called 9-1-1. Julia assessed the patient and realized she was not breathing. She quickly began CPR. Julia had taken her CPR just two weeks prior to this incident. As the ambulance and fire truck pulled on the scene, the child got her pulse back, began to get her color back, and choked up water. The patient was taken to St. Mary's Hospital where she was alert and breathing with the help of supplemental oxygen. She was later transported to Children's Hospital and released several days later without issues.

The **2011 MIEMSS Director's Award for Excellence in EMS** was presented to **Captain Steve Adelsberger (Baltimore County)**. Captain Adelsberger has been

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Award winner Maggie McCormick with Dr. Robert R. Bass, MIEMSS Executive Director, members of the Cecil County Emergency Services Department, and Cynthia Wright-Johnson, MIEMSS EMSC Program Director.



Melissa Meyers from Suburban Hospital, accepts the Award for Devin Skidmore with Dr. Robert R. Bass MIEMSS Executive Director, members of the Cecil County Department of Emergency Services, and Cynthia Wright-Johnson, MIEMSS EMSC Program Director. Devin and his family recently moved to Montana where he will "officially" receive his award from Montana EMS officials.