

Maryland EMS News

For All Emergency Medical Care Providers

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MIEMSS Presents Annual EMS Awards

MIEMSS held its annual awards ceremony on Wednesday, May 18, to recognize groups and individuals who made extraordinary accomplishments in the service of prehospital care in 2015. The awards ceremony was held during EMS Week (May 15 – 21), the theme of which this year was “EMS Strong: Called to Care.” Forty awards for the Maryland Star of Life program were presented, as were five Right Care When It Counts awards for children. The Right Care When It Counts awards seek to honor children and youth in Maryland who have demonstrated the *Steps to Take in an Emergency* or *Ways to be Better Prepared for an Emergency*. MIEMSS has conducted this award program for 13 years.

At the ceremony in Annapolis, Roy McGrath, Deputy Chief of Staff for Maryland’s Governor Larry Hogan, presented two Proclamations on behalf of the Governor. One proclamation recognized EMS Week and a second named May 18 as EMS for Children Day.

The Right Care When It Counts awards were presented during the first part of the two-part ceremony, which took place at the Miller Senate Office Building.

Mason Farr, 7 years old, from Worcester County, was enjoying a day at a water park with his family on May 25, 2015, when his aunt came down a water slide, struck her head multiple times, and landed in the pool face down. She suffered a spinal cord injury and wasn’t able to move. Mason immediately took action, jumping into the pool and lifting her head above water, saving her from drowning.

On September 5, 2015, **Brandon Owen’s** father, who had recently had heart surgery, fell and went into respiratory distress. Brandon immediately dialed 9-1-1, demonstrated exceptional calm and cooperation with the dispatchers and first responders on the scene, getting the help his father needed during this stressful event. Brandon, who is 11 years old, is from Dorchester County.

Daleon O’Garro, 7 years old, was home with his mother and two younger children when his mother suffered a seizure while holding an infant, falling out of her bed and becoming disoriented. This brave youngster called 9-1-1 to get help for his mother. Daleon and his siblings were not injured, and were able to stay with a neighbor until his father arrived home. Daleon is from Wicomico County.

Just two days before this frightening event, **Keymar Green** had taken a CPR class— not knowing he would put his skills into action so soon. Keymar’s 5-year-old brother suddenly had difficulty breathing on the evening on September 28, 2015, and stopped breathing entirely while his mother was on the phone with 9-1-1. Keymar jumped into action to initiate CPR, keeping his brother’s heart beating until first responders arrived, and saving his life. Keymar is 15 years old and is from Charles County.

During a visit with some family friends, 11-year-old **Dalton Newsome** from Calvert

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For the Stars of Life 2016 awards ceremony, Maryland Governor Larry Hogan provided two proclamations, one each in recognition of EMS Week and EMS for Children Day. They were presented by Roy McGrath, Deputy Chief of Staff for the Governor’s Office (left), and received by MIEMSS EMS Board Member Dr. Dany Westerband (center) and MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Kevin Seaman (right).

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County witnessed a young infant begin to choke on a piece of apple. The infant's mother was unable to remove the food, so Dalton quickly took the child and began to administer choking first aid, having received his CPR and First Aid certification only recently. The infant coughed up the obstruction and began crying and breathing. Dalton's quick response and skillfulness certainly saved the infant's life.

For the second part of the program, MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Kevin Seaman presented the Maryland Star of Life awards. First, the **Maryland Star of Life Award**, given to an individual or team for an outstanding rescue, was presented to 18

providers from Prince George's County who responded to a devastating car crash. The following individuals each received a Maryland Star of Life Award: **Incident Commander William "Bill" Corrigan, Firefighter Ryan Crowell, Firefighter/Paramedic Joseph Geger, Firefighter/Paramedic James Harris, Lt. Michael Hayter, Sgt. Tim Keiling, Firefighter/PM Hayward Kelly, EMS Sgt. Ian Kolmaister, Captain Jeff Kraus, Firefighter Matthew Lockwood, EMT Ini Oyeleke, Lt. Ryan Pidgeon, Firefighter/Paramedic Jason Rush, Firefighter Christine Szarko, Firefighter George Thomas, Firefighter John Tull, Firefighter Patrick Williams, and Firefighter Nathan Zeck.**

On November 8, 2015, a devastating car crash in Hyattsville injured 11 and claimed 5 lives. At about 5:00 pm, 9-1-1 dispatchers received a call for a vehicle engulfed in flames with its occupants trapped. Upon arrival, responders encountered a two-vehicle crash between a truck and a passenger van with multiple occupants—many of who were still trapped in the burning vehicle. Responders risked their own lives and safety to quickly extinguish the flames emanating from the crash and to treat and comfort the victims. The number of victims injured and extent of their injuries was staggering, and would heavily tax the first responders from the Prince George's County

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Right Care When It Counts awardee Brandon Owens is pictured third from left. Joining Brandon from left to right are MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Kevin Seaman, MIEMSS EMS for Children Director Cynthia Wright Johnson, MIEMSS EMS Board Member Dr. Dany Westerband, Deputy Chief of Staff for Office of the Governor Roy McGrath, and Emergency Communications Specialist Justin Koshar.



Right Care When It Counts awardee Dalton Newson is pictured third from left. Joining Dalton from left to right are MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Kevin Seaman, MIEMSS EMS for Children Director Cynthia Wright Johnson, MIEMSS EMS Board Member Dr. Dany Westerband, and Deputy Chief of Staff for Office of the Governor Roy McGrath.



Right Care When It Counts awardee Keymar Green is pictured third from left. Joining Keymar from left to right are MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Kevin Seaman, MIEMSS EMS for Children Director Cynthia Wright Johnson, MIEMSS EMS Board Member Dr. Dany Westerband, and Deputy Chief of Staff for Office of the Governor Roy McGrath.



Right Care When It Counts awardee Mason Farr was unable to attend the award ceremony, but Ryan L. Whittington, pictured third from left, accepted the award on his behalf. Also pictured, from left to right are MIEMSS EMS Board Member Dr. Dany Westerband, MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Kevin Seaman, Deputy Chief of Staff for Office of the Governor Roy McGrath, and MIEMSS EMS for Children Director Cynthia Wright Johnson.