



**CALIFORNIA
AMBULANCE
ASSOCIATION**

**MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2025
HYATT REGENCY | SACRAMENTO, CA**

STARS OF LIFE

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HONORING OUR HEROES



CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE



CALIFORNIA AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION

STARS OF LIFE

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Jaison Chand
President,
Board of Directors
California
Ambulance Association

Congratulations to all of our 2025 Stars of Life! Your action, whether from a single heroic incident or a career-long record of excellence, demonstrate the spirit and commitment it takes to be the best of the best.

Too often, the work of paramedics, EMTs, nurses, emergency medical dispatchers, pilots, and other key support personnel goes unnoticed. Neither the public nor the media often see the immense contributions each of you makes to ensure that highly specialized prehospital medical care is delivered day in and day out to the communities you serve.

The common thread that unites you all here today is that you don't do this for the money or the glory. You do it because you love it. Let's also recognize the families and friends who support you. EMS can be incredibly stressful at times, and for those who stand by you, we extend our deepest gratitude.

The California Ambulance Association advocates for you in the regulatory process, working to ensure that proposed changes in education, training, equipment, and other areas affecting your work environment are fair, practical, and necessary.

Tonight, we celebrate you! Thank you for your unwavering commitment to your patients, co-workers, companies, and the communities you serve. ★



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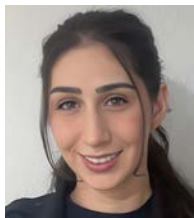
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Rahaf AbuDamous
EMT
NORCAL Ambulance

Rahaf AbuDamous joined NORCAL Ambulance in December 2022 and has shown strong commitment to personal development and teamwork, now serving as Lead Training Officer. She acted as a Team Leader for one of NORCAL's outreaches – 2024 Lakota Well-being Project. Its goal is to develop, promote, and manage basic EMR program on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation of the Lakota Nation. Rahaf helped plan and execute the mission successfully coordinating the efforts of three teams and demonstrating proficiency in using the ICS system. Rahaf is being recognized for providing first-on-scene medical responses for two vehicular accidents. The first one involved a pedestrian that got struck on a highway and left in critical condition. The second one was a collision between two vehicles, one of which caught fire. In both instances Rahaf provided rapid trauma assessments and delivered critical care to the injured. The crew's swift actions were recognized by Contra Costa Fire. Whether she is forging connections with leadership or training other EMTs as a Lead FTO, Rahaf consistently embodies the spirit of what it means to be an exceptional EMS provider. She is the key communicator at our Foster City station who always empathizes with and advocates for other team members and is highly regarded by all. ★



Mariela Acevedo
EMT
Hall Ambulance
Service, Inc.

EMT **Mariela Acevedo** began her career at Hall Ambulance on May 23, 2023, and has worked in our Bakersfield Metro system during her tenure here. She demonstrates exceptional dedication, professionalism, and compassion when providing care to her patients. Acevedo also handled over 700 assignments as the lead on a BLS unit throughout the year and maintained excellent quality assurance scores. Mariela was honored as the EMT of the Year at last month's Hall Ambulance Founder's Day Awards, which qualified her for recognition as a California Ambulance Association Star of Life. ★

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Trenton Arendt
Paramedic
*City Ambulance of
Eureka, Inc.*

Trenton Arendt Trenton Arendt started his career with City Ambulance five years ago as an EMT. Since then Trenton has progressed into his current role as a paramedic. In addition to working as a paramedic Trenton also works as an instructor at the local paramedic program. One evening in early April 2024, Trenton and his co-worker Rebekah were off duty and taking a walk at the beach, when they encountered an unresponsive elderly male in a vehicle. Without hesitation, Trenton reached through the car window to check for a pulse and found none. Realizing the severity of the situation, Rebekah and Trenton swiftly removed the patient from the vehicle and began CPR. Their immediate actions exemplified their dedication to service, even when off the clock. After calling 911, a volunteer fire department arrived on the scene, but Rebekah and Trenton remained, providing invaluable assistance and collaborating with the firefighters to continue CPR and offer advanced care. When an ambulance arrived from the company they work for, Rebekah went above and beyond by volunteering to accompany the patient to the hospital. She continued to assist in resuscitation efforts en route, displaying her commitment to the patient's survival despite being off duty. Outside of work Trenton enjoys woodworking, fishing and surfing. City Ambulance is thankful to have a dedicated employee like Trenton on our staff. ★



Julian Armas
Billing Specialist
*Medic Ambulance
Service*

Julian Armas joined the Medic Ambulance team in November 2019. He is receiving the Star of Life Award and being honored as Medic Ambulance's Biller of the Year. Julian has always loved clerical work and had an interest in billing. He was lucky enough to find this billing position with Medic Ambulance and new early on that the straightforward and relaxed atmosphere would be a great fit for him. He appreciates that the job involves working closely with those who help the community and likes being a part of something that is bigger than himself. In his free time, Julian enjoys spending time with his family, reading and hiking. ★

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Jared Armstrong
Paramedic
Falck

Paramedic **Jared Armstrong**, a six-year veteran of Falck Alameda County, is receiving the CAA Star of Life award for his exceptional lifesaving efforts after successfully reviving a 15-year-old patient who suffered cardiac arrest at a local soccer field. Responding within minutes, Armstrong and partner immediately assessed the situation and initiated high-quality CPR. Their rapid intervention, combined with the precise ALS interventions including defibrillation and pharmaceutical interventions, led to the return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC) before arrival at the hospital. Their seamless teamwork and advanced prehospital care played a critical role in giving the patient a second chance at life. This patient is fully recovered and working toward returning the soccer field again. Their actions exemplify the highest standards of emergency medical care – turning a dire situation into a story of survival. Their dedication and expertise continue to make a profound impact on Alameda County EMS. ★



Dennis Ayzenberg
EMT
Medic Ambulance
Service

Dennis Ayzenberg has been with Medic Ambulance since October 2022 and is being recognized as a Star of Life for the patient care he provided after he and his partner witnessed a car accident. Dennis and his partner were on their way to Kaiser South for a transfer and witnessed a rollover accident with multiple patients ejected. The team jumped into action and split up to care for both patients until fire arrived. CPR was started on the female patient, and assessment completed on the male critical patient. Once Fire arrived on scene, Ayzenberg rode in the ambulance with the female patient, performing CPR with fire. When asked how he knew healthcare was the right career path for him, Dennis explains, “For me, EMS confirmed that healthcare was the right career for me. I’ve been on the route towards medical school since high school, and becoming an EMT after graduating from college was an opportunity for me to gain hands-on experience and confirm that I truly want to be in the medical field. Being able to make a positive impact for my patients both as a medical provider and as an advocate has confirmed that passion and continues to motivate me forward in my journey in healthcare.” When asked what he likes most about working for Medic Ambulance, Dennis says, “Working at Medic Ambulance has allowed me to truly feel like I’m serving my community in Sacramento whether it’s during an emergent transport to the ER, discharge from the hospital, or a high school football game standby. This variety of services Medic Ambulance is involved in has allowed me to develop my skills as an EMT and confirm that being a healthcare provider is what I want to do the rest of my life. I’ve also been lucky to have many great coworkers that make coming into work a fun and supporting environment.” Thank you, Dennis! ★

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Jared Bagley
EMT
*American Medical
Response*

Paramedic **Jared Bagley**, with six years of EMS experience, is honored for his exceptional service to Stanislaus County. On November 7, 2024, Jared and his partner, Rakan Alawami, responded to a cardiac arrest involving a 78-year-old woman. After 10 minutes of advanced life support, they achieved ROSC, saving her life. Remarkably, the patient was the mother of an EMT colleague and fully recovered with no neurological deficits. Jared's skill and dedication earned him the Star of Life Award. ★



Phillip Balli
Paramedic
*American Medical
Response*

Phillip Balli, a paramedic with American Medical Response Stanislaus County, has dedicated over 33 years to EMS with excellence and commitment. Starting as an EMT, he has mentored countless new paramedics as a preceptor, shaping the future of the field. As a union shop steward, Phillip tirelessly advocates for his colleagues' rights, fostering unity and professionalism. His clinical expertise, leadership, and compassion have left a lasting impact on the EMS community and the lives he's touched. ★



Nolan Barros
Professional
Development
Coordinator
*American Ambulance
Visalia*

Nolan Barros is the Professional Development Coordinator for American Ambulance of Visalia and has been a dedicated professional in EMS for the past 14 years. Throughout his career, Nolan has served as an EMT, Paramedic, Supervisor, and now as a leader in professional development. His passion for advancing the EMS industry is evident in his commitment to training and mentoring the next generation of EMS professionals and clinicians. Nolan's dedication to the craft and his deep-rooted desire to foster growth in others make him an invaluable asset to the field. Beyond his professional responsibilities, Nolan actively engages with the community and volunteers his time to support others. His unwavering commitment to EMS growth, education, and service makes him a deserving candidate for the 2025 CAA Stars of Life nomination. ★

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Regina Bass
Paramedic
NORCAL Ambulance

Regina Bass joined NORCAL Ambulance as an EMT recruit and then moved into an EMT role while attending medic school at Sacramento State. Her two-year journey to becoming a Paramedic and Senior Instructor on the training team exemplifies her commitment to personal development while upholding NORCAL's core values – particularly teamwork. Whether forging connections with colleagues or extending a helping hand to care teams, Regina consistently embodies the spirit of collaboration and mutual support. Her resourcefulness and willingness to share knowledge are evident in her innovative approach to navigating the challenges of prehospital care. Regina's skills were tested during a standby event for the Spartan Race in Herald when she and her partner responded to a person down. She treated and assessed the patient while calling for an intercept. Shortly after being loaded onto the Fire Department ambulance, the patient coded, and Regina was asked to assist with transport, playing a key role in resuscitation efforts. Her ability to perform under pressure, practical communication skills, and patient-centered approach make her an invaluable asset to our team. NORCAL Ambulance is proud to share this well-deserved recognition with her. ★



Luke Bello
EMT
Medic Ambulance
Service

Luke Bello has been with Medic Ambulance since September 2023. He originally got into EMS because he knew he wanted to help people and that he didn't want to do it from behind a desk. Being in EMS allows him to make a direct impact in people's lives. He likes working in Sonoma because it's a community that he cares about. He finds that being able to serve the Sonoma community and knowing that he can make a difference in someone's worst moment is incredibly rewarding. When he's not working, Luke likes to snowboard, spend time with friends and watch sports. He plans to get his paramedic license and pursue flight medicine or work for the fire department. Luke is being recognized as a Star of Life for he and his partners lifesaving care of a Cardiac Arrest patient which led to a Field Save with positive cognitive outcome. ★

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Aidan Berginnis
EMT
*Medic Ambulance
Service*

Aidan Berginnis has been with Medic Ambulance since February 2024. He first wanted to get into EMS after seeing one of his own family members suffer a medical emergency. Being able to see his local fire department and Medic Ambulance in action treating them, and subsequently seeing that family member make a full recovery after the event made up his mind that he wanted to serve his community just like that. He likes being able to do what he can to make someone's worst day better. When asked what he likes about working for Medic Ambulance, Aidan says, "The people you get to meet, both the partners you'll have on the ambulance and the nurses and fire crews. Being able to build a good relationship with them while also doing a good thing for my community is better than anything else." In his free time, when he's not working or going to school, Aidan enjoys socializing with friends, working out at the gym and playing pickleball. He also plays bass in a band with some friends. Aidan is receiving the Star of Life for an incident that occurred while he was on scene providing standby medical services at a local high school football game. A fan in the stands collapsed, seized and went into cardiac arrest. Aidan and his partner went into action and provided immediate treatment and CPR, placed an AED and delivered a shock, the patient regained pulses, and the Aidan his partner passed over care to Medic's ALS crew and Benicia Fire. Their immediate care contributed to a positive outcome before transferring care to the ALS ambulance that arrived for transport. The patient was diagnosed with an NSTEMI and had a positive neurological outcome. ★



Jeff Bone
Paramedic
*King-American
Ambulance Company*

Jeff Bone grew up in Kentucky. He spent nine years serving our country as a Marine. In 2020 he moved with his wife to Northern California. He started EMS working as an EMT in 2021, soon after he became a full-time Medic. He is committed to providing the highest level of patient care, focusing on safety and efficiency and quality while demonstrating compassion, interpersonal skills and implying problem-solving skills. Jeff, you are our STAR! ★

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King American Ambulance



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Who we are:

King American Ambulance Company responds to calls for emergency medical services in San Francisco. Both privately and throughout the City and County's 911 system.

Why Choose Us:

- > Full Benefits Package (Medical, Dental, Vision)
- > New Employment Retention Bonus
- > Generous Retirement Package
- > Up to \$5,000.00 Towards Paramedic Education with free internship. Nominal Commitment Required
- > Continuing Education Reimbursement
- > Legal Shield
- > Uniforms and Boot Allowance
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Justin Bowen
Paramedic
Medic Ambulance
Service

Justin Bowen started working for Medic Ambulance in October 2023. When asked how he decided to get into the EMS field, he says, "My mom was a registered nurse for many years and this inspired me to want to help people. When I was in my early twenties, she suggested I check out the EMS program at our local junior college, which I did, and during my first responder and EMT class I found myself hooked! I enjoyed the excitement, the camaraderie, and the attention to detail. In 1998 I decided EMS was where I wanted to be and it was time for a new challenge, so I enrolled in the paramedic academy. EMS has been a fulfilling career and as I've aged, I've grown to enjoy it even more." When asked what he likes about working for Medic Ambulance, he explains, "First, I enjoy the family atmosphere. In EMS we see and do things that are, at times, emotionally taxing, funny, gross, etc. Sharing these experiences together forges relationships like no other and as a result my peers feel like family. Medic pays attention to detail in a way that corporations don't seem to do and I appreciate that. Additionally, at Medic I have a good work/life balance as a result of scheduling and adequate paid time off." In his free time, Justin enjoys autocross sports car racing, spending time with his girlfriend and his daughter and relaxing with their two dogs and three cats. Justin is being recognized at Medic Ambulance Sonoma Division's 2024 Paramedic of the Year. ★



Chris Brito
EMT/FTO
Falck

In the face of crisis, **Chris Brito** stepped forward as volunteer EMTs to support 911 emergency response efforts during the Eaton Fire disaster. With extensive training in pre-hospital care and a deep commitment to public safety, he provided critical medical aid to those affected, working tirelessly alongside firefighters, paramedics, and other first responders. Their dedication ensured that victims received timely care, from treating smoke inhalation and burns to assisting in evacuations and offering reassurance to families in distress. Chris's selflessness and expertise played a vital role in the community's resilience and recovery during this devastating event. Chris embodies the spirit of service, demonstrating the courage and compassion that define the best in emergency medical care. His willingness to volunteer in such challenging conditions is a testament to their unwavering commitment to saving lives and supporting those in need. ★

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Ursula Brooks
Paramedic/Peer
Support Team Lead
*American Medical
Response*

Ursula Brooks has raised the bar in her mission to care for EMS providers as a Critical Incident Stress Management Team Lead and a Mental Health Officer at AMR for almost 10 years. During this time, she has selflessly given her time and energy in responding at a moment's notice to several critical incidents across the country to include the Las Vegas mass shooting event on October 1, 2017, as well as many other incidents of varying sizes where she makes a difference by caring for those frontline providers in need as well as their families. Additionally, Brooks diligently works to increase frontline education on all manners of stress management and wellness, and continues to find ways improve access to evidence-based practices for our Paramedics, EMTs, and Dispatchers in Contra Costa County. ★



Jason Brosas
EMT
*Medic Ambulance
Service*

Jason Brosas began his career with Medic Ambulance in September 2022 and his being presented with the Star of Life award for his role the care of a shooting victim. The patient received a life-threatening gunshot wound. Along with excellent patient care, the patient received TXA during transport leading to a positive outcome. This was the first TXA administered after being approved in Solano County. Jason always knew he wanted to work in the EMS field. He appreciates Medic Ambulance's family-owned operation and is proud to be a part of their expanding team. He hopes to continue his education in the EMS field and would one day like to move to a career in politics. In his free time, Jason enjoys horticulture, archery, rock climbing, and spending time with his two cats. ★



Alex Campos
EMT/FTO
Falck

In the face of crisis, **Alex Campos** stepped forward as volunteer EMTs to support 911 emergency response efforts during the Eaton Fire disaster. With extensive training in pre-hospital care and a deep commitment to public safety, he provided critical medical aid to those affected, working tirelessly alongside firefighters, paramedics, and other first responders. Their dedication ensured that victims received timely care, from treating smoke inhalation and burns to assisting in evacuations and offering reassurance to families in distress. Alex's selflessness and expertise played a vital role in the community's resilience and recovery during this devastating event. Alex embodies the spirit of service, demonstrating the courage and compassion that define the best in emergency medical care. Their willingness to volunteer in such challenging conditions is a testament to their unwavering commitment to saving lives and supporting those in need. ★

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Luis Campos Rosales
EMT
LifeLine-EMS

Luis Campos Rosales is a hardworking EMT at LifeLine-EMS who consistently goes above and beyond. Known for his dedication, Luis rarely calls off and is always willing to pick up shifts, especially on weekends, to support the team. He fosters a positive work environment, getting along with everyone he works with, and his trainees and partners consistently praise his helpfulness, often saying it feels like having two Field Training Officers on shift. Luis is not only an outstanding EMT but is also deeply committed to advancing in his career, always striving to improve and grow in his role. His strong work ethic and dedication make him a valued member of the LifeLine-EMS team. ★



Nathaniel Cantrell
Alameda County
Supervisor
Royal Ambulance

With his natural ability to connect with patients and teammates, **Nate Cantrell** immediately caught everyone's attention. Now, as an Operations Supervisor, he shows us what leadership looks like in action. People gravitate toward Nate because he leads by example. He puts his whole heart into supporting his team while pushing himself to improve. When challenges arise, he faces them head-on and brings his team along with him. Nate's team members know they'll find honest feedback and unwavering support. ★

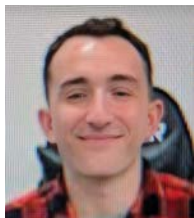


Pavel Cherednichenko
CCT-RN
Medic Ambulance Service

Pavel Cherednichenko started working for Medic Ambulance in June 2020. Before becoming a Critical Care Nurse, he worked as an EMT for four years. It was then that he realized that he loved being on an ambulance and doing EMS work and decided to advance his career in the medical field by becoming a CCT Nurse. Pavel enjoys working for Medic Ambulance because over the last four and a half years, it's become like a family to him. He believes that the working environment and good equipment provided by Medic Ambulance helps him succeed in his job. Long term, Pavel is considering becoming a nurse and anesthetist and would also like to travel more around the world. In his free time, Pavel enjoys playing sports including tennis and pickleball. He also likes to snowboard and work on projects around his house. Pavel is receiving the Star of Life award in recognition of him being named Medic Ambulance's RN of the Year for the Sacramento Division. This is Pavel's third year in a row receiving this prestigious award of RN of the Year! ★

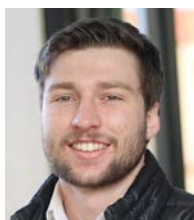
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Colter Ciceroni
Paramedic
*Sequoia Safety
Council*

Colter Ciceroni was the Paramedic responding to a chest pain call early January 2025. Upon arrival and after assessment was completed it was found that the patient was having a STEMI, the patient was moved to the unit, while enroute code 3 to the hospital the patient went into ventricular tachycardia and Colter promptly defibrillated the patient, eventually ROSC was achieved. That patient several weeks later came by the office to thank the crew for saving his life. ★



Kyle Cochran
EMT/FTO
ProTransport-1

Kyle Cochran exemplifies dedication, professionalism, and compassion in every aspect of his work. Kyle is not just a great team player but also a true representative of our company's values – providing exceptional care and service to our community. Whether it's stepping up to help out when the team needs support or taking on the day with a can-do attitude, Kyle is always there to make a difference. ★



Tim Colley
Lead CCT RN
Royal Ambulance

Tim Colley's welcoming personality makes him someone everyone wants to learn from. As one of our most experienced clinical educators, he shapes how our teams handle the most medically complex transports. In our Critical Care Academy, Tim transforms skilled nurses into exceptional CCT professionals. His gift for connecting with people from all walks of life creates an environment where learning feels natural. ★

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**Joseph Anthony
De La O**
EMT
*Medic Ambulance
Service*

Joseph De La O has been with Medic Ambulance since November 2014. He originally started working in EMS because he thought it was an exciting career path and he was driven to help others. He enjoys being a part of Medic's growth and continuous improvement. He appreciates the Medic leadership and all they bring to the field. When he's not working, Joseph enjoys camping, boating, traveling and being outdoors. Joseph's future plans include being a nurse. Joseph is being recognized for his role in responding to a critical trauma patient that was involved in a major motor vehicle collision. The patient experienced multi-system trauma and was transported to our local level two trauma center. The patient received a plural decompression and tranexamic acid (TXA) by EMS during transport. A representative from the hospital called Medic to highlight the excellent lifesaving care provided by the team prior to arriving at the hospital. ★



Karena DeHaven
ALS RN
*Medic Ambulance
Service*

Karena DeHaven is being honored with the Star of Life award for her role in responding to a critical trauma patient that was involved in a major motor vehicle collision. The patient experienced multi-system trauma and was transported to our local level two trauma center. The patient received a plural decompression and tranexamic acid (TXA) by EMS during transport. A representative from the hospital called Medic to highlight the excellent lifesaving care provided by the team prior to arriving at the hospital. From an early age, Karena knew she wanted a career where she could make a real difference in people's lives. The fast-paced, high-stakes nature of emergency medicine had always fascinated her and she was drawn to the idea of being the person who steps in when necessary. Her decision to become an Advanced Life Support Nurse in EMS was solidified during her early experiences in nursing where she thrived in high-pressure situations. When asked what she likes about working for Medic Ambulance, Karena says, "Working for Medic Ambulance has been a wonderful experience. What I love most is the strong sense of teamwork and professionalism amongst colleagues. In the fast-paced world of emergency medical services, having a dedicated and highly skilled team makes all the difference, and Medic Ambulance truly fosters a supportive and collaborative environment. Every call is different, and being able to make a real impact – whether stabilizing a critical patient or offering reassurance to a family in distress – is what drives me. The diversity of the area and the wide range of medical emergencies we encounter keep me challenged and motivated." Karena plans to earn her Master of Science in Nursing and aspires to teach in nursing programs to help mentor the next generation of nurses. ★



The Stars are Shining Bright in Sacramento

Every spring, the stars in Sacramento gleam a little bit brighter as California's ambulance providers gather to honor their best paramedics, emergency medical technicians, emergency medical dispatchers, and other exemplary EMS personnel.

We salute this year's Stars of Life recipients. Thank you for being so committed to caring for all Californians who fall victim to sudden illness or injury.

Hall Ambulance is proud to be a Guiding Star Sponsor of the 2025 California Ambulance Association's Stars of Life Celebration.

Congratulations to Our Honorees

Joe Eastwood

Paramedic Field Supervisor of the Year

Vladimir Dragosavlevich

Paramedic of the Year

Mariela Acevedo

EMT of the Year

J'Nise Evans

Field Training Officer of the Year

Hall Ambulance's honorees were among 21 employees recognized at our Founder's Day Awards, making them eligible for consideration as a CAA Star of Life.



@hallambulanceservice



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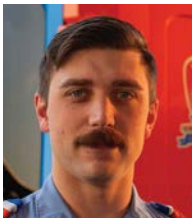
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Karin Dowling
EMT
*Medic Ambulance
Service*

Karin Dowling has been with Medic Ambulance since October 2023, but an EMT since 1986. She is being recognized as Medic Ambulance's EMT of the Year for Sonoma County Fire District-EMS Operations. Karin is an outstanding Field Training Officer, provides high quality service and participated in a recent cardiac arrest field save. When asked how she knew EMS was the right career for her, she says, "My brother was a paramedic and talked me into applying for a dispatch position. From there, the company I worked for decided that they wanted their dispatchers to be EMTs so they sent me to school. After graduating, I rode with several crews and decided to go work on an ambulance and never looked back. I enjoy working on the ambulance and find it very rewarding." She enjoys the people at Medic Ambulance and enjoys talking to the field crews. In her spare time, she likes playing soccer and traveling with her girls. Karin has been a mentor to many and impacted so many lives during her career in Sonoma County. ★



Vladimir Dragosavlevich
Paramedic
*Hall Ambulance
Service, Inc.*

Vladimir Dragosavlevich began his career at Hall Ambulance on September 15, 2020, as an EMT. His hard work and dedication eventually earned him a spot in the Hall Ambulance Paramedic Academy, where he excelled as a student and has since excelled as a paramedic. He is an outstanding paramedic who consistently provides excellent patient care. Vlad embodies Hall Ambulance's core values of care, compassion, and community. His unwavering dedication to his patients and colleagues makes him an exceptional paramedic and a true asset to the Hall Ambulance team. Dragosavlevich was honored as the Paramedic of the Year at last month's Hall Ambulance Founder's Day Awards, which qualified him for recognition as a California Ambulance Association Star of Life. ★



Rory Du Plantier
EMT/FTO
AmbuServe, Inc.

Rory Du Plantier regularly is recognized by the patients and customers as being an exceptional care giver with the highest levels of professionalism, compassion and care. Over the past few months there have been multiple needs for additional units due to fire and rain conditions and Rory has answered the call each time. He helped calm the fears of newer EMT's and also give those patients the best care and compassion during these emergencies. ★

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Joe Eastwood
Field Supervisor
Hall Ambulance
Service, Inc.

Joe Eastwood was promoted to relief paramedic supervisor in January 2021 and then to a full-time position in March 2021. Since then, he has been assigned to one of the Metro Night Supervisor positions. The role of a paramedic field supervisor is essential, being the first line of contact for field employees as they perform their day-to-day duties. For 2024, Eastwood worked 2,427 hours, with 17 extra shifts and no sick time. Eastwood was honored as the Paramedic Field Supervisor of the Year at last month's Hall Ambulance Founder's Day Awards, which qualified him for recognition as a California Ambulance Association Star of Life. ★



J'Nise Evans
Field Training Officer
Hall Ambulance
Service, Inc.

J'Nise Evans started her EMS career as a graduate of the Hall EMT Academy in 2021. She served as an EMT in Hall Ambulance's Metro Division upon completion. She advanced her training by becoming a paramedic in March 2024, continuing to work in Bakersfield. Evans also took on additional responsibility as a field training officer (FTO), preparing new employees for what they will encounter in the field and how best to manage the emergency scene. Evans was honored as the FTO of the Year at last month's Hall Ambulance Founder's Day Awards qualifying her for recognition as a California Ambulance Association Star of Life. ★



Antonio Fernandez
Operations
Manager/ALS
Coordinator
AmWest Ambulance

Antonio "Tony" Fernandez, a paramedic with 20+ years in EMS, is a dedicated leader committed to excellence in patient care and emergency response. As Manager/Paramedic Coordinator at AmWest Ambulance's Northern CA division, he ensures efficient operations, develops ALS protocols, and mentors with professionalism and compassion. His impact fosters a culture of learning, teamwork, and continuous improvement, making him a standout candidate for this award. ★

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Kyle Ferreira
Station Manager
NORCAL Ambulance

Kyle Ferreira joined NORCAL Ambulance as an EMT in 2020, quickly advancing to Field Training Officer and then to the Training Department. In 2022, he took over as the supervisor of NORCAL's EMT Recruit Program, allowing aspiring EMTs to earn money while learning, reflecting his commitment to EMS and to supporting those from less fortunate backgrounds. Kyle coached over 200 EMT Recruits through their education and into the field as EMT. Many of his recruits have continued to advance in EMS and beyond Field Training Officers, paramedics, nurses, and firefighters. Since 2024 Kyle has taken on a new role as the Station Manager in NORCAL South Valley Division. He has a passion for leadership and is constantly figuring out creative ways to support and empower his team. His impact extends beyond the classroom as he continues to nurture the growth of EMTs, many of whom started their careers under his mentorship. Kyle is known for being a team player, improving processes and demonstrating a strong desire to learn and grow. His dedication honors his parents, John and Billijo, who instilled in him values of service and compassion. ★



Tyler Finneke
EMT
NORCAL Ambulance

Tyler Finneke joined NORCAL Ambulance East Bay Division in August 2022 on his 19th birthday after graduating from EMT program at Las Positas College in Livermore. He has been a NICU/PICU Specialist at Dublin Station where he works BLS shifts and PICU shifts at Kaiser Oakland. Tyler's journey is a true reflection of NORCAL core values – teamwork and excellence in patient care. He not only excels in his professional role but also takes personal development seriously, aspiring to become a CCT specialist. While pursuing his future ambitions, Tyler is balancing his current BLS and PICU schedule which allows him the time he needs to complete prerequisites for a degree in respiratory therapy. In addition to his professional commitments, Tyler finds joy in giving back to his community. He volunteers his time assisting the wrestling team at Newark Memorial High School, helping young athletes develop their skills and supporting their journey in sports. Tyler is recognized for his swift medical response during a recent CCT transport. When the patient became unresponsive and coded, NORCAL CCT-RN, Demetrius Giles instructed Tyler to divert to the nearest hospital Emergency Department. Another EMT, Amanda Lamb began CPR while the nurse started BVM respirations and administering the necessary ACLS medications. As they pulled into the Marin General Hospital's ambulance bay, the patient's ROSC was re-established. Tyler's quick thinking, safe driving and ability to perform under pressure was instrumental in saving the patient's life and completing the transport successfully. NORCAL Ambulance is very proud to share this well-deserved recognition with Tyler. ★

STARS OF LIFE

March 10, 2025 • Hyatt Regency • Sacramento, CA



Charlie Finnell
Paramedic
*American Medical
Response*

Charlie Finnell is a dedicated paramedic with over 20 years of field service. He has worked as an advanced life support paramedic in both the fire service and ground ambulance operations. He consistently serves his community with integrity, compassion, and an unwavering dedication to emergency care when they need him most. On the evening of January 27th, Mr. Finnell arrived at the scene of a multi-patient rollover car accident with this mindset. He was the first provider on scene, encountering a mangled, overturned vehicle with three patients – one of whom was still trapped inside. Without hesitation, he sprang into action, providing a scene size-up, requesting additional resources, and approaching the vehicle to rescue the most critical patient. Inside the wreckage, a patient was curled up in a ball, barely alive, with blood pooled around her. With the help of police officers and his partner, Mr. Finnell carefully extricated the patient from the back of the vehicle using a backboard. During the rescue, he saw that the patient's left arm was nearly severed at the shoulder. Feeling a weak, slow pulse, he immediately began providing manual rescue breaths with a bag valve mask while his partner packed the shoulder wound with pressure dressings to stop the bleeding. Acting swiftly, Mr. Finnell intubated the patient, started a large-bore IV in a proximal vein, drilled intraosseous (IO) access, and began administering fluids through the IO line, along with TXA through the IV. Life Flight was activated, but as the helicopter was en route, he recognized that the patient was entering decompensatory shock and beginning to dislodge the endotracheal tube. He quickly contacted the base hospital and received orders for push-dose epinephrine to shunt blood to vital organs, as well as Versed to sedate the patient and improve ventilation. The patient's blood pressure and pulse rate increased, pulling them out of decompensatory shock. Charlie administered three more rounds of push-dose epinephrine, not only keeping the critical patient alive but significantly improving their overall outcome. Thanks to his exceptional skills, quick thinking, and unwavering dedication, he successfully stabilized the patient until the air ambulance arrived, where they immediately received a blood transfusion. Despite his extraordinary efforts, Charlie took no credit for the rescue. Instead, he selflessly dedicated the success of the call to his partner, the police officers, and the fire department, expressing gratitude for the opportunity to help someone in their darkest hour. His actions embody true selflessness – demonstrating that his only concern was saving a life, not seeking recognition. ★

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Daniela Flores Valencia
Paramedic
Medic Ambulance Service

Daniela Flores Valencia joined the Medic team in December 2015. When asked how she knew EMS was the right field for her, Daniela explains, "I can't say that I decided that this was the career for me. I wanted to be a police officer but I wasn't old enough so I took an EMR course and the rest is history." Daniela likes working for Medic because it feels like family. She's grown up with Medic, starting as an EMT at 21 years old now, almost 10 years later, she serves as a Paramedic Supervisor. In her free time, Daniela spends time with her twin girls, and she wouldn't have it any other way. Daniela is being recognized for her excellent patient care on two separate occasions. In the first incident, a patient received a life-threatening gunshot wound. Along with excellent patient care, the patient received TXA during transport leading to a positive outcome. This was the first TXA administered after being approved in Solano County. The second call was for an arm amputation. The patient lost his right lower arm in a conveyor belt at an industrial plant. The arm initially could not be located. The crew acted swiftly in getting the patient off scene and en route to a local trauma center. A tourniquet was applied and TXA was administered leading to a positive outcome. Once the patient's arm was located, it was flown to the trauma center where the patient was receiving initial care. The patient was transferred to a reattachment facility in San Francisco. ★



Jason Forbis
CCT-RN/FTO
ProTransport-1

Recently, **Jason Forbis** volunteered to transport a patient who was on impella device from the San Francisco area all the way to San Diego. These types of patients bring many challenges when transported, yet Jason jumped into action and provided excellent care to the patient for this entire transport. Being able to adapt quickly to change and roll with what is presented to you as a RN or any EMS provider is an important skill and Jason possesses this skill. ★

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Nathan Fox
Paramedic/FTO
LifeLine-EMS

Nathan Fox is a standout Paramedic and FTO at LifeLine-EMS, consistently going above and beyond to support and mentor his crew members. Medic Fox sets the bar for what it means to be an FTO, demonstrating unwavering dedication to both his patients and colleagues. His commitment to continuous learning and furthering his paramedic expertise is evident through his ongoing education and willingness to help whenever needed. Nathan is a true inspiration, embodying the qualities of a Stars of Life award recipient. His patients are incredibly fortunate to have such a skilled and compassionate professional managing their care. ★



Ashley Gamboa
Dispatch Lead
*AlphaOne Ambulance
Medical Services, Inc.*

Ashley Gamboa displayed outstanding professionalism and skill in two critical emergency calls involving unresponsive patients. She stayed calm under pressure, provided clear CPR and choking intervention instructions, and kept callers focused. Her confidence and expertise ensured the best possible pre-arrival care. Ashley's dedication to saving lives and guiding callers through high-stress situations makes her truly deserving of recognition. ★

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Christopher Geer
EMT
NORCAL Ambulance

Christopher Geer joined NORCAL Ambulance Sacramento Division in February 2020 as an EMT. His dedication and skill led him to advance to Field Training Officer for BLS units. Upon discovering his true passion for the NICU/PICU field, he opted to transition into a specialized position as NICU/PICU EMT. Christopher's dedication to his team and the patients they serve is further exemplified by his recent attainment of the ALS Specialist status. In this capacity, he collaborates closely with both the UC Davis Children's Hospital Transport Team and the Sutter NICU Transport Team, enhancing the quality of care provided during critical transport situations. In addition to his practical experience, he is actively pursuing further education in the UC Davis Paramedic program, which will augment his skills and knowledge in emergency medical services. Christopher is recognized for his swift medical response during the transport of a four-year-old from Folsom to UC Davis who experienced a full cardiac arrest. Christopher's expert applications of CPR and advanced life support measures were instrumental in saving the child's life and completing the transport successfully. His actions exemplify the highest standards of EMS services embodying the core values of NORCAL Ambulance: integrity, compassion and excellence. His professionalism and commitment to preserving life bring immense pride to our organization and make a lasting impact not only on the patients we serve but also on their families and communities. We are proud to celebrate this well-deserved recognition with Christopher. ★

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Jessica Gilbertson
EMT
Medic Ambulance
Service

Jessica Gilbertson has been with Medic Ambulance since June 2023. She comes from a family of first responders and discovered an interest in emergency services by growing up, listening to stories from her dad. She became fascinated with emergency medicine while living in the Sierra Nevadas and witnessing emergency crews in Placer and Nevada County responding to calls for service on snowmobiles during a heavy snowstorm. Seeing their dedication and ability to navigate extreme conditions to help those in need left a lasting impression on her. That moment sparked her passion for patient care and drove her to a path in emergency medicine. She thrives in the fast-paced, problem-solving nature of the job, but more importantly, she finds fulfillment in making a difference for people on what may be the worst day of their lives. Jessica's original background is in Fine Arts and Illustration. In her free time, she enjoys creating art, spending time with her Golden Retriever and Black Lab, Malloy and Marvin. Jessica is receiving the Star of Life for her excellent care when treating a trauma patient when they witnessed a rollover accident with multiple patients ejected enroute to a interfacility transfer. They jumped into action and split up to care for both patients until local EMS/Fire arrived. CPR was started on the female patient, and assessment completed on the critical male patient. Jessica maintained care of the male patient until other first responders. ★

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Demetrius Giles
CCT-RN
NORCAL Ambulance

Demetrius Giles joined NORCAL Ambulance as a Critical Care Transport RN in June 2019. With 18 years of nursing experience, he has worked in over 15 states, bringing a wealth of knowledge and expertise to every patient he cares for. He has worked at multiple NORCAL stations in the Bay Area division, adapting to company's needs while balancing commitment to his hospital job. Demetrius is recognized for his swift medical response during a recent CCT transport. When the patient became unresponsive and coded, Demetrius instructed NORCAL EMT Tyler Finneke to immediately divert to the nearest hospital Emergency Department. While another EMT, Amanda Lamb performed CPR, he administered BVM respirations and ACLS medications. En route to Marin General Hospital, Demetrius called in a Code 3, achieving ROSC upon arrival. His exceptional leadership and quick actions saved the patient's life and ensured successful transport. Demetrius has played a key role in training many of our new critical care nurses, sharing his experience to support their growth. He always has a positive attitude and treats his EMTs well. Demetrius enjoys teaching and is always happy to answer questions. He consistently goes above and beyond picking up extra shifts, mentoring EMT partners, and demonstrating an unwavering dedication to patient care. Whether he is educating his fellow team members or keeping the crew laughing on long shifts, Demetrius brings both skill and heart to the job. His commitment to his colleagues and the team makes him a valued member of NORCAL, and we are proud to recognize his outstanding contributions. ★



Kenneth Glimme
Flight Paramedic
REACH 16

Kenny Glimme has worked in emergency medicine for nine years and has served as a Flight Paramedic with REACH in Southern California since 2022. In July 2024, while REACH 16 was out of service for maintenance, Kenny was outside chatting with his wife on the phone when he suddenly heard a chilling scream. He saw a woman from a nearby house desperately holding a limp toddler. Tragically, the child had drowned in a pool and was in cardiac arrest. Without hesitation, Kenny rushed over and began performing CPR. As he worked to resuscitate the child, the Oceanside Fire Department arrived. With the base out of service and the child in urgent need of air medical transport, Kenny collaborated with the fire crew and accompanied them to the nearby Mercy Air base. There, he assisted the neighboring air crew in establishing an airway and loading the patient into the helicopter. Remarkably, the child regained spontaneous circulation and is now on the road to recovery. Kenny's quick response and decisive actions may have saved the child's life. ★

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Lauryn Godwin
EMT
*Sequoia Safety
Council*

Lauryn Godwin responded to a call for chest pain in early January 2025. Upon arriving at the residence and after her Paramedic partner assessed the patient it was found that the patient was having a STEMI. The patient was promptly moved to the ambulance, while enroute code 3 to CRMC-Fresno the patient went into ventricular tachycardia, the patient was promptly defibrillated and ROSC was eventually achieved. The patient came by the office several weeks later to thank the crew for saving his life. ★



Amanda Gravelin
Dispatcher
*ProTransport-1
Company*

From day one, **Amanda Gravelin** jumped in with a positive attitude, always ready to help wherever needed. Her ability to adapt and learn quickly has not only helped her grow but also made a difference for the entire team. Whether tackling a new challenge or supporting a coworker, she never hesitates to step up. Amanda's drive, teamwork, and genuine willingness to go the extra mile make them a valued team member. ★



Robert Guerrero
Operations
Supervisor
*American Medical
Response*

In his 25-year career, **Robert Guerrero** has presented himself as a distinguished EMS leader. His deep knowledge and understanding of service needs provide unique expertise in many areas. As service delivery needs evolve, Robert is always the first advocate for innovative solutions. There are countless emergency responses, projects, and initiatives that he has led. His efforts have resulted in improved outcomes for many patients, and vibrant careers for people he's mentored. ★

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Jeff Guevara
EMT
*American Medical
Response*

At 3:16 PM on January 23, 2025, AMR Medic 264, staffed by EMT **Jeff Guevara** and Paramedic Paul McKee, was assigned to a first-alarm structure fire response in their district. Medic 264 is housed at a fire station. A few minutes before the structure fire response, the engine at their station was dispatched to a “Smoke Check” on the other end of the district. Medic 264 was the first unit to arrive on the scene and reported a large amount of smoke coming from the roof. The incident was then upgraded to a “Working Structure Fire.” As Medic 264 exited their vehicle, they were met by neighbors who said that someone might still be inside the structure. Paul and Jeff, a well-coordinated team, approached the front door, which was locked, and began banging on it. Meanwhile, Jeff walked around the back of the home and found a partially open sliding glass door with thick black smoke billowing out. He could hear someone calling for help from inside. Due to the heavy smoke, Jeff crouched low to see beneath the smoke layer. He spotted intense flames in the kitchen area and what appeared to be a victim on the couch. With no fire personnel yet on the scene and the victim in critical condition, Jeff made the split-second decision to enter the home despite the hazardous conditions. He managed to pull the victim off the couch, move him toward the sliding glass door, and assist him in getting to his feet. Both Jeff and the patient were soaked from the fire sprinkler system. The victim was barely conscious, gasping for air, and had singed eyebrows, eyelashes, and nose hair. Recognizing the severity of the patient’s condition, Jeff immediately began assisting Paramedic McKee with assessment and treatment – all while still soaking wet, coughing, and recovering from the intense smoke and heat. His ability to maintain composure and coordinate patient care under such perilous conditions is a testament to his professionalism and dedication. Due to the patient’s critical state, the crew quickly transported him to UCSD Burn Center, over 30 minutes away. Jeff’s selfless actions, putting his own safety aside to save a life, exemplify his unwavering commitment to his role as an EMT. The patient’s injuries indicated that, without Jeff’s courageous intervention, he most likely would have perished in the fire. ★

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Jarrett Harding
Paramedic/FTO
LifeLine-EMS

Jarrett Harding is the embodiment of what it means to be a LifeLine-EMS all-star. Starting his journey as an EMT, Jarrett has grown into an exceptional paramedic and FTO, consistently demonstrating his commitment to our mission. He's involved in every facet of LifeLine-EMS, from participating in the LEAD and FIELD leadership development programs to being a top-tier FTO and brand ambassador. Jarrett's reputation speaks for itself – his patients, colleagues, and supervisors consistently praise his professionalism, care, and work ethic. We are incredibly fortunate to have Jarrett on our team, as he continues to inspire and lead by example every day. ★



Aaron Hartney
Director of
Operations
*American Medical
Response*

Aaron Hartney currently serves as the Operations Director for AMR and REACH in Riverside County. Aaron has done an incredible job leading Operations in Riverside. His actions have directly resulted in the operations being fully staffed, and fully compliant. AMR Riverside was recently granted a new EMS contract for five years. This would not have been possible without Aaron's dedication and expertise. ★



Michelle Henning
Administrative
Supervisor
*American Medical
Response*

Driven by a passion for EMS, **Michelle Henning** thrives on teamwork and a commitment to caring for others by focusing on uplifting the employee experience. In 2024 Michelle established and continues to lead our "Guiding Teams" employee morale group. This team spends countless on and off-duty hours each month to create programs and initiatives such as monthly ROSC recognitions, "new mom" gift baskets, and raffles as well as a springboarding new ideas such as crew lounges and on-site fitness equipment. ★

Congratulations to all the 2025 Star's of Life winners.

Your ongoing commitments to EMS across California is hard earned and well deserving of this award. We thank and salute you all.

We are very proud of EMT Lynn Herriott and her ongoing support and dedication to our community.

Lynn's journey began in high school when she joined the Del Norte Ambulance Explorer Post, a program that offers young people hands-on EMS training and opportunities to participate in local events. After graduating, she served with Cal-Fire before enlisting in the United States Marine Corps. Upon returning to Del Norte County, Lynn resumed her services with Del Norte Ambulance, consistently demonstrating a willingness to step up in times of need.



*"Dedicated to Serving"
For over 40 years*

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Lynn Herriott
EMT

Del Norte Ambulance

Lynn Herriott: A Shining Star in EMS Del Norte Ambulance proudly nominates Lynn Herriott for the 2025 Star of Life award. From starting as an Explorer to serving as a Marine and returning as an EMT, Lynn's dedication is unmatched. She mentors future EMTs, exemplifies professionalism, and actively serves her community as Legion Commander. A true leader in EMS and beyond, Lynn's commitment makes her a deserving Star of Life! ★



Alan Hughry
Paramedic
*Medic Ambulance
Service*

Alan Hughry has been with Medic Ambulance since May 2003. After being the victim of an auto accident, he was able to see, first-hand, just what good emergency medical workers do in people's times of peril. He decided then and there that he wanted to be a part of that culture and wanted to make a difference in someone's time of need. When asked what he likes about working for Medic Ambulance, Alan says, "The atmosphere, the team dynamic, the culture of being surrounded by phenomenal men and women who truly believe in the community in which we serve. We couldn't do this without the support of the family atmosphere that Medic Ambulance has provided from the top down!" He plans to continue his long tenure with Medic Ambulance and hopes to have the opportunity to serve as a Field Operations Supervisor. When he's not working, he enjoys coaching and watching football. He is a devoted husband, father and son and currently also serves as a fire captain for his community. Alan is being awarded the Star of Life for his role in treating a critical trauma patient that was involved in major motor vehicle collision. The patient experienced multi-system trauma and was transported to a level 2 trauma center. The patient received a plural decompression and TXA by during transport. A representative from the hospital called Medic Ambulance to highlight the excellent lifesaving care provided by the team prior to arriving at the hospital. Alan's leadership shined through on this call, and Alan is one of the most respected Paramedics in Solano County. Alan also was recently honored by the American Ambulance Association as Star of Life in Washington D.C. ★

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Rebekah Jackson
Paramedic
*City Ambulance of
Eureka, Inc.*

Rebekah Jackson started with City Ambulance as an EMT two and a half years ago. In only two years Rebekah has shown her dedication to the profession in many ways. She is on the City Ambulance Spirit Committee, she was one of four employees selected to train new EMTs and she is known among her peers as a knowledgeable and supporting coworker. One evening in early April 2024, Rebekah and her coworker Trenton were off duty and taking a walk at the beach, when they encountered an unresponsive elderly male in a vehicle. Without hesitation, Trenton reached through the car window to check for a pulse and found none. Realizing the severity of the situation, Rebekah and Trenton swiftly removed the patient from the vehicle and began CPR. Their immediate actions exemplified their dedication to service, even when off the clock. After calling 911, a volunteer fire department arrived on the scene, but Rebekah and Trenton remained, providing invaluable assistance and collaborating with the firefighters to continue CPR and offer advanced care. When an ambulance arrived from the company they work for, Rebekah went above and beyond by volunteering to accompany the patient to the hospital. She continued to assist in resuscitation efforts en route, displaying her commitment to the patient's survival despite being off duty. In her time off Rebekah enjoys spending time with her dog, trying new foods, and spending time with her roommate Kaylin. In only two short years Rebekah has shown City Ambulance that hiring her was an excellent choice. City Ambulance is thankful to have her. ★



Wendy Jimenez
EMT/FTO
LifeLine-EMS

Wendy Jimenez has been an invaluable member of LifeLine-EMS for over two years, serving as a FTO and Brand Ambassador with unwavering dedication and trustworthiness. Known for her infectious smile, positive attitude, and unwavering professionalism, Wendy consistently goes above and beyond in her role. Wendy approaches each shift with enthusiasm, ensuring every candidate she mentors receives comprehensive guidance and support. Her exceptional communication skills and meticulous attention to detail are evident in her thorough reports and proactive approach to clarifications. Wendy is not only a dependable FTO but also a shining example of kindness and compassion in our organization. ★

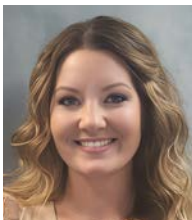
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Valentino Jiron
EMT
*Medic Ambulance
Service*

Valentino Jiron is being presented with the Star of Life award for his role in an incident that occurred while he was working standby for a football game. The patient collapsed, seized and went into cardiac arrest. The crew placed an AED and delivered a shock getting pulses back, contributing to a positive outcome for the patient before care was transferred to the ALS unit that arrived for transport. The patient was diagnosed with an NSTEMI and had a positive neurological outcome. When asked why he started working in EMS, Valentino explains, "From a young age I've always known I've wanted to help people. When I was growing up, my mom was always in service to her community. Volunteering with her opened up my eyes to what it was like to be in service. My brother had introduced me to our local fire department explorer program that he had once been part of. When I became old enough, I joined my local fire department explorer program and did a ride along. What first intrigued me about EMS was the very first call I was on that was a medical call. Seeing the fire department and Medic Ambulance team work together and help someone in need hooked me into this career, from that point forward I knew that EMS was for me." Working for Medic Ambulance is special to Valentino. He appreciates not only the job itself, but also the connections and friendships he's made. In his free time, Valentino likes to spend time outdoors hiking, camping and fishing. He also likes to rock climb at a local gym and work out. To relax, he plays guitar and bass. ★



Lisa Jorstad
EMT
*Patterson District
Ambulance*

Lisa Jorstad made her entry into EMS as an EMT in 2018 and quickly realized the joy of caring for people. She came to Patterson District Ambulance in 2022. Her EMS experience and leadership skills were obvious, and it was no surprise that she had organized a CCT division for a previous employer. Lisa's peers and supervisors recognize her skill, dedication, and drive for excellence in EMS. She routinely goes above and beyond and often recognizes situations that need attention and resolves problems before others even notice. Her patient care is exemplary, and she is exceptionally dependable, detail oriented, and has a strong work ethic. She aspires to become a registered nurse to advance her career and expand her role in patient care. We honor her excellence and bright future in healthcare as a 2025 Star of Life. ★

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Francis Kennedy
Paramedic Captain
King-American
Ambulance Company

In 2021 **Francis Kennedy** was hired as a part-time EMT as well as attending Medic School. He soon transitioned to full time Paramedic. He is a devoted FTO who is adamant about high quality training, focusing on safety, operations, patient advocacy, quality care and medicine. His hard work and dedication has positively benefitted the community of SF, but his colleagues as well. King American would like to introduce you to our newest Paramedic Captain Francis Kennedy and Star of Life. ★



Basheer Khatib
EMT/FTO
AmbuServe, Inc.

With the challenging landscape of Orange County, **Basheer Khatib** has become the star FTO setting the stage and expectations for all employees throughout the County. Basheer has been at the forefront of leadership and during the Eaton Fires in LA County, Basheer volunteered from the first request for help that Tuesday evening. Basheer reported to the station and grabbed a partner and headed directly into the fire zone to help with the evacuations of the medically sensitive and trapped citizens. ★



Joshua King
EMT
Falck

EMT **Joshua King**, a three-year veteran of Falck Alameda County, is receiving the CAA Star of Life award for his exceptional lifesaving efforts after successfully reviving a 15-year-old patient who suffered cardiac arrest at a local soccer field. Responding within minutes, King and partner immediately assessed the situation and initiated high-quality CPR. Their rapid intervention, combined with the precise ALS interventions including defibrillation and pharmaceutical interventions, led to the return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC) before arrival at the hospital. Their seamless teamwork and advanced prehospital care played a critical role in giving the patient a second chance at life. This patient is fully recovered and working toward returning the soccer field again. Their actions exemplify the highest standards of emergency medical care – turning a dire situation into a story of survival. Their dedication and expertise continue to make a profound impact on Alameda County EMS. ★

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Carissa Kinkor
Division Commander
LifeLine-EMS

Carissa Kinkor has dedicated 23 years to EMS management, playing a vital behind-the-scenes role in ensuring smooth daily operations. Her diligence, strong attention to detail, and proactive approach to addressing challenges have been key to maintaining operational efficiency and fostering a culture of safety and continuous improvement. Carissa's leadership has shaped policies, streamlined processes, and supported team development, all while ensuring that operations function seamlessly every day. As a mentor, she empowers employees to succeed and fosters an environment where they feel valued and heard, making a lasting impact on all who work with her. ★



Sergio Lafosse
FTO/Paramedic
Royal Ambulance

Sergio Lafosse helped us launch our paramedic program. He worked through the growing pains, refined our protocols, and set standards that still guide us today. New medics quickly learn that Sergio's methods work because they're built on real experience. He doesn't just teach skills. He teaches wisdom that only comes from years of handling critical calls. Every paramedic who enters our doors benefits from the standards and practices he helped establish. ★

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Amanda Lamar
EMT
San Luis Ambulance

Amanda Lamar is an invaluable member of San Luis Ambulance (SLA) and a true asset to SLA. Amanda's dedication to SLA and her commitment to the success of the company and her colleagues are truly commendable. She excels as an EMT partner on calls, contributes significantly at the station, assists with the warehouse, serves as a trainer and Explorer advisor, and handles the challenging role of scheduler. Amanda consistently gives 100% and excels in everything she does, all while maintaining a positive attitude. As a long-term EMT, Amanda possesses a wealth of knowledge. She anticipates her partner's needs during calls, works autonomously when required, and reliably handles every task on scene. Amanda is excellent with patients and allied agencies, earning the respect of her coworkers and team members. From the moment she arrives at the station, always on time, Amanda is ready to work, communicate with staff, and does whatever it takes to ensure a successful start to the day. She willingly takes on projects, boosts station morale, orders supplies, and works diligently to keep the unit and station stocked and clean. Before taking on the role of scheduler, Amanda was heavily involved in securing and delivering the company's supplies. Even after assuming her scheduling duties, she continues to assist when needed. As a training officer, Amanda is patient, knowledgeable, and dedicated. She excels at sharing her vast knowledge with new employees and communicating effectively. With the recent reinstatement of our Explorer program, Amanda was the first to volunteer as an advisor. She works hard to ensure the success of her assigned Explorer and the program as a whole. In addition to her many responsibilities, Amanda has taken on the monumental task of scheduling. She has played a key role in setting up the new system and works tirelessly to ensure its success. Amanda has done an amazing job learning the new role and making the program work. She is consistently approached by employees with scheduling questions and always remains positive, doing her best to resolve their issues. Despite the demands of scheduling, Amanda continues to excel in her other roles and never forgets to express her gratitude for the help she receives. We are incredibly proud to nominate EMT Amanda Lamar for Stars of Life award. Congratulations on a job well done! ★

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Amanda Lamb
EMT
NORCAL Ambulance

Amanda Lamb joined NORCAL Ambulance East Bay Division in July 2021. Over her three-and-a-half-year tenure, she has taken on numerous roles, excelling as a supervisor, BLS Field Training Officer, FTO Supervisor, CCT Specialist, and CCT FTO. She is very hard-working and reliable, and her journey at NORCAL is a testament to her commitment and leadership. Amanda's true passion lies in patient care, which inspired her to take the next step in her career and apply to nursing school. As a proud mother of two daughters, Amanda balances her studies and professional duties with dedication to her family, setting an inspiring example of resilience and determination. Her contributions to NORCAL Ambulance and her pursuit of furthering her education highlight her unwavering commitment to making a difference in the lives of others. Amanda is recognized for her rapid medical response during a recent CCT transport. When the patient became unresponsive and coded, NORCAL CCT-RN, Demetrius Giles instructed EMT and driver Tyler Finneke to divert to the nearest hospital Emergency Department. Amanda immediately began CPR while Demetrius started BVM respirations and administering the necessary ACLS medications. As they pulled into the Marin General Hospital's ambulance bay, the patient's ROSC was re-established. Amanda's expert application of CPR and exceptional ability to perform under pressure was instrumental in saving the patient's life and completing the transport successfully. With a relentless drive to grow and contribute, Amanda embodies the spirit of compassion and excellence that defines NORCAL, and we are very proud to share this well-deserved recognition with her. ★



Natalia LaSpada
Paramedic
Falck

Natalia LaSpada has worked for Falck San Diego for over three years, initially as an EMT and then as a Paramedic. Prior to working for Falck, Natalia attended Johns Hopkins university where she received bachelors degrees in Public Health and Psychology. She initially attended EMT school to further her medical knowledge and clinical skills, and fell in love with the profession. Natalia received her paramedic license from UCLA Center for Prehospital care. She is passionate about EMS education and has trained many new EMTs while at Falck in her role as bridge training officer. Natalia has lived in San Diego since age 12 and is grateful for the opportunity to serve her community each shift. Although Natalia's career in EMS is only just beginning, she credits her preceptors, mentors and fellow coworkers at Falck San Diego for cultivating continued passion for EMS, stating she has been extremely fortunate to have many skilled paramedic role models. Natalia hopes to one day provide similar mentorship for student paramedics. ★

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Jacob Lofton
EMT
(BTO, Peer Lead, CEVO)
Falck

Born and raised in San Diego, a graduate of UCSD, and a current EMT at Falck San Diego, **Jacob Lofton** always strived to help others and impact their lives in a meaningful way. He has been an EMT for five years, working several different units around San Diego city, ranging from downtown to the beach. Jacob had the pleasure of working side-by-side with some of the best paramedics and EMTs during my time in EMS. He enjoys playing a part in training and education, taking time to see his colleagues learn and grow as providers. Jacob is part of our local operations CEVO team, a Peer Support Lead, a training officer, and a CPR instructor. When he's not on the ambulance keeping Pacific beach safe, Jacob enjoys hiking, surfing, camping, and going on adventures with his wife and dog. Jacob says, "It has been an honor to help serve the city that I grew up in. I hope to make a difference whenever and wherever I can." ★



Juliene Mae Vang
EMT
NORCAL Ambulance

Juliene Mae Vang joined NORCAL Ambulance in June 2023 as an EMT within the NORCAL Sacramento Division. She currently works as a NICU/PICU Specialist based at UC Davis Medical Center. Balancing her studies in Global Disease Biology at UC Davis while being a mom to 6-year-old Luna and four-year-old Lucas, Juliene knows the meaning of dedication and multitasking. Her journey as a mother perfectly equipped her to work alongside the nurses at UCD, Sutter and Kaiser Roseville NICU/PICU. Juliene's future career goal is to become a Trauma Nurse and eventually return to EMS as a flight or CCT nurse. Juliene is recognized for her quick medical response during the transport of a four-year-old who experienced a full cardiac arrest. Her expert applications of CPR and advanced life support measures were instrumental in saving the child's life and completing the transport from Folsom to UC Davis successfully. Juliene's actions exemplify the highest standards of EMS services embodying the core values of NORCAL Ambulance: integrity, compassion and excellence. Her exceptional ability to excel under pressure, coupled with a patient-centered approach, truly distinguishes her as an invaluable asset to our team. Her impact extends beyond our patients to their families and communities, and NORCAL Ambulance is very proud to share this well-deserved recognition with her. ★

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Erica Marlin
HR Coordinator
NORCAL Ambulance

Erica Marlin joined NORCAL Ambulance as an EMT in August 2005, the year it was founded. She started with BLS and CCT shifts, gaining experience in patient care, dispatching, and data entry from paper records. Her skills earned her roles as a Field Training Specialist and later a Field Supervisor, where she managed hiring, training, staffing, and ambulance equipment. Erica was promoted from the field to Administrative Supervisor, a role with many important responsibilities, such as managing payroll for the entire organization. Additionally, she supervised dispatchers and billing operations, facilitated orientations for new hires, and improved administrative processes and operational efficiency within the company. Erica advanced to Administrative Manager, where she launched the Dispatch and Scheduling departments. She organized company events and community outreach programs like Habitat for Humanity to promote a positive workplace culture. Despite her administrative role, she remained involved in Field Operations as an On-Duty Supervisor during emergencies or absences. After an eight-year break to raise her family, Erica rejoined NORCAL in 2018 as an HR Coordinator, focusing on policies and compliance. In 2020, she co-led the COVID Taskforce, ensuring adherence to safety guidelines and implementing protocols per mandates. She played a key role in creating policies for employee safety, monitoring cases, and conducting contact tracing. Erica brings extensive knowledge, a positive attitude, and a readiness to assist, whether training HR team members or guiding employees through benefits. As NORCAL grew from a small team to over 1,000 employees, Erica has shown unwavering commitment. Her journey exemplifies perseverance and dedication, and NORCAL Ambulance is grateful and proud to highlight her achievements. ★



Megan Marson
Paramedic
SEMSA/RIGGS

Megan Marson's an exceptionally skilled paramedic known for dedication, compassion and desire to improve perfection. Her commitment to improving patient outcome goes beyond clinical expertise. Her attitude, and genuine kind-hearted personality allows her to thrive as a leader. High-quality care in critical/high-pressure situations solidify the title. She's held in the highest regard by those she works with and earns the respect and admiration of those she comes in contact with through natural command. ★

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Corey Martin
VP/Chief Admin
Officer
AmbuServe, Inc.

On January 7, 2025, after a full day of work, **Corey Martin**, a Critical Care Paramedic with over 28 years of experience, answered an urgent call from Pasadena requesting assistance in evacuating a skilled nursing facility and an adjacent assisted living center – both directly in the path of the rapidly advancing Eaton Fire. Drawing on decades of expertise, Martin swiftly mobilized resources, convened an emergency meeting with the management team and dispatch, and recalled all available personnel. Within just 52 minutes, 25 units were on scene, actively participating in the massive evacuation of 262 residents. Demonstrating exceptional leadership, Martin coordinated efforts from within the incident, working alongside his team on the ground. With his trusted canine partner, Dozer, he conducted a final sweep of the facilities to ensure no one was left behind. This operation marked the beginning of an unprecedented week of service to the communities of Altadena, Pasadena, Santa Monica, and La Crescenta Valley. Immediately following the successful Eaton Fire evacuation, Martin and his team shifted gears to respond to the Palisades Fire on the Santa Monica border. Once again, he led the evacuation of a second facility, overseeing the safe relocation of 87 patients while managing a fleet of 57 vehicles, including ALS and BLS ambulances, as well as gurney vans from multiple agencies. With only a few hours of rest, Martin and his team were back in action, responding to a third facility's request for evacuation in the Crescenta Valley area. By the end of the week, a total of 647 patient movements had taken place, including both initial evacuations and repatriations. Throughout this intense period, Martin's steadfast leadership, hands-on approach, and unwavering commitment to his crews inspired the entire team to operate at the highest level. With nearly three decades of experience in critical care and emergency response, Corey Martin exemplifies the very best of emergency medical services, proving that true leadership is forged in the heart of the crisis. ★

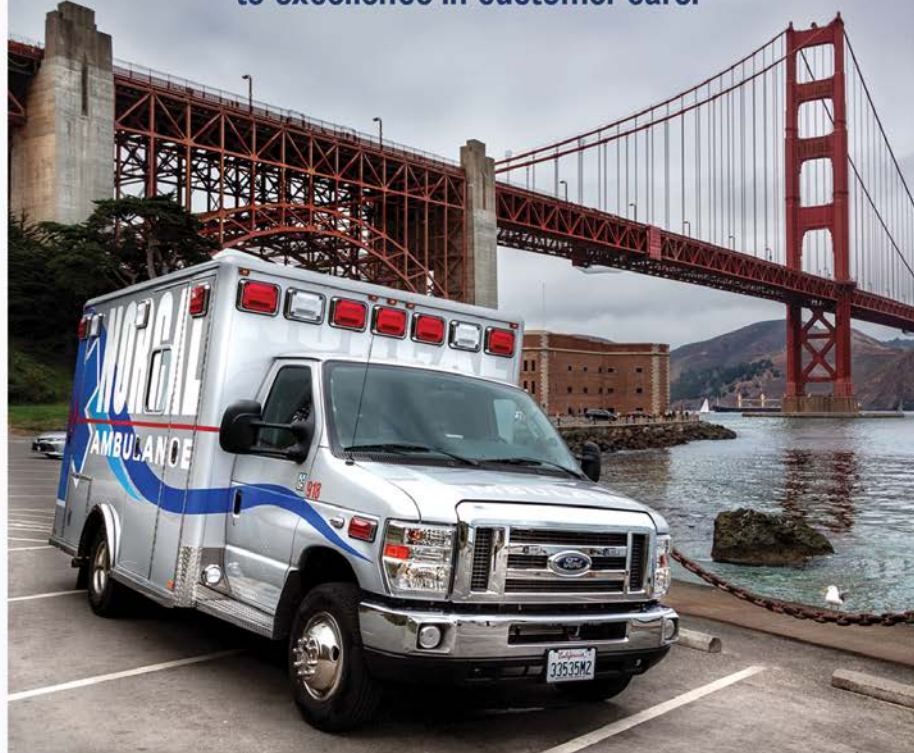


Tiana Masarweh
Dispatcher
Royal Ambulance

As a Lead Dispatcher at Royal Ambulance, **Tiana Masarweh** plays a vital role in ensuring seamless operations and effective communication between teams. With her calm demeanor, quick decision-making, and strong leadership, she sets the standard for excellence in dispatching. Tiana leads by example, demonstrating professionalism, adaptability, and a strong work ethic in every aspect of her role. ★

**EXCELLENCE + TEAM +
CUSTOMER CARE + SAFETY + DIVERSITY**

**NORCAL Ambulance believes that the patients
and families of the communities we serve
deserve to be cared for with integrity, dignity
and compassion by a team committed
to excellence in customer care.**



Celebrating 20 Years of Caring for California



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Louis Mendoza
Director of Training
& Education
LifeLine-EMS

Louis Mendoza, Paramedic and Director of Training and Education at LifeLine-EMS, joined the team in 2023 and has quickly established himself as a key member of the organization. Since transitioning to an EMS educator role in 2021, Louis has demonstrated a passion for his work and an unwavering commitment to excellence. He's never afraid to ask the tough questions, challenge the status quo, and stand up for what he believes in, always giving his best effort. Though he wasn't known to the team during his time as a paramedic, it's clear from his knowledge and skill that he made a significant impact on the community he served. His expertise as a paramedic is complemented by a deep compassion that speaks to his dedication to patient care and the success of his colleagues. While his work as a teacher may not always be in the spotlight, Louis's dedication to education and improving practices within the organization is undeniable. He consistently listens, coaches, and adapts to refine practices that support field providers. His positive attitude, commitment, and drive make him a cornerstone of LifeLine-EMS, and his contributions are deeply appreciated. ★



Derrick Metellus
Respiratory Care
Practitioner
LifeLine-EMS

Derrick Metellus, Respiratory Care Practitioner at LifeLine-EMS, truly embodies the spirit of the Stars of Life Award. Derrick is a steadfast advocate for his patients, always prioritizing their needs with compassion and expertise. His leadership during complex and high-acuity transports provides invaluable guidance to his crews, instilling confidence even in the most challenging situations. Derrick's ability to remain calm under pressure and lead by example ensures that every member of his team feels supported and capable. His dedication to patient care and his leadership on every call make him an exceptional asset to LifeLine-EMS. ★

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Michael Moon
Operations
Supervisor
*Medic Ambulance
Service*

Michael Moon has worked for Medic Ambulance since January 2019. Michael is being recognized his role in responding to an arm amputation. The patient lost his right lower arm in a conveyor belt at an industrial plant. The arm initially could not be located. The crew acted swiftly in getting the patient off scene and en route to a local trauma center. A tourniquet was applied and TXA was administered leading to a positive outcome. Once the patient's arm was located, it was flown to the trauma center where the patient was receiving initial care. The patient was transferred to a reattachment facility in San Francisco. When asked how he knew working in EMS was right for him, Michael explains, "My father went into cardiac arrest one evening when my brother and I were both home from college. We heard him fall and we performed CPR on him until EMS arrived. I've had several instances where I was in the right place at the right time to perform medical care and felt like this career path was my calling. I had a handful of friends in the EMS world that all encouraged me to pursue it." In his free time, Michael spends time with his wife, dog and two cats. They like to travel and try new restaurants and breweries and go to San Francisco Giants games. ★



Dominique Morales
EMT
ProTransport-1

We're honored to recognize **Dominique Morales** with the Star of Life Award! Dominique radiates energy and positivity, inspiring everyone around her. Her infectious laughter and warm personality make her a joy to work with. Her exceptional dedication to her patients and coworkers and her commitment to the company distinguish her from the rest. She willingly takes on extra responsibilities and consistently gives her best, putting in 110% for every task she undertakes. ★

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Andrew Natoli
Paramedic
Medic Ambulance
Service

Andrew Natoli started working for Medic Ambulance in October 2023. He knew he wanted to work in the healthcare field when he was a senior in high school. Andrew explains, "My senior year of high school I took an elective anatomy class that piqued my interest and appreciation for the intricacies of human anatomy. My teacher spurred this on with class dissection, trips to the cadaver lab, and numerous career guest speakers including a local paramedic who talked about the profession and taught the basics of intubation on mannequins. I ended up taking EMR before I graduated high school and fell in love with the profession. I became an EMT and loved working 911 but attending the Paramedic Academy solidified my appreciation of the field I get to work in. Being able to help people, providing physical and emotional care, in the community I grew up in has been incredibly rewarding and fulfilling." Andrew is being presented with the Star of Life Award for his role in multiple cardiac arrest field saves in Sonoma County, his excellent work as a Field Training Officer and providing high quality service to his patients. Andrew has been a part of several critical incidents in Sonoma County and has always led with his amazing clinical care, communication skills, and teaching skills. Andrew is truly a leader in EMS care in Sonoma County and continues to set the standard of care. ★



Lester Nelson
Paramedic & Field
Training Officer
SEMSA/RIGGS

Lester Nelson has devoted his life to EMS. He's been a paramedic for over 25 years. He has worked in busy urban systems, rural systems, and has flown HEMS. He has been a supervisor, an FTO, and has been a leader and role model to many. To have devoted this much of his life in our line of work is commendable in itself; to have done it and still be a great quality provider and mentor is incredible. ★

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Odinaka Okegbe
EMT/FTO
ProTransport-1

Odi Okegbe constantly goes above and beyond during his shifts. He never complains and has produced outstanding trainees from being an field training officer. He calls when he has issues or questions and helps the training department when they have large classes whenever he is asked. He is an all around guy. ★



Chad Pantig
San Francisco
County Manager
Royal Ambulance

Chad Pantig started as an EMT and quickly became known for his ability to bring people together. In San Francisco, he's created a genuine community. What makes Chad special is how he develops his team members. Starting as a Field Training Officer, he discovered his talent for helping others grow. Now as manager, he creates an environment where healthcare professionals support each other and strive for excellence. The strong culture in our San Francisco team reflects his years of steady leadership. ★



Felicia Pelaez
Paramedic
*AlphaOne Ambulance
Medical Services, Inc.*

Paramedic **Felicia Pelaez** and EMT Jennifer Rodriguez showed true professionalism when they volunteered for an ambulance strike team at the Crozier Fire. While at Mosquito Fire Protection District Station 75, a volunteer began choking during dinner. Staying calm under pressure, they swiftly cleared the airway, saving a life in seconds. Their quick action highlights the vital role of EMS professionals. Their bravery and dedication are an inspiration, deserving of the highest recognition. ★

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Scott Penning
EMT/FTO
LIFewest

Scott Penning consistently exhibits the qualities that define excellence in Emergency Medical Services through his outstanding service as an EMT and Field Training Officer at LIFewest. Over his four-year tenure, Scott has demonstrated exceptional versatility and commitment, serving across BLS, ALS, and Critical Care Transport resources while maintaining the highest standards of patient care and customer service. As a Field Training Officer, Scott has earned the respect and admiration of his peers through his unwavering work ethic and consistently positive attitude. His colleagues particularly note his willingness to step up in any situation, making him an invaluable team member during both routine operations and challenging circumstances. Scott's adaptability and expertise across multiple service levels have made him an essential part of LIFewest's operations. His commitment to supporting his fellow EMTs, Paramedics, and CCT-RNs combined with his dedication to patient care, embodies the collaborative spirit that drives emergency medical services forward. His nomination for the 2025 Star of Life Award by his peers reflects the profound impact he has made within the organization and his role in fostering a positive workplace culture that benefits both staff and patients alike. ★



Matthew Perez
Training Division
Manager
AmbuServe, Inc.

On the night of January 7th, we received a frantic call for help from Care Givers that were being affected by the Eaton Fire. With the simple request of, "We need all hands," **Matthew Perez** threw on his uniform and went to the station. Matthew went into a burning Nursing Facility to evacuate patient after patient and then moved to safety. His leadership brought the security and calm that was needed for facility staff, patients and responders in an overwhelmingly chaotic situation. ★

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Gabriel Pilaczynski
EMT
Medic Ambulance
Service

Gabriel Pilaczynski has been with Medic Ambulance since November 2022. He got into the EMS industry because he loves helping and supporting people and knows this is the right job for him because he's excited to go into to work every day. He likes working at Medic Ambulance because they have given him many opportunities to grow. He plans to finish his paramedic course at UC Davis and continue to work for Medic as a Paramedic. In his free time, Gabriel likes to play video games and study. Gabriel is being recognized as Medic Ambulance's 2024 EMT of the Year Solano Division, for his overall excellence, dedication and professionalism in Medic's Solano operations. ★



Michael Robinson
Paramedic
Medic Ambulance
Service

Michael Robinson has been with Medic Ambulance since November 2011. He is being recognized as Medic Ambulance's 2024 Paramedic of the Year for the Solano Division. When he first started in EMS, he was not sure of his career path but once he started, he really enjoyed working in the community and helping others. He likes that every day has a new experience or challenge and he has the opportunity to keep learning. In his 13 years at Medic Ambulance, Michael has made many good friends and has had the opportunity to meet great people. He appreciates that Medic Ambulance has been very supportive of him and his family and loves the family atmosphere that Medic provides. He plans to continue his career as a Paramedic and hopes to continue teaching the next generation of EMTs and Paramedics. In his free time, Michael enjoys spending time with his wife, daughters and family. He likes playing hockey, watching sports, spending time outdoors, camping, fishing and hiking. ★



Jennifer Rodriguez
Emergency Medical
Technician
AlphaOne Ambulance
Medical Services, Inc.

Paramedic Felecia Pelaez and EMT **Jennifer Rodriguez** showed true professionalism when they volunteered for an ambulance strike team at the Crozier Fire. While at Mosquito Fire Protection District Station 75, a volunteer began choking during dinner. Staying calm under pressure, they swiftly cleared the airway, saving a life in seconds. Their quick action highlights the vital role of EMS professionals. Their bravery and dedication are an inspiration, deserving of the highest recognition. ★

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Jose Sanabria
EMT/Lead Field
Training Officer
Amwest Ambulance

Jose Sanabria, EMT, has been a dedicated member of Amwest Ambulance since August 2018. As Lead Field Training Officer, he has streamlined training, ensuring new EMTs are confident, professional, and patient-focused. His leadership fosters a culture of safety, engagement, and teamwork. With integrity and dedication, he uplifts his colleagues and strengthens the EMS workforce. His impact is invaluable, making him highly deserving of this recognition. ★



Alex Sanchez Huante
EMT/FTO
LifeLine-EMS

Alex Sanchez Huante has been a dedicated member of LifeLine-EMS for over a year, bringing a strong combination of skill, knowledge, and a genuine passion for patient care to his role as both an EMT and FTO. Always eager to expand his understanding, Alex is not only proficient in his duties but also strives to continuously improve and learn. He is known for his excellent communication, ensuring dispatch is kept up-to-date and handling concerns with discretion – knowing when to reach out to dispatch and when to consult with his shift commander. As an FTO, Alex is a natural teacher, providing clear and thoughtful guidance to new EMTs while maintaining a positive, professional attitude. ★



Bryan Santos
Paramedic
*Patterson District
Ambulance*

Bryan Santos is a seasoned paramedic with 45 years in EMS. Bryan began his EMS career in 1980 as a fire volunteer and then became an EMT. He became a paramedic in 2003 and he honed his paramedic skills in the challenging streets of Stockton. He joined Patterson District Ambulance in 2019. He is very active in EMS mentoring new EMTs and paramedics yet still has enough time for the thankless job of Union leadership. Bryan provides trusted collaboration between the Union and management. Don't let his rigid exterior deceive you, Bryan enjoys caring for people and has proven himself as an exceptionally experienced paramedic. He is a long-term FTO and recently started a positivity workshop for the benefit of his peers. We proudly recognize Bryan as a 2025 Star of Life. ★

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Timea Saragoza
SST
Medic Ambulance
Service

Timea Saragoza has received Medic Ambulance's 2024 SST of the Year award! Timea has been with Medic Ambulance since March 2023 and recently advanced from SST to RN. When asked how she knew this was the right career path for her, Timea says, "I chose nursing because I have always been passionate about helping others in their most vulnerable moments. Nursing allows me to make a direct impact on peoples' lives, providing care, comfort and support when they most need it." She enjoys working at Medic Ambulance because every shift brings new challenges and learning experiences. Working on the field has expanded her clinical skills, strengthened her ability to stay calm under pressure, and deepened her understanding of emergency medicine. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her two boys, exploring the outdoors by going on hikes, enjoying nature and staying active. Congratulations Timea! ★



Scott Simsian
Manager of Training
& Education
LifeLine-EMS

Scott Simsian is an exceptional nominee for the California Star of Life Award. Having been with LifeLine-EMS for eight years, Scott started as an EMT before advancing to his current role as Training and Education Manager. Throughout his tenure, Scott has consistently proven to be a reliable, knowledgeable, and dedicated leader, with an unwavering commitment to improving the training and education that directly impacts the quality of patient care. Scott's positive attitude and work ethic have made him an indispensable member of the team. He is always willing to go above and beyond to support his colleagues, and his deep compassion for others is evident in his daily interactions. His dedication to fostering a culture of excellence in training ensures that the LifeLine-EMS team is always prepared for the challenges they face in the field. In the past year, Scott has made significant strides in improving the effectiveness of the training department. His ability to connect with students and engage them in meaningful ways has been widely praised, and the feedback from his classes is overwhelmingly positive. One class evaluation sums up Scott's influence perfectly: "What did you like best [about orientation]? Scott. What would you change [about the orientation]? More Scott!" ★

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Charlene Souza
EMT
Medic Ambulance
Service

Charlene Souza has been with Medic Ambulance since November 2023. She originally started working in EMS because she understands how important it is to provide service to others. Charlene explains, "Being the first person on scene when someone is having an emergency, I can set the tone for their care and provide crucial treatment in times of need. Working on an ambulance allows me to help others in a diverse number of ways such as physical, emotional, and mental support." She believes that Medic Ambulance is driven to provide the best care possible and appreciates the closeness of her co-workers. Charlene is currently in school to become a paramedic and would love to continue teaching new EMTs once she's finished. In her free time, she likes to stay active by surfing and participating in other exercise activities. Charlene is being recognized as a Star of Life for her in providing immediate and live saving care while off duty during a cardiac arrest field save at the 24-Hour Fitness in Rohnert Park. Charlene witnessed the arrested and immediately provided care. Rohnert Park Fire, who was also working out at the gym, worked with Charlene to provide CPR, apply the AED and provided multiple shocks before the local Sonoma County Fire District-EMS ambulance arrived. The patient was transported to a local STEMI Center for further care. The patient was discharged and has a good neurological outcome. ★



Sarah Spanglo
Field Supervisor
ProTransport-1

With over 11 years of service, **Sarah Spanglo** has been a pillar of support, ensuring seamless station operations and setting a high standard for excellence. Her unwavering commitment to her team and the organization has made an undeniable impact. Whether it's keeping daily operations running smoothly, providing guidance to colleagues, or stepping in whenever and wherever she's needed, Sarah's reliability and expertise are invaluable! ★

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Abraham Stewart
Directing Manager
LIFEwest

Abraham Stewart exemplifies the dedication and leadership that defines excellence in Emergency Medical Services. With a remarkable 25-year career that began as an EMT and progressed through paramedic service, Mr. Stewart has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to delivery of patient care and emergency medical operations in Northern California. As the Directing Manager of LIFEwest Ambulance, Mr. Stewart has been instrumental in building the organization from its foundation into a premier provider. His extensive experience, including roles as Operations Manager, Director of Operations and Communications Center Director for several leading organizations, provided him with the comprehensive understanding needed to guide LIFEwest through its critical growth phases. Under Mr. Stewart's leadership, LIFEwest not only survived but thrived during the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. While many organizations faced downsizing and closure, he maintained operational stability and preserved the company's positive culture, ensuring continuous high-quality patient care and employee retention during this crucial period. Abraham Stewart's nomination for the 2025 Star of Life Award recognizes not only his personal achievements but also his lasting impact on emergency medical services in Northern California. His leadership at LIFEwest demonstrates how dedication, hard work and critical thinking can transform an organization while maintaining an unwavering focus on service excellence and employee development. ★



Christine Summers
Critical Care RN
*AlphaOne Ambulance
Medical Services, Inc.*

An 18-month-old baby struggled to breathe, her condition critical despite medical intervention. **Christine Summers**, a skilled CCT RN, swiftly assessed and advocated for essential medications, ensuring stabilization for transport. Her expertise turned fear into relief. We honor Christine for her clinical excellence. Her dedication exemplifies AlphaOne Ambulance's commitment to exceptional care. ★

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Siera Tomas
EMT
Medic Ambulance
Service

Siera Tomas began her career at Medic Ambulance in July 2022. She is being awarded the Star of Life for her outstanding contributions as a Field Training Officer and leader amongst her peers. When asked how she knew EMS was the right career for her, Siera explains, "No other career has given me the reward and satisfaction that EMS does. After working in several other fields/industries, I finally found a craft that gives me the motivation and desire to want to stay, be better, and continuously be involved. EMS has inspired a light in me that makes me want to always improve as a provider and best serve my community. The simple qualities of EMS that do not exist in other careers are special to me: the independence, being out on the road, the duty to serve at the drop of a hat, and the fact that every day is different. Simply put, practicing medicine and helping people is fun!" Siera likes working at Medic Ambulance because Medic supports her as a provider and encourages her professional growth. She appreciates the high-quality standards and the professional relationships that she has built over the last three years. Siera appreciates the state-of-the-art equipment that Medic provides that makes her job seamless in the field. She looks forward to advancing her career to serve as a Paramedic and is currently attending Paramedic school. In her free time, Siera spends quality time with family and friends and enjoys taking day trips to local towns to explore new areas. She also enjoys hiking, camping and paddleboarding. ★



Kayla Vance
EMT
Medic Ambulance
Service

Kayla Vance started working at Medic Ambulance in November 2023. She knew from a young age that she wanted to help people. The hardships Kayla had endured during her childhood made the decision to work in EMS very clear. Kayla has always believed that if she could make a difference in at least one person's life then it's all worth it. Kayla likes the diverse opportunities, including standby events and volunteer work, that Medic Ambulance has to offer. She also appreciates that Medic does first responder spotlights to acknowledge paramedics and EMTs on a personal level. This helps the community get to know each responder on a more personal level. When Kayla is not working, she likes to give back to the EMT program that she attended by mentoring the new students and helping them through the course. Kayla also enjoys softball and helps at Santa Rosa Junior College when she can with coaching. Kayla started the coed slow pitch softball team at Medic Ambulance in Sonoma County to give employees an outlet and connect outside the workplace. Kayla plans to apply to the paramedic program to move her emergency medicine career forward. Kayla is being recognized as a Star of Life for her role in providing care to a cardiac arrest field save at the 24-Hour Fitness in Rohnert Park. The patient was discharged and has a good neurological outcome. ★

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Timothy Vietmeier
CCT/RN
LIFWest

Tim Vietmeier, CCT-RN, embodies excellence in Critical Care Transport through his extraordinary 37-year career in emergency medical services. With both a BSN from Radford University and an MSN from Touro University, Tim has demonstrated exceptional skill in managing complex critical care transports, including patients requiring intra-aortic balloon pumps and multiple vasopressors. His diverse background spans roles from EMT to Nationally Registered Paramedic, complemented by extensive experience in surgical trauma, cardiac catheterization, and cardiothoracic intensive care. As a Critical Care Transport RN, Tim has performed numerous lifesaving rescues while maintaining compassionate patient care standards. Beyond his clinical expertise, Tim's commitment to advancing emergency medicine is evident through his educational contributions, including training new graduate RNs in Critical Care Transport. His dedication earned him the 2006-2007 March of Dimes "Nurse of the Year" Award for Education, and he has shared his expertise internationally, presenting at Sigma Theta Tau International in Vienna on critical thinking in nursing. Tim's comprehensive understanding of emergency medicine, combined with his passion for excellence and education, makes him an outstanding candidate for the Star of Life Award. ★



Annica Welcker
EMT
Medic Ambulance
Service

Annica Welcker joined the Medic Ambulance team in June 2013 and is receiving the Star of Life award for repeated excellent performance. Annica and her partner have had multiple cardiac arrest calls with long transports. The excellent care they provided resulted in positive neurological outcomes and discharges from the hospital. From a young age, Annica knew she wanted to help people and she quickly fell in love with EMS. She enjoys working at Medic Ambulance and the team has become like a second family to her. She plans to continue her education and stay in the EMS field. In her spare time, Annica likes to spend time with her family and participate in outdoor activities. ★

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Andrew Welsh
Alameda County
Operations Manager
Royal Ambulance

Andrew Welsh began his journey at Royal Ambulance as an EMT in Alameda County, where he quickly stood out for his dedication, work ethic, and commitment to patient care. His leadership skills and passion for teamwork led him to an operations manager role, where he played a pivotal role in guiding and supporting his team. A true mentor and leader, Andrew is dedicated to developing those around him, fostering a learning culture, and ensuring every team member feels supported and empowered to succeed. ★



Scott Wood
Paramedic
Medic Ambulance
Service

Scott Wood began his career at Medic Ambulance in August 1998, following a recommendation from a trusted family friend in the EMS field who recognized his untapped potential. Over the years, Scott's unwavering dedication and exceptional skill have validated that early insight. His ability to remain calm and decisive in high-pressure situations has earned him the respect of colleagues and the gratitude of countless patients and their families. One of Scott's most recent notable moments came during a challenging cardiac arrest call that required a long, complex transport. In that critical situation, his quick thinking and expert care not only stabilized the patient but also set the stage for a positive recovery. This incident is just one of many highlights in a career defined by consistent excellence, compassion, and an unyielding commitment to saving lives. In recognition of this, Scott is being honored with the Star of Life award. When he's not on duty, Scott cherishes quality time with his family and enjoys pursuing his hobbies, which include hunting, fishing, and diving. ★

*Medic Ambulance is
proud to congratulate the
2025 Stars of Life!*

Your dedication, bravery, and
commitment to excellence make a
lasting impact on the lives of those
you serve. Thank you for your
unwavering service and for going
above and beyond every day.



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SAVE THE DATE



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2026

SHERATON GRAND

SACRAMENTO, CA

The California Ambulance Association Congratulates the 2025

Stars of Life!



**CALIFORNIA
AMBULANCE
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2520 Venture Oaks Way, Suite 150

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