



March 19-20, 2024
Sheraton Grand
Sacramento, CA

CALIFORNIA AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION
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STARS OF LIFE

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Jaison Chand
President,
Board of Directors
*California
Ambulance Association*

Congratulations to all of our 2024 Stars of Life. Your actions, whether from a single heroic incident or a career-long performance record, demonstrate that you have shown the spirit and commitment that 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 without notice. Neither the public nor the media get the opportunity to see the contribution each of you makes to ensure that highly specialized pre-hospital medical care is delivered day in and day out to the communities you serve. The single common thread that links you all here today is that you do not do it for the money or the glory; you do it because you love it. Let's not forget about the families and friends that support you. EMS can be very stressful from time to time and for those that support you, we thank you.

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

Tonight, we celebrate you, the private ambulance industry's Stars of Life. We thank you for your commitment to your patients, co-workers, companies and communities you serve. 



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Mike Williams
Founder/President
The Abaris Group

IN MEMORIAM

Mike Williams

A major influencer and benefactor of EMS and trauma care passed away last year at the age of 72. Mike is best known as the Founder and President of The Abaris Group, a leading provider of EMS and trauma consulting in North America.

Mike discovered his love for EMS while growing up in Michigan. He realized that he could save more lives by moving into EMS leadership and influencing the care of all providers than by working on an ambulance. His first management jobs were as the EMS Director for Imperial and Orange Counties from 1974-1980. In Orange County, Mike recognized the need for organized trauma care. He established the first formal trauma system in the United States, creating a network of trauma centers covering the entire county. Following this success, Mike decided to begin consulting to benefit other regions of the country.

In 1980, Mike founded EMS System Design, eventually becoming The Abaris Group. For the next 43 years, Mike and his experienced group of consultants completed over 300 projects in the fields of EMS, trauma, emergency departments, patient throughput, health plans, etc. This led to many great opportunities, serving on several editorial and professional society boards, publishing hundreds of articles, and presenting at numerous national conferences. Some of his proudest accomplishments include creating dozens of new trauma centers, formalizing EMS systems, teaching emergency department design at Harvard, serving as Senior Faculty to The Robert Johnson Foundation, working with the Los Angeles Olympics EMS service, and being a charter member of the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians. The lives saved by Mike Williams are incalculable.

Mike is survived by his wife and business partner, Juliana Williams. Bill Bullard has assumed the role as President of The Abaris Group after serving 20 years as a Senior Vice President. Bill looks forward to continuing Mike's legacy with Abaris. ❁

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Eva Ybarra
Community and
Public Relations
Manager
SEMSA/Riggs

IN MEMORIAM

Eva Ybarra

Effectionately known as Eva, was a genuine and kind-hearted individual who essentially dedicated herself to the community and its people. Eva had a forceful consequence in securing funding for multiple parks and recreational facilities in her hometown of Livingston, California. Her passion for the community's well-being and her desire to make a difference in people's lives led her down a career path in public relations, where her natural talents radiated brightly. This same passion put her right on the doorstep of RIGGS Ambulance Service in Merced County. Eva's personality instantly won over the folks at RIGGS and cemented the decision that she was the right person to fill the role of Community and Public Relations Manager. She catapulted into her position and hit the ground running. Eva's impact at RIGGS and in Merced County was quickly felt. She stepped outside of the box and forged ahead with outreach events that may have gone by the wayside for conventional-style thinkers. The migrant community and many other underprivileged groups benefited from her unorthodox way of thinking. She truly had the desire to reach and spread awareness to every nook and cranny of Merced County, where suddenly the forgotten were no longer forgotten and many lost the fear of dialing 911 in emergency situations, as well as gained the knowledge and importance of good CPR. Eva was taken from us in October 2023, but her impact will continue to be felt throughout the community. 🌸

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Jason Achterberg
Field Supervisor
Hall Ambulance
Service, Inc.

Jason Achterberg is the Hall Ambulance Field Supervisor of the Year for 2023. He joined Hall Ambulance on August 14, 2007, as a paramedic and worked for several years in the Bakersfield Metro System. In 2017, Achterberg advanced his position in the Company by completing his supervisor training and gaining experience as a relief supervisor. He was promoted to a full-time supervisor position in October 2017. Achterberg has spent six and a half years working as the metro night supervisor. During the past year, Achterberg has made great strides in honing his leadership skills as a field supervisor. He has demonstrated himself as a solid leader by setting an example for others. In 2023, Achterberg responded to 329 calls (142 first responder and 187 ambulance calls). He excelled in his treatment of patients and was perfect in his core competency skills. He did an exceptional job with documentation as well.

Achterberg is well-versed in his supervisory role and has often been found mentoring new supervisors during their training. He received multiple written compliments throughout the year and consistently acknowledged employees he supervised by submitting 60 written compliments. He has established a good working relationship with the fire department and completed multiple fire station visits throughout the year. He also made himself available to work additional shifts as a supervisor in the East Kern and West Kern areas and help on the metro shift when called upon. He had perfect attendance throughout the year 2023. During a recent supervisor meeting, Hall Ambulance President John Surface challenged all supervisors to start helping employees get back to the "Hall Way" of doing business. He asked the supervisor group to pick a topic each night, share it with employees, and help coach them on the "Hall Way." Achterberg took up the challenge and continually met with employees to share his message each night he was on duty. His efforts were apparent in the changes seen in employees, from uniforms to polished boots and the cleanliness of their ambulances. 🌟

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Griffin Addicott
EMT
Royal Ambulance

On October 12, 2023, **Griffin Addicott** and Alexander Tornero identified and quickly escalated an unsafe situation at a residence following a discharge. When the team arrived on site, they realized that the gas stove was leaking, presenting a potential hazard throughout the residence. Thinking on their feet, they immediately notified the fire department to inspect, air out, and ultimately clear the residence as safe.

Thank you, Griffin and Alexander, for going the extra mile on what might have been an otherwise routine call. Your actions likely saved the patient's life and your willingness to act is greatly appreciated. ✱



Shannon Agcaoili
Field Training Officer
*Hall Ambulance
Service, Inc.*

The Hall Ambulance Field Training Officer (FTO) of the Year for 2023 is EMT **Shannon Agcaoili**. She joined Hall Ambulance on April 16, 1996, and has worked in the Metro response system for most of, if not all, her time with the company. Over the past several years, Agcaoili has stepped up and assisted in training new EMTs. It's the responsibility of the field training officer to take a new EMT, whether that be someone with experience from another EMS system or a brand-new EMT just out of their training, and indoctrinate them into the "Hall Way" of doing business. FTOs spend countless hours teaching patient care, documentation, and radio reports. They also teach their employees how to clean the floor of an ambulance properly, make up a gurney after a call, and do the perfect trifold of a blanket. In 2023, Agcaoili completed training for six different EMTs, totaling 1,295 hours of total training time. ✱

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Amber Allen
**Emergency Medical
Dispatcher**
AlphaOne Ambulance

On October 23, 2023, as an Emergency Medical Dispatcher, **Amber Allen** coordinated the response for the AlphaOne crew, led by Paramedic Jason Walther alongside EMTs Dylan Cole, Zachary Renkert, and Luke Moreno. Their outstanding performance during a critical incident at a psychiatric facility showcased exceptional service and medical proficiency. Upon receiving the call regarding a staff member experiencing respiratory distress, the crew was dispatched swiftly. While Amber stayed on the line with the reporting party, she provided reassurance and assisted with maintaining an open airway, while the crew was en route. Once the crew arrived on scene, they quickly identified a pulseless patient receiving CPR from staff members at the facility. Their seamless coordination, from initial call intake to the crew arriving on scene, and rapid deployment of life-saving interventions, including advanced airway management and CPR, led to the achievement of Return of Spontaneous Circulation (ROSC). They then executed a smooth transfer of the stabilized patient to UCDMC, ensuring continuity of care. Amber's reassurance and effective pre-arrival instructions helped lead to the positive patient outcome that ensued after the crew took over care. In essence, the entirety of the team's actions not only saved a life but also underscored the paramount importance of effective emergency medical response in our community. ✨

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Tom Allgaier
Paramedic
Medic Ambulance
Service, Inc.

Tom Allgaier is a paramedic with Medic Ambulance Service in Sacramento. Throughout his tenure at Medic Ambulance Service, Inc., he has assumed various roles, but he finds the greatest satisfaction in his duties as a field medic. Tom prides himself on imparting lessons of work ethic, integrity, character, and loyalty to the younger medics and EMTs. These values were deeply ingrained in him by his mother, a resilient single parent and experienced ER RN, who raised three children single-handedly. Despite the challenges they presented, all her children grew up to lead successful lives. Tom's commitment to these principles was further honed during his honorable service in the US Navy. Tom is a family man, blessed with a spouse, four children, and four grandchildren, all of whom are a source of immense pride for him. Remarkably, three of his children have followed a path of service, joining the US Army, a choice he respects and jests about, given his Navy background. When not on duty, Tom's passion shifts to the offroad community. He leads an offroad fundraising event known as Sierra Trek and is renowned for making the best tacos on the Rubicon at Cantina for the Con. His advocacy extends to keeping public roads accessible to everyone. Looking ahead, Tom and his wife are eagerly anticipating his retirement. They plan to explore the United States, utilizing their fifth wheel to experience the country's vast landscapes and hidden treasures. Tom is being honored as a Star of Life for his quick thinking when he was unexpectedly flagged down for an unresponsive overdose patient. Tom immediately sprang into action. His prompt assessment and intervention were crucial in stabilizing the patient, showcasing his exceptional skills and dedication to saving lives. Great work, Tom! 🌟



Lucas Anoskey
Paramedic
Medic Ambulance
Service, Inc.

We are honored to recognize **Lucas Anoskey** as Medic Ambulance Service, Inc. Sacramento Division Paramedic of the Year! Lucas Anoskey has been a Paramedic for 1 year and has been with Medic Ambulance for 8 months. Over these past several months, Lucas has had the pleasure to converse and meet with the many amazing people with whom he is able to work. He has worked in healthcare for almost 6 years now, originally as a member of the California Office of Emergency Services Search and Rescue team, before moving on to the position of an EMT, and now as a Paramedic. In his spare time, Lucas is an EMT school instructor. He enjoys being able to share his knowledge and passion for this career field with others. He is always eager to help anyone and everyone. He also likes to work on classic cars and motorcycles. Lucas is looking forward to growing both as a provider and as a part of Medic Ambulance. 🌟

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Paul Gabriel Aragon
EMT
Royal Ambulance

On July 18, 2023, as they arrived at Seton Medical Center for an inter-facility transfer, Marlon Jerick Payumo heard an RN calling for assistance in a patient room. He entered the patient's room, noticed that the patient was experiencing a cardiac arrest, and assisted with CPR. After roughly two minutes of the RN performing CPR, MJ traded positions with her and began performing compressions. His partner, **Paul Gabriel Aragon**, started helping with the preparation work for the team, spiking bags, cleaning the area, and assisting with preparation. After multiple rounds of compressions, the team was able to achieve ROSC on the patient. Marlon and Paul Gabriel's attention to detail, decisiveness, and actions were instrumental in the successful resuscitation of this patient. We celebrate their actions and contributions to the community here today. 🌟



Lucian Badica
Business
Development
Premier Ambulance

Lucian Badica's 40-year career in emergency medical services is defined by compassion, leadership, and strong dedication. Since 1984, he's showcased a commitment to excellence, from saving lives in cardiac arrest to aiding in critical evacuations during events like the Northridge earthquake and Camp Pendleton mass casualty incident. Lucian's impact transcends emergencies; he's played key roles in setting a Guinness World Record for the largest CPR training in one day and shaping post-9/11 WMD and Bio-Terrorist training. From EMT to Director of Business Development, his leadership shines. Lucian's calm demeanor and steadfast patient care earn him respect from colleagues and patients alike. Beyond work, he enjoys running, family time, and BBQs. Premier Ambulance proudly awards Lucian Badica the 2024 Star of Life, recognizing his legacy of compassion, professionalism, and community service. 🌟

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Mark Barahura
Paramedic
*Falck Southern
California*

Falck's Managing Director of San Diego has nominated **Mark Barahura** for the Star of Life award. Mark goes above and beyond the expectations of a standard paramedic on a daily basis. He constantly pushes himself to expand his clinical knowledge and provides exceptional patient care. Mark not only takes care of the basics of patient care, but also looks at the whole patient and identifies important details that can lead to life-changing events. His skills as a care provider make him deserving of the Star of Life Award. In addition to his clinical excellence, Mark is actively involved in identifying individuals who would benefit from assistance from our RAP community paramedics. He works closely with the RAP program staff to enroll individuals and provide detailed documentation for appropriate resources. Mark's dedication to reducing the use of the 911 system and helping the community is commendable. Mark also excels as an educator and trainer. He serves as a BTO, new hire instructor, CEVO instructor, and provides mentorship to high school students interested in the Emergency Medicine field. His commitment to teaching and guiding others is inspiring. A perfect example of Mark's dedication is when San Diego was hit with a storm on January 22nd, 2024. Despite the overwhelming situation, Mark volunteered to help and quickly equipped ambulances to provide paramedic services in adverse conditions for several hours. His willingness to go above and beyond in times of need is remarkable. Furthermore, Mark is an active member of the Peer Support Team and has shown great dedication to the well-being and mental health of his colleagues. He has provided care for the First Responder community without expecting recognition or compensation. His selflessness and commitment to helping others is truly admirable. In summary, Mark Barahura embodies the qualities of a dedicated and passionate paramedic. His caring nature, extensive knowledge, and commitment to the profession, coworkers, and community make him highly deserving of the Star of Life award. 🌟

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Gillian Bethoney
EMT
*Medic Ambulance
Service, Inc.*

Born and raised in Sacramento, **Gillian Bethoney** has always felt a profound connection to the city and an inherent call to help others. Her journey towards the medical field began in earnest following her grandmother's emergency six-way heart bypass surgery, an event that deeply influenced her career path. After completing high school, Gillian pursued higher education at UC Davis, where she earned a degree in human development and a minor in psychology, with a particular interest in trauma-related studies.

She volunteered at the UC Davis Medical Center NICU and with the American Red Cross for seven years. Gillian's experience as an EMT has been invaluable, cherishing every patient interaction and seizing every opportunity to learn and improve her skills. She prides herself on providing high-quality patient care and adopting a comprehensive approach to each case. Currently, she is preparing to apply to physician assistant (PA) school, aiming to further her ability to make a significant impact in healthcare. Outside of her professional pursuits, Gillian enjoys reading, painting, baking, traveling, and spending time with her loved ones, enriching her life with diverse experiences and hobbies. We are honored to recognize Gillian as Medic Ambulance Sacramento Division EMT of the Year. ✨



Sharra Blanca
Billing Department
*King-American
Ambulance Co.*

Sharra Blanca started in the billing department of King-American Ambulance in 2015. She was hired through a temp agency on a trial basis to fill an open position as a front-end biller. As she began to learn the complexity of our billing system, her ability to quickly learn, adapt, and work with a professional attitude daily did not go unnoticed. She was soon hired as a full-time employee to join our team for the long haul in the billing department. Soon after, Sharra became a certified billing coder and began to play a big part in cross-training new hires in the billing department from front-end to back-end. Sharra is an example of a team player and a team leader because not only does she show commitment, hard work, and dedication with her daily tasks but her positive attitude, willingness, and taking initiative to help her coworkers at any given moment make her a valued employee. Among her many traits, her extensive knowledge of billing makes her an asset to the company. Sharra is a dog mom of a 3-year-old pug named "Fudge." She loves and adores him dearly and she enjoys taking him for walks and playing fetch with him at the beach. She also enjoys spending time with her family and going on spontaneous road trips during her personal time. ✨

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Karen Bombardier
Recruitment and
Retention Manager
AlphaOne Ambulance

In November 2023, AlphaOne Ambulance's Recruitment and Retention Manager, **Karen Bombardier** created an initiative to enable friends and family members or AlphaOne employees to receive free CPR and First Aid Training. The initiative called "CPR For Friends and Families" was the first of its kind for AlphaOne. The initial class was organized by Karen and taught by multiple AlphaOne CPR Instructors and Field Training Officers. The original class had 17 participants. Unbeknownst to Karen, the impact of her "CPR For Friends and Families" initiative would soon hit close to home. One of the initial 17 students in the class was Allen Pena, Karen's husband. Together, Karen and Allen have a young daughter. Fast forward two months, Allen, now certified in CPR and First Aid, was peacefully observing his 7-month-old baby girl at play on the living room carpet. In a heartbeat, the tranquil scene transformed into a crisis when he witnessed his daughter ingest a leaf, no larger than a quarter, and subsequently start to aspirate. In the blink of an eye, she turned blue, unable to breathe and apneic. Drawing upon his CPR training, Allen sprang into immediate action. With a series of well-executed backslaps, he successfully dislodged the obstructing leaf. Color returned to his daughter's face, and her responsiveness normalized. Miraculously, there were no lasting side effects, and today, she is a joyful and healthy 11-month-old. Karen's initiative saved the life of her very own daughter. What an incredible outcome to a truly terrifying situation. Karen's "CPR For Friends and Family" initiative continues and AlphaOne has now equipped twenty people with the skills and abilities to be the difference between life and death. ✨



Michelle Braden
CCT Nurse
NORCAL Ambulance

Throughout NORCAL Ambulance's transformative journey from 50 to over 1000 employees, **Michelle Braden** has weathered every change with unwavering commitment. A trailblazer, she was an integral part of building our Critical Care Transport program, marking a pivotal moment in our healthcare services. Her journey is a testament to perseverance, facing life and health challenges head-on while choosing to dedicate herself to transport nursing. Michelle embraces the demanding role, ensuring her patients, our community partners, and her team receive the care and support they need. Her passion transcends personal adversities, inspiring colleagues and contributing significantly to NORCAL Ambulance's growth. In the fast-paced world of healthcare, she stands as a symbol of resilience, embodying the essence of compassion and commitment. Her unwavering dedication to the Critical Care Transport program at NORCAL Ambulance reflects not just a job, but a calling, making her an essential part of our healthcare family. ✨

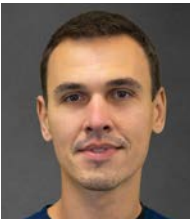
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Dillon Brock
Vice President,
Operations
LifeLine EMS

We are honored to nominate **Dillon Brock**, Vice President of Operations at LifeLine EMS, for the Star of Life Award. Dillon's journey from a passionate paramedic educator to a transformative leader has been marked by his unwavering commitment to enhancing patient care and fostering a culture of continuous improvement within his teams for over 15 years. His professionalism and enthusiasm for teaching shine through in every initiative he leads, notably in his development of advanced clinical protocols and his innovative approach to operational efficiency. Dillon's leadership style is distinguished by his ability to build meaningful connections, guiding the growth of directors and managers, and promoting a unified team ethos aimed at achieving excellence. His contributions have not only elevated LifeLine EMS's service standards but have also strengthened the emergency medical services community in California, making him a deserving candidate for this prestigious recognition. Above all else, he is a Star of Life for the effort and time he takes furthering the industry and pioneering a culture against the status quo. Congratulations Dillon and thank you for all you do. 🌟



Pavel Cherednichenko
CCT RN
*Medic Ambulance
Service, Inc.*

Pavel Cherednichenko is being honored as Medic Ambulance Service RN of the Year! Pavel Cherednichenko, RN, BSN, has been serving as a CCT RN for Medic Ambulance in Sacramento since June 2020. Before stepping into the role of an RN, Pavel was employed by Falck Ambulance as an EMT, dedicating two years to full-time service and another two years part-time while attending nursing school at California State University, Sacramento. During this tenure as an EMT, Pavel gained experience across BLS, ALS, and CCT units. It was while working as a CCT EMT that Pavel discovered a passion for continuing in this field, albeit as a CCT RN. Upon completing nursing school in 2019, Pavel initially took on the role of an ALS RN for Medic Ambulance before transitioning to a CCT RN position. Now, after nearly four years in this role, Pavel continues to find the work deeply fulfilling and engaging, appreciating the constant opportunities for learning and growth that come with the job. 🌟

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Joe Chidley
Director of
Operations (Retired)
*McCormick
Ambulance*

Joe Chidley began his EMS career as an Emergency Medical Technician in 1982, at the age of 18 working for his family's ambulance company. He became a paramedic in 1985, Los Angeles County Certification #P1001. He worked for the private ambulance industry all his life and eventually became a company owner. Joe's family founded McCormick Ambulance in 1962 and participated in a pilot program spearheaded by then County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn which furnished the first Heart Car before the advent of the Wedworth-Townsend Paramedic Act. In 2002, McCormick Ambulance became part of Westmed under the direction of Westmed's Chief Executive Officer, Joe Chidley, and other owners. Under his leadership, the company remained focused on the ideals and values that kept it running strong for over five decades and became one of the major EOA companies providing outstanding EMS transportation services. When Westmed sold to AMR in 2017, Joe remained at McCormick as the Director of Operations until December 31, 2023. Joe always encouraged new EMS providers to continue pursuing careers in medicine, firefighting, law enforcement, and EMS. He fostered strong relationships with public providers in Los Angeles County and the state. After 42 years of outstanding service and leadership to the citizens of Los Angeles County, the CAA extends best wishes to Joe Chidley for a healthy, and prosperous retirement. ✨



Jerome Christensen
EMT
*Medic Ambulance
Service, Inc.*

Jerome Christensen, an EMT with Medic Ambulance, has dedicated six years of service to Solano County, following a year in Napa County. His aspiration to become a paramedic reflects his commitment to further serving the Solano community. Jerome is an active participant in the COACHES program, a peer-to-peer support group, where he focuses on providing support and being a dependable confidant for his colleagues.

Outside of his professional endeavors, Jerome finds joy in spending quality time with his wife and son. He has a passion for photography and travel, exploring new places and capturing the world through his lens. As a sports enthusiast, he cheers for the San Francisco 49ers and the Oakland A's, frequently attending games to support his favorite teams. Having grown up in Northern California, Jerome appreciates the opportunity to work in a region that feels like home. He values being part of a culture and community that prioritizes helping others, finding fulfillment in making a positive impact on the lives he touches. Jerome is being honored as a Star of Life due to his overall outstanding performance at Medic Ambulance and his role in the COACHES Program, our peer-to-peer support group. Jerome is always willing to go the extra mile and takes pride in his part with COACHES. We are lucky to have Jerome as part of the team! Phenomenal work, Jerome! ✨

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Nicholas Coibion
Lead Supervisor
AlphaOne Ambulance

Nicholas Coibion, AlphaOne Ambulance's Lead Supervisor, embarked on his journey with the organization on September 24, 2012, as a wheelchair driver. His ascension through the levels of responsibility paints a narrative of dedication and relentless pursuit of excellence, from a BLS EMT to an ALS EMT, and onward to the positions of Field Training Officer, Lead Field Training Officer, Field Supervisor, and ultimately, Lead Supervisor. In March of 2023, Nick and his wife Natalie were attending the California Ambulance Association's Stars of Life awards ceremony in downtown Sacramento. The evening radiated a palpable aura of honor, pride, and communal celebration, as the EMS community converged to acknowledge outstanding service and commendable EMS personnel. However, it was not merely a night of recognition; it would soon become a moment requiring the same type of action the community was currently celebrating. As the festivities concluded, and most attendees dispersed into the night, Nick and his wife lingered at the hotel valet station. In this seemingly ordinary moment, an emergent event began to unfold before them. Across the street, a man, oblivious to the impending danger, lay beside a bag emitting a copious amount of smoke. Within moments, the smoldering turned to flames, threatening to consume him. Nick, attuned to the urgency, recognized the imminent danger. Without hesitation, Nick went back into the hotel, searching for a fire extinguisher. Hotel staff were not able to provide the location of a fire extinguisher, however Nick eventually found one mounted on a wall. Nick, having located the extinguisher ran back across the road and extinguished the flames that had begun to envelop the disoriented man. Nick's intervention averted a potential loss of human life and spared the individual from severe harm. This act of service exemplifies the vital role off-duty EMS personnel play in safeguarding the public. Nick's rapid and decisive response underscores the profound impact first responders can have, even in their everyday lives. In a world where these unsung heroes stand ever-ready, the safety of the public is fortified, and the reach of the EMS community extends beyond the confines of their official duties. ✨

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Jared Cook
Paramedic
Royal Ambulance

On January 15th, **Jared Cook** and Connor Rothwell were working a PM ALS shift and were dispatched to back-to-back ECHO calls. During the calls, Jared demonstrated unparalleled professionalism and a level of expertise that is truly commendable. His ability to remain calm under pressure and make critical decisions played a pivotal role in saving a life and obtaining ROSC while on scene with a patient. As the patient's condition deteriorated, Connor began CPR, providing lifesaving rescue breaths. The partners' quick thinking enabled a successful transfer to definitive care. Connor & Jared, thank you for your commitment to the well-being of your patients. Your actions were nothing short of heroic and our team is grateful for the selflessness and compassion you displayed. Your continued dedication to EMS has set an inspiring example for your colleagues and serves as a reminder of the importance of the work that you do every day. 🌟

Stop by our table! Learn more about the HAMILTON-T1 transport ventilator



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Benjamin Cozens
Paramedic/FTO
AlphaOne Ambulance

On Thanksgiving Day 2023, Paramedic **Ben Cozens** and his EMT partner Dan Cogan were en route to a routine post move. Prior to their arrival at their post, they witnessed a commotion in the street in front of them. Realizing they had just witnessed a massive vehicle accident, they were faced with a critical incident with screaming bystanders and multiple patients with varying degrees of injury. After triaging the scene, Paramedic Cozens identified an 8-year-old female who had been ejected from a vehicle as the most critical of all patients. After ensuring that additional resources were en route, Paramedic Cozens prepared the most critical patient for transport and began life-saving measures. Unable to establish an adequate airway due to extreme hemorrhaging, Paramedic Cozens made the decision to transport to the closest trauma center. Paramedic Cozens, although managing an extremely critical patient, was able to complete the transport successfully. Knowing that this patient's emergency was still in progress and that the patient needed a more appropriate level of care, Ben, along with the charge nurse at the hospital, immediately contacted AlphaOne dispatch and were able to reroute one of the company's critical care transport teams to this higher priority, rapidly evolving situation. Prior to the Critical Care team's arrival, Paramedic Cozens had thought through potential challenges that could have arisen during transport and had secured one of the hospital's ER physicians to maintain patient care until definitive care was reached. Immediately following the patient's stabilization for transport, the Critical Care team, along with Paramedic Cozens and the ER Physician, initiated transport to definitive care. Throughout transport, Paramedic Cozens and the Critical Care team remained focused on patient care and airway management. Upon arrival at the final receiving facility, a transfer of care was completed, and the patient now had the care they needed. We are proud to say that due to the exceptional life-saving medical treatment and leadership of Paramedic Ben Cozens, a young girl with a potentially life-ending traumatic event, has since made a complete recovery with a full life ahead of her. 🌟

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Erick Cruz
EMT
*Medic Ambulance
Service, Inc.*

As a UC Davis Biochemistry Alumnus, **Erick Cruz** has always harbored a deep love for the sciences. He completed his EMT certification through the UC Davis Fire Department program and has been serving as an EMT for a year and a half. He aspires to pursue a career in Nursing. Under the guidance of Medic Ambulance, Erick has been able to observe and practice skills essential for life-saving measures. Certain positions within Medic have acted as pillars towards his success. He is pleased to share that there has not been a period in his EMS career where he has not deepened his understanding of a topic. Erick's time at Medic Ambulance has enriched him with fond memories of seeing faces filled with relief and smiles of comfort. Erick's coworkers can vouch for his hard work and dedication. He shares this to highlight the sacrifices many first responders make for the community's betterment. The trust of the patients he has had the privilege to serve holds significant importance to him. Like his coworkers, Erick will continue to safeguard lives and strive for excellence in EMS. Erick is being honored as Medic Ambulance Solano Division Co-EMT of the Year and will receive full tuition reimbursement for his Paramedic School. Great Job, Erick! 🌟



Julio Cruz
Operations
Supervisor
LIFEWest

Julio Cruz has been involved in EMS for 11 years. Throughout his career he has served in numerous different positions; EMT, Field Training Officer, and Operations Supervisor. Originally starting in another career path, EMT school really drove him to stay in this profession long-term. The ability to help people in need and help be that positive person in a bad situation really attracted him to keep learning the EMS profession. Julio is passionate about teaching new EMTs as he has been a Field Training Officer (FTO) for the last 7 years. He has embarked on a new role of Operations Supervisor for the last year at LIFEWest. He has experience in just about every phase of EMS from transport, Advanced Life Support-911, Critical Care Transport, and Special Operations. Julio is one of the longer-serving EMTs at LIFEWest where he says some of his most important friendships have come out of. When he isn't staffing an ambulance, you can find Julio at one of Disneyland's parks. 🌟

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Damien Cyphers
Manager of Logistics
LifeLine-EMS

It is with great pride that LifeLine-EMS nominates **Damien Cyphers** for the Star of Life award. Damien's exceptional leadership in EMS is nothing short of inspiring, as evidenced by his unwavering passion, dedication, and support for both our patients and his team members. Damien's commitment to excellence shines through in every aspect of his work. His tireless efforts and willingness to go above and beyond make him an invaluable asset to any organization he serves. Damien's desire to help others is not just a job requirement but a personal mission, driving him to consistently deliver outstanding patient care. His leadership and support create a nurturing environment where team members thrive, ensuring that our patients receive the highest quality of care possible. Damien's presence elevates the EMS field, and his contributions make a profound difference in the lives of those we serve. In recognition of his remarkable leadership and unwavering dedication, LifeLine proudly nominates Damien Cyphers for the Star of Life award. Damien's passion and commitment embody the very essence of excellence in EMS, and we are incredibly fortunate to have him as part of our team. ✨



Andrew Davalos
Paramedic
*American Medical
Response*

Andrew Davalos is a seasoned paramedic who was first on the scene of a traffic collision with a wrong-way driver on a freeway. Andrew and his partner triaged the situation and ran two separate full arrests (one being pediatric) while waiting for other 911 providers to arrive in front of hundreds of cars watching the scene unfold. Due to their swift actions, calm composure, and expert care, most patients survived with good outcomes. Andrew has been a paramedic for five years in the Rancho Cucamonga Division of AMR. Andrew sees a lot of tough situations and dynamic critical calls. He is always calm and decisive in his actions. ✨

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Richard Davis
Paramedic
NORCAL Ambulance

Rich Davis joined NORCAL Ambulance in 2016 as an EMT and had taken on various roles, such as ALS FTO and Lead FTO, before becoming a Paramedic. Rich is being recognized for his kindness and compassion, as well as for his high work standards. He consistently demonstrates clinical excellence by thoroughly assessing his patients, providing adept pain management, safe transportation of unstable patients, and maintaining meticulous case documentation. Rich treats his patients as though they were family members – with utmost care, dignity, and respect. He is a caregiver even before he is a clinician, which is extremely important in an age of burnout within the healthcare industry. Rich is known for his humility and lack of self-promotion. His integrity, honesty, and diligence make him a model employee. ❄



Joe De La O
EMT
Medic Ambulance
Service, Inc.

Joseph De La O, EMT with Medic Ambulance Solano Division, has a deep passion for working in the medical field, driven by a natural inclination to help those in need. The excitement and urgency of responding to calls are what initially drew him to become an EMT, finding the diversity of the job and the opportunity to interact with various walks of life particularly fulfilling. Throughout his career, Joseph has assisted thousands of patients, a journey that has humbled him and heightened his appreciation for the broad spectrum of individuals involved in emergency services, healthcare, and hospitals. These interactions with some of the greatest people on earth are among the reasons he cherishes his profession. Joseph began his EMT career in 2013, joining Medic in 2014. His initial year was spent on a BLS unit and a nurse unit, followed by working a 24-hour 911 ALS unit in Rio Vista. Since then, he has primarily served on a 12-hour night 911 unit out of Fairfield and Suisun, dedicating himself to being a dependable provider of high-quality service and often volunteering for overtime shifts in various capacities. Outside of his professional life, Joseph's family and friends serve as his foundation, and he values the time spent with them immensely. He also has a love for traveling, camping, touring, and sightseeing. Joe is being honored as Medic Ambulance Solano Division Co-EMT of the Year and will receive full tuition reimbursement for his Paramedic School. Way to go, Joe! ❄

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Sarah Dresser
Paramedic
Hall Ambulance
Service, Inc.

The Hall Ambulance Paramedic of the Year for 2023 is **Sarah Dresser**. The Paramedic of the Year is selected based on the quality of work performed throughout the year. This selection process includes documentation, attendance, extra shifts, advancement, accomplishments, compliments, and peer recognition. They must consistently submit excellent documentation and meet the Company's expectations and core measures. Paramedic Dresser began her career at Hall Ambulance on April 04, 2012, as a member of the maintenance division. In December 2012, she applied for and was accepted to the Hall Ambulance EMT Academy. Dresser set an example for others around her and demonstrated excellent skills as an EMT. She continued to advance in her career at Hall Ambulance when she was selected to begin her paramedic coursework. She started her first shift as a paramedic in January 2018. Dresser has worked in the metropolitan Bakersfield and Western Kern County areas, including the Arvin and Shafter communities. She currently functions as an FTO for the Company, mentoring new EMTs embarking on their career path at Hall Ambulance. Throughout 2023, Paramedic Dresser consistently demonstrated her abilities to function as a paramedic. She worked an additional 15 shifts last year and had nearly perfect attendance, with only one sick call for the year. For 2023, she completed 1,076 calls and received several compliments for outstanding care and no patient complaints. The Quality Assurance Departments regarded her as an excellent example of protocol compliance and outstanding documentation. ✨



Jenna Dutton
EMT
Royal Ambulance

On March 23, 2023, **Jenna Dutton** and her partner were filling in for the BART unit when they were alerted to a passenger in distress by a BART employee. They ran upstairs to the platform while ALS arrived and found an unresponsive passenger. After a thorough assessment, they found the patient to be cyanotic and barely breathing with pinpoint pupils. They immediately administered Naloxone and the patient regained consciousness within seconds. The arriving ALS unit was staffed by a Royal alumni, who noted the lifesaving response and treatment executed by the partners. Thank you, Jenna, we're grateful for your quick thinking and deductive reasoning, our community is a better place with you on duty. ✨

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Ryan Ferguson
Regional Manager
Premier Ambulance

Ryan Ferguson's commitment to emergency medical services is deeply rooted in his love for his community. With a rich background in EMS, Ryan seamlessly coordinates outreach efforts, fosters a vibrant company culture, ensures quality assurance, and spearheads special projects at Premier Ambulance, where he has been a dedicated member for over three years. His unwavering pursuit of excellence shines through in his dedication to enhancing patient care, optimizing EMS operations, and enriching the employee experience. Ryan's leadership and diverse skill set earned him admiration from both colleagues and superiors. Outside of work, Ryan cherishes time with his wife and two daughters, indulging his passion for fitness and outdoor adventures. In every facet of his life, Ryan embodies integrity, compassion, and an unyielding drive to make a positive impact, solidifying his role as a source of inspiration and excellence in the EMS community. ✨



Jason Ford
Paramedic
Medic Ambulance
Service, Inc.

Born and raised in Vacaville, CA, **Jason Ford** has dedicated his career to the emergency services field. Starting as an EMT with Medic Ambulance in 2018, he furthered his qualifications by enrolling in the Sacramento State Paramedic Program. His commitment to public service was evident even before his career with Medic Ambulance began, having attended a Fire Academy in 2017 and served as a Reserve Firefighter for the city of Dixon. Jason's passion lies in caring for and assisting others, a trait that drives him to excel in his role as a Paramedic. He aims to deliver unparalleled care to the community, making a significant, positive impact on everyone he encounters. This commitment to his profession is a testament to his dedication and compassion. Outside of his professional life, Jason cherishes spending quality time with his family, exploring new destinations, and staying active. He is an avid sports fan, relishing the thrill of attending various sporting events. Jason's balance of a demanding career with a fulfilling personal life showcases his ability to manage responsibilities while pursuing his passions. Jason is being honored as a Star of Life for the exceptional job he did managing a critical situation involving an unresponsive nine-month-old overdose patient, quickly administering Narcan. His swift and competent response was instrumental in stabilizing the patient, showcasing his outstanding medical expertise and compassion. Great Job, Jason! ✨

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Julia Goebel
EMT
*Falck Southern
California*

Falck's Managing Director of San Diego has nominated **Julia Goebel** as a Star of Life recipient. Julia is an EMT for Falck San Diego and she is an incredible example of what we should strive for in our profession. Julia is dedicated to improving herself and those around her in many ways. While her primary role is as an EMT, she goes above and beyond to provide effective and efficient care to the people of San Diego. In addition to her work as an EMT, Julia is also a member of Project Heartbeat where she serves as one of the PAD trainers and coordinators. She ensures that those trained by Project Heartbeat are prepared to handle emergencies and have the necessary tools to save lives. One aspect of Julia's work that often goes unnoticed is her role as one of the Peer Support Leads. Not only does she take care of the people of San Diego, but she also prioritizes the well-being of care providers. Julia has sacrificed personal time to address the mental welfare of San Diego First Responders. She is always available, even during odd hours and holidays, to assist those in need. Julia's dedication to our Peer Team has greatly contributed to its effectiveness. 🌟



Mark Groff
Registered Nurse
LifeLine-EMS

Lifeline proudly nominates **Mark Groff** for the Star of Life award, recognizing his exceptional contributions to clinical practice and education. With a distinguished career spanning critical care transport (CCT) and emergency room (ER) settings, Mark exemplifies excellence in every aspect of his work. His profound clinical expertise and adept patient assessment skills have played a pivotal role in saving numerous lives and improving patient outcomes. As an educator, Mark's passion for teaching shines through in his commitment to nurturing the next generation of medical professionals. Through his mentorship and guidance, he inspires others to strive for excellence, perpetuating a legacy of compassionate and competent care. Mark's dedication to professionalism and patient advocacy sets him apart. He approaches each case with empathy, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to providing the highest quality of care. His ability to effectively communicate and build trust fosters collaboration among multidisciplinary teams, ensuring optimal treatment outcomes. In recognition of his outstanding achievements and unwavering commitment to excellence, LifeLine proudly nominates Mark Groff for the Star of Life award. His compassionate approach to patient care and dedication to advancing the field of medicine embody the true spirit of this prestigious honor. Mark's contributions have not only saved lives but also inspired others to do the same, leaving an indelible mark on the healthcare community. 🌟

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Karina Heras
EMT
Falck Southern
California

In the early hours of their shift in Zone 2 Los Angeles County, around 3:00 am, **Karina Heras** encountered an auto vs. pedestrian incident. Upon arrival, Karina and her partner (and fellow Star, Lauren Song) were the first responders to assess the scene, discovering a patient with severe traumatic injuries. Without hesitation, they sprang into action, conducting a rapid yet thorough assessment of the patient's condition and initiating necessary medical interventions. Their quick thinking and decisive actions played a crucial role in stabilizing the patient. Their efficiency didn't go unnoticed as they seamlessly coordinated with the arriving fire department, ensuring a smooth transition of care. By the time the fire engine and squad reached the scene, Lauren and Karina had already begun the process of loading the patient into the ambulance. Their seamless teamwork and collaboration with the medics facilitated the swift transportation of the patient to the nearest trauma center with positive results for the patient. It's an honor to acknowledge and commend Karina Heras for her outstanding performance, tireless efforts in assisting others, and their steadfast dedication to their duties. Their contributions make a profound difference in the lives of those they serve, and they serve as shining examples within our organization.

Meet Karina Heras, a compassionate and dedicated individual whose journey into the world of emergency medical services (EMS) was deeply influenced by her family's profound commitment to serving their community. Growing up surrounded by a circle of first responders, including firefighters, dispatchers, and law enforcement professionals, Karina developed a deep appreciation for the vital role they played in ensuring public safety and well-being. Inspired by their selflessness and dedication, she felt drawn to follow in their footsteps and make a difference in the lives of others facing medical emergencies. From a young age, Karina's fascination with medicine and the human body drove her to pursue a career in healthcare. Fueling her passion, she embarked on a journey of academic excellence, earning a degree in Health and Human Sciences from the University of Southern California. With her recent graduation marking a significant milestone in her academic journey, Karina's knowledge and skills have been finely honed to meet the challenges of the dynamic field of emergency medicine. Raised in the vibrant city of Los Angeles, Karina's strong ties to her community led her to choose USC, where she embraced opportunities to give back and engage in hands-on learning experiences. Her insatiable curiosity and love for medicine propelled her forward, driving her to explore the complexities of healthcare and the ever-evolving nature of emergency response. In addition to her academic pursuits, Karina has been employed as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) with Falck since September 2022, serving in one of the busiest response areas in Los Angeles County.

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Karina Heras

continued

Through her work on the front lines of emergency medical care, she has demonstrated unwavering dedication and compassion, making a tangible difference in the lives of those in need. Looking toward the future, Karina is poised to take the next step in her career by pursuing a Physician Assistant (PA) program. With plans to apply this fall and hopes of returning to USC, she is excited about the prospect of furthering her education and expanding her impact on patient care. Outside of her professional endeavors, Karina finds joy in spending quality time with her family, engaging in friendly competition on the volleyball court, and maintaining an active lifestyle through daily gym sessions. A true food enthusiast, she delights in exploring new culinary experiences, with Mexican cuisine holding a special place in her heart. With her steadfast commitment to serving others, insatiable thirst for knowledge, and unwavering dedication to excellence, Karina Heras embodies the spirit of a future healthcare leader poised to make a meaningful impact on the lives of those she encounters. Her journey is a testament to the power of passion, perseverance, and the profound influence of family values on shaping one's career path. 🌟



Andres Hernandez
EMT

*King-American
Ambulance Co.*

Andres Hernandez's journey to healthcare was not a direct one. Raised in Brentwood by Maurice and Patricia Hernandez, Andres graduated from Liberty High School. After attending the University of California Riverside for a short period, Andres left the college and began a career as a Visual Instructor for Marching Bands. He spent eight years working with music programs ranging from grade school to college, getting to travel the US every summer. The COVID-19 pandemic changed the course of Andres' life as it did so many others. Moving back to Brentwood with his family, he completed an EMT program and began his new career in August 2020 with Eagle Ambulance. He joined King-American in February 2021, where he proudly serves the community of San Francisco to this day. Healthcare has become a newfound passion for Andres, who plans to earn his Paramedic License. 🌟

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Taylor Hill
Emergency Medical
Technician
LifeLine-EMS

Lifeline proudly nominates **Taylor Hill** for the Star of Life award! Taylor's exemplary performance as an EMT and FTO at LifeLine-EMS, coupled with recent commendations, affirms her as the epitome of what a Star of Life embodies. Taylor's nomination stems from her exceptional qualities as a person and a professional. She consistently demonstrates genuine care and compassion for her patients, alleviating their anxieties and providing comfort in times of distress. Her dedication to her work is evident in her integrity, hard work, and unwavering commitment to excellence. Not only is Taylor a dedicated worker, but she is also a passionate learner who actively seeks opportunities for growth and development. She shares her knowledge and enthusiasm with her trainees, inspiring them to excel in their roles. In every aspect of her work, Taylor maintains a positive and professional attitude, making her a joy to work with for her colleagues. Her infectious positivity creates a conducive and enjoyable working environment for all. Taylor's dedication, passion, and professionalism as an EMT make her a deserving candidate for recognition. Lifeline is honored to nominate Taylor Hill for the Star of Life award, acknowledging her hard work, passion, and outstanding contributions to the EMS field. ✨

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Colton Hines
EMT-B
*Medic Ambulance
Service, Inc.*

Colton Hines embarked on a journey as a Volunteer Firefighter with Ukiah Valley Fire Authority in 2017, motivated by a motorcycle accident involving a friend. During his time as a volunteer, he developed a keen interest in the medical aspects of EMS which led him to pursue further education in this field. In 2019, he earned his EMT-B certification from Mendocino College. His first position in the EMS field was with Amphibious Medics in San Francisco, where he served as an Onsite EMT at construction sites. His career path then led him to Sonoma County, where he performed interfacility transfers (IFTs) and discovered a preference for the high-octane environment of the 911 system. This revelation prompted him to join an ambulance service in Santa Rosa, in collaboration with Sonoma County Fire District, which eventually led to his current role with Medic Ambulance in the Sonoma Division in May of 2022.

Hines's career has taught him that working in EMS can be both immensely rewarding and challenging. However, he acknowledges the importance of having a strong support system to thrive in such a demanding field. His family has been a cornerstone of support, pushing him to exceed his perceived limits and supporting him every step of the way. His wife, in particular, has been a pillar of strength, supporting him through new hobbies such as blacksmithing, cooking, snowboarding, and archery, and providing comfort after long shifts. Hines also credits his workplace for providing a supportive environment, highlighting the value of working alongside colleagues who are not only partners on the job but also loyal friends outside of work. This camaraderie has made challenging days more manageable and enjoyable days even better. Colton is being honored for his quick thinking and skilled response to a cardiac arrest patient. While arriving within two minutes of the call, Colton and his partner Todd were able to administer lifesaving cardiac medications and defibrillations while successfully achieving ROSC in the field. The patient later walked out of the hospital with no deficits. Excellent work, Colton! 🌟

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Justin Hoffer
Assistant Chief Pilot
Reach Air Medical

In the early morning of August 28, Chantel McManus, flight nurse, Brian Smith, flight paramedic, and **Justin Hoffer**, pilot, at CALSTAR 4 in Ukiah were dispatched to rendezvous with a ground provider at a nearby hospital's helipad. The dispatch information stated that they would be responding to a burn patient of unknown age or weight. On arrival at the LZ, they contacted ground EMS and discovered their patient was an eight-year-old girl rescued from a house fire by a neighbor. The patient had superficial, partial, and full-thickness burns to approximately 70% of her body. The only areas spared were the parts of her body that were shielded by her mother as she was being carried. They realized that expeditious care and transport for this young girl to a burn center was the priority and would make the greatest impact on her survival. They made patient contact and were airborne en route within five minutes. Chantel, Brian, and Justin displayed extraordinary decision-making, care, and compassion for this young girl during their time with her. She was premedicated to ease IV placement, medicated for pain, and given warmed fluids during transport. They also provided much-needed emotional support for this injured and frightened child. ✿



Peter Jacoby
Paramedic
Supervisor
*King-American
Ambulance Co.*

Peter Jacoby started his path in EMS in 2002, inspired to join this career when he was witness to the atrocities of 9/11. He went through a fire academy in Redding, California while volunteering at a local fire department, completing his EMT basic. While out on his ride-along, he realized that being a paramedic was his true calling. Peter moved back to his hometown of Oakland, California, and attended Paramedic School. Upon obtaining his Medic license in 2007, he was hired at King-American Ambulance Co. and proudly works there to this day. In 2012, he was promoted to Paramedic Supervisor. Peter has mentored both Paramedics and EMTs in their careers to become successful first responders. Peter additionally works as a Per diem Paramedic for the San Francisco Fire Department and is an Instructor for the EMS program at Napa Valley College. Peter is the husband of Tara Jacoby who is an RN in their hometown of Napa and is the proud father of three young children: Sadie, Cecelia, and Rex. All three are Northwood Eagles and keep the family very busy! Recreationally, Peter is an avid fisherman and loves to spend his time being outdoors with family and friends. ✿

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Jacob Kamm
EMT
*Medic Ambulance
Service, Inc.*

Jacob Kamm works as an EMT for Medic Ambulance. He was born and raised in Benicia, California, and has a profound love for the outdoors, engaging in activities like snowboarding in the winter and mountain biking and hiking in the summer. Jacob is also dedicated to volunteering in his community. Before college, he devoted a significant amount of time to shelter animals at the Vallejo Humane Society and shared his passion for soccer by volunteering with special needs children as part of TOP Soccer in Benicia. Jacob's journey into EMS began with a ride-along with the Vallejo Fire Department. This experience left him enamored with the profession. He pursued his education at Solano Community College, where he was inspired by amazing professors and earned a degree in Fire Science, setting him on his career path. His first job in the EMS field was with a transport company, which led him to join Medic Ambulance to further develop his skills and gain experience in the 911 system. Jacob aspires to become a nurse and ultimately aims to be a flight nurse, continuing to expand his expertise and impact in the field of emergency care. Jacob is being honored as a Star of Life for the exceptional job he did managing a critical situation involving an unresponsive nine-month-old overdose patient. His swift and competent response was instrumental in stabilizing the patient, demonstrating his profound medical skills. Great Job, Jacob! 🌟



Natasha Kent
Dispatcher/FTO
*Medic Ambulance
Service, Inc.*

When most hear "10-19," it symbolizes the end of their shift, but for **Natasha Kent**, it marks the beginning. Natasha embarked on her journey with Medic as a dispatcher on October 19, 2018. Over the years, she has witnessed numerous changes and substantial growth within Medic. A few years into her role as a dispatcher, her interest in becoming a shop steward grew. She had the privilege of collaborating on the most recent contract and has learned a great deal. Another milestone in Natasha's career as a dispatcher was becoming a Field Training Officer (FTO). This achievement stands out as one of her greatest, as it allows her to guide other dispatchers towards success. For her hard work and dedication, Natasha is being honored as Medic Ambulance Service Dispatcher of the Year! 🌟

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Zachary Kim
FTO/EMT
*Falck Southern
California*

While serving five years at Falck Southern California in Orange County, **Zach Kim** has demonstrated his commitment to providing exceptional care to those in need. Zach also has served as a Field Training Officer for approximately three years, sharing his knowledge and expertise with new recruits. In addition to his role as an EMT/FTO, Zach has been working as a firefighter in Arrowbear Lake, CA for the past one-and-a-half years. His dedication and bravery in this role contribute to the safety and well-being of the community. Two years ago, Zach joined the Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) team, which focuses on providing support to emergency responders after challenging incidents. In a recent debriefing session, Zach had the opportunity to guide and console four EMTs who had experienced the emotional toll of a stillbirth call at a midwifery. Through his empathetic approach and ability to defuse the situation, Zach encouraged the EMTs, highlighting the importance of their work and acknowledging their efforts despite the difficult circumstances and outcome of the call. Outside of his professional life, Zach finds joy in spending time with his beautiful, amazing, and supportive wife, as well as their families. These connections allow him to recharge and find balance amidst the demands of his career. Together, they enjoy engaging in physical activities, whether it's hitting the gym or exploring the outdoors. Zach Kim is a dedicated and compassionate individual. His commitment to his profession, coupled with his ability to provide emotional support to his colleagues, sets him apart as a valuable asset in the field. With a strong support system and a passion for leading a fulfilling life outside of work, Zach continues to make a positive impact on those around him. ✨

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Shawn Kipers
Paramedic
Medic Ambulance
Service, Inc.

Shawn Kipers is a Paramedic for Medic Ambulance in Solano County. He has been in the medical field since 2011, starting out in BLS IFT. Once he became a Paramedic in 2016, he began working for Medic Ambulance. Shawn has always aspired to be a Paramedic, a dream that took root when he realized his height limited his prospects in professional sports. His father, a Paramedic Firefighter for Contra Costa County, retired due to an injury around the time Shawn was born but always spoke highly of the profession, sharing many stories that inspired Shawn. Shawn loves helping people and is known for his infectious personality. He acknowledges his intelligence and proficiency in medicine, but what truly sets him apart is his bedside manner and ability to connect. Known for his humor and laid-back attitude, Shawn possesses a unique skill that allows him to connect with people during their worst moments, bringing them a sense of calm, humor, and understanding that puts everyone at ease. The ability to make someone smile and laugh on their worst day is what he finds most rewarding. Shawn also loves the diversity of his job, enjoying the opportunity to be out in the world doing work that changes daily. Shawn and his partner Christian exhibited exceptional teamwork and medical expertise during a cardiac arrest call, administering the necessary medications efficiently. Their coordinated efforts were crucial in achieving Return of Spontaneous Circulation (ROSC) upon arrival at the hospital, showcasing their dedication and skill in emergency care. Great work, Shawn! 🌟



Ben Krauskopf
Paramedic
Medic Ambulance
Service, Inc.

Ben Krauskopf began his career in EMS as a volunteer firefighter EMT with Bodega Bay Fire in 2018, finding immense satisfaction and a sense of purpose in serving his community. He then decided to fulfill a lifelong goal of serving his country in the U.S. Army. While serving with the 10th Mountain Division as a Combat Medic, Ben attended paramedic school and subsequently transitioned from active duty. Upon returning home to Sonoma County, he began working full-time as a Paramedic for Medic Ambulance in partnership with Sonoma County Fire EMS. Currently, Ben still works as a paramedic, volunteers as a firefighter, and is pursuing a bachelor's degree. He aspires to obtain his Critical Care Flight certification and Tactical Paramedic certification while continuing to learn and advance in his profession finding his niche in EMS. Ben is being honored as a Star of Life for his role in the care of a cardiac arrest patient. Administering cardiac medications and recognizing the need for Narcan, Ben's and his partner Colin's quick actions led to a successful field resuscitation (ROSC). Way to go, Ben! 🌟

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Kim Landes
EMT
*Medic Ambulance
Service, Inc.*

Kimberly Landes embarked on her EMT career in March of 2021 following a life-altering event when her mother suffered a near-fatal heart attack. At the time, feeling helpless and unsure of how to assist, she was motivated to delve into prehospital emergency medicine to ensure she could handle critical situations in the future. After two years at Medic Ambulance, Kim ascended to the role of Field Training Officer, a position through which she has deeply valued the chance to contribute to the training of future EMTs. Additionally, Kim serves as an Assistant Lab Instructor for the EMT/EMR classes at Solano Community College, where she takes pride in mentoring students during their course and beyond. This role is particularly meaningful to her, as it echoes the start of her own journey in emergency medicine. Looking ahead, Kim is determined to advance her career by joining Sacramento State's Paramedic Program in the Fall of 2024. Outside of her professional life, Kim cherishes time spent with friends and family and enjoys snowboarding on the slopes of North Lake Tahoe. Kim is being honored as a Star of Life for her role in a STEMI patient who deteriorated into Cardiac Arrest. Due to her and her partners' quick actions, they were able to safely transport the patient to a Cardiac STEMI center where she received definitive care. Upon arrival at the hospital, the patient was awake and answering questions. Way to go, Kim! 🌟



Congratulations to all the Stars of Life!



FALCK

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Heather Lee
Assistant Manager
Hall Ambulance
Service, Inc.

Mr. Hall created the Founder's Award to recognize someone from the Management Team who exemplifies the "Hall Way" and his ideals of Care, Compassion, and Community, day in and day out.

This year's recipient, **Heather Lee**, has distinguished herself through her dedication to Hall Ambulance, the "Hall Way," and Care, Compassion, and Community. Lee started her career with Hall Ambulance in June 2005 when she enrolled in the Hall EMT Academy. A short time later, Hall Ambulance sponsored her to attend paramedic training. In April 2014, she took over scheduling for the Ambulance Division. Her always-happy approach to scheduling led Mr. Hall to promote her to Assistant Manager for Scheduling in September 2016. Managing the schedule for a 24/7/365 business is very demanding. Vacations, sick leave, leaves of absence, and employee certifications consume time, energy, and emotion. Lee leads Team Scheduling with a smile, and her commitment to Care, Compassion, and Community is visible throughout her team. In addition to her regular duties, Lee's scheduling team also handles supporting community events, such as walks, runs, school visits, book readings, and toy drives. She and her team frequently flex their schedules to make the special events work. Lee's alter ego, Siren the Rescue Dog, appears at numerous community events, including a heavy schedule of parades throughout Hall Ambulance's service areas. Throughout the pandemic, Lee led Team Scheduling and ran ambulance calls. All summer and all winter for three years, she was right there next to the other managers, filling in to cover staffing shortages. An example of Heather's true compassion for others can be found during a trip to the grocery store while off-duty. As she was leaving the store, she encountered an elderly woman who needed assistance getting her groceries taken out and loaded into her car. Without hesitation, Lee jumped in and lent a hand to the senior citizen. Lee's enthusiasm is infectious, her commitment to the "Hall Way" unwavering, and her deep belief in Care, Compassion, and Community is always on display. 🌟

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Daniela "Amy" Lepe
EMT
ProTransport-1

Amy Lepe started working for ProTransport-1 in 2022 at our Rancho Cordova station as our SST and quickly became an invaluable member of our team. While excelling at her duties and responsibilities keeping our fleet in compliance and field-ready, Amy started to show an interest in becoming an EMT herself. With the help and support of the entire Rancho Cordova family, Amy took the leap in her EMS career and jumped feet first into it by enrolling in an EMT program. Through hard work and study groups with PT-1 EMTs, Amy successfully passed her class as well as the NREMT. Amy is now employed by PT-1 as an EMT, providing the same care and dedication to her patients as she did with the crews with whom she now works alongside with. We are so blessed to have been witness to how hard she worked at becoming a medical professional and making her dream become a reality. ✨



Joseph Macasa
RN
Royal Ambulance

Nick Pepin and **Joseph Macasa** are being honored for their exceptional contributions to the on-scene care provided to a gunshot victim. On November 9, 2023, at 1800 hours, Nicholas and Joseph were en route to pick up an inter-facility call from Contra Costa Regional Medical Center. In Richmond, they were flashed down by a CHP Officer & Richmond PD who needed medical assistance. Upon arrival, the team noticed the 26-year-old patient was experiencing agonal gasps and had lost considerable blood from the posterior midline of his head, seemingly caused by a gunshot wound. Nicholas Pepin began applying pressure, transferred bleeding control to his partner, and began extrication attempts via backboard, under the instruction of Joseph Macasa. Once they extricated the patient, Nicholas began manual ventilation via bag-valve-mask. After 15 minutes on scene, The Richmond Fire Department arrived and began assisting with an assessment of the patient's cardiac rhythm and preparing for CPR. Joseph obtained and maintained vitals and patient care management as they packaged and transferred the patient over to the Richmond Fire Department's gurney. He maintained patient care en route to a field landing zone. Upon their arrival, the flight crew successfully performed RSI on the patient, pushing a Ketamine IV via access that Joseph obtained early in the call. They rapidly transferred the patient to their helicopter and transported him via flight. Joseph and Nicholas's quick thought, leadership, and action had an immense impact on this patient's chances for survival after a severe incident. ✨

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Tim Mandel
EMT-FTO
ProTransport-1

Tim Mandel has been a vital part of the ProTransport family since September 7, 2010, serving as an EMT with dedication and heart. Over the years, Tim has become a trusted and respected member of our team, representing the values of compassion, teamwork, and integrity. Tim's commitment to providing both Basic Life Support and Advanced Life Support reflects his passion for helping others in their time of need. He is known for his kindness and willingness to go the extra mile for his colleagues, always lending a hand with a warm smile and genuine care. As a true team player, Tim brings people together and creates a supportive environment where everyone feels valued and respected. His big heart and personal touch make a difference in the lives of those he encounters, both patients and coworkers alike. Having had the privilege of knowing Tim for quite some time, I can confidently say that he embodies the spirit of the Star of Life award. His persistent dedication, compassion, and integrity make him a shining example within our organization. Tim Mandel is truly deserving of this recognition for his outstanding contributions to our team and community. ✨



Jason "Jay" Martin
Paramedic
*King-American
Ambulance Co.*

Jason "Jay" Martin has been a paramedic at King-American Ambulance Co. for eight years. He is also the primary shop steward for King-American with Teamsters Local 2785. Jay is a true family man: a loyal son, a loving husband, and an active father to two young children, Otis (seven years old) and Arturo (five years old). Jay is respected among his colleagues as a mentor and for providing quality medical care and compassion to people from all walks of life. He finds joy in outdoor adventures with friends and family. ✨

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Jessica Martinez
Dispatcher
American Ambulance

Jessica Martinez received the distinction of being named the 9-1-1 Dispatcher of the Year for 2023. The award represents her dedication to the communities we serve and her excellent work in challenging and often trying circumstances. 9-1-1 Dispatchers are the first, first responders. She processes calls for Ambulances and Fire apparatus in a system that handles over 325,000 incidents annually. She is knowledgeable and precise with details, having an incredible ability to manage the seemingly unending demands of the busy PSAP center in the Central Valley. Additionally, Jessica has served as an exceptional Training Officer for our new Dispatchers, passing on her professionalism and passion for the job to the next generation. Jessica is straightforward, easy to work with, and highly respected by her peers.

Jessica began her EMS career with American Ambulance in 2007. "The feeling that you get after finding someone that doesn't know where they are and being able to calm someone down once they hear help is on the way after they just dealt with probably the scariest moment in their life is indescribable. You were the answer to someone's prayer in their darkest hour." Her advice to someone considering a career in EMS is, "If you feel like you have a calling to help others and are thick-skinned, this is the right career. Knowing you can make a difference in someone's life makes it all worth it at the end of the day. Be the person you would want your mom, dad, or daughter talking to if they call 9-1-1. There is a big need for dispatchers." Jessica plans to continue to grow with the company and help others along the way. In her free time, she enjoys gathering with family and friends for camping, concerts, and trips to Vegas, her home away from home. We are honored to recognize Jessica Martinez as American Ambulance's Star of Life. 🌟



Jacob McCall
EMT
San Luis Ambulance

This year, we are proud to recognize EMT **Jacob McCall** as our Star of Life for his exceptional dedication and accomplishments in EMS. Jacob has displayed outstanding service in various capacities over the past year, demonstrating his versatility and commitment to EMS, his patients, and his coworkers. As a Training Officer, he has significantly bolstered the skills and knowledge of our field staff, ensuring their readiness to deliver exceptional patient care. Jacob has also served as a probationary test skills proctor, instructor for EVOC, 4x4 ambulance training and skills, and recently joined the Critical Incident Stress Team (CIST). His contributions are instrumental in upholding the standards that San Luis Ambulance strives for. Jacob is currently enrolled in Paramedic school at Cuesta College, poised to make an even greater impact in serving our community. We are very proud of Jacob for his remarkable contributions throughout the year. His dedication to patient care, training, empathy, and collaboration is an inspiration to many, and we are privileged to count him as a member of our family. 🌟

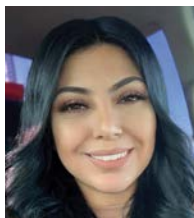
STARS OF LIFE

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Chantel McManus
Flight Nurse
Reach Air Medical

In the early morning of August 28, **Chantel McManus**, flight nurse, Brian Smith, flight paramedic, and Justin Hoffar, pilot, at CALSTAR 4 in Ukiah were dispatched to rendezvous with a ground provider at a nearby hospital's helipad. The dispatch information stated that they would be responding to a burn patient of unknown age or weight. On arrival at the LZ, they made contact with ground EMS and discovered their patient was an eight-year-old girl rescued from a house fire by a neighbor. The patient had superficial, partial, and full-thickness burns to approximately 70% of her body. The only areas spared were the parts of her body that were shielded by her mother as she was being carried. They realized that expeditious care and transport for this young girl to a burn center was the priority and would make the greatest impact on her survival. They made patient contact and were airborne en route within five minutes. Chantel, Brian, and Justin displayed extraordinary decision-making, care, and compassion for this young girl during their time with her. She was premedicated to ease IV placement, medicated for pain, and given warmed fluids during transport. They also provided much-needed emotional support for this injured and frightened child. ✱



Maria Mendoza
Dispatch Lead
Protransport-1

We are nominating **Maria Mendoza** for the Stars of Life Award in recognition of her hard work, dedication, and service. Maria has been with ProTransport-1 for 10 years and she has grown into an exceptional leader. As a Lead in the Communications Center, she has been instrumental in coaching and training the next generation of dispatchers, ensuring that they are well-prepared to meet the challenges of this field. Her leadership and dedication make her an exemplary candidate for this award, reflecting the true spirit and values of our EMS community. ✱

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David Munoz
Division Chief
LifeLine-EMS

Lifeline is delighted to nominate Division Chief **David Munoz** for the Star of Life award! David's steadfast dedication to first response throughout his career sets him apart as a true beacon of excellence within our organization. Throughout his tenure with LifeLine-EMS, David has exemplified exceptional leadership, professionalism, and an unwavering commitment to our team's success. His "I'm here for it" mentality serves as a source of inspiration to all who have the privilege of working alongside him. Even in the face of adversity, David's calm demeanor and steadfast resolve have instilled confidence within our team and inspired others to perform at their best. His commitment to progress and innovation drives our organization forward, pushing the boundaries of what is possible and ensuring our continued success. David's care and compassion extend beyond the workplace, touching the lives of team members, patients, and the community at large. His recent growth and development are a testament to his dedication to the EMS field and our organization's mission. In summary, Division Chief Munoz embodies the qualities of a Star of Life award recipient, and his nomination for this prestigious award is richly deserved. LifeLine is honored to have David as part of our team, and we wholeheartedly support his nomination for the Star of Life award. ✨



Dylan Myers
Paramedic
NORCAL Ambulance

Dylan Myers has passionately served NORCAL Ambulance for over six years, showcasing an unwavering commitment to emergency medical care. Currently serving as Kaiser Santa Clara NICU/PICU Lead FTO, Dylan plays a pivotal role in training and guiding fellow EMTs. His expertise extends to being an AOC instructor, contributing significantly to the growth of aspiring emergency medical professionals. Dylan's heroism earned him recognition from Santa Clara County when he bravely rescued a patient from a burning vehicle and administered life-saving CPR. Beyond his exceptional skills, Dylan is known for his kindness wherever he goes. His compassionate nature and exceptional service make him a respected figure in the field, embodying the true spirit of an EMT dedicated to saving lives and making a positive impact in the community. ✨

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Mark Nazaradeh
CCT-RN
ProTransport-1

Mark Nazaradeh has been with PT-1 since October 2022. During Mark's onboarding process, he learned very quickly and spent many extra hours practicing an expanded scope of practice skills that were not skills used during his time working in the Emergency Department and ICU. Mark hit the ground running and hasn't slowed down at all during his time here at PT-1. Mark is always willing to work extra to help patients. He is usually the first to volunteer to take long-distance transports, hold over to run that one last call, and comes in almost immediately when he's called upon. When he is not working, Mark enjoys fishing and camping. Mark always gives his best to every patient he comes in contact with and he strives for excellence in all that he does. 🌸



James Nickell
Operations Manager
AMR-Shasta

While on duty for what should have been a typical night on the job, **James Nickell**, Nathaniel Zambrana, and Jenesa Prater responded to a cardiac arrest in progress. They arrived on scene to attempt resuscitation on one of their own, a colleague, and friend. James, Nathaniel, and Jenesa spent the remainder of the night in the hospital by the family's side. The crew also continued to show support to the family over the next two weeks through emotional support and meal trains. 🌸

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Todd Nuss
Operations
Supervisor
Medic Ambulance
Service, Inc.

Todd Nuss was born and raised in Santa Rosa and later attended Santa Rosa Junior College. His EMS career began in 2011 when he first attended EMT school at the same college, returning in 2017 to receive his Paramedic license. While attending EMT school, he also obtained a lifeguard certification through the American Red Cross and worked as a lifeguard in multiple places. He has been fortunate enough to work in EMS across five different counties in the Bay Area, experiencing a variety of EMS systems. Currently, Todd is employed as an Operations Supervisor for Medic Ambulance. He started as a supervisor in Solano County and then returned to his hometown to serve as a supervisor for Sonoma County. Throughout his career, Todd has worked in a variety of roles including with SWAT teams, as a solo paramedic on a Sheriff's boat, as a Field Training Officer, teaching both Paramedics and EMTs, lifeguarding, instructing CPR, functioning as a paramedic preceptor, and deploying on numerous strike teams. He is passionate about EMS because he believes in the immense opportunities it presents for making a difference not only in patients' lives but also in the broader community. Todd constantly encourages those around him to seize the opportunities for growth, learning, and teaching in the field.

When not working, Todd is busy with his wife raising their two children. He also cares for three dogs, a cat, and a horse. Todd enjoys spending time outdoors, especially camping, often sleeping under the stars in just a sleeping bag. He also likes hiking and swimming. A big fan of baseball and hockey, he enjoys watching the San Francisco Giants and the San Jose Sharks. Todd is being honored for his quick thinking and skilled response to a cardiac arrest patient. While arriving within two minutes of the call, Todd and his partner Colton were able to administer lifesaving cardiac medications and defibrillations while successfully achieving ROSC in the field. The patient later walked out of the hospital with no deficits. Exceptional Work! 🌟

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Konnor Pacheco
Manager of
Performance
Improvement
LifeLine-EMS

LifeLine is thrilled to announce **Konnor Pacheco**'s nomination for the Star of Life award! Over his years with us, Konnor has exemplified the epitome of excellence and innovation within our organization. From his impressive contributions to team morale and marketing enhancement to his pioneering role in the award-winning Safety-365 program, Konnor's creativity knows no bounds. His inquisitive and detail-oriented approach has led to remarkable problem-solving skills, benefiting LifeLine immensely. As Manager of the Performance Improvement Department, Konnor's journey from EMT to Supervisor to Manager reflects his unwavering commitment to personal and professional growth. His visionary mindset challenges the status quo, driving efficiency and effectiveness organization wide. Konnor's impact extends far beyond his department, fostering a culture of continuous learning and growth. His dedication and tireless efforts make him an indispensable asset to our team. We are truly fortunate to have Konnor Pacheco among us, and his nomination for the Star of Life award is richly deserved. ✨



Chris Parker
Paramedic-FTO
ProTransport-1

Chris Parker came to us with years of experience but didn't let that get in the way of him consistently giving 110% effort in his day-to-day activities. He humbly offers up assistance and ideas to new EMTs daily and offers to assist operations in any way he can. While there is always an expectation to deliver a certain level of patient care, Chris's advocacy for his patients is what really stands out. It's not always easy to decide to do more work for what is right, but Chris really does go above and beyond for his patients and thinks of the long-term effects of his decisions and plans accordingly for the best outcome for them. ✨



**Marlon Jerick
Payumo**
EMT
Royal Ambulance

On July 18, 2023, as they arrived at Seton Medical Center for an inter-facility transfer, **Marlon Jerick Payumo** heard an RN calling for assistance in a patient room. He entered the patient's room, noticed that the patient was experiencing a cardiac arrest, and assisted with CPR. After roughly two minutes of the RN performing CPR, MJ traded positions with her and began performing compressions. His partner, Paul Gabriel Aragon, started helping with the preparation work for the team, spiking bags, cleaning the area, and assisting with preparation. After multiple rounds of compressions, the team was able to achieve ROSC on the patient. Marlon and Paul Gabriel's attention to detail, decisiveness, and actions were instrumental in the successful resuscitation of this patient. We celebrate their actions and contributions to the community here today. ✨

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Allen Pena
Father/Family
Member
AlphaOne Ambulance

On November 22, 2023, **Allen Pena** found himself thrust into an unforeseen life-or-death scenario right in the heart of his own living room. Thankfully, Allen had equipped himself for such unexpected challenges just two months prior. He had actively participated in AlphaOne Ambulance's first "CPR For Friends and Families" event, a specialized initiative aimed at providing free CPR and First Aid certifications to friends and family members of AlphaOne Ambulance employees. In a cohort of 17 participants, Allen immersed himself in the training. Fast forward two months, Allen, now certified in CPR and First Aid, was peacefully observing his seven-month-old baby girl at play on the living room carpet. In a heartbeat, the tranquil scene transformed into a crisis when he witnessed his daughter ingest a leaf, no larger than a quarter, and subsequently start to aspirate. In the blink of an eye, she turned blue, unable to breathe and apneic. Drawing upon his CPR training, Allen sprang into immediate action. With a series of well-executed backslaps, he successfully dislodged the obstructing leaf. Color returned to his daughter's face, and her responsiveness normalized. Miraculously, there were no lasting side effects, and today, she is a joyful and healthy 11-month-old. Allen's swift response and adept recall of his training transformed what could have been a dire situation into a life-saving memory. His heroic actions stand as a testament to the profound impact of preparedness and training in the face of unexpected emergencies. 🌟



Anthony Pena
EMT
*Hall Ambulance
Service, Inc.*

Anthony Pena is the Hall Ambulance EMT of the Year for 2023. The EMT of the Year is selected based on the quality of work performed throughout the year. This selection process includes documentation, attendance, extra shifts, advancement, accomplishments, compliments, and peer recognition. EMT Pena began his career at Hall Ambulance on May 26, 2020. After his training, he primarily worked in the Bakersfield area, and then, in December 2020, he moved to the East Kern Division. He works at the Mojave station on the B shift, serves as an FTO, and has trained several new EMTs in East Kern this year.

East Kern Supervisors always compliment EMT Pena on his teamwork and commitment to his work. He is reliable and works hard. He provides excellent patient care and is willing to help the community and Company in any way he can. Over the last year, EMT Pena worked an additional 14 shifts. His positive attitude earned him 14 compliments from supervisors and coworkers, ranking high among EMTs and Paramedics. He shows up to his scheduled shifts ready to work and rarely misses a day. 🌟

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Nick Pepin
EMT
Royal Ambulance

Nick Pepin and Joseph Macasa are being honored for their exceptional contributions to the on-scene care provided to a gunshot victim. On November 9, 2023, at 1800 hours, Nicholas and Joseph were en route to pick up an inter-facility call from Contra Costa Regional Medical Center. In Richmond, they were flashed down by a CHP Officer & Richmond PD who needed medical assistance. Upon arrival, the team noticed the 26-year-old patient was experiencing agonal gasps and had lost considerable blood from the posterior midline of his head, seemingly caused by a gunshot wound. Nicholas Pepin began applying pressure, transferred bleeding control to his partner, and began extrication attempts via backboard, under the instruction of Joseph Macasa. Once they extricated the patient, Nicholas began manual ventilation via bag-valve-mask. After 15 minutes on scene, The Richmond Fire Department arrived and began assisting with an assessment of the patient's cardiac rhythm and preparing for CPR. Joseph obtained and maintained vitals and patient care management as they packaged and transferred the patient over to the Richmond Fire Department's gurney. He maintained patient care en route to a field landing zone. Upon their arrival, the flight crew successfully performed RSI on the patient, pushing a Ketamine IV via access that Joseph obtained early in the call. They rapidly transferred the patient to their helicopter and transported him via flight. Joseph and Nicholas's quick thought, leadership, and action had an immense impact on this patient's chances for survival after a severe incident. 🌟

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**Anthony
Phavorachith**
Paramedic
LifeLine-EMS

LifeLine proudly nominates **Anthony Phavorachith** for the esteemed Star of Life award. With an extensive tenure as a paramedic, Anthony has saved numerous lives and has consistently prioritized the well-being of his patients throughout his distinguished career. His recent promotion to Field Training Officer (FTO) is a testament to his unwavering dedication and commitment to both our team and our mission. Throughout his tenure, Anthony has displayed unparalleled excellence in patient care and professionalism. His steadfast commitment to delivering the highest standard of care to every individual he encounters is truly commendable and sets a remarkable example for his peers. Anthony's elevation to the role of FTO underscores his exceptional leadership qualities and exceptional ability to foster teamwork. His positive demeanor and unwavering support for his colleagues make him an invaluable member of our team, earning him widespread respect and admiration as an exceptional partner. In essence, Anthony Phavorachith's steadfast dedication, excellence in patient care, remarkable teamwork, and uplifting attitude render him a deserving candidate for the Star of Life award. Lifeline is privileged to have Anthony as a cornerstone of our team, and we enthusiastically endorse his nomination for this prestigious accolade. ✨



Brady Polchow
Paramedic/Field
Training Officer
Premier Ambulance

Brady Polchow exemplifies firm dedication and professionalism in his role, tirelessly striving to ensure that his fellow paramedics receive top-notch training and equipment. As a true team player, he embodies the "can do" attitude essential to exceptional patient care. Brady's commitment to going above and beyond extends not only to his patients but also to his peers, making him a highly valued member of Premier's CCT and ALS programs. With meticulous attention to detail, he has devoted countless hours to organizing and enhancing the supply system, and streamlining processes based on field feedback to ensure optimal efficiency. Brady's approachable nature and exceptional peer development skills have earned him respect from both colleagues and leadership alike. Beyond the confines of work, Brady finds solace in nature, spending his free time camping and fishing in the High Sierras with his family, further enriching his well-rounded character. Having been with Premier for two years, Brady's exceptional contributions have left an indelible mark on the organization, undoubtedly deserving the Stars of Life award. ✨

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Jenesa Prater
EMT
AMR-Shasta

While on duty for what should have been a typical night on the job, James Nickell, Nathaniel Zambrana, and **Jenesa Prater** responded to a cardiac arrest in progress. They arrived on scene to attempt resuscitation on one of their own, a colleague, and friend. James, Nathaniel, and Jenesa spent the remainder of the night in the hospital by the family's side. The crew also continued to show support to the family over the next two weeks through emotional support and meal trains. 🌟



Jordan Racutt-Foster
SST
Medic Ambulance
Service, Inc.

Jordan Racutt-Foster is being honored as Medic Ambulance Service SST of the Year! Jordan has spent their entire life in Solano County. Pursuing a degree in Biological Sciences at Solano Community College, Jordan embarked on a career journey with Medic in July of 2022, initially joining the team at their Vallejo station before transferring to Sonoma. In their role as an SST, Jordan took great pride in maintaining the units, ensuring that each one was in pristine condition before deployment. Their dedication to keeping everything clean and well-organized reflects a strong commitment to quality and efficiency. Looking ahead, Jordan is excited about the prospect of continuing their journey with Medic and is grateful for the opportunities and support the company has provided. 🌟



Marteena "Teena" Reynoso
Communications
Supervisor
Premier Ambulance

Marteena "Teena" Reynoso has excelled as a Communications Supervisor at Premier Ambulance for nearly 11 years, demonstrating exceptional dedication and professionalism. Teena fosters a positive work environment among dispatch personnel, ensuring seamless coordination between teams. Her effective communication skills have been instrumental in creating a well-coordinated and responsive EMS team, contributing significantly to the organization's success within the EMS system. Beyond her technical prowess, Teena's commitment to continuous professional development underscores her dedication to providing the highest standard of service to the community. Her unwavering commitment to excellence and her positive impact on the communications department make her truly deserving of recognition for her outstanding performance and exemplary service. 🌟

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Colin Roth
EMT
*Medic Ambulance
Service, Inc.*

Colin Roth grew up in Rohnert Park, California, where he currently resides. He attended Rancho Cotate High School and graduated in 2019. Always aspiring to be in EMS, he decided to take an EMT course immediately after high school. From the beginning of the class, he knew that this was his calling. Having been an EMT for a little over two years, he is now working towards obtaining his paramedic license. His goal, after securing the license, is to attend the fire academy and secure a full-time position as a firefighter paramedic. He received his AA in Fire Science and hopes to eventually earn a bachelor's degree. For him, it's incredibly rewarding to not only utilize the skills taught but also to see them effectively help someone. Colin is being honored as a Star of Life for his role in the care of a cardiac arrest patient. Administering cardiac medications and recognizing the need for Narcan, Colin's and his partner Ben's quick actions led to a successful field resuscitation (ROSC). Great work, Colin! ✨



Connor Rothwell
EMT
Royal Ambulance

On January 15th, Jared Cook and **Connor Rothwell** were working a PM ALS shift and were dispatched to back-to-back ECHO calls. During the calls, Jared demonstrated unparalleled professionalism and a level of expertise that is truly commendable. His ability to remain calm under pressure and make critical decisions played a pivotal role in saving a life and obtaining ROSC while on the scene with a patient. As the patient's condition deteriorated, Connor began CPR, providing lifesaving rescue breaths. The partners' quick thinking enabled a successful transfer to definitive care. Connor & Jared, thank you for your commitment to the well-being of your patients. Your actions were nothing short of heroic and our team is grateful for the selflessness and compassion you displayed. Your continued dedication to EMS has set an inspiring example for your colleagues and serves as a reminder of the importance of the work that you do every day. ✨

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Jeremy Ruga
Operations Manager
Falck Southern
California

With over 20 years of experience in EMS, **Jeremy Ruga** has consistently demonstrated his commitment to saving lives and ensuring the well-being of his team. Recently, one notable event in Jeremy's career was his response to our Nation's deadly mass shooting at Cooks Corner in Trabuco Canyon, California. As a skilled EMT-P and Ground Ambulance Coordinator, he worked closely with the Orange County Fire Authority & Sheriff's Department to coordinate the transportation of critical patients to local trauma centers. Jeremy's ability to multitask and effectively communicate with dispatch and other field resources played a crucial role in ensuring the safety of all personnel on the scene. Jeremy currently serves as an Operations Manager at Falck Mobile Health Corp, where he has been instrumental in managing emergency medical services for the past eight years. Prior to his promotion, he spent 12 years working on an ambulance, gaining invaluable experience and expertise in the field. Outside of his profession, Jeremy prioritizes spending quality time with his family. He is a devoted husband and father of two children, valuing the moments he gets to share with them. When he's not on duty, Jeremy enjoys indulging his passion for music, playing both the guitar and drums. In addition, he also enjoys surfing, basketball, family trips to the Big Bear mountains, Disneyland, and camping adventures at the beach or lake. 🌟

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Carolann Seeley
Paramedic
LIFewest

Carolann Seeley has been with LIFewest Ambulance since 2021, serving as a paramedic on the medical team with Sonoma Raceway Fire Safety Crew, IFT, and 911 in south Sonoma County. She stated that “it is a privilege and a realized career goal to be part of the prestigious racing fire safety team that is responsible for the safety of the drivers and spectators of events to the magnitude of NASCAR and hosting 100,000 people at the raceway. The high-quality professionalism and training of this track’s teams are known in the racing industry to be exceptional.”

Carolann started her 29-year EMS career as a volunteer firefighter/EMT for South Placer Fire District in 1995 after she returned from four years of military service with the 82nd Airborne Division, US ARMY. Her experience of basic soldiering, deployments, operating large equipment, and indoctrination of the value of being an effective team served her well in joining the firefighting, and emergency medical profession. With her local fire department, she became an Engineer/Paramedic serving her community for seven years including in large campaign fire strike teams, heavy technical and water rescues, community awareness trainings, and medical services. Congruently, she started her single-role medic career with traditional AMR in 1996 in the TRI County area of Placer, Yolo, and Sacramento counties with the unique diversity of calls from the snowy Blue Canyon to the metropolitan area of Sacramento. She views it a great privilege to work side by side with some of the best professional men and women in the fire and medical departments that training and field experience can produce. “The Bond of the Brotherhood” is for a lifetime.

In 2021, after serving 23 years in a high-impact call volume system and an acute reality check of the personal challenge of a “cancer fight phase” successfully completed, it was time to find an area of enjoyment to use her professional fire and medical experience combined with a love of high-speed racing. Thus, the adventurous career path at Sonoma Raceway was forged. LIFewest has continued to impress and demonstrate itself to be an exceptional company to be part of, caring for its employees.

Carolann continues to serve her community by volunteering in her mega church’s First Aid team, high school mission trips to Mexico on the construction teams, tech lead for the horse rescue team in a 100-mile horse endurance ride in the Sierra Mountains, and fitness events. Her other interests are ranch life, hiking, horseback riding, barefoot horse trimming, fitness, family, and relaxing with a cup of coffee in nature. ✨

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**Andranik "Andy"
Serobyn**
Customer Service
Liaison
*American Medical
Response*

Good evening. It is my great pleasure to nominate Mr. **Andranik "Andy" Serobyn** for a Star of Life award! I have had the pleasure of working with Andy for many years, and every year I continue to see him do more and more for our communities and our citizens. Andy has participated in training 3479 people; it is a blend of CPR and Hands Only in San Bernardino County in the last year. Andy goes above and beyond by also providing this training on the weekends in a volunteer role. Andy has assisted in building positive lasting relationships with our hospitals within our response area. He has done this by bringing our therapy dog "EV" to these facilities during times of need to improve in stress management for our community's caregivers. Not only has Andy gone above and beyond for our hospitals, but he also plays an active role with our Paramedics and EMTs. Andy consistently meets with our first responders to provide them with the tools and guidance to provide the best customer service possible. I am honored to work with someone who has given so much to our community! I 100% believe that our community, hospitals, first responders, or anyone who has the pleasure of learning from him are better for it. Please accept this as my nomination for Star of Life. Thank you for your time and consideration! *



Brian Smith
Flight Paramedic
Reach Air Medical

In the early morning of August 28, Chantel McManus, flight nurse, **Brian Smith**, flight paramedic, and Justin Hoffar, pilot, at CALSTAR 4 in Ukiah were dispatched to rendezvous with a ground provider at a nearby hospital's helipad. The dispatch information stated that they would be responding to a burn patient of unknown age or weight. On arrival at the LZ, they made contact with ground EMS and discovered their patient was an eight-year-old girl rescued from a house fire by a neighbor. The patient had superficial, partial, and full-thickness burns to approximately 70% of her body. The only areas spared were the parts of her body that were shielded by her mother as she was being carried. They realized that expeditious care and transport for this young girl to a burn center was the priority and would make the greatest impact on her survival. They made patient contact and were airborne en route within five minutes. Chantel, Brian, and Justin displayed extraordinary decision-making, care, and compassion for this young girl during their time with her. She was premedicated to ease IV placement, medicated for pain, and given warmed fluids during transport. They also provided much-needed emotional support for this injured and frightened child. *

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Lauren Song
EMT
Falck Southern
California

In the early hours of their shift in Zone 2 in Los Angeles County, around 3:00 am, **Lauren Song** encountered an auto vs. pedestrian incident. Upon arrival, she and her partner, fellow Star, Karina Heras, were the first responders to assess the scene, discovering a patient with severe traumatic injuries. Without hesitation, they sprang into action, conducting a rapid yet thorough assessment of the patient's condition and initiating necessary medical interventions. Their quick thinking and decisive actions played a crucial role in stabilizing the patient. Their efficiency did not go unnoticed as they seamlessly coordinated with the arriving fire department to ensure a smooth transition of care. By the time the fire engine and squad reached the scene, Lauren and Karina had already begun the process of loading the patient into the ambulance. Their seamless teamwork and collaboration with the medics facilitated the swift transport of the patient to the nearest trauma center with positive results for the patient. It is an honor to acknowledge and commend Lauren Song for her outstanding performance, tireless efforts in assisting others, and steadfast dedication to their duties. Their contributions make a profound difference in the lives of those they serve, and they serve as shining examples within our organization.

Meet Lauren Song, a dedicated and driven individual whose passion for emergency medical services (EMS) was ignited by her family's deep-rooted connection to the firefighting profession. Growing up with an uncle who serves as a Battalion Chief in Northern California, Lauren was exposed to the world of public safety from an early age. Inspired by his commitment to serving others, she felt drawn to follow in his footsteps and make a difference in her community. During her formative years, Lauren seized every opportunity to immerse herself in the realm of firefighting and EMS. As a Fire Cadet with the Orange County Fire Authority, she honed her skills and leadership abilities, serving as a squad leader and playing a pivotal role in an inaugural post in Garden Grove. These experiences solidified her desire to pursue a career as a Firefighter Paramedic, blending her passion for emergency medical care with her unwavering dedication to public service. Driven by her ambition, Lauren pursued higher education, earning a degree in Fire Science to enhance her knowledge and expertise in the field. With her academic foundation firmly in place, she eagerly anticipates the challenges and opportunities ahead as she prepares to attend a Fire Academy soon. In 2022, Lauren took a significant step forward in her career journey by joining Falck as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). Embracing her role with enthusiasm and determination, she has already positively impacted the lives of those in need, showing her commitment to excellence in patient care. Looking ahead, Lauren aspires to further her career progression within Falck, aspiring to become a Field Training Officer

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Lauren Song

continued

and mentor to new recruits. Her passion for continuous learning and growth drives her to seek out new challenges and opportunities for advancement within the organization. Beyond her professional pursuits, Lauren leads a fulfilling and active lifestyle. An avid Rugby player, she thrives on the camaraderie and teamwork fostered by the sport. Additionally, she finds joy and fulfillment in Muay Thai, channeling her energy into physical fitness and self-improvement. With her unwavering dedication, relentless work ethic, and compassionate spirit, Lauren Song embodies the finest qualities of an EMS professional. Her journey is a testament to the power of passion, perseverance, and a steadfast commitment to serving others. ✨



Gregory Sonnenberg

EMT/FTO

Falck Southern
California

Greg Sonnenberg is an exceptional individual who has made a significant impact in the fields of emergency medical services (EMS) and leadership. Greg has accumulated extensive experience in financial and engineering leadership positions for the past 30 years. However, his passion for making a direct and meaningful difference in people's lives led him to transition into EMS. For the past two-and-a-half years, Greg has been working as an EMT at Falck Ambulance, where he has consistently demonstrated his commitment to providing high-quality care to those in need. Greg currently serves as a Field Training Officer and has also taken a voluntary role with Falck's Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) team for the past one-and-a-half years. These added responsibilities highlight his dedication to training and supporting his fellow EMS professionals. Recently, one notable event in Greg's career occurred during a recent CISM debriefing session. He played a crucial role in helping a new EMT who had faced the emotional challenges of a fatal traffic collision, with surviving family members present at the scene. Greg provided guidance and helped the EMT recognize the importance of her timely actions in ensuring the well-being of the family members. By highlighting the impact, she had made in a tragic situation, Greg empowered her to continue her vital work with renewed purpose. Outside of his professional life, Greg cherishes the time he spends with his wife of 32 years. He acknowledges her unwavering support as the driving force behind his successful career. Together, they have two 17-year-old boys who were adopted from Guatemala, as well as an older son who is married and has blessed them with a grandson. Greg's dedication to his family and their shared experiences brings him immense joy and fulfillment. Greg Sonnenberg considers himself blessed to have the opportunity to help others on a daily basis. His extensive leadership background, coupled with his passion for positively impacting the lives of those he serves, makes him an invaluable asset in EMS. With his unwavering commitment and the support of his loved ones, Greg continues to inspire and uplift those around him. ✨

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Greg Sosa
Paramedic
Falck Northern
California

Greg Sosa, a seasoned Falck paramedic with an unwavering commitment to excellence, has been honored with the Star of Life award for his exceptional service to Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in Alameda County. With 17 years of dedicated service within the Alameda County system, Greg has continually exemplified the highest standards of patient care, professionalism, and leadership. Throughout his career, Greg has not only provided expert medical care in countless emergencies but has also played a pivotal role in shaping the next generation of paramedics. As a preceptor, he has selflessly shared his wealth of experience and knowledge with aspiring paramedics, guiding them through the rigors of training and instilling in them the values of compassion and competence that define the profession. Greg's impact extends beyond the ambulance and into the classroom, where he has served as an educator, enlightening other responders about the intricacies of EMS and equipping them with the skills necessary to save lives. His dedication to education has not only elevated the standard of care within Alameda County but has also inspired countless individuals to excel in their careers in EMS. Greg Sosa's dedication, exemplary service, and commitment to advancing the field of EMS make him a truly deserving recipient of the CAA Star of Life award. His contributions have undoubtedly left an indelible mark on the community he serves, embodying the spirit of compassion, competence, and selflessness that define the very essence of paramedicine. ✨



Christian Sturdee
EMT
Medic Ambulance
Service, Inc.

Born and raised in Fairfield, California, **Christian Sturdee** is a second-generation Medic Ambulance employee, following in the footsteps of his father. Over the past eight years working as an EMT, he has had the honor and privilege of serving his home County of Solano and Sacramento County. Helping people is what he was born to do, and he is thankful for all the guidance and training he has received along the way. Some of his favorite memories from his journey will always be the smiles he received while on duty. "That's sometimes rare in this business but we should never forget that we are attempting to do some good for those in need." During a critical cardiac arrest situation, Christian and his partner Shawn demonstrated outstanding teamwork and proficiency by effectively administering life-saving medications. Their combined actions played a pivotal role in successfully attaining Return of Spontaneous Circulation (ROSC) upon arrival at the hospital, highlighting their commitment and expertise in emergency medical response. Way to go, Christian! ✨

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David Szeto
Dispatcher
*King-American
Ambulance Co.*

David Szeto has been a dispatcher with King-American Ambulance since 2017. He was born and raised in San Francisco, CA, specifically within the Chinatown community in his youth. David is honored and blessed to help serve the community in which he grew up in. Every day David introduces something new in this field, and he appreciates the fast-paced yet balanced environment. Through this balance of life, David has also been able to pick up the lifelong journey and struggle of golf, he also enjoys traveling, hiking in the trees, friendly banter, and delivering the crushing blow to his co-workers in fantasy football. 🌟



**Svetlana
Tauzhnyanskaya**
Dispatcher
Royal Ambulance

Lana Tauzhnyanskaya's commitment to excellence is clear in her ability to efficiently handle high-acuity transport requests with unwavering dedication. Her ability to navigate challenging situations and ensure prompt responses has not only enhanced the efficiency of our operations but has also contributed to the successful transport of some of the highest-acuity patients. Lana's skills extend beyond her dispatching duties, as she has cultivated strong relationships with our nurses and healthcare partners. In addition to her dispatching responsibilities, Lana plays a crucial role in the Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) process for our call-taking staff. Her proactive approach to providing constructive feedback and fostering an environment of continuous improvement demonstrates her dedication to the betterment of our entire team. Lana's passion for healthcare is palpable, evident not only in her professional endeavors but also in her pursuit of a graduate degree in public health. This commitment to furthering her education reflects her desire to contribute meaningfully to the healthcare field and aligns seamlessly with the values of Royal Ambulance. We are lucky to have her! 🌟

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Christian Thomas
EMT
LifeLine-EMS

LifeLine is honored to nominate **Christian Thomas** for the Star of Life award. Christian's exceptional dedication and compassion make him an invaluable asset to our team. As a colleague and partner, Christian exemplifies the qualities of a true healthcare professional. Despite any personal fatigue, Christian consistently shows up ready to give his all, proving an unwavering commitment to his patients and his responsibilities. Christian's genuine care and concern for his patients are evident in every interaction. He goes above and beyond to ensure their comfort and well-being, embodying the essence of compassionate care. His tireless work ethic and genuine concern for others make him a great partner and a shining example of excellence in EMS. In recognition of his outstanding contributions and unwavering dedication, LifeLine proudly nominates Christian Thomas for the Star of Life award. Christian's selfless commitment to his patients and his unwavering work ethic make him truly deserving of this honor. *



Alexander Tornado
EMT
Royal Ambulance

On October 12, 2023, **Alexander Tornado** and Griffin Addicott identified and quickly escalated an unsafe situation at a residence following a discharge. When the team arrived on site, they realized that the gas stove was leaking, presenting a potential hazard throughout the residence. Thinking on their feet, they immediately notified the fire department to inspect, air out, and ultimately clear the residence.

Thank you, Alexander and Griffin, for going the extra mile on what might have been an otherwise routine call. Your actions likely saved the patient's life and your willingness to act is greatly appreciated. *

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Son Tran
Paramedic Captain
*Falck Northern
California*

Falck Paramedic Captain **Son Tran**, a dedicated EMS professional with a profound commitment to serving his community, has been honored with the Star of Life award for his outstanding contributions to Emergency Medical Services in Alameda County. With a career spanning over two decades, Son has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership, compassion, and professionalism in his roles within the EMS system. Since entering EMS in 2002, Son has tirelessly served as an EMT and Paramedic, exemplifying excellence in patient care and clinical expertise. His dedication to providing the highest standard of care in emergencies has earned him the respect and admiration of colleagues and community members alike. In addition to his role as a paramedic, Son has held various leadership positions, including EMS Captain and TEMS Team Leader, where he has displayed exceptional operational skills and a knack for inspiring and motivating his team members to perform at their best, even in the most challenging of circumstances. Son's commitment to excellence extends beyond his official duties. As a member of the Honor Guard, he has paid tribute to fallen colleagues with dignity and respect, honoring their service and sacrifice. Furthermore, Son has been actively involved in community outreach initiatives, working tirelessly to educate the public about EMS services and promote safety and wellness within the community. Son Tran's exemplary service, leadership, and commitment to the well-being of both his colleagues and the community make him a truly deserving recipient of the Star of Life award. His contributions have made a lasting impact on the field of EMS in Alameda County, embodying the values of compassion, dedication, and excellence that are the hallmarks of outstanding paramedic service. ✨

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Christian Uribe-Sosa
Paramedic
American Ambulance

Christian Uribe-Sosa earned the respected title of Paramedic of the Year for 2023 in Fresno County Operations, as recognized by his peers. Transitioning from a stint in the restaurant industry, Christian joined American Ambulance in September 2019. He started his medical career as an EMT and worked hard to become a Paramedic by January 2022, with aspirations of becoming a CCT Paramedic. His family and commitment drive Christian's desire to serve his community. Christian vividly remembers a paramedic's impact on him during a family emergency. He recalls the paramedic being calm and compassionate toward his mother and attentive and reassuring to him as a young boy. That event made a lasting impression. He is motivated to offer the same reassurance to children and parents during a family emergency while on the scene of a 9-1-1 call. Described by his colleagues as incredibly kind and empathetic towards all patients, Christian consistently delivers compassionate care with unwavering dedication. Though initially reserved, those who know him well attest to his vibrant sense of humor and warm personality. In his personal life, Christian is engaged to be married and is the proud father of one child, with another on the way. A devoted family man, he enjoys watching soccer matches and cherishing moments with his loved ones. 🌟



Lisa Vasquez
Paramedic
Patterson District Ambulance

Lisa Vasquez started her career in healthcare as an ER Tech in 2007 and continued in this role for more than a decade. While working as an ER Tech, she became an EMT in 2010 and ventured beyond the hospital walls. Once out on an ambulance, she enjoyed working in the field which eventually led to paramedic school. She obtained her paramedic license in 2019 and came to work for Patterson District Ambulance in 2020. As a paramedic, Lisa exhibits a passion for providing the best EMS care possible and has a keen interest in the patients she serves. Her treatment decisions prove a sincere desire to treat her patients effectively, relieve suffering, and improve outcomes. She enjoys teaching and is actively involved as a CPR instructor, a "Stop the Bleed" instructor, and recently joined the cadre of paramedic preceptors. Lisa takes pride in maintaining the crew quarters and her assigned ambulance. She volunteered to take the lead role in managing PDA medical supplies. This is a daunting and thankless, well mostly thankless, job that few others dare to do. Most of all, Lisa meets adversity head-on and perseveres, both excellent qualities in the chaotic world of EMS. 🌟

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Saul Vazquez
EMT
LifeLine-EMS

LifeLine proudly nominates **Saul Vazquez** for the Star of Life award. Saul's exemplary leadership, unwavering dedication, and outstanding work ethic make him an invaluable asset to our team. As a Field Training Officer (FTO), Saul has demonstrated exceptional patience, kindness, and dedication to the growth and development of his trainees. His hard work and guidance have empowered countless individuals, instilling in them the confidence needed to excel in their roles. Despite the demands of paramedic school, Saul has consistently gone above and beyond in his role, balancing his studies with his responsibilities as an FTO. His commitment to both personal and professional growth is truly commendable. Saul's selflessness and dedication to LifeLine and its trainees are evident in every aspect of his work. He embodies the qualities of a true leader, offering invaluable advice and support while leading by example. In recognition of his outstanding contributions and unwavering dedication, LifeLine proudly nominates Saul Vazquez for the Star of Life award. Saul's tireless efforts and dedication to the company and its trainees make him a deserving recipient of this prestigious honor. ✨



Jennifer Walkup
Paramedic
Medic Ambulance
Service, Inc.

We are honoring **Jen Walkup** as Medic Ambulance's Solano Division Paramedic of the Year! Jen became an EMT in 1995 while attending junior college and planning on a career in law enforcement. She continued as an EMT, gaining some experience in marketing, until she started paramedic school at NCTI in Roseville in 1999. She served as a paramedic in the 911 system from 2000 through 2004 before leaving the field. She experienced some setbacks and hurdles. Her family became a priority while supporting her husband's career in law enforcement and she spent 2005-2020 raising her three boys. Returning to the field after 15 years was not easy but Jen did in 2020 to serve as a Solano County Paramedic. She is grateful to Medic and her local fire paramedics in Solano County for challenging her to kick the rust off the wheels while providing her community with the best care. She is given the opportunity every day to provide the best care as a team member alongside her colleagues, both private and public, but also goes home with a gift each night. Just when she thinks she is coming to work to take care of someone, she finds out they may have more to offer her at the end of the day. The life experiences and backgrounds of her patients make her a better person for having met them. ✨

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Jason Walther
Paramedic/FTO
AlphaOne Ambulance

On October 23, 2023, the AlphaOne crew, led by Paramedic **Jason Walther** with EMTs Dylan Cole, Zachary Renkert, and Luke Moreno, demonstrated exemplary service and medical expertise during a critical incident at a psychiatric facility. Responding swiftly to a staff member in respiratory distress, the team efficiently assessed and initiated life-saving measures on a pulseless patient exhibiting severe asthma symptoms. Through their coordinated efforts, including advanced airway management and CPR, they achieved Return of Spontaneous Circulation (ROSC) before safely transferring the patient to UCDMC. Their quick action, professionalism, and dedication to patient care embody the spirit of the Star of Life recognition. Jason led the crew with remarkable expertise and decisiveness. His ability to quickly assess the situation and initiate critical interventions exemplifies his leadership and deep commitment to patient care. Jason's actions not only saved a life but also serve as a benchmark of excellence within AlphaOne Ambulance. 🌟



Norm Weitzel
Paramedic
Medic Ambulance
Service, Inc.

Norm Weitzel began his EMS career in 2000 when he earned his EMT license. He joined Medic Ambulance in July of 2004 as an EMT in the Sacramento division. As an EMT, Norm was promoted to FTO and continued to build and grow in his career. In 2007, Norm earned his Paramedic license and worked several years in the field in both the Sacramento and Solano divisions. During his career, he has served as field supervisor, operations manager, and educating and training manager. Norm has currently returned to the field as he pursues his associate degree in nursing and RN license. When not at work or school Norm can be found at various sporting events and activities of his two sons Connor and Brady. His wife Becca is a hospital social worker in Davis. When he has the time, he enjoys sailing and traveling. Norm is being honored as a Star of Life for his role in the care of a STEMI patient who deteriorated into Cardiac Arrest. Due to Norm's quick actions and multiple defibrillations, he safely transported the patient to a Cardiac STEMI center where she received definitive care. Upon arrival at the hospital the patient was awake and answering questions. Fantastic job, Norm! 🌟

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**Michael (Mike)
Wukits**
Paramedic
American Ambulance

Michael Wukits began working at American Ambulance as an EMT in 2016. Before working at American, he had been teaching Middle School and decided to take a CPR course at American Ambulance. This course sparked an interest in EMS. Over the summer, he decided to stop teaching and began a career in EMS. "EMS has been a wonderful experience. I love talking to people from different backgrounds and feeling fulfilled at the end of the shift, knowing that I made a difference. I learn something new daily." Michael attended Paramedic school in 2018 and has been a Paramedic since 2019. "I was older than most in my class and far beyond the average age of a person getting into EMS, but I feel I have been able to help younger partners deal with the stresses of the job, and they've helped me feel younger." Michael followed in his family's footsteps. His father is a retired fire captain with 32 years on the job, and his stepfather retired from the Fresno Police Department after 28 years. "I figured EMS would round out the family." Michael's coworkers and partners say he "...is the best to work with! His positive attitude and sense of humor make it easy to handle anything that comes our way. He always treats people respectfully and tries to improve everyone's day he interacts with!" Michael has been married to his wife Rebekah since 2007 and has two wonderful children, Melody (11) and Milo (5). They enjoy the outdoors, including hiking in the mountains or biking together on local trails. 🌸



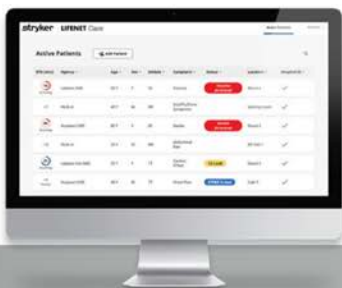
Nathaniel Zambrana
Paramedic
AMR-Shasta

While on duty for what should have been a typical night on the job, James Nickell, **Nathaniel Zambrana**, and Jenesa Prater responded to a cardiac arrest in progress. They arrived on scene to attempt resuscitation on one of their own, a colleague and friend. James, Nathaniel and Jenesa spent the remainder of the night in the hospital by the family's side. The crew also continued to support the family over the next two weeks through emotional support and meal trains. 🌸

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