



CALIFORNIA AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL
Stars of Life
CELEBRATION
AND LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT



APRIL 16-18, 2012
SHERATON GRAND HOTEL – SACRAMENTO, CA

HEALTH CARE'S ESSENTIAL FIRST RESPONDERS

Stars of Life



Bob Barry

Chairman, Board of Directors
California Ambulance
Association

Congratulations to all of our 2012 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 our paramedics, EMTs, emergency medical dispatchers, 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.

Today, you had the opportunity to meet with your assembly members and/or state senators. I am hopeful you found it to be a positive and informative experience. The California Ambulance Association is working hard to secure increased reimbursement for

the services we provide to California's over 10 million Medi-Cal beneficiaries. We also advocate for you in the regulatory process working to ensure that proposed changes in education, training, equipment, or other areas that impact your work environment are fair, practical and necessary. Your first-hand experience as EMS professionals is a message that will resonate with our legislators.

Let us not forget our generous sponsors of this year's Stars of Life celebration, for without their support, this event would not have been possible. Thank you **BoundTree Medical, Cindy Elbert Insurance Services, DerManouel Insurance Group, King-American Ambulance, McCormick Ambulance Services, San Luis Ambulance, and State Compensation Insurance Fund.**

Lastly, we are honored to have Dr. Howard Backer, Director of the California Emergency Medical Services Authority and Senator Ed Hernandez as our special guests at this event.

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

Stars of Life Awards Banquet — April 17, 2012 —

Welcome

Bob Barry, Chairman

Special Recognition

Dr. Howard Backer, EMSA Director

Guest Legislative Speaker

Dr. Ed Hernandez, California State Senate District 24

Presentation of Stars of Life Recognition

Closing Remarks

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Stars of Life T-Shirts

Howard Backer, MD, MPH, FACEP
Director
California Emergency Medical Services Authority



Howard Backer, MD, MPH, FACEP, is the Director of the California Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) where he leads the department in

establishing and enforcing standards for EMS personnel, coordinating with local EMS systems, overseeing the development of statewide specialty care systems, and preparing for and responding to disasters.

Dr. Backer previously served for ten years at the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), where he held a variety of assignments including as Chief of the Immunization Branch and as Interim Director and Interim State Health Officer.

From 2008 to 2011, Backer was Associate Secretary for Emergency Preparedness at the California Health and Human Services Agency where he worked closely with EMSA, CDPH, the Department of Social Services and other CHHS departments on plans to coordinate public health and medical disaster response as well as mass care and shelter issues. In that capacity, he served as a consultant to the Ukrainian Ministry of Emergencies and was part of a delegation to Chile following the devastating 2010 earthquake there. He will continue to coordinate the development of Emergency Function 8 (Public Health and Medical) for the California State Emergency Plan.

Prior to government service, Dr. Backer practiced emergency medicine full time for 25 years in rural, urban, and suburban settings. He received a Doctor of Medicine from the University of California at San Francisco, a Master of Public Health from the University of California at Berkeley, a Bachelor of Sciences from the University of Michigan and is board certified in Emergency Medicine, Preventive Medicine and Public Health. He continues to work clinical hours in Urgent Care at the UC Berkeley Student Health Center.

Dr. Backer has a lifelong interest in wilderness and travel medicine. He is a founding member of the Wilderness Medical Society and a Fellow of the Academy of Wilderness Medicine. He also serves as medical consultant for an international adventure travel company and is a national expert in field water disinfection and infectious diseases of travelers.

Dr. Backer lives in Piedmont, with his wife, who is a registered nurse, and one of three daughters. In his time off, he likes to spend time in the Sierra Nevada mountains or do international travel to remote areas. [*USA*](#)

Dr. Ed Hernandez **California State Senator** **California Senate District 24**




Dr. Ed Hernandez had only one goal as a young man – to serve the health care needs of the community he came from. As an optometrist and local businessman, he never dreamed he would one day work in the California State Legislature. As a health care provider in predominantly low-income communities though, the need to improve access to health care is what drove him to run for office. Dr. Ed was first elected to the Assembly in November of 2006, and re-elected in November of 2008. He won his seat in the California State Senate in November of 2010.

Senator Hernandez serves as Chair for the Senate Committee on Health. He is also a member of the Business, Professions, and Economic Development Committee, as well as the Government and Finance Committee and the Committee for Governmental Organization.

Senator Hernandez is the Chair of the San Gabriel Valley Legislative Caucus, made up of 13 Senators and Assemblymembers representing the greater San Gabriel Valley.

This position has allowed him to work in cooperation with fellow legislators on issues critical to the San Gabriel Valley, including water and transportation.

Senator Hernandez grew up in La Puente, attended local schools and graduated from Bassett High School. He worked his way through school, attending both Rio Hondo and Mt. San Antonio Community Colleges before going on to get his B.S. degree in Biology from Cal State Fullerton. He received a scholarship to study Optometry at Indiana University, which is also where he met his wife Diane. After returning home, Dr. Ed and his wife setup their first practice in his hometown of La Puente.

Senator Hernandez represents the 24th Senate District, which includes parts of the City of Los Angeles including El Sereno, Lincoln Heights, City Terrace, Montecito Heights, as well as East Los Angeles and the Cities of Azusa, Baldwin Park, Covina, Duarte, El Monte, Industry, Irwindale, La Puente, Monterey Park, Rosemead, and West Covina. The district also includes the communities of Avocado Heights, Citrus, Hacienda Heights, Rowland Heights, South San Gabriel, Valinda and Vincent. 



**Gordon
Anderson**

*American
Medical
Response
San Diego*

Gordon Anderson
Emergency Medical Dispatcher

Gordon Anderson has made a lifelong commitment, 43 years to be exact, to providing excellent EMS service to the San Diego Community. From operating as an EMT, Field Supervisor, Outreach Coordinator, CPR instructor, Communications lead and Manager, Gordon has covered significant ground, literally and figuratively, in his time with AMR and its predecessor companies. One of the first nationally certified EMTs in San Diego, Gordon has trained over 1,100 community members in CPR, and was among the first to respond to the 1978 PSA airliner crash in San Diego in which 177 lives were lost.

Gordon's long history and experience in the San Diego community has proven extremely valuable to his operations, and has no doubt helped to improve the efficiency of the region's 9-1-1 system. In 2009, the County of San Diego recognized Gordon's distinguished EMS career with an official proclamation. In addition to his service with AMR, Gordon also volunteers with a number of community outreach programs, including providing oil changes for seniors and graffiti removal. Gordon's dedication to EMS and the community he serves has certainly saved countless lives. The consummate professional, there is no question that Gordon Anderson deserves the distinguished honor of being awarded the Star of Life. ✨

Stars of Life



**Nicole
Bonn**
*Medic
Ambulance
Solano
County*

Nicole Bonn
Paramedic

Nicole Bonn, Paramedic, back in high school wanted to be an accountant, and after high school went down that profession line. She was living with a friend while she was one of the first female firefighters at Vallejo Fire Department, and she would come home with great stories and took great pride in her profession. Nicole decided to make a career change and she started to go to school to become a Firefighter / EMT, and while taking the classes she fell in love with the medical side of EMS. Nicole did become a Firefighter / EMT, but she still loved the EMS side and dealing directly with patients. Nicole then decided to move on to the next step in her EMS career and became a paramedic. Nicole has been with Medic Ambulance for 12 years, and a paramedic for the past 11 years. Nicole still loves the medical side of EMS and again is taking the next step in her EMS career as she is waiting to be accepted into nursing school. For now, she lives in Sonoma with her husband and 2 daughters. Nicole and her partner, Pam, are being honored for their rapid and critical treatment of a cardiac patient, who suffered sudden cardiac arrest. Nicole delivered early defibrillation to the patient who then became conscious and started breathing. The patient received emergency catheterization at the Cardiac Center. Because of their excellent treatment, the patient walked out of the hospital and is at home now in Benicia! Great job! ❁ ❁

Stars of Life



**James
Bradbury**
*Hall
Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Bakersfield*

James Bradbury
EMT

James Bradbury is an EMT assigned to the Metro Bakersfield 911 system. James is being recognized for his continued commitment to community service. James is responsible for logging more Community Service hours than all of the other employees at Hall Ambulance combined. James assists with providing mentoring service to the Hall Ambulance Explorer Post. James assists with the Mayor's Highway Cleanup project, which is one of the most aggressive community based highway clean-up projects in California. James makes regular visits to local schools and churches to assist with demonstrations. James is also an EMT Preceptor responsible for assisting new employees through their six week field orientation program. ❁

Stars of Life



**Jeronimo
Carlos**

*Pro-
Transport-1
Berkeley*

Jeronimo Carlos
Field Operations Manager

Jeronimo went beyond the call of duty when he took the initiative to assist with assembling a crew to successfully transport an 1150-pound patient who hadn't left her home in six years, subsequently saving her life. The patient required transportation to her family's home in a neighboring city for better care. Jeronimo performed the crucial task of inspecting each location, meticulously testing for adequate floor strength, door frame width and stair capability, ensuring comprehensive safety throughout the transport. Thanks to his efforts, the patient and crew enjoyed a safe, secure transport. When all other providers had turned her away, Jeronimo stepped up to the plate and proved his dedication to patient care. He has been an integral part of ProTransport-1 since joining the company six and a half years ago, progressing from EMT to Field Operations Manager and selflessly dedicating his life to the EMS industry. ✨

Stars of Life



**Lisa
DeMetz**

*American
Medical
Response
Riverside*

Lisa DeMetz
Paramedic

Described as a reliable, hardworking and self-disciplined clinician, Lisa DeMetz puts heart and compassion everyday into her role as a Riverside County paramedic. However, Lisa's commitment to the community she serves does not stop when her shift ends. Whether securing school supplies for under privileged students, championing a Halloween safety campaign, collecting shoes and Christmas presents for needy children or serving the hungry, Lisa DeMetz does more than treat a patient's illness or injury during a medical emergency, she also reaches out to her community's most vulnerable in their time of need. A 20 year EMS veteran, Lisa's commitment and dedication to her medical profession and her selfless humanitarian efforts are unmatched, and AMR is very proud to have selected her as a 2012 Star of Life. ✨

Stars of Life



Miguel Diaz

*Riggs
Ambulance
Service
Merced*

Miguel Diaz
System Support Technician/EMT

Miguel Diaz, his official title is System Support Technician, but to Riggs Ambulance Service (RAS), he is much more. Diaz is extraordinarily dedicated to Emergency Medical Services (EMS), RAS, his community and his family. Diaz is a very cheerful and positive person who strives to help out everybody no matter what their circumstances are. He is an everyday star whose inspiring work could be as simple as translating for Spanish speaking patients in our billing office to teaching lifesaving CPR skills to community members of Merced County.

As an Emergency Medical Technician, his willingness to learn and evolve in his profession has escalated his role with RAS. His wife, Joann, inspires him to learn as much as he can in EMS while making an incredible difference in other people's lives. As an EMT, Diaz is always smiling and gracious to his coworkers. When asked about how long he plans to stay in EMS, Diaz replies, "I will probably be here forever, it keeps getting better every day." *

Stars of Life



Matt Drake

*McCormick
Ambulance
Hawthorne*

Matt Drake
Paramedic

Matt continuously excels in creating innovative policies, procedures and standards related to patient care. Matt played a key role in the creation and success of our well respected paramedic program. He is a true asset to EMS.

Hired by McCormick in 2007 as an EMT-B, Matt was quickly promoted to FTO, Crew Chief, Paramedic Supervisor and Paramedic Coordinator. In addition to overseeing the QA/QI program, Matt plays an instrumental role in the Paramedic evaluation, testing, and hiring process. Matt volunteers his time training and preparing to respond to large scale disasters with our Rapid Emergency Deployment Team and is one of only three R.E.D. Team leaders.

Matt is most notably recognized as the individual responsible for creating higher standards for his fellow paramedics and endlessly expanding his own knowledge to provide the best patient care possible

Matt is an avid golfer, surfer & enjoys traveling the world with his wife. *



Curtis Dunn

*American
Ambulance
Fresno*

Curtis Dunn
Paramedic

Paramedic Dunn started his EMS career as a volunteer firefighter in Felton, California. Curtis attended ETS in Santa Cruz where he completed Paramedic training. After hearing about internship opportunities at American Ambulance, Curtis moved to Fresno and completed the last phase of paramedic school. Upon getting his state paramedic license, he applied for a job at American Ambulance and became an employee on 8/18/2008. He was recently promoted to a Critical Care Transport Paramedic, providing expanded scope care to critical care patients. Curtis believes a paramedic's goal is to provide a smooth transition of care, from on-scene with the fire department to turnover at the hospital; he wants to make sure the patient is always being treated with kindness and compassion.

Curtis was selected by his peers as the 2011 Paramedic of the Year for Fresno County Operations not only because of his exceptional clinical capabilities, but also because he is the type of partner his co-workers would like working with at the end of the shift. He is easy going, self-motivating and compassionate. Curtis is always willing to help a friend or a partner. Curtis also participates in the company wellness program attending as many events as possible and encouraging others to get involved as well.

Curtis has been married to Lael for 6 years and has a 3 year old daughter, Wiha. He is actively involved in his church in Hanford, California. He enjoys reading and learning – he is currently studying Spanish with the Rosetta Stone program in hopes of improving his dialogue with Spanish speaking patients. *

Stars of Life



Tim Emling

*Royal
Ambulance*

*Castro
Valley*

Tim Emling
Field Training Officer/EMT

Tim Emling began his career in healthcare right after graduating high school, by working as a Certified Nursing Assistant. While greatly enjoying the patient contact and the experience he was getting, Tim decided to take a different route and turned to real estate, where he was very successful for ten years. Despite his success, Tim kept reevaluating his career and truly missed the close contact he had with his patients as a CNA and his genuine passion for helping those in need led him back into the medical field. After going back to school and getting his EMT license, Tim joined Royal Ambulance in 2010. Tim's strong work ethic and positive attitude shined through from day one, and he quickly became one of Royal's most admired, hard working and dedicated team members. Tim consistently strived to further his knowledge and the knowledge of those around him, making him a natural fit for the Field Training Officer position. Not only did Tim thrive in his new teaching role, he soon became the head instructor of Royal's New Hire Academy as well as an EVOC instructor. Tim's contagious enthusiasm for learning has greatly improved the academy and Tim continues to bring up the level of education within the organization by really representing Royal's Mission and Values and inspiring those around him to keep learning and always striving for more. When he is not working, Tim enjoys spending time with his lovely wife of 17 years and his 3 beautiful boys. ✨

Stars of Life



Bryan Frey

*Care
Ambulance
Service, Inc.*

Orange

Bryan Frey
EMT

Bryan Frey is being awarded the Star of Life for his actions during the deadliest shooting in Orange County history. Because of his heroic actions, Bryan received a letter from Fire Captain Steve King with OCTA E48-C praising his performance and interaction with OCFA during this tragedy. Captain Steve King stated that Bryan's knowledge and demonstration of patient care skills is of the highest caliber (and so is) his intuitive ability to become part of the team on active EMS/ALS Responses without interfering with paramedic or scene control. His performance and exhibition of skills, abilities and on scene decisions is unchallenged.

Bryan began his career in EMS as a reserve fire fighter for the city of Downey. He has worked as an EMT for Care Ambulance for 3.5 years, with a future goal of becoming a firefighter. In his free time, Bryan enjoys spending time with his wife. ✨

Stars of Life



**Matthew
Godby**

*McCormick
Ambulance
Hawthorne*

Matthew Godby
Paramedic

Matt quickly ascended to the top of the workforce by stepping forward and initiating innovative and exciting ideas for the betterment of both employees and patients, as well as for EMS on a local level. From crafting policies and procedures to leading the Paramedic program, Matt is involved with virtually every aspect of EMS within McCormick Ambulance. He is a true asset to EMS. Certified as an EMT in 2003, Matt has been promoted numerous times including FTO, Crew Chief, Paramedic Coordinator, and Paramedic Supervisor. Additionally, Matt volunteers his time training and preparing to respond to large scale disasters with our R.E.D. (Rapid Emergency Deployment) Team. He is one of only three R.E.D. Team leaders.

Matt continuously operates above and beyond expectations. Demonstrating outstanding leadership abilities, Matt is well respected by his peers and has come to be known as a trusted patient advocate. Matt enjoys traveling, golf, snowboarding, hiking, camping, and bicycling. *

Stars of Life



**Harvey L.
Hall**

*Hall
Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Bakersfield*

Harvey L. Hall
Founder/President

Mr. Hall celebrated the 40th anniversary of Hall Ambulance in February of 2011. Hall Ambulance has grown from a small mom and pop company to a major provider of emergency, non emergency and air ambulance service. Today more than 400 full time employees call Hall Ambulance home. In 2011, Mr. Hall took the Stars of Life program to another level when he started the Hall Ambulance Service Stars of Life program. During each quarterly staff meeting Mr. Hall honors several employees from the various divisions of Hall Ambulance. Employees may be honored for many reasons from clinical excellence to exceptional customer service to humanitarian efforts. Each recipient receives a medal, a commemorative coin and a lapel pin. Along with the local recognition, the honorees then become eligible for nomination as California Ambulance Association Stars of Life. Mr. Hall has received numerous awards for his community service work with many groups to include the homeless, military veterans, and underprivileged youth, but no work remains more important to him than providing a company that provides more than \$14,000,000 in income to his employees. Mr. Hall is recognized for his 40 year commitment to his employees and their families. *

Stars of Life



**Colleen
Heinrich**
*Pro-
Transport-1
Santa Rosa*

Colleen Heinrich **Com Center Supervisor**

Colleen faced a difficult situation when she took a phone call from an 1150-pound patient who had not left her home in over six years and was desperately fighting for her life. Needing to leave her living environment to enable better care at her family's home in another city, the patient was desperate for assistance. Colleen sprung into action, unable to ignore the pleas of a woman who had been turned down by all other ambulance providers. Knowing it was the right thing to do, Colleen took a lead role in setting up the transport. Following two weeks of planning and logistics, a group of top crew members successfully transported the patient. Colleen's empathy led to one of the most heartfelt assists ever completed by ProTransport-1. A supervisor in ProTransport-1's ComCenter, Colleen oversees the dispatch team, a position she has held for over a year. ✨

Stars of Life



**Mike
Hilliard**
*Hall
Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Bakersfield*

Mike Hilliard **EMT**

On July 5, 2011 at noon, 61 year old Ron Klawitter suffered a sudden cardiac arrest. His wife of 29 years, Jan, heard him fall and checked on him. A CPR Instructor, Jan checked for breathing and a pulse. Finding none, she immediately called 9-1-1 and started CPR.

At 12:02 PM, Paramedic Jeff Perkins and EMT Mike Hilliard were dispatched to the Klawitter home. They arrived at 12:04 PM to find Jan performing CPR. Jeff and Mike relieved Jan, and continued CPR. Jeff applied his cardiac monitor and found Ron's heart in a non life sustaining lethal rhythm. Jeff defibrillated Ron and witnessed an immediate return of life sustaining cardiac rhythm and spontaneous circulation.

Jeff and Mike delivered Ron to the ER with a total elapsed time from call time to ER of less than 20 minutes.

This was not Ron's first ride in an ambulance or the first time he was involved in CPR. Ron was one of the first Ambulance Attendants Harvey Hall hired to work at Hall Ambulance in the 1970s. This was before EMT's and Paramedics, as we have in the field today. He was certified through the Red Cross in advanced first aid and is alive today due the efforts of Jeff and Mike. ✨

Stars of Life



**Jessica
Hopkins**

*Care
Ambulance
Service, Inc.*

Orange

Jessica Hopkins
EMT

Jessica Hopkins is being awarded the Star of Life for her actions during a call with the Costa Mesa Fire Department. She responded to a call for a man who had possibly overdosed. The patient was combative, visibly agitated, exhibiting behavior consistent with paranoia and even attempted to strike a paramedic on scene. The patient gave every indication that he was prepared to fight all on scene, and it would have taken the efforts of all on-scene personnel to safely control him. But the call ended without incident thanks to the efforts of Jessica, who was able to exhibit the concern and compassion necessary to calm down the patient and deescalate the situation.

Jessica has been an EMT at Care Ambulance for 4 years. She is finishing up her last semester at Biola University, pursuing a degree in Political Science and plans to start a career in international development. In her free time she enjoys working on her clothing company and backpacking the high Sierras. ✨

Stars of Life



**Hiroshi
Ikeda**

*Royal
Ambulance
Hayward*

Hiroshi Ikeda
EMT

Hiroshi Ikeda, a.k.a “Yoshi” joined Royal Ambulance in 2008, and has consistently been one of Royal’s top EMTs. Yoshi first decided to go into EMS after taking a First Aid class during his third year at San Francisco State University. He instantly felt as if he found his true calling, and obtained his EMT certificate soon after. After arriving at Royal, Yoshi instantly stood out for his exceptional customer service skills, consistently getting customer praise as well as compliments from his co-workers. Yoshi truly understands the importance of compassionate and customer focused care and his calming demeanor has always added to the sense of well being patients feel when they are in his presence. Yoshi is currently attending Paramedic School, which he will be graduating from in 2012, and his goal is to become a Firefighter/Paramedic. During Yoshi’s free time he loves the outdoors and enjoys mountain biking, snowboarding and travelling as well as spending quality time with his lovely wife and his two beautiful daughters. ✨

Stars of Life



**Tanya
Johnson**
*Hall
Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Bakersfield*

Tanya Johnson
Paramedic

On October 10, 2011, Hall Ambulance and Hall Critical Care Transport personnel teamed up together to save a life. Tanya and Eileen were dispatched on a ground ambulance to the Elk Hills Oil Fields area between Taft and Bakersfield for a cardiac arrest. Due to the remote area and distance from a hospital, Hall Critical Care Transport's Air Ambulance was also dispatched. The ground ambulance arrived to find a 55 year old male unconscious with CPR started by witnesses. The Elk Hills staff had responded with an AED prior to our arrival and shocked the patient four times. Tanya and Eileen took over care and initiated Advanced Life Support procedures. During the transport to the landing zone the patient started to wake up. Care was handed off to Shawn, Heidi, and Steven. The patient was sedated, an airway secured, followed by post arrest medications. The patient was flown to San Joaquin Hospital where care was transferred to the Chest Pain Center staff with a pulse and spontaneous respirations. The patient was subsequently discharged home. ✨

Stars of Life



**Remy
Jordan**
*Royal
Ambulance
Stockton*

Remy Jordan
EMT

Remy Jordan's commitment to and love for EMS was inspired by his long-time mentor Steve Lindsey, a Firefighter Medic with Palo Alto Fire. Steve's positive influence on Remy along with Remy's already deeply rooted strong work ethic, helped make Remy one of Royal's most hard working and dedicated EMTs. Remy exemplifies what it means to be a team player, always willing and ready to go above and beyond for his fellow teammates, for his patients and for his community. While he takes his job very seriously, Remy is also known for having a witty sense of humor and has always been a favorite partner amongst his peers. Remy will be finishing up his Fire Academy at Chabot College in 2012 and will be starting Paramedic School in 2013. He is committed to obtaining his goal of becoming a Flight Medic and continues to work exceptionally hard at Royal with integrity, compassion and a positive attitude at the forefront of everything he does. In his free time Remy volunteers at community based organizations such as the Oaks Children's Center in San Francisco, helping children with special needs and also has a great love of the outdoors enjoying sports such as surfing, fishing and skydiving. Currently, Remy is eagerly looking forward to taking on his new role as a father; as his twin boys are due to arrive any day. ✨

Stars of Life



Craig Kelly

*Riggs
Ambulance
Service
Merced*

Craig Kelly **Paramedic/FTO**

Craig Kelly is a Paramedic and Field Training Officer (FTO) with Riggs Ambulance Service. Craig has been with RAS for 12 years and in that time his professionalism and patient care has become one of the standards by which other RAS paramedics are measured. The first thing you notice about Craig is, he's a big guy! As soon as you talk to him, you realize he is also a very empathetic and caring person who takes great pride in his interpersonal communications with everyone he meets. This is reflected in the numerous compliments he has received over the years from his patients, their families and his coworkers. Craig believes Paramedicine is much more than just assessment, treatment and transport. Craig knows the importance of treating the needs of the person, not just the patient. As an FTO, he insures his trainees also learn this lesson and as a result, his caring attitude has been passed on to many other paramedics.

In Craig's time away from work, he enjoys spending time with his fiancé, Madie, camping, boating and, of course, sleeping! Craig is a great asset to Riggs Ambulance Service as a model employee and top notch paramedic, we are fortunate to have him on our team. ✨



**Timothy
Kunstman**

*Medic
Ambulance*

*Solano
County*

Timothy Kunstman **Paramedic**

Tim, paramedic, decided to become involved in EMS following a car accident in 2005. Tim and a friend were exiting the freeway when his friend lost control of the car and struck a tree head on at approximately 55-60 mph. Both were knocked unconscious and after climbing from the car and helping his friend out they waited for around 15-20 minutes until a passing friend stopped and put them in a pick-up and drove them to the hospital. Several cars passed but no one offered help or even called 911. Tim was very disturbed by the fact that so many people could just ignore people in a situation like that, so he decided to do something about it by enrolling in EMT school. After EMT school, he was employed by a non-emergency transport company, then he enrolled in paramedic school. Once Tim received his paramedic license he applied at Medic, and as Tim puts it "they gave me a shot and the rest is history." Tim is a happily married father of one. Tim says his wife and daughter are his reasons for doing everything. Tim enjoys backpacking, camping, fishing, and climbing. Tim can't wait to start taking his daughter with him and showing her all the things that bring him so much joy. Tim is being honored as Medic Ambulance's 2012 Paramedic of the Year. Tim has been a model employee and a mentor at Medic Ambulance, as he has served many helpful roles, such as Field Training Officer/ Preceptor throughout the year. As the Paramedic of the Year winner, Tim will receive an all expenses paid trip to Denver, CO, to attend the ZOLL Summit conference, along with management personnel. Great Job! ✨

Stars of Life



**Steven
Lewis**

*Hall
Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Bakersfield*

Steven Lewis
Pilot

On October 10, 2011, Hall Ambulance and Hall Critical Care Transport personnel teamed up together to save a life. Tanya and Eileen were dispatched on a ground ambulance to the Elk Hills Oil Fields area between Taft and Bakersfield for a cardiac arrest. Due the remote area and distance from a hospital Hall Critical Care Transport's Air Ambulance was also dispatched. The ground ambulance arrived to find a 55 year old male unconscious with CPR started by witnesses. The Elk Hills staff had responded with an AED prior to our arrival and shocked the patient four times. Tanya and Eileen took over care and initiated Advanced Life Support procedures. During the transport to the landing zone the patient started to wake up. Care was handed off to Shawn, Heidi, and Steven. The patient was sedated, an airway secured, followed by post arrest medications. The patient was flown to San Joaquin Hospital where care was transferred to the Chest Pain Center staff with a pulse and spontaneous respirations. The patient was subsequently discharged home. ✨

Stars of Life



**Alison
"Belinda"
Lowder**

*Paramedics
Plus
Santa Rosa*

Alison "Belinda" Lowder
EMT-P

On February, 5, 2012, Belinda Lowder responded to a 38-week pregnant patient who had significant amounts of both alcohol and narcotics in her system. Enroute to Alta Bates Summit Medical Center in Oakland, the baby was spontaneously delivered with meconium present and potential airway distress. Now confronted with two high-risk patients, both requiring a high level of assessment and interventional care, Belinda made the decision to divert to Summit Hospital. This rapid decision-making and rapid care resulted in the most positive outcome possible for both patients. After working in management for 16 years, Belinda became an EMT in 1997. She started out working for a local transport company in Santa Rosa. In 2001, she became a paramedic, completing her internship in Alameda County. In 2002, Belinda began working for the Foothill College Paramedic Program where she worked as a Clinical and Internship Coordinator and just this last year she served as a Co-Director/Primary Instructor for the program. Belinda has continuously demonstrated exceptional care to all of her patients in the over 15 years she's served as a paramedic in Alameda County. She has also continued to remain certified as a Nationally Registered Paramedic - another testament to her personal dedication of clinical excellence. The above-mentioned example of patient care is yet one more example when superb patient-care was provided by Belinda. ✨

Stars of Life



**Zack
Martinez**
*American
Ambulance
Kings
County*

Zack Martinez
Paramedic

Paramedic Martinez started his career in EMS as a volunteer with Boulder Creek Fire Department in the Santa Cruz area. After running a stat medical aid, he knew that becoming a paramedic was his next career goal. Zack moved to Fresno and attended paramedic school at Fresno City College. Upon completion in 2003, he was hired at American Ambulance. In addition to being a field paramedic, Zack is also a field training officer which entails training new paramedics from various programs throughout the state. Zack strives for excellence with every patient contact and during each shift; he has been the recipient of multiple company awards and commendable citations throughout his career including 2011 Paramedic of the Year for Kings County Operations.

Zack describes himself as quick witted, which he states is the result of 8 years of paramedic service learning to deal with the chaos and complexity of scene calls. His peers describe him as generous, fun loving and compassionate. Zack has been married for 4 years to Anna, another paramedic at American Ambulance, and they have a blended family of 5 children. He enjoys being a father and spending time with his children. While off duty, Zack enjoys camping and being outdoors. *

Stars of Life



Kerry Monk
*Hall
Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Bakersfield*

Kerry Monk
Registered Nurse

Kerry Monk is awarded a Star of Life for her dedication to customer service and her continued support of the Hall Critical Care Transport. Each year Harvey L. Hall, Founder and President of Hall Ambulance and Hall Critical Care Transport recognizes an EMT, Paramedic, or Registered Nurse for outstanding customer service with the President's Award for Customer Service. The award is considered the highest honor for any Hall employee. The winner of the award has received a higher customer service satisfaction rating than any of his or her peers. The customer satisfaction rating comes directly from patient surveys, compliments from customers, allied health professionals and supervisors. Kerry was the first Registered Nurse to receive this honor. In addition to the President's Award, Kerry was awarded Employee of the Year for Hall Critical Care Transport. Kerry's positive attitude towards her employer, her peers, her customers and her vacation are infectious. She routinely will come in from home to staff extra ambulances for long distance trips and took on the responsibility of training new registered nurses. *



**Ryan
Moynihan**
*Royal
Ambulance
San Ramon*

Ryan Moynihan
Field Training Officer/EMT

Ryan Moynihan, Field Training Officer and EMT for Royal Ambulance, is one of the organization's first employees, and has been with Royal since its start in 2006. On his first day of training, Ryan ran 10 calls in 12 hours, and realized how exciting and meaningful this job truly was. From that point on, he knew being an EMT and being a part of EMS was something he would be interested in doing for the rest of his life. To further his knowledge, Ryan enrolled in and completed Paramedic School in 2008 and passed his National Registry in 2009. While working on a 911 rig during his internship, he was able to evaluate and really think about his role at Royal and the patient contact that he gets on a daily basis. Ryan came to realize how lucky he feels that he gets the opportunity to connect to patients on such a personal level, and how many relationships he has formed with the patients he sees every day. His continuous strive and commitment to superior patient care and customer service made Ryan stand out and he was soon promoted to Field Training Officer. He has continuously turned out exceptional EMTs, and has been a real influence on those new to this field through his sincere compassion towards others. This passion to help has also been evident in all of Ryan's contributions to Royal Ambulance, whether he is helping to fix the vehicles, building lockers for other team members to use, decorating the station for the holidays or just lending a hand to anyone in need, Ryan always comes through and was awarded the "Jack of All Trades" award in 2011. In addition to all his commitments at Royal, in his free time, Ryan enjoys hanging out with his wife, Katie and his many close friends. ❁

Stars of Life



**Hanna
Nash**

*Pro-
Transport-1
Richmond*

Hanna Nash
EMT

Nothing exemplifies the consistent hard work and dedication of ProTransport-1 EMT Hannah Nash more than her life-saving actions during a patient transport at a hospital. Hannah was first on hand as three men rushed through the hospital doors with fresh gunshot wounds. Her tremendous instincts and skills were on exhibition as she began to triage the victims, diagnosing the extent of each injury and initiating treatment. Hannah worked courageously to control bleeding and stabilize the condition of each gunshot victim on her own. Facing circumstances which could overwhelm the most experienced emergency room staffer, Hannah delivered impressive emergency care which helped save the lives of two individuals. Hannah has been an exceptional employee throughout her three years at ProTransport-1, showing an extremely selfless and helpful nature to every patient she meets. She loves to help others and is an excellent representation of what it means to be an EMT. ✨

Stars of Life



**Eileen
Navarro**

*Hall
Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Bakersfield*

Eileen Navarro
EMT

On October 10, 2011, Hall Ambulance and Hall Critical Care Transport personnel teamed up together to save a life. Tanya and Eileen were dispatched on a ground ambulance to the Elk Hills Oil Fields area between Taft and Bakersfield for a cardiac arrest. Due the remote area and distance from a hospital, Hall Critical Care Transport's Air Ambulance was also dispatched. The ground ambulance arrived to find a 55 year old male unconscious with CPR started by witnesses. The Elk Hills staff had responded with an AED prior to Tanya and Eileen's arrival and shocked the patient four times. Tanya and Eileen took over care and initiated Advanced Life Support procedures. During the transport to the landing zone, the patient started to wake up. Care was handed off to Shawn, Heidi, and Steven. The patient was sedated, an airway was secured, and post arrest medications followed. The patient was flown to San Joaquin Hospital where care was transferred to the Chest Pain Center staff with a pulse and spontaneous respirations. The patient was subsequently discharged home. ✨

Stars of Life



Jeff Perkins

*Hall
Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Bakersfield*

Jeff Perkins
Paramedic

On July 5, 2011 at noon, 61 year old Ron Klawitter suffered a sudden cardiac arrest. His wife of 29 years, Jan, heard him fall and checked on him. A CPR Instructor, Jan checked for breathing and a pulse. Finding none, she immediately called 9-1-1 and started CPR.

AT 12:02 PM, paramedic Jeff Perkins and EMT Mike Hilliard were dispatched to the Klawitter home. They arrived at 12:04 PM to find Jan performing CPR. Jeff and Mike relieved Jan, and continued CPR. Jeff applied his cardiac monitor and found Ron's heart in a non life sustaining lethal rhythm. Jeff defibrillated Ron and witnessed an immediate return of life sustaining cardiac rhythm and spontaneous circulation.

Jeff and Mike delivered Ron to the ER with a total elapsed time from call time to ER of less than 20 minutes.

This was not Ron's first ride in an ambulance or the first time he was involved in CPR. Ron was one of the first Ambulance Attendants Harvey Hall hired to work at Hall Ambulance in the 1970s. This was before EMT's and paramedics, as we have in the field today. He was certified through the Red Cross in advanced first aid and is alive today due the efforts of Jeff and Mike. *

Stars of Life



Shawn Perryman

*Hall
Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Bakersfield*

Shawn Perryman
Flight Paramedic

On October 10, 2011, Hall Ambulance and Hall Critical Care Transport personnel teamed up together to save a life. Tanya and Eileen were dispatched on a ground ambulance to the Elk Hills Oil Fields area between Taft and Bakersfield for a cardiac arrest. Due the remote area and distance from a hospital, Hall Critical Care Transport's Air Ambulance was also dispatched. The ground ambulance arrived to find a 55 year old male unconscious with CPR started by witnesses. The Elk Hills staff had responded with an AED prior to their arrival and shocked the patient four times. Tanya and Eileen took over care and initiated Advanced Life Support procedures. During the transport to the landing zone the patient started to wake up. Care was handed off to Shawn, Heidi, and Steven. The patient was sedated, an airway was secured and post arrest medications followed. The patient was flown to San Joaquin Hospital where care was transferred to the Chest Pain Center staff with a pulse and spontaneous respirations. The patient was subsequently discharged home. *



Anthony Reyes
Royal Ambulance Berkeley

Anthony Reyes
Lead Field Training Officer/EMT

Anthony Reyes, Senior Field Training Officer and EMT for Royal Ambulance, is being recognized for his unwavering commitment and dedication to EMS. Anthony's distinctive character stands out not only in the field serving patients, but he is also an integral part of the Operations Team at Royal Ambulance. Anthony joined Royal in early 2009 and his clear drive, determination and dedication to his patients and his co-workers quickly made him one of Royal's most admired and respected team members. Anthony was soon promoted to Field Training Officer and his ability to train and teach effectively continues to be a reflection of his distinctive adherence to quality and competence. As a clear leader at Royal and amongst his peers, Anthony was promoted to Senior Lead Field Training Officer in 2011 and he has continued to elevate and improve our FTO program. Anthony's ability to gauge and assess any given situation effectively makes him an asset to his partners and most importantly, to his patients. Anthony's desire to serve in EMS continues to grow. Not only does Anthony serve patients in the field as an EMT for Royal, he also provides care to patients as an ER Technician at St. Rose Hospital in Hayward. Anthony is also pursuing his paramedic license and currently volunteers with Alameda County Fire Department. Despite his numerous responsibilities, his commitment and character are never compromised. Anthony remains diligent in his pursuits and values and carries with him an ingrained sense of purpose to serve his community, care for his patients and inspire new EMTs. In his free time, Anthony likes to spend time with his beautiful wife, and also has a love of BBQ, restaurants, recipes and is quite the proclaimed Foodie. ❁

Stars of Life



Julie Senter

*San Luis
Ambulance*

*San Luis
Obispo*

Julie Senter
Paramedic

From her first day of work at San Luis Ambulance over 3 years ago, Julie Senter has demonstrated excellence in all aspects of working as a paramedic. She is truly a "lead by example" person that works well with her co-workers as well as all other allied agencies. Julie's upbeat, friendly and professional nature has resulted in her being well respected by everyone she works with.

Julie's quality patient care, documentation and ability to interact with her co-workers made her an ideal addition to the San Luis Ambulance Quality Improvement Committee, where she has been an active participant that has offered excellent input to the group.

When not working as a paramedic, Julie enjoys hiking, camping with her family, going to the beach, and physical fitness.

Julie is a true asset to San Luis Ambulance and was recently recognized for her contributions by being selected as the 2011 San Luis Ambulance Employee of the Year. *

Stars of Life



Chad Smart

*Care
Ambulance
Service, Inc.*

Orange

Chad Smart
EMT/Dispatcher

Chad Smart is being awarded the Star of Life for his actions during the deadliest shooting in Orange County history. Because of his heroic actions, Chad received a letter from Fire Captain Steve King with OCTA E48-C praising his performance in interaction with OCFA during this tragedy. Steve stated in his letter that Chad "is an integral part of my EMS response to calls in and outside OCFA's jurisdiction.

Chad's leadership and commitment to quality care has earned him the 2012 Star of Life.

Chad started in EMS as a lifeguard for the city of Temecula before becoming an EMT in 2004. He began working with Care in 2006. In addition to his full time field shift, he also pulls double duty as a part time dispatcher in our communication center. He takes great pride in working for such a great company that provides such a great service to the residents of Los Angeles and Orange counties.*

Stars of Life



Ed Smith

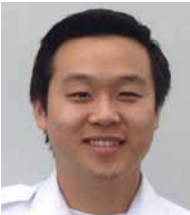
*Hall
Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Bakersfield*

Ed Smith

Paramedic/Communications Technology Specialist

Ed started his career at Hall Ambulance on May 5th 1971. Ed was attending an Advanced First Aid class at Bakersfield College when Harvey Hall, Founder and President of Hall Ambulance, made an appearance to discuss the ambulance business. As soon as Ed completed his class, he applied for work. In 1973, Ed completed his EMT training well before the state required an EMT certificate to work on an ambulance. In 1975 Ed completed paramedic training and became one of the first paramedics in Bakersfield. Ed was promoted to Paramedic Field Supervisor. Ed has always loved electronics and in 2002 he turned his hobby into his job when he was given the responsibility of installing and maintaining radios, phones, and other electronic components required to keep a fleet of more than 100 vehicles in constant contact with the Communications Center. Ed maintains his paramedic license and is always prepared to staff a unit as needed to assist with Mass Casualty Incidents or periods of heavy call volume. Ed is the first Hall Ambulance employee to reach the 40 year milestone. ✨

Stars of Life



**Piti
Sukavivatanachai**

*Care
Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Orange*

Piti Sukavivatanachai

EMT

Piti Sukavivatanachai is being awarded the Star of Life for his actions during the deadliest shooting in Orange County history. Piti and his partner (Robert Ward) were the first ambulance crew to arrive on scene. With such a chaotic scene taking place around them, he was able to stay calm and focused and provide immediate patient care to the shooting victims.

Piti Sukavivatanachai has been an EMT for Care Ambulance for approximately 1.5 years. Currently, he proudly serves the community of Seal Beach, CA. After graduating from UCLA with a BA in psychology and a minor in music history, he went on to receive his EMT training at CIEMT. He wanted to become an EMT to gain medical experience to prepare himself for PA school. He knew he wanted to go into the business of helping people after getting a taste of lifesaving at the age of 7 when he rescued a near-drowning friend. With his free time, he enjoys spending time and cooking with his fiancé, going on food adventures, experimenting with new recipes in the kitchen, playing water polo and playing guitar with his band, Freaks in the Wild. His goals are to move up to Santa Barbara, CA with his fiancé, open a restaurant and start a family. ✨

Stars of Life



**Herculano
(Lano)
Tucay**

*American
Medical
Response
Tulare*

Herculano (Lano) Tucay
EMT-FTO

On August 1, 2011, while driving home after finishing his shift, Lano Tucay came across a truck that had caught fire and crashed into an apartment building. Acting quickly, Lano pulled the driver, who was on fire, from the truck and rolled him in wet grass to extinguish the flames. Fearing the truck might explode, Lano then evacuated residents of the apartment building before returning to the driver to render aid until EMS arrived on scene. Lano's quick thinking and heroic efforts on this day are credited with saving the driver's life. He was subsequently presented with an award from the Fresno City Council, and had August 18, 2011 declared as Herculano Tucay Day. Not surprisingly, this was not the first off-duty save Lano had performed, and may likely not be the last. A dedicated Field Training Officer and 17 year EMS veteran, Lano Tucay possesses all the traits of a genuine Star of Life, and we are proud to have him as part of the AMR team. ✿

Stars of Life



**Joseph
Viergutz**
*Medic
Ambulance
Solano
County*

Joseph Viergutz
EMT

Joseph Viergutz, EMT, knew growing up that public safety was something he always wanted to be involved with, he just didn't know where to start. After graduating high school, Joe enrolled in the EMT program at Solano Community College. By nineteen, Joe had his first job with a non-emergency transport company. A few years later Joe was hired by Medic Ambulance where he has been ever since. Joe is being honored as Medic Ambulance's 2012 EMT of the Year. Joe has been a model employee at Medic Ambulance, as he has served in many helpful roles throughout the year for us. Joe was also awarded Medic Ambulance's 2012 Travis Grace "Excellence in EMS" Award, and will receive a full tuition scholarship for Paramedic School to Napa Valley College. Great Job! ✿

Stars of Life



**Pamela
Watson**
*Medic
Ambulance*
*Solano
County*

Pamela Watson
EMT

Since Pam was 10 years old she wanted nothing more than to have what she thought was the “coolest job ever” being on an ambulance. Pam’s life has taken unexpected turns but she has never let go of her dream. Six years ago, Pam had the opportunity to chase her dream and became an EMT; she then was hired at Medic Ambulance and couldn’t be happier. Pam truly feels lucky & blessed to be able to get up every morning and she LOVES going to work. Pam says even after 5 years of being on an ambulance, nothing can bring a smile to her face like the sound of sirens blaring and the rush of going on a call. Pam’s career goal is to have the chance to become a paramedic! Pam loves to enjoy the California weather, riding her bike, walking, hiking along the Yuba River and gathering with friends for BBQs. Pam and her partner Nicole are being honored for the rapid and critical treatment of a cardiac patient, who suffered sudden cardiac arrest. Because of their excellent treatment, the patient walked out of the hospital, and is at home now in Benicia! Great Job! ✨

Stars of Life



**Scott
Williams**
*Medic
Ambulance*
*Solano
County*

Scott Williams
EMT

Scott Williams, a 20 year employee of Medic Ambulance, first started working for his family’s business for several years as well as owning his own auto customizing shop. In 1993, Scott was hit by a drunk driver and was placed on bed rest in traction for several months due to multiple spinal disk bulges and herniations. During this time, Scott’s business closed and his parents retired, so after he recovered he was forced to find other work. Scott decided he wanted to help people the same way he was helped after being hit by a drunk driver. Scott decided to attend EMT school. Scott soon graduated as an EMT and went to work for Cordova Ambulance in December 1992. In 1996, Scott became an employee of Medic Ambulance Service after the company purchased Cordova Ambulance. Scott has been with Medic ever since and states he has “thoroughly enjoyed working with the company and all of the many friends and partners I have had over the years and I look forward to the many more years ahead of me.” Scott is married with four children ages 10 months to 21 years. Scott enjoys working around his house, camping and training his two German Shepherds. His favorite thing to do is spend quality time with his wife and kids on his days off. Scott is being honored for his 20 years of excellent and dedicated service to his job and his profession! Great Job! ✨

Stars of Life



**Tamera
Wilson**

*Hall
Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Bakersfield*

Tamera Wilson
EMT

On February 1st at approximately 1800, then EMT Academy Student Tamera Wilson was in the parking lot at the local grocery store. She heard a woman frantically hollering 'Oh my gosh', and went to see if she could help. She found the woman was very concerned over a young daughter who was in a shopping cart choking. Tamera noticed that the child had a set of keys resting on her, and asked if any of the key chain was missing. The mother said yes, a ball on her key chain was missing. Tamera picked up the child and looked into her mouth, finding nothing. She then turned the child over her arm, and delivered four back blows. This dislodged the object, and the child began crying and breathing normally.

Tami was inspired to start a career in EMS by her sister, Hall Ambulance Paramedic and 2012 Star of Life recipient Tonya Johnson. Tami just graduated from the Hall Ambulance EMT Academy and is in the middle of her six week field training. ✨

Stars of Life



**Heidi
Woods**

*Hall
Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Bakersfield*

Heidi Woods
Flight Nurse

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**Jennifer
Wright**
*Medic
Ambulance
Solano
County*

Jennifer Wright
EMD – Lead Dispatcher

Jennifer was born in Vallejo, CA and grew up in Suisun, CA, just down the street from the Suisun Fire Department. Jennifer went to Angelo Rodriguez High School in Fairfield, CA, and was a part of the first graduating class to finish all 4 years. As a child, Jennifer started in Girl Scouts and was involved with the organization for about 10 years. Jennifer also volunteered at her old elementary school as a teacher's aide. During her time as a Girl Scout and an aide she encountered people having medical emergencies and the field always interested her. She felt trying EMS out as a dispatcher would be the best first approach. She applied with Medic Ambulance, went through all her training and passed with great remarks from her trainers. Jen has now been at Medic Ambulance for 4 years, first working as a call taker and now as a lead dispatcher. Jennifer is EMD certified by the National Academies of Emergency Dispatch (NAED) and is a Field Training Officer (FTO). In Jennifer's spare time she loves to go shopping, spend time with friends, attend weekly family dinners with her family, and spend time with her 8-month old nephew Kaleb. Jen is being honored for her overall job performance as a lead dispatcher this last year. Jen has been a model employee and a mentor at Medic Ambulance. She has served in many helpful roles, such as Field Training Officer, picking up extra shifts, and always being there for management and other dispatchers when they needed her throughout the year! Great Job! 🌸



Sean Young

*Royal
Ambulance
Danville*

Sean Young
Operations Supervisor

Sean Young began his journey into the world of EMS through the influence of his older brother, who is a firefighter at Stockton Fire. As he began to pursue this dream, he realized that this was not the right path for him and he began looking at the paramedic route instead. This new direction led him to Royal Ambulance, where he started as an EMT in early 2010. Sean soon became one of Royal's most popular team members by consistently demonstrating his commitment to patient care, his strong work ethic, and his keen ability to be a key team player in anything he took on. In 2010, Sean Young was awarded "Rookie of the Year" as well as the "Fan Favorite" award in one of Royal Ambulance's annual employee appreciation ceremonies. This award was voted on by his peers, and Sean came out as the clear winner for the individual who really stood out above the rest, who is always willing to help out, who consistently displays a positive attitude and who best represents the Royal community and company morale. As Sean continued to grow and thrive as an EMT and as a natural leader, he was soon promoted to Field Training Officer. Sean continued to stand out, and his willingness to always lend a hand to the Management Team, his innate understanding of the business side of Royal, as well as his positive influence on his fellow EMTs and FTOs led to his promotion in 2011 to Operations Supervisor. Sean continues to be one the most well respected and admired members of Royal Ambulance, and he is always looking to take on more responsibility and for additional opportunities to learn and grow. In his free time, Sean enjoys rock climbing, travelling and spending time with his 10 year old daughter Jade.



**Jack
Youngblood**

*American
Medical
Response
Sacramento*

Jack Youngblood
Paramedic

Jack Youngblood has provided exemplary paramedic service to the Sacramento region since 1989. However, it is what Jack has done off duty for young burn survivors for over 16 years that tells the story of just how great a person he really is, and why he deserves to be awarded the Star of Life. The best way to describe Jack's compassion for others is to tell the story of his first exposure to the Burn Camp, operated by the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation.

Jack joined his wife, Colleen, as chaperons for a ski trip hosted by the Foundation. On the way to the ski resort the couple picked up a young man who was a burn survivor. Before they arrived at the resort they stopped at a local restaurant and Jack noticed patrons beginning to stare at the young man who had sustained disfigurement from his burn injuries. Jack quickly moved to offer emotional support to the boy by placing his arm around him and asking him what he would like to eat. It was at this point that Jack knew that this was an organization he needed to belong to, and where the first of his 16 years of volunteering at the Foundation's Burn Camp began.

Today, Jack, who is known as "Chief" among campers, can be found dedicating much of his time at Burn Camp running the Young Adult Summit that he helped design, which focuses on teaching burn survivors the skills needed to become more independent and successful in society and the workplace. This summit has gained the interest of burn camps from around the country and even Canada who are looking to reproduce the summit in their area. Jack was also recently honored with the Ruch Family Circle Award for his years of service to the Foundation. A superior clinician, and compassionate individual, Jack Youngblood is everything a Star of Life should be, and more. AMR is honored to have the opportunity to nominate Jack with this award.

THE CALIFORNIA
AMBULANCE
ASSOCIATION
CONGRATULATES
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Stars of Life!



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