



CALIFORNIA AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL *Stars of Life* CELEBRATION



APRIL 19-21, 2010
SHERATON GRAND HOTEL – SACRAMENTO, CA

HEALTH CARE'S ESSENTIAL FIRST RESPONDERS

Stars of Life



Dana Solomon
Chairman, Board of
Directors
California Ambulance
Association

Congratulations to all of our 2010 Stars of Life. Your actions, whether from a single heroic incident or a career-long performance record, demonstrate that you have stood out among your peers as the best of the best.

Too often the work of our paramedics, EMTs and emergency


medical dispatchers goes without notice. Neither the public nor the media get the opportunity to see the highly specialized medical care that is provided in the patient compartment while the ambulance is en route to the hospital.

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. 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 **American Business Insurance, Boundtree Medical, Life-Assist, Inc., Care West Insurance Risk Management and Sierra Medical Services Alliance.**

Lastly, we are honored to have Dr. Steven Tharratt, Senator Elaine Alquist and Assemblyman Bill Monning 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 20, 2010 —

**Welcome Dana Solomon, Chairman
and Senator Elaine Alquist**

Dinner

Guest Speaker Assemblymember Bill Monning

**Presentation of Steven Tharratt, M.D.,
Stars of Life Recognition EMSA Director**

Closing Remarks Dana Solomon, Chairman

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**Coffee Break
Sponsor (4/20)**

Senator Elaine Kontominas Alquist
13th Senate District
Representing the Heart of Silicon Valley



A policy maker for over 20 years, Senator Elaine Kontominas Alquist (D-Santa Clara) is completing her first Senate term representing almost a million people living in

the cities of San Jose, Sunnyvale, Santa Clara, Mountain View, and Gilroy.

The daughter of an immigrant, Elaine Kontominas Alquist was born in Chicago, Illinois and grew up in St. Louis. She worked her way through college and graduate school and earned a B.A. in mathematics from MacMurray College in Illinois. Sen. Alquist also earned an M.A. in Guidance and Counseling, and Education from Washington University where she graduated with honors.

After being an algebra and trigonometry teacher and a counselor in the public schools, Senator Alquist moved to Santa Clara County in 1978.

A former small business owner, realtor, and financial analyst at Stanford University, Senator Alquist is the first Greek American woman elected to both houses of the California State Legislature.


In the Assembly (1996-2002), she was the first Chair of the Assembly Committee on Information Technology, where she blew the whistle on the disastrous Statewide Automated Child Support System (SACSS) which saved taxpayers one hundred million dollars.

Elected to the State Senate in November 2004, Senator Alquist chairs the Senate Health Committee; the Senate Subcommittee on Aging and Long Term Care; and, the Select Committee on Emerging Technologies and Economic Competitiveness.

Sen. Alquist is also one of three voting members of the Senate Budget Subcommittee on Health, Human Services, Labor, and Veterans Affairs. She also serves on the Senate Committees on Education, Human Services and Revenue and Taxation.

In her first Senate term, she has authored pioneering hospital safety legislation that establishes a meaningful hospital error reporting and enforcement/fine system.

A thirty-year resident of Santa Clara County, Senator Alquist understands the transportation and housing challenges that we face in Silicon Valley. She created the First-Time Homebuyers Down Payment Assistance Program and is working on solutions to ease traffic congestion by fighting for BART to San Jose and bringing High-Speed Rail through San Jose.

Senator Alquist's family includes her sons Peter, married to Anju Chowdhry, and Bryan White, married to Asako Yasui. She is the adoring yia yia (Greek grandmother) of Jasmine and Logan. 

Senator Tony Strickland **19th Senate District**

Representing Ventura, Santa Barbara and Los Angeles Counties



Tony is the youngest of 3 children. His mother, Antonie, emigrated to the United States from Germany and became a U.S. Citizen in 1971. His father, Don, was a career military soldier. They

taught him the same values he hopes to impart to his children and that he strives to bring to public office – honesty, integrity, and hard work. Tony's core philosophy that he brings to government is his belief in personal responsibility and creating an efficient, responsible government with low taxes that does not do for its citizenry that which they can do for themselves.

At home, Tony is a husband of 11 years to his wife, Audra, and a father to two children – Ruby Ruth and Anthony Paul.


As a member of the California State Senate, Senator Strickland's top priority is growing California's economy. He believes the best way to preserve funding for vital programs like healthcare, education, and transportation is by creating jobs. He is committed to working with Democrats and Republicans to craft fundamental reforms to California's budget process that has brought an unacceptable crisis to the state.

Prior to joining the Senate, Tony served in the California State Assembly for the maximum six years from 1998-2004. In the Assembly, Tony quickly established a reputation as a taxpayer advocate

and a representative with the skills to reach independent solutions to make government more accountable. He championed policies to help the economy. He received an "A" grade from the Chamber of Commerce for legislation he authored and votes he cast to help create better, higher-paying jobs.

As a long time advocate for working California families, it was in the State Assembly that Strickland took the action he is perhaps best known for. He filed a law suit against then-Governor Gray Davis on behalf of energy rate-payers, which ultimately forced the Davis Administration to reveal outrageously expensive energy contracts it had negotiated in secret between the State of California and energy companies.

An active member of his community, Tony has been a Board Member of the Ventura County Council Boy Scouts of America, an Advisory Committee Member of Food Share, and an Honorary Board Member of the Moorpark Boys & Girls Club, in addition to being active in numerous civic, business and church organizations throughout Ventura County. Tony currently serves as a Member of the Board of Directors for Consumer Credit Counseling Service.

Tony received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Whittier College. In 1992, Whittier College recognized Tony's achievements by bestowing him with its Leadership and Service Award. 

Steven Tharratt, M.D. **Director, Emergency Medical Services Authority**



Dr. Tharratt is Director of the California Emergency Services Authority. Appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger in 2008, Dr Tharratt is responsible for the


strategic vision and leadership of emergency medical services and out of hospital care for California. He has published widely on emergency management issues and the relationship between the medical and veterinary medical disciplines in response to biodefense and emerging zoonotic diseases, including avian influenza. Dr. Tharratt has research interests in emergency management and the integration of health issues into public policy and emergency decision making in both natural and technological disasters.

Since 2000, Tharratt has served at the University of California, Davis Medical Center as professor of medicine and anesthesiology and vice chief in the division of Pulmonary/Critical Care Medicine. Additionally, he has served as the medical director for the Sacramento County Emergency Medical Services and the Sacramento City and County Fire Departments since 1995. He has also been associate regional medical director for the California Poison Control System since 1989. From 2005 to 2007 and also from 2002 to 2003, Tharratt served as interim division chief of Pulmonary/

Critical Care Medicine at the University of California, Davis School of Medicine. From 2000 to 2004, he was the medical science advisor to the Governors Office of Emergency Services. From 1997 to 2005, Tharratt was the chief medical consultant for the California Emergency Medical Services Authority.

"I am honored Governor Schwarzenegger has chosen me for this position," Tharratt said. "I am thrilled to offer my services to the state so the people of California can be taken care of in the event of an emergency."

Tharratt, of El Dorado Hills, received a Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of California, Los Angeles, a Master of Public Health degree from the University of California, Davis and a Bachelor of Science degree in biomedical sciences from the University of California, Riverside.

The mission of the California Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Authority is to ensure quality patient care by administering an effective statewide system of coordinated emergency medical care, injury prevention, and disaster medical response. The EMS Authority is also responsible for leadership in developing and implementing EMS systems throughout California and setting standards for the training and scope of practice of various levels of EMS personnel. 

Assemblymember Bill Monning **27th District**

Representing Monterey, Santa Cruz, and Santa Clara Counties




Assemblymember Bill Monning was elected in November of 2008 to represent the 27th District, which includes portions of Monterey, Santa Cruz, and Santa Clara Counties.

Since being sworn into office on December 1, 2008, Assemblymember Monning has gained several key appointments by Assembly Speaker Karen Bass. In December 2008, he was tapped to serve on the Assembly Committee on Budget. Shortly thereafter he was selected to serve as the chair of the Assembly Committee on Labor and Employment, as well as serving as a member of the Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxics Materials Committee, the Assembly Judiciary Committee, and the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, and as member of the Budget Subcommittee #5 on Information Technology/Transportation.

In April of 2009, Assemblymember Monning gained two further appointments by Speaker Bass, one to the California Coastal Conservancy and the other to the Assembly Stimulus, Economic Recovery, and Jobs Task Force.

Prior to his service in the State Assembly, Assemblymember Monning was a professor at the Monterey College of Law and a professor of International Negotiation and Conflict Resolution at the Monterey Institute of International Studies. He is the former president and co-founder of Global Majority, Inc., an organization committed to education, training and advocacy in the field of non-violent conflict resolution.

Assemblymember Monning also served as a Senior Fulbright Specialist, receiving a Fulbright scholarship to teach and research in Peru and Chile. Additionally, he was a member of the Monterey County Court-directed mediation panel and served for four years as Executive Director of the Nobel Peace Prize winning organization, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War.

The Assemblymember received a B.A. at the University of California at Berkeley and a law degree from the University of San Francisco School of Law. He and his wife, Dana T. Kent, a family physician, reside in Carmel, California and they have two daughters: Laura and Alexandra. 

Stars of Life



**Jeffrey
Chavez**

*Medic
Ambulance
Service
Solano*

Jeff Chavez is 26 years old and grew up in the Sacramento area. Outside of work, Jeff is a very active person. He enjoys getting outside for mountain biking, snowboarding, trail running with his girlfriend and backyard BBQ's. Jeff started EMT school at age 19 as a pre-requisite for a fire academy and his interest was immediately sparked by the EMS side of the spectrum. Though Jeff ultimately wants to become a Firefighter/Paramedic he is equally

involved in and enjoys being a paramedic of one and a half years for Medic Ambulance in Solano County. Jeff is being honored for his outstanding service and treatment of a Severely Critical Heart Attack patient in Fairfield, CA. If it wasn't for Jeff and his partner's rapid treatment, this patient's outcome could have been a lot worse. So far Jeffery and his partner have the fastest door to balloon time in Solano County's history. ✱

Stars of Life



**Brandon
Danziger**

*Medic
Ambulance
Service
Sacramento*

Brandon Danziger has been in the EMS field for about 6 years now. Brandon started out his first 4 years with Cal Fire as a firefighter/EMT. After completion of paramedic school, Brandon started working for Medic Ambulance. During Brandon's free time he

enjoys riding his motorcycle and spending time with friends and family. Brandon is being honored for his outstanding service as an EMT. He was honored as Medic Ambulance's Paramedic of the Year, Sacramento Division. ✱

Stars of Life



**Michelle
Dehn**

*Medic
Ambulance
Service
Solano*

Michelle Dehn joined the EMS team as an Emergency Medical Technician a year and a half ago. She aspires to become an osteopathic doctor, and became an EMT to gain the unique knowledge and experience that comes from pre-hospital care. She has her bachelor's degree in Aviation Business Administration, and has recently completed the pre-med classes she needs to apply to medical school. Michelle grew up and went to college on the east coast. She has been married for three years to her husband

Charlie, who is a pilot in the Air Force. They moved to California 2 years ago when he was assigned to the KC-10 at Travis Air Force Base. In her free time, Michelle enjoys painting, running, hiking, and exploring all that California has to offer. She hopes to run her first marathon this fall. Michelle and Charlie are expecting their first child in June. Michelle is being honored for her outstanding service as an EMT. She was honored as Medic Ambulance's EMT of the Year, Solano Division. *

Stars of Life



**Jesse
Fernandez**

*Riggs
Ambulance
Service
Merced*

Jesse Fernandez's nomination cannot be summed up by one call or incident. He represents the best in all of us on every call, every incident, and every encounter. His professionalism exceeds all standards, his uniform is always pressed and his boots are always polished, not to make himself look good, but to make all of us look professional in the public eye.

Jesse is never less than curious and caring towards his patients, co-workers and co-responders.

Jesse gives one hundred percent, one hundred percent of the time and we as individuals and as a company are all better for it.

Giving STAR CARE on one call is a good thing, providing STAR CARE quality on every call demonstrates a great employee. Jesse goes above and beyond when it comes to his duties as an EMT, Partner, and Patient Care Provider.

Jesse has been a full time Emergency Medical Technician with Riggs Ambulance Service for three years and has just acquired his California Paramedic license.

While somewhat quiet and reserved, Jesse always has a quick smile and a friendly demeanor to all he meets. Jesse enjoys exercising, working in his yard and outdoor activities. *

Stars of Life



**Benjamin
Gammon**

*Medic
Ambulance
Service
Vacaville*

Benjamin Gammon is a well rounded EMS individual. His inspiration comes from the legacy left by his father who is a retired Fairfield Fire Captain. With the passing of his mother 5 years ago he realized he needed to follow a more familiar career path. In the beginning of 2008, Benjamin started to work as a Reserve at The Fairfield Fire Department and knew then that a career in helping people is what he wanted to accomplish. In the end of 2008, concurrently as a Fire Reserve, he started working for Medic Ambulance as an EMT. Working as an EMT serves as a stepping stone for continuing his EMS education, career and

goals to be a Paramedic for Medic Ambulance. In 2009, Benjamin proceeded with his education as a Paramedic at EMSTI and is currently in his internship at Medic Ambulance and expects to be a reputable Paramedic and continue with his long road of an EMS career. When Benjamin is not working, reserving or in school you will find him at home with his family in Vacaville. A fiancé, two young girls and a Labrador retriever make for a very busy life and he enjoys every minute of it. Benjamin is being honored for his outstanding service as an EMT. He was honored as Medic Ambulance's EMT of the Year, Solano Division. *

Stars of Life



**Nakia
Garrett**

*Riggs
Ambulance
Service
Merced*

Nakia Garrett volunteered to coordinate and lead Operation Give Hope. Operation Give Hope raises money and provides gifts for underprivileged children at Christmas in Merced County. Sponsored by Riggs Ambulance Service and its employees, Operation Give Hope was able to provide Christmas gifts and food for 10 families this Christmas thanks to Nakia's generous gift of her time, talent and energy.

Nakia has been an Emergency Medical Dispatcher with Riggs Ambulance Service (RAS)

for 6 years. She also works as a part-time Emergency Medical Technician for RAS.

Distinguishing Personal Trait: Nakia is a team player. She is committed, dependable and hard working. Nakia is always willing to help in whatever way possible, she demonstrates leadership and a positive influence in the dispatch center.

Notable Personal Interest: On Nakia's time off she enjoys spending quality time with her husband and 3 children. She enjoys scrapbooking and baking. *

Stars of Life



**Brandon
Garon**

*Care
Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Orange*

On November 6, 2009, **Brandon Garon** and his partner **Melissa Gonzales** received a letter of commendation regarding a transport they had responded to in which a woman had fallen and fractured her arm. She was treated by the paramedics in the field and then released to Brandon and Melissa for BLS transport to the hospital.

It was upon arrival at the hospital that Brandon and Melissa were cited by the patient as going above and beyond. The patient stated, "During the long wait in the hallway your EMT's were good company, tried to make me comfortable, and eventually became my voice by repeatedly checking on my admission status and requesting something for my pain. After an hour and a half I had still not been seen or given anything for pain which was now excruciating. At this point, the hospital

advised me that they did not have an orthopedist on staff. Your EMT's took the initiative and organized an immediate transfer for me to an alternate hospital, where within 20 minutes of arriving, I was seen, received pain medication, and admitted for surgery on my arm. They were wonderful."

Brandon and Melissa are being awarded the Star of Life for being outstanding patient advocates and looking after the wellbeing of their patient well after the patient was delivered to the ER.

Brandon has been an EMT at Care Ambulance for 18 months and is working to someday become a Firefighter Paramedic.

Melissa has been an EMT at Care Ambulance for 2 years. She also is working towards a fire career and is currently enrolled in the Fire Academy. 🌟



**Melissa
Gonzales**

*Care
Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Orange*

Stars of Life



**Bryan
Hamilton**

*Medic
Ambulance
Service
Solano*

Bryan Hamilton is somewhat new to EMS having only been in EMS for about 10 months now. The son of a retired police officer, Bryan got into EMS after growing up dreaming of a career in public safety. Bryan is a Supply Support Technician for Medic Ambulance. When Bryan is not working, he rarely relaxes. He keeps busy by hunting, fishing, riding motorcycles and doing anything to keep himself from having a "normal" day. Bryan is being honored

for his outstanding service as an employee. He was honored as this year's recipient of the Medic Ambulance's Travis Grace "Excellence in EMS" Award, which honors a Medic Ambulance employee that shows all the qualities of work ethic our inaugural Star of Life, Travis Grace, shows. By winning this Award, Bryan was awarded a full scholarship to EMT school at Solano Community College, all paid for by Medic Ambulance in Travis's honor. ✱

Stars of Life



Eric King

*Medic
Ambulance
Service
Solano*

Eric King is 22, and a California boy, born and raised. Eric loves rock climbing, rowing, scuba diving and playing the drums. Eric has been an EMT-Basic for a little over a year, working for about eight months at Medic Ambulance in Solano County. Eric got into EMS sort of by accident. He was in college, unsure of what he wanted to study, so he started thinking about going through the fire academy. One of the prerequisites for the academy was EMT-B, so he enrolled, and he had no idea that he would end up loving it so much. As he started working as an EMT,

he realized the impact EMS has on the people we help. Eric has continued his focus on improving and honing his EMT skills and expanding his knowledge of anatomy and physiology in preparation for applying to Napa Valley Colleges' paramedic program. Eric is being honored for his outstanding service and treatment of a Severely Critical Heart Attack patient in Fairfield, CA. If it wasn't for Eric and his partner's rapid treatment, this patient's outcome could have been a lot worse. So far, Eric and his partner have the fastest door to balloon time in Solano County's history. ✱

Stars of Life



Meghan King

*Medic
Ambulance
Service
Solano*

Meghan King has worked as a dispatcher at Medic Ambulance Service for 5 years. Meghan came into Medic not very familiar with EMS. Meghan initially started her career at Medic looking for a decent job anywhere. Although nervous about being a dispatcher after hearing about all the things they do, she applied for the job and was hired. When first starting out the job Meghan says she felt overwhelmed but with the proper training under some wonderful and patient people, in no time

Meghan started picking it up and enjoying it very much. Meghan was one of Medic's first dispatchers to be certified in Emergency Medical Dispatching (EMD). Currently, all of Medic's dispatchers are EMD certified, and this wouldn't have been possible if it wasn't for Meghan's pioneering nature. Meghan is being honored for her outstanding service as an Emergency Medical Dispatcher. She was honored as Medic Ambulance's Dispatcher of the Year, Solano Division. ✨

Stars of Life



Marilyn Manfredi

*Medic
Ambulance
Service
Solano*

Marilyn Manfredi began her EMS career in 1973 as Supervisor in the ED at Kaiser Vallejo. While working the ED at Kaiser, she met a very interesting Italian Man, who owned the local ambulance company, by the name of Rudy Manfredi. Rudy and Marilyn have been married for 28 years. She has two children, and three grandchildren. Marilyn had a long and prosperous career at Kaiser totaling 29 years. Marilyn retired in 1999 and re-entered the EMS field in 2005 as the QA Clinical Coordinator for Medic Ambulance, where she is now currently and is grooming her replacement, Cindy – her niece and fellow

star. Marilyn has played a key role in helping Medic Ambulance's nationally accredited QA department stay on the cutting edge. Recently, Marilyn, Cindy Pierson and Dr. Paul Kivela were published in the Prehospital and Disaster Medicine Journal for their research in the utilization of a prehospital ECG in patients presenting with syncope. Marilyn sits on many local community boards, including: the Solano Community Foundation, Tools of Learning for Children and Green Valley Country Club. Marilyn is also a member of Soroptimist of Central Solano County.

continued on next page

Stars of Life

Marilyn Manfredi – continued

Marilyn is being honored as a Star of Life for her active involvement with helping North Bay Medical Center of Fairfield, CA., become an accredited Chest Pain Center. Marilyn attends monthly meetings and audits all chest pain calls ran by Medic

Ambulance. She reports key data elements to North Bay, and without her involvement this key relationship would be very difficult to maintain. She is an asset to Medic Ambulance and the citizens and visitors of Solano County. ✱

Stars of Life



**Brian
Meader**

*Medic
Ambulance
Service
Solano*

Brian Meader is a native of Concord, CA. A graduate of Concord High School, he worked as a Computer Network Technician and bartender after high school. Tired of sitting in front of a computer all day and slinging margaritas all night, Brian decided to take an EMT class. He was instantly drawn to the EMS field and enrolled in Medic School at the National College of Technical Instruction. He has been with Medic Ambulance for four and a half years and has been a paramedic with the company for two and a half. Brian truly enjoys working as a paramedic. Never one to shy away from hard work, he enjoys the variety of experiences he has gained working as a paramedic. He loves the different challenges he faces daily and the opportunity to help people in a hands-on environment. Brian looks forward to increasing his experience and knowledge

base as the EMS field grows. When not working, Brian enjoys staying busy. A natural handyman, he enjoys spending time in his garage and adding to his extensive tool collection. On his days off, you can find him working around the house or working on cars, both his and his family members.' Brian also likes spending time in his kitchen, either brewing beer or cooking dinners for his friends and family. Brian put a lot of extra time into Medic Ambulance this last year. Brian also took time and volunteered to be a part of Medic's EPCR deployment team as a Train the Trainer. Brian again gave his time to be part of a bid review team which evaluated specifications and an RFP for new ambulances. Brian is being honored for his outstanding service as a Paramedic and an employee. He was honored as Medic Ambulance's Paramedic of the Year, Solano Division. ✱

Stars of Life



**Cynthia
Pierson**

*Medic
Ambulance
Service
Solano*

Cindy Pierson has worked with Medic Ambulance since she was 15 years old. She started working in the billing office, giving up her summers to help her Mom, Helen Pierson. Being part of Medic's family owned and operated business, she has been around EMS her entire life. In 2001, Cindy left the nest and moved to Fresno to pursue a nursing career. In 2006, she graduated from Fresno State with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Cindy has been the Quality Assurance Manager for the last year and a half. During her time at Medic she was a co-coordinator of our accreditation process and proved to be influential in receiving Medic's initial 3 year gold standard accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS). Cindy has played a vital role in the development of our

Nationally Accredited Quality Assurance Department. Recently, Cindy, Marilyn Manfredi and Dr. Paul Kivela were published in the Prehospital and Disaster Medicine Journal for their research in the utilization of a prehospital.

ECG in patients presenting with syncope. Cindy is being recognized as a Star of Life for her major involvement with North Bay Medical Center becoming an accredited Chest Pain Center. Cindy also attends monthly meetings and has implemented new and exciting programs for increased field involvement and knowledge base for the treatment of Cardiac patients in Solano County. In her free time she enjoys spending time with her fiancé Kevin and her two dogs, Luna and Sandy. Kevin and Cindy are busy planning their February 2011 wedding. *

Stars of Life



Brian Rafe

*First
Responder
EMS
Chico*

Paramedic **Brian Rafe** joined First Responder EMS in July of 2006, as an EMT. From the beginning, Brian was identified as the "go to" guy. Brian upgraded to Paramedic last year and has maintained his outstanding work ethic. Brian is continually trying to improve himself as a Paramedic and his performance reflects that effort. Brian's skills are well

above average for a first year medic.

Because of his work ethic and his concern for both his patients and fellow crew members, Brian was selected as First Responder's employee of the year for 2009. In keeping with Brian's desire to learn, he was awarded a trip to Baltimore to attend the EMS Expo that occurred in March. *

Stars of Life



Ryan Redd

*First
Responder
EMS
Chico*

Ryan Redd began working for First Responder EMS as an EMT in early 2002, and recently returned to First Responder after working several years as a fire fighter. Ryan has worked all aspects of Emergency Services, including dispatching. Ryan recently took on the new role of Paramedic Preceptor.

Ryan was selected as a Star of Life for going above and

beyond while responding to a pediatric full arrest call. Ryan stayed with the infant and worked with the hospital staff for over an hour to revive the infant. The team's efforts were successful and the infant was later flown to UC Davis medical center. During his off duty time Ryan enjoys woodworking, hunting and photography. ✱

Stars of Life



Kevin Reid

*Care
Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Orange*

On September 24, 2009, **Kevin Reid** responded to Kindred Orange to transport a patient to St. Joseph Hospital in Orange. His performance on this routine inter-facility transport was enough to generate a letter of commendation from the patient's family where they cited Kevin for the kindness, compassion, and professionalism that he showed their father. Their father had been a patient in the facility for 14 months and had been transferred by several other providers. Kevin's actions made them decide that they would only use Care in the future.

Kevin joined Care Ambulance in 2004 and has earned the right to work almost any shift he wants, yet he still picks up shifts "on the private side" where he says he can use his people skills and interact with the patient, family, and facility staff. His leadership and the example he sets for his partners on what many think are routine transfers, is what makes Kevin one of this year's Star of Life award winners.

While Kevin hopes to be a firefighter, he is also going back to school to earn his RN or PA license. He enjoys working out, trail running, sports, and the company of family and friends. ✱

Stars of Life



Gabriel Rhoads

*Care
Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Orange*

On June 16, 2009, **Gabriel Rhoads** responded to Garden Grove Medical Center to transport a patient to Sunmar Convalescent in Anaheim. During the course of running this routine inter-facility transport, he was able to get the most seasoned of Convalescent RN's to take the time and call the owners of Care Ambulance and compliment Gabriel on his professionalism, kindness and infectious positive attitude. Not only is it extremely rare to gain a compliment on an IFT, it is exceedingly hard to earn

one from a Skilled Nursing Facility.

Gabriel has been an EMT at Care Ambulance for 5 years. He is currently a reserve firefighter for the City of Valley Center and is one month shy of shedding his "probie" status. His commitment to run each and every call to his utmost ability regardless of the type of call, has earned Gabriel his Star of Life Award.

Gabriel is also a proud father and is a devoted family man. 🌸

Stars of Life



Katie Schuster

*Medic
Ambulance
Service
Sacramento*

Katie Schuster is an EMT for Medic Ambulance and works out of the Sacramento Division. Katie got into EMS after seeing her husband Cleve become a paramedic and really develop a sense of satisfaction in his life. Katie's love for people and her ability to listen and understand is far superior than most. Katie loves her job as an EMT and if able would like to become a

Paramedic some day, and in the not too distant future also aspires to move on to Nursing. Katie has been married to a wonderful man, Cleve Schuster, for 12 years and they have two beautiful children, Olivia 11 and Raymond 9. Katie is being honored for her outstanding service as an EMT. She was honored as Medic Ambulance's EMT of the Year, Sacramento Division. 🌸



**Rene'
Steinhauer**

*Bayshore
Ambulance
Sausalito*

Rene Steinhauer has worked in EMS since 1991. He obtained his paramedic license in 1992 and completed a nursing degree in 2000. His work has taken him to all seven continents and as far as the South Pole. In addition to working as a critical care transfer nurse, he also has helped design the new ALS program to be implemented this year as well as providing continuing education for EMTs within the company. In addition to his normal job, Rene Steinhauer has also served his country and his fellow man. He served multiple combat tours of duty in Iraq as a combat medic. He also volunteers with various NGOs to provide medical care at home and abroad. His assignments have included the Asian Tsunami, Hurricane Katrina and, most recently, the earthquake in Haiti. For nearly 10 years Rene Steinhauer has used his vacation time and money to volunteer around the world and normally volunteers at least two or three times each year at his own expense.

Rene Steinhauer was selected as the Bayshore Ambulance KEY EMPLOYEE of the year. He has earned this primarily for going above and beyond in taking on the

role of ALS coordinator for our start up of ALS services in San Francisco. Working many hours on our QI plan and training materials, Rene is very dedicated to seeing this project through to fruition. He also is very passionate about working with EMT's and Paramedics to help them be their best, and to advance themselves for future opportunities. Rene also puts in extra hours working in his role as an RN for the CCT service Bayshore Ambulance provides.

Hired August 2007 as a Critical Care transport nurse. In November 2008 took on role as ALS coordinator to put together the Paramedic program for Bayshore Ambulance in San Francisco while still serving as a CCT-RN. Nearly 20 years serving in EMS.

Rene is most passionate about patient care. As explained in his bio, he will travel world wide to help others in need during disaster situations. He brings this commitment to the work place and is always teaching the EMT's on every call.

Lives on a sailboat and loves to sail! Volunteering world wide to serve others. 🌟

Stars of Life



**Alaina
Trocano**

*Royal
Ambulance
San Ramon*

Alaina Trocano, EMT and Field Training Officer for Royal Ambulance, is being recognized for her commitment and dedication to patient care and exemplary leadership skills. After graduating college in 2007, Alaina decided to pursue her true passion, EMS. Dedicated to both patient care and teaching, Alaina was promoted to Field Training Officer in August 2008. Not only has Alaina maintained a well trained staff, she re-developed the New Hire Orientation and began leading the program. In January 2009, she was

promoted to Lead Field Training Officer, and began to coach and inspire other FTO's. Described by her colleagues as passionate and sharp, Alaina continues to influence both co-workers and team members through her commitment to exceptional care, devotion to saving lives and making a difference in her community. Despite all her responsibilities, Alaina also completed her Paramedic course, and recently became a Nationally Registered Emergency Medical Technician Paramedic. ✱

Stars of Life



Matt Wolfe

*First
Responder
EMS
Chico*

Captain **Matt Wolfe** began his career at First Responder EMS in 2005 immediately after finishing his Paramedic Training. Captain Wolfe had worked as a Paramedic Preceptor, prior to being promoted to Captain last year. Captain Wolfe is responsible for the education and training of his shift and oversees five EMTs and Paramedics.

Captain Wolfe was selected by First Responder EMS as the outstanding Captain for 2009. Captain Wolfe

has volunteered his time to train other shifts and outside agencies.

During his off duty time, Captain Wolfe enjoys spending time with his family. He enjoys working around his property, hiking and kayaking.

Captain Wolfe believes that attitude and a commitment to thoroughness, competence, education, training and teamwork are the keys to a quality EMS provider. ✱



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