



CALIFORNIA AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL
Stars of Life
CELEBRATION



APRIL 11-13, 2011
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 2011 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 is 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 **MedicAlert Foundation, Care Ambulance Service, Inc., Life-Assist Inc., Care West Insurance Risk Management, SEMSA, BoundTree Medical** and **Manteca District Ambulance Service**.

Lastly, we are honored to have Daniel Smiley, Acting Director of the California Emergency Medical Services Authority as our special guest 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 12, 2011 —

Welcome

Bob Barry, Chairman

Special Recognition

Dan Smiley, EMSA Acting Director

Guest Legislative Speaker

Dr. Richard Pan, Assembly Member, 5th District

Presentation of Stars of Life Recognition

Closing Remarks

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Monday Coffee Break



Making Precious Minutes Count...[™]

Tuesday Coffee Break



Wednesday Coffee Break

Daniel R. Smiley **Acting Director** **California Emergency Medical Services Authority**



Daniel R. Smiley is currently serving as the Acting Director for the State of California EMS Authority (EMSA). Dan has regularly served as the Chief Deputy Director for EMSA since

1989. He previously served as the Interim Director of EMSA for varying periods from 1989-1993, 1997, and 2007-2008. He has been involved in emergency medical services since 1974.

Dan is responsible for the strategic vision and leadership of emergency medical services for California. He oversees the policy, program and regulatory aspects of EMS systems (including ambulance and trauma issues), EMS certification/licensing (EMR, EMT, AEMT, Paramedic) and enforcement, and disaster medical response.

Prior to coming to EMSA as the Chief Deputy Director in 1989, he served as Chief of Emergency Medical Services for the County of Fresno. Dan worked as an emergency medical technician and EMT-II in Merced County and as a paramedic in San Joaquin and Fresno counties. He also served as a Reserve Deputy Sheriff with the Merced County Sheriff's Office. He was an EMT, paramedic, and MICN instructor in San Joaquin and Fresno counties. Mr. Smiley also taught at California State University, Fresno.

Dan is a native of Merced, California and graduated from Merced High School in 1974. He graduated from San Joaquin Delta College Paramedic School. He has an Associate of Science Degree from Merced College, a Bachelor of Science Degree from California State University, Fresno in Health Science, and a Master of Public Administration with a concentration in

Health Administration, from the University of San Francisco. He did his doctoral work at the University of Southern California in Public Administration, with an emphasis on Health and Public Policy.

Dan has been a leader in improving disaster medical response in California, including the creation of ambulance strike teams, the California Medical Assistance Team program, and the California Mobile Field Hospitals. His experience in disaster planning and response includes events such as, the Coalinga Earthquake, Loma Prieta San Francisco Bay Area Earthquake, Hurricane Iniki in Hawaii, and the Northridge/Los Angeles Earthquake. He was also the chief medical planner for many international disaster exercises in Ukraine as part of the Rough and Ready Series. Dan has also been involved in disaster medical planning efforts in India and Taiwan. He has also been involved in Disaster Medical Assistance Team activities, as a member of CA-11 (Sacramento).

Dan has published articles on EMS systems, trauma care, automated defibrillation, and disaster response. He is trained in Tactical Medicine and was a primary author on the recently released California Tactical Medicine Guidelines. He holds black belts in Shotokan Karate, Jujitsu, Judo, Taekwondo, and Aikido; and also taught martial arts in Sacramento for 16 years.

Dan's present interests include increasing the visibility of the EMS profession, improving EMS systems, increasing the field medical response to disaster situations, and fostering innovative technology in the EMS sector.

Contact Dan Smiley at director@emsa.ca.gov or call 916-322-4336. 

Dr. Richard Pan
Assembly Member
5th Assembly District



Dr. Richard Pan is a pediatrician elected in November of 2010 to represent California's 5th Assembly District, which includes the Sacramento County communities of Arden Arcade,

Carmichael, the City of Citrus Heights, Fair Oaks, the City of Folsom, North Highlands, McClellan Park, Orangevale, Natomas, Sacramento and the Placer County community of Granite Bay.

Prior to his election to the Assembly, Dr. Pan served as the director the UC Davis Pediatric Residency Program, where he developed a national award-winning program to promote healthy lifestyles by partnering with community groups.


Dr. Pan's life's work has been to keep kids healthy and safe, and has founded a number of organizations that work toward this goal. These organizations include:

- Communities and Physicians Together, a grassroots program partnering physicians with disadvantaged communities;
- Sacramento Health Improvement Project (co-founder), which brings together doctors, hospitals, clinics, and community leaders to ensure that all Sacramento County residents are able to access primary health care; and
- Healthy Kids Healthy Future (co-founder and chair), which secured health, dental and vision coverage for over 65,000 children in Sacramento, Colusa, El Dorado, Placer and Yuba counties.

In 2008, Dr. Pan was honored as the Campus Compact Thomas Ehrlich Faculty Award for Service Learning for his leadership in making community involvement a part of the UC Davis medical school curriculum. He was further honored earlier this year as the 2010 Physician Humanitarian Award from the Medical Board of California in honor of his work as a pediatrician, professor, and community advocate.

In addition to Dr. Pan's work as a pediatrician and educator at UC Davis Children's Hospital, he has extensive experience as a community advocate on local and statewide boards and commissions. These include the United Way California Capitol Region board, where he chairs the United Way's Impact Council; chairs the board of BloodSource to promote blood donation; and served for six-years as a commissioner on the Sacramento First 5 Commission. As a board member and small business owner, Dr. Pan has experience with balancing budgets, meeting payroll, and doing more with less.

The child of Taiwanese immigrants, Dr. Pan is a product of public schools. He earned his undergraduate degree from Johns Hopkins University, his medical doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh, and his Master of Public Health degree from Harvard University.

Dr. Pan makes his home in Natomas, where he lives with his wife, Dr. Wang, a family dentist, and two young sons. 

Stars of Life



Alberto Alvarez

*Hall
Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Bakersfield*

Alberto Alvarez
Paramedic

Paramedic Alvarez came to Hall Ambulance in June of 2010 from the South Los Angeles area. Paramedic Alvarez said he was looking for a place where he could use all of his skills as a Paramedic and not just run transfers. Paramedic Alvarez got to use all of his Paramedic skills in November of 2010 when he was dispatched to a residence for chest pain. While Paramedic Alvarez worked through his chest pain treatment plan the patient suffered a cardiac arrest. He immediately initiated CPR, defibrillated the patient, and began to follow his Advanced Cardiac Life Support treatment plan. By the time the crew arrived at the hospital the patient had regained spontaneous circulation and was wide awake. The patient was treated and released from the hospital a few days later. *

Stars of Life



Claudia Andrade

*Hall
Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Bakersfield*

Claudia Andrade
EMT

Claudia began her EMS career in 2007 when she joined Hall Ambulance Service. She was quickly assigned a Metro night shift and remained a valued member of the night shift team. EMT Andrade is being recognized with a Star of Life for her role in the response, care and transportation of a patient that suffered a cardiac arrest. EMT Andrade's support to Paramedic Alvarez was a key factor in the outcome of the patient. From the time of call to delivery at the hospital, only 25 minutes elapsed. The patient was treated and later released from the hospital. EMT Andrade and Paramedic Alvarez were reunited with the patient during a brief celebration in December of 2010. *

Stars of Life



**George
Baker**

*Hall
Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Bakersfield*

George Baker
Paramedic

George Baker started his career with Hall Ambulance in July of 1999 after several years with another provider. He has worked in the busy Metro Bakersfield 911 system since his employment began. Along with his Paramedic duties, George works as a Preceptor assisting with training Paramedic Interns and new employees. George is receiving his Star of Life for his leadership and care provided during a cardiac arrest early Christmas morning 2010. While most of us were sound asleep George and his crew were dispatched to a patient complaining of chest pain. George and his crew found a man unconscious, pulseless with a non life sustaining heart rhythm and not breathing. They initiated CPR and provided Advanced Life Support care to include an ECG, Endotracheal Intubation, IV, and Medication Administration. Within minutes of ALS intervention they witnessed the return of spontaneous circulation and handed off care to the staff in the Emergency Department. The patient was discharged home. Paramedic Baker's leadership was a vital piece in the chain of survival as from the initial 911 call to arrival at the hospital was less than 30 minutes. Along with a Star of Life, Paramedic Baker will be honored by the Bakersfield Chapter of the American Red Cross as a real Home Town Hero. *

Stars of Life



**Chris
Brooks**

*Protransport-1
Cotati*

Chris Brooks
Field Supervisor

ProTransport-1 nominates Chris Brooks for a Star of Life Award for an excellent job with the delivery of a baby boy on Christmas Eve. Brooks and his partner were flagged down by a pregnant woman on the side of the road. The woman's water had already broken and her contractions were very close. The crew guided her into the back of the ambulance, and after being on scene for only three minutes, delivered the baby.

Brooks has been a part of the ProTransport-1 team since February of 2007. During this time, he was promoted to FTO I & II for his hard work and high standards of patient care. Currently, Brooks serves as a Field Supervisor in Alameda County. His professionalism, enthusiasm and responsibility epitomize the spirit and commitment of quality ambulance service. In his free time, Brooks enjoys cooking and collecting comic books as well as being a great dad and husband. *

Stars of Life



**Sebastian
Chavez**

*Hall
Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Bakersfield*

Sebastian Chavez
EMT

Sebastian Chavez came to Hall Ambulance in June of 2010 relocating from the Los Angeles area. Sebastian is assigned to the Metro Bakersfield 911 system. EMT Chavez is recognized for his efforts as part of an Advanced Life Support Ambulance crew that saved a man's life on Christmas morning 2010. The EMT is often overlooked when recognizing Paramedics for their efforts. EMT Chavez's supportive efforts to prepare equipment and coordinate patient movement and transportation was vital in the chain of survival. Providing a stable and safe environment for the Paramedic and patient can truly make the difference and in this case all parts of the team worked together to provide the care needed to save a life. ✨

Stars of Life



**Kevin
Cheek**

*Care
Ambulance
Services, Inc.
Orange*

Kevin Cheek
EMT

Kevin Cheek is being awarded the Star of Life for his actions during the development of the new San Gabriel service area. For the past six months, CARE has embarked on establishing and developing a new service area in the San Gabriel Valley.

The ability to have success in growing business in an area where CARE is an unknown provider and where the competition is severe, is very difficult. Finding success is a testament to the crews that work that area. Kevin and his partner Carolina Hernandez, have routinely gone above and beyond to make sure the calls they have run were done so with the utmost professionalism and attention to service detail.

They have been an asset to the marketing team in developing the area and have been a major factor in our success.

Kevin is married with three children and takes care of them on his off days while his wife works. He is planning go to school to become an x-ray technician, unless he is selected to join the fire service. ✨

Stars of Life



**Michael
Colon**

*Medic
Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Vallejo*

Michael Colon
EMT

Michael lives in Vallejo, CA, with his wife Becky and his children Lily and Joey. Mike discovered EMS on accident, when he was invited to do a ride along with a paramedic friend. Michael has loved it ever since. In his off time he enjoys being with his family, playing music, and outdoor activities. Michael feels it is a privilege to be able to serve others. Michael has been working for Medic Ambulance as an EMT for a little over 3 years. Michael is being recognized for the treatment of a 13 year old Pediatric who was in full Cardiac Arrest at his school gym. Michael and his partner were the first to arrive. They provided CPR, rapid defibrillation, IV Medication and by the time their unit arrived at the hospital the patient had a good pulse and was breathing on his own. The patient made a full recovery and is home now getting ready to return to school! Great Job Michael! ❁

Stars of Life



**Sean
Cox**

*Care
Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Orange*

Sean Cox
Operations Manager

Sean Cox is being awarded the Star of Life for his actions during the difficult transport of a patient being transported home to be with her family during the final days of her life. This was a transport requested by the LA County Fire leadership to assist with the transport of the wife of one of their own who was in end stages of her fight with cancer.

Sean and his partner Stephanie Melton responded to the call with little notice and were able to get the patient back home to Big Bear just ahead of another major winter storm system.

During the 4 hour transport, both Sean and Stephanie provided comfort to both the patient and her husband who rode along. The patient, a 35 year old mother of three, was ecstatic to be able to be home with her children one last time.

Sean's leadership and commitment to quality care has earned him the 2011 Star of Life.

Sean has been an EMT for 15 years, with the last 7 years spent at Care Ambulance. Sean is married with 2 children and when not working likes to fish and spend time with his family. ❁

Stars of Life



**Gary
Crenshaw**

*Medic
Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Vallejo*

Gary Crenshaw **Fleet Maintenance Supervisor**

Gary was born and raised in San Francisco and currently resides in Vallejo, CA. Gary has four married daughters and eight grandchildren, all living in the Bay Area. Gary's first taste of EMS came when he joined the Air Force in 1965 and served two tours in Vietnam working on rescue helicopters where he received the Bronze Star for meritorious service in a combat situation. Gary served one tour working on B-52s. He then worked in Thailand as an electronics specialist for another four years before returning to the states in 1973. Gary then found a computer management position where he worked for 30 years until the dot-com collapse. Gary was then hired by Medic Ambulance in 2004 as a Fleet Maintenance Supervisor and computer specialist. Gary's primary function is to troubleshoot and repair electrical problems on the ambulances, diagnose mechanical problems and refer the repair to the proper service centers. Gary maintains all records relating to the operation of the units including maintenance, fuel usage, licensing, and usage. Gary is being recognized for his excellence and contribution to our Operation at Medic Ambulance. Gary has helped modernize our fleet maintenance program. He has installed electronic reporting for the fleet and customized our vehicle maintenance program. He has also gone through 2 CAAS accreditations in our fleet department and received a perfect score. But most impressive, Medic has had only 1 vehicle failure in the last 4 years! Great Job Gary! *

Stars of Life



**Heather
Drolette**

*Protransport-1
Cotati*

Heather Drolette **Contra Costa County Manager**

Heather Drolette is nominated for a Star of Life Award for her exemplary performance in delivering a baby boy on Christmas Eve. Drolette and her partner guided a very pregnant woman, whose water had already broken, into the back of their ambulance after she flagged them down from the side of the road. After just three minutes on scene, the baby was born.

Heather joined ProTransport-1 as an EMT in October of 2008. She has since been promoted to Field Supervisor and is now Contra Costa County Manager. Heather spends her free time volunteering her EMT skills, teaching an EMT Skills class at Mount Diablo Unified School District and when she has time, enjoys reading and doing crossword puzzles.

Heather is a hardworking, caring, and dependable EMT, as well as a committed volunteer and instructor. She epitomizes the spirit and commitment of quality ambulance service. *

Stars of Life



**Sarah
Fitzpatrick**
*Riggs
Ambulance
Merced*

Sara Fitzpatrick
Emergency Medical Dispatcher

As an Emergency Medical Dispatcher with Riggs Ambulance Service (RAS) for over 10 years, Sara Fitzpatrick has established herself as the epitome of professionalism and unflappable cool-headedness all the while maintaining her normal positive and friendly personality.

As a Lead Dispatcher she insures the very busy RAS Communications Center (RACC) meets all of the demands placed upon it in an efficient and professional manner. Simultaneously, Sara is one of two Communications Training Officers (CTOs) responsible for training new dispatchers, a duty she is not required to do, but which she volunteers for to insure the high quality of the RACC center that Sara and her dispatch coworkers are committed to.

Thank you, Sara, for all of your hard work, compassion and dedication. ✱

Stars of Life



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

Mike Grissom
EMT

Mike Grissom was hired with no EMS experience and enrolled in the Hall Ambulance EMT Academy in November of 2005. He completed training and was promoted to EMT in early 2006. For the last several years he has been partnered with Paramedic Kevin McClanahan. Every good Paramedic has a good EMT next to them. EMT Grissom has proven his value as an EMT time and again through his customer satisfaction scores and his skills as an EMT. EMT Grissom is recognized for his assistance to Paramedic McClanahan during a cardiac arrest save. EMT Grissom assisted with preparing the patient for transport and then provided a stable, safe environment as he transported Paramedic McClanahan and the patient more than 20 miles to the nearest hospital. ✱

Stars of Life



**Christopher
Hern**

*Royal
Ambulance
San Leandro*

Christopher Hern

EMT

Christopher Hern, EMT for Royal Ambulance is being recognized for his commitment and dedication to patient care, his remarkable work ethic and his consistent professionalism in everything that he does. Chris's compassion for healthcare and for helping his community started at a young age, inspired by his father and his uncle, who were both firefighters for Contra Costa County. These role models helped mold Christopher's determination and ambition to become an influential member of his community, seeking to help those in need and to be a mentor to his fellow EMTs through honesty, integrity, his strong character and his extraordinary support of his team members. In addition to being an EMT, Christopher is currently attending Paramedic School, where he is one of the top ranked students in his class. Despite his many responsibilities, Christopher makes time to enjoy the outdoors with his girlfriend, stay active and excel in sports such as wakeboarding. *

Stars of Life



**Carolina
Hernandez**

*Care
Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Orange*

Carolina Hernandez

EMT

Carolina Hernandez is being awarded the Star of Life for her actions during the development of the new San Gabriel service area. For the past six months, CARE has embarked on establishing and developing a new service area in the San Gabriel Valley.

The ability to have success in growing business in an area where CARE is an unknown provider and where the competition is severe, is very difficult. Finding success is a testament to the crews that work that area. Carolina and her partner Kevin Cheek, have routinely gone above and beyond to make sure the calls they have run were done so with the utmost professionalism and attention to service detail.

They have been an asset to the marketing team in developing the area and have been a major factor in our success.

Carolina has been an EMT at Care Ambulance for 1.5 years. She is currently enrolled at Cal State Fullerton and is working towards her Health Science degree. She will be applying to nursing school this summer. When not working or at school, Carolina and her mom are foster parents. *



**Perry
Hookey**

*Medic
Ambulance
Service, Inc.*

Vallejo

Perry Hookey
Clinical Education Coordinator

Perry Hookey is a Nationally Registered Paramedic and currently the Education/Training Coordinator for Medic Ambulance Service, Inc. Perry has been working for Medic for the last 6 years. Perry has an extensive EMS background spanning over 23 years. His EMS career began working as a NREMT-B for a rural hospital based service in Mississippi. Upon gaining career experience he continued on to obtain his National Registry Paramedic credentials. After serving as a field paramedic he was chosen as a Field Training Officer and then later promoted to a Paramedic Field Supervisor. After working closely with numerous air medical agencies, Perry was approached to serve as a rotor-wing critical care air medical flight paramedic and successfully completed the critical care flight paramedic training course. One of the most memorable moments of his career was being chosen to serve as a U.S. Olympic Torch Relay Paramedic Representative for the 1996 Olympic Games, where Perry was a member of the Official Olympic Motorcade accompanying the Torch Relay as they traveled across the state. As the Clinical Education coordinator for Medic Ambulance Service, he is responsible for the development and instruction of both required and elective educational courses to the Medic Ambulance Service employees, but also area fire agencies, hospitals, medical/dental offices, convalescent facilities and schools, as well as providing educational classes to the general public. Perry is being recognized for his contributions to education and his dedication to clinical excellence. Medic Ambulance's Nationally Accredited Education department is a leader in our Industry giving out over 4300 CEU hours last year to a range of EMS personnel including Dispatchers, EMT's, RN's, Paramedics, MD's, etc. Great Job Perry! *

Stars of Life



**Nathan
Kennedy**

*Hall
Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Bakersfield*

Nathan Kennedy
Paramedic

Nathan started his career in EMS as an Explorer serving several years in the Hall Ambulance Explorer Post. In 2004 he was hired to stock ambulances in preparation for their daily deployment into the 911 response system. Later in 2004 he was promoted to EMT and moved from stocking ambulances to staffing an ambulance. In 2007 Paramedic Kennedy completed Paramedic School and has since worked in the busy Bakersfield 911 system. He currently serves as a Paramedic Preceptor and assists with helping Paramedic interns and new employees learn the Hall Way of providing service. Paramedic Kennedy is the Hall Ambulance Paramedic of the Year for 2010. He was selected for this honor in recognition of his continued commitment to volunteerism in our community. Paramedic Kennedy remains an active participant in the Hall Ambulance Explorer Post and logs hundreds of hours each year giving back time to the youth at his church. *

Stars of Life



**Mark
Leonard**

*Coast Life
Support
District
Gualala*

Mark Leonard
Paramedic

Mark Leonard is far more than a highly-skilled senior paramedic on a team with the longest average transport time in the state; he is a gleaming treasure to a remote community who has relied on his leadership in emergency response and pre-hospital medical care for the last fifteen years. To this community, Mark represents leadership in EMT and First Responder training programs for five fire districts. He has developed a singularly effective Mass Casualty Incident training program and conducted several inter-agency exercises throughout this extremely remote section of the coast, raising both the response capability and confidence of scores of volunteer firefighters and EMTs.

Always looking for ways to improve care for his patients during transport times averaging close to two hours, Mark took a leadership position in developing a pilot program for administering fibrinolytic drugs to cardiac patients and secured regulatory approval for a single-agency trial study. Moreover, his stellar reputation among regulatory agency leaders has led to approval of several special treatment protocols for extended transport times.

Mark Leonard is an extraordinary community asset and richly deserving of recognition as a CAA Star of Life. *

Stars of Life



**Kevin
McClanahan**

*Care
Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Orange*

Kevin McClanahan
Paramedic

Kevin McClanahan started his EMS career in another state. Paramedic McClanahan came to Hall Ambulance while searching for a community to serve as a Paramedic and through his church. In 2005 he made the move to Bakersfield and Hall Ambulance. Paramedic McClanahan is the 2010 President's Award for Customer Service recipient at Hall Ambulance. The recipient of this prestigious award is the EMT or Paramedic that best demonstrates quality customer service on a regular basis. In addition Paramedic McClanahan was instrumental in the field save of a patient that went into cardiac arrest. Paramedic McClanahan recognized a life threatening cardiac rhythm and provided advanced life support care including 12 Lead ECG, Endotracheal Intubation, Defibrillation and Medication Administration resulting in the patient being discharged from the hospital. *

Stars of Life



**Brandon
McNamara**

*Hall
Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Bakersfield*

Brandon McNamara
Paramedic

Paramedic McNamara is a new Paramedic having just completed his training in January of 2011 and received his Paramedic license in March of 2011. Prior to obtaining his Paramedic license he served as an EMT starting in May 2007. Paramedic McNamara is recognized for his efforts in a cardiac arrest field save. Paramedic McNamara was working as a Paramedic Intern under the leadership and direction of Paramedic George Baker during a cardiac arrest early in the morning on Christmas day 2010. Paramedic McNamara assisted Paramedic Baker with recognizing the need for immediate Advanced Life Support care. They initiated CPR and provided Advanced Life Support care to include an ECG, Endotracheal Intubation, IV, and Medication Administration. Paramedic McNamara acted as a veteran beyond his years of training resulting in a positive patient outcome. *

Stars of Life



Stephanie Melton

Care
Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Orange

Stephanie Melton EMT

Stephanie Melton is being awarded the Star of Life for her actions during the difficult transport of a patient home to be with her family during the final days of her life.

Stephanie and her partner Sean Cox, responded to the call with little notice and were able to get the patient back home to Big Bear just ahead of another major storm system.

During the 4 hour transport, both Stephanie and her partner provided exceptional care to the patient and assisted the patient's husband in administering pain management medications. The husband, an LA County Fireman, expressed gratitude to both Stephanie and Sean for their kindness and compassion during a difficult and long transport.

Stephanie has worked as an EMT for Care Ambulance for 2.5 years. She plans on becoming a physician and will be starting medical school in the fall. ✨

Stars of Life



Jennifer Mundy

Manteca
District
Ambulance
Service
Manteca

Jennifer Mundy Paramedic / Clinical Coordinator

Jennifer began her career in EMS in 1991 when she certified as an EMT-I. She attended an NCTI Paramedic course in 1992 and became a Registered Nurse in 2000. Jennifer taught EMS courses at Columbia College in Sonora for many years and lectured for various Paramedic programs from 1996-2005. She has been Clinical Coordinator for Manteca District Ambulance since 2007 and still enjoys working as a Paramedic for MDA's Tuolumne Division.

Jennifer's hobbies include hiking and exploring the mountains where she lives with her husband Scott and daughter Ashley. She plans to continue her education by pursuing a Master's Degree in Public Health and EMS Management in the near future.

Bill Caldera, Manteca Ambulance Chief Operations Officer has selected Jennifer for recognition this year. Her dedication to duty has far surpassed expectations. She provides education, training, and shared knowledge to all levels of the Pre-Hospital System. She has recently taught First Responders in Tuolumne County, provided monthly Peer review in Manteca and Sonora, taught ACLS recertification to the local physician group and also represents our company as the Liaison for clinical care with the local Base Hospitals. Her involvement is so valuable to the company. It is with great pleasure we honor her this year at Stars of Life! Thank you Jennifer and congratulations! ✨

Stars of Life



**Shaun
Navarra**

*Medical
Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Livermore*

Shaun Navarra
Paramedic

Shaun grew up in Vacaville, CA and now lives in Livermore, CA. Shaun has two sisters, and just recently got married to his wife, Ashley. Shaun enjoys cooking, running through his neighborhood with his headphones on, playing all sports and going on dates with his wife. Shaun says “nothing is as rewarding and exciting as working in EMS. I love that every shift is different, I never know what to expect, and I have fun at my job.” Shaun has been working at Medic Ambulance for 6 years. He has been a Paramedic for the last 3. Shaun is being recognized for his many accomplishments as a Paramedic this last year. Shaun created Solano County’s own specific Broslow Tape with “Pediatric Medication Emergency Dosages” to assist in pediatric medication dosages for Solano County paramedics. Shaun also is being recognized for the treatment of a 13 year old Pediatric who was in full Cardiac Arrest in his school gym. Shaun and his partner were the first to arrive. They provided CPR, rapid defibrillation, IV Medication and by the time their unit arrived at the hospital the patient had a good pulse and was breathing on his own. The patient made a full recovery and is home now getting ready to return to school! Great Job Shaun! ❁

Stars of Life



**Walter
Parton**

*Riggs
Ambulance
Merced*

Walter Parton
Paramedic

Walt has been a paramedic with Riggs Ambulance Service for 26 years! Walt is not only a mentor and role model to all of his coworkers at Riggs Ambulance, he is also recognized as a community icon in his home town of Dos Palos. Walter started his career in law enforcement in 1978 with the Dos Palos Police Department. Also about this time he began volunteering with the Dos Palos volunteer ambulance squad and soon discovered that people were much happier to see him when he came do their door as an ambulance attendant than a policeman and soon made the career switch and we’re so glad he did!

Thank you Walt for 26 years of compassion, excellent patient care and leadership! ❁

Stars of Life



**James
Recto**

*Medic
Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Vallejo*

James Recto
EMT

James Recto received his first taste of EMS during his high school years at St. Patrick-St. Vincent High School. It was at this time, at age 15, James picked up a summer job as a lifeguard at Cunningham Pool in Vallejo. Learning CPR, first aid, and water rescue was very appealing to him, as it was the exact opposite to the conventional schooling he received growing up. It was hands on and very exciting. During his second summer as a lifeguard, he had his first water rescue. The feeling of saving a life was incredible and James wanted to share that experience with others. By the time he graduated from high school, he had taken classes to become a lifeguard instructor and to this day, he still drops in to the pool from time to time to teach CPR and lifeguard training courses. James was certified as a Solano County EMT in the summer of 2007 and applied to Medic Ambulance in the Fall. His first 911 call was a shooting in South Vallejo. The feeling was similar to that first water rescue 10 years ago, only much more intense. James is being recognized for his excellent service as an EMT at Medic Ambulance. James is a Field Training Officer, a member of our Company CQI Team, and always helps when needed. James is also the Travis Grace (Medic's Original Star of Life and 27 year employee) Award Winner for Excellent Service and will receive a full scholarship for Paramedic School. Great Job James! ✨

Stars of Life



John Thane

*Royal
Ambulance
San Leandro*

John Thane
EMT, Operations Supervisor, Lead Training Officer

John Thane, EMT, Operations Supervisor and Lead Training Officer for Royal Ambulance is being recognized for his commitment and dedication to patient care and exemplary leadership skills. John joined Royal in April 2009, and quickly proved to be one of the organizations most dedicated and hard working team members, earning him the award for "Rookie of the Year." Soon after, John furthered his commitment of personal and professional growth, by becoming one of Royal's top Field Training Officers. John went above and beyond his new role, coaching and mentoring both new employees as well as his fellow FTOs, and was instantly viewed as a role model for his professionalism, consistent willingness to help and his true passion for EMS, earning him the award for "FTO of the Year" in 2010. His drive and determination continued to shine through and John was promoted to Lead Training Officer, and now heads the entire Training Program. John's eagerness to always learn more and take on additional responsibility led him to further develop his knowledge of operations and business development, and he was promoted to Operations Supervisor in January 2011. Despite his many responsibilities, John makes time to enjoy the outdoors with his fiancée, and pursue hobbies such as fly fishing and hiking. ✨

Stars of Life



Sandra Whaley

*Medic
Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Sacramento*

Sandra Whaley
Communications Manager

Sandy currently lives in Sacramento, CA with her husband Ryan, and their two dogs Miley and Bella. Sandy has been working for Medic Ambulance since the age of 16, filing paperwork on her days off from school. After high school, she began working full time for Medic Ambulance in the Billing department as well as attending Sacramento City College. For Medic she was entering paperwork, answering phones, processing payments, etc., and working for this horrible boss (Mom – Helen). In 2002 she transferred from Sac City to CSU, Sacramento, where she received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Kinesiology in 2004. In 2006, she found her niche. She was repositioned from the billing office to the communications center and has excelled since this move. Also in 2006 she became a certified Emergency Medical Dispatcher (EMD). In 2007 she was promoted to Communications Manager. Sandy is being recognized as a Star for her excellent contribution as the Communications Manager. Under Sandy's leadership, Medic has gone through two CAAS Accreditations, the last getting a perfect mark in the communications department. Medic's contractual compliance has never fallen below 98% during Sandy's tenure as a manager, with last the year's compliance being a record 99.6% with all facets of our Solano County ambulance contract. Great Job Sandy! ✨

Stars of Life



Scott Wood

*Medic
Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Sacramento*

Scott Wood
Paramedic

Scott Wood was born and raised in Napa, CA. He completed his EMT certification in his senior year of high school and began his EMS career in 1992 as an EMT at Piners Ambulance in Napa. He earned his Paramedic certificate in 1995. In 1998 he came to work for Medic Ambulance in Solano County. He has held many positions at Medic over the years including education, FTO/preceptor, and supervisor positions. Scott has also taught the EMT program at Napa Valley for many years and continues to do so. Scott is being recognized for his excellent service as a Paramedic at Medic Ambulance. Scott is a Field Training Officer, Solano County Paramedic Preceptor, a member of our Company CQI Team, and always helps when needed. Scott was selected as Medic's 2010 Paramedic of the Year, and will be able to attend a National EMS Conference of his choice. With all the involvement Scott had with Medic in 2010 he did it all while attending the R.N. program at Napa Valley college, and teaching every Saturday to EMT students at Napa Valley College, where Scott oversees the whole EMT program. Scott passed the R.N. program with Honors and #1 in his class and is currently pursuing his BSN at Sonoma State University. His passion for EMS has never been stronger as evidenced by his dedication to the field of healthcare. Great Job Scott! ✨



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