

31st Annual
National Emergency Medical Services
Memorial Service



July 22, 2023

**Hyatt Regency Crystal City
at Reagan National Airport
Arlington, VA**



About the National EMS Weekend of Honor

The Weekend of Honor is organized and hosted by the following non-profit organizations:

- National EMS Memorial Bike Ride-whose mission is to honor EMS personnel by organizing and implementing long distance cycling events that memorialize and celebrate the lives of those who serve every day, those who have become sick or injured while performing their duties, and those who have died in the line of duty. www.nemsmbr.org
- National EMS Memorial Service- whose mission is to honor those in EMS from air and ground who have made the ultimate sacrifice having died in the line of duty and is the organization that is congressionally sanctioned to conduct the annual service. www.national-ems-memorial.org

We continue to salute the tireless work by our colleagues at:

National EMS Memorial Foundation- whose mission is to build the National EMS Memorial in Washington, D.C. that will commemorate the ongoing commitment, service and sacrifice of the Nation's Emergency Medical Services providers killed, injured, or disabled in the line of duty and for all those that continue to serve. www.emsmemorial.org

While there are national memorials and solid funding streams for both police and fire professionals, currently there is no permanent memorial for EMS or federal funding for the National EMS Memorial Service. The organizations above operate solely on private donations.

Background

Organized in 1928 by Julian Stanley Wise, the Roanoke Lifesaving and First Aid Crew (Virginia) was the first independent, all-volunteer rescue squad in the United States. It is fitting that it was in Roanoke, over 30 years ago, that Kevin Dillard founded the National EMS Memorial **Service** to honor and recognize EMS and air medical providers who died in the line of duty. Kevin realized that while there were memorial services for police and fire professionals, there was no formal recognition of EMS individuals who made the ultimate sacrifice. Each year, volunteers build additional sections to add to the temporary memorial, called the Tree of Life, and the names of new honorees are added. At the end of each annual Service, the panels are packed away into storage until the next year.

In 2000, the National EMS Memorial **Bike Ride** was formed when 10 EMS providers rode their bikes from Boston to the National EMS Memorial Service in Roanoke to raise awareness about the commitment, service, and sacrifice of EMS providers. Today they continue to honor EMS personnel by organizing and implementing long distance cycling events that memorialize and celebrate the lives of those who serve every day, those who have become sick or injured while performing their duties and those who have died in the line of duty.

There is no permanent national memorial that recognizes EMS Providers. In 2008, the National EMS Memorial **Foundation** was formed to change that. In 2018, after a decade of their work, Public Law 115-275 was signed by the President of the United States which exclusively authorizes the National EMS Memorial Foundation to establish a permanent National EMS Memorial in Washington, D.C. to honor, recognize and commemorate: the commitment, service and sacrifice of EMS providers killed, injured or disabled in the line of duty and for all those that have served, currently serve and will continue to serve. They are currently in the Federal approval process to finalize the site and development will then quickly follow.

While all 3 organization's missions continue individually, they also recognize deep synergies. Since 2016, the National EMS Memorial Service and Weekend of Honor have been held annually in the D.C. area, which organically highlights the work of each of the 3 organizations and their common ground. It is anticipated that the National EMS Memorial Service would be held at the permanent site in nation's capital when completed.

Moving Honors

In 2020, like most in-person gatherings, the National EMS Weekend of Honor, National EMS Memorial Service, and National EMS Memorial Bike Rides were cancelled due to COVID. While valent efforts and virtual events helped to fill the void, the lack of gathering to honor EMS left a mark.

The host organizations are 100% led by volunteers and the Weekend of Honor requires hundreds of volunteers, nearly all of whom are active EMS providers in their communities. They, along with families, friends, and colleagues, could not come together in 2020 to grieve and honor the fallen which made the impact of the pandemic more difficult. Having no permanent memorial to visit at another time further complicated this. Organizers also recognize that many families of honorees and volunteers are still unable to travel today or must remain to work in their communities as staffing gaps continue.

The past 3 years' Tree of Life installments were built by Tom and Jenn Liebman at their home near Dallas, TX. As thoughts swirled how to transport this "precious cargo" to D.C. for the Weekend of Honor once in-person events resumed in 2021, ideas and dreams to "take it on the road" turned into a plan when the Weekend of Honor's legacy sponsor Global Medical Response stepped in with a donated ambulance and staffing for the trek across multiple states. The event was so successful, organizers have repeated it each year since, each time with a different and expanded footprint.

Respectfully dubbed Moving Honors, this sacred procession made its way from Riverside, CA this year, to Arlington, VA over 28 days, gathering well wishes along the way. The Tree of Life was loaded in Texas and was housed inside this specially decorated ambulance and was not removed until it was officially unveiled at the start of the Weekend of Honor. A miniature Tree of Life replica was available for viewing at stops along the way.

The goal of the Moving Honors procession is three-fold. First, is to bring awareness and additional recognition to the honorees. Second, is to provide broader access to the Tree of Life to allow anyone to pay respects forward to the honoree families and EMS colleagues at the other end of its journey. And finally in a much smaller capacity, it is an opportunity for fundraising to support the National EMS Memorial Service, allowing it to continue to recognize our fallen.

Leaders with the American Ambulance Association assisted with notification of EMS agencies in and nearby the planned route. Various tributes were conducted along the way. At every stop there were opportunities to pay respects to the honorees, learn more about the organizations dedicated to honoring EMS providers, and to see and photograph the visual representation of the Tree of Life. It is estimated thousands paid their respects in person and more observed via media outlets covering the procession. The Moving Honors ended its journey when it arrived in Arlington, VA led by the National EMS Memorial Bike Ride, officially kicking off the Weekend of Honor.

Always Remember

As the organization congressionally sanctioned to confer the nation's highest honor in EMS upon those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, the National EMS Memorial Service, its board members, and everyone assisting in its noble mission take this responsibility very seriously. We strive in earnest to bestow honors to all who so richly deserve them. Following strict criteria in screening for recognition, our vetting committee reviews details to support these honors.

Honorees for the annual service typically died in the calendar year preceding the service year. Some honorees' deaths occurred prior to this but were only recently classified as occurring in the line of duty, or only recently brought to the attention of the National EMS Memorial Service, and therefore, are now being honored.

During the service, a family member or agency representative will be formally presented with:

- a United States flag, which has flown over the United States Capitol, on behalf of a grateful nation and denoting the honoree's service to their country
- a commemorative medallion signifying their EMS service and eternal memory
- a white rose representing their undying love

Each honoree being recognized tonight is also represented by their EMS agency's state flag.

The names of the 59 fallen who are honored here today appear on the newly minted 2023 panels of the "Tree of Life," the temporary National EMS Memorial.



Program

Announcer

Eric Johnson

Member, Board of Directors, National EMS Memorial Service
Executive Director, Supporting Heroes
Louisville, Kentucky

Pre-Ceremonial Candle Lighting

Rommie Duckworth

Board Member, National Association of Emergency Medical
Technicians (NAEMT)
Ridgefield, Connecticut

Eileen Frazer

Executive Director, Commission of Accreditation of Medical
Transport Programs (CAMTS)
Anderson, South Carolina

Invocation

Chaplain James C. Jones

Sterling Volunteer Fire Company
Loudoun County Fire & Rescue Department
Ashburn, Virginia



Presentation of Colors and Pledge of Allegiance

2023 National EMS Memorial Service Honor Guard
2023 National EMS Memorial Service Pipes & Drums

National Anthem

Kelly Fowler and Cody Poole
AMR-Colorado Springs, Colorado

Todd Metz
The For Paul Foundation, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Gamunu Wijetunge
Director, Office of EMS
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration



Moving Honors Tribute

Tom Liebman

Treasurer, National EMS Memorial Service
VP Operations-Northwest, GMR

2023 Moving Honors Route Coordinator

Wesley Semple, Jr.

2023 Moving Honors Crew Chief

Megan Haverkamp

2023 Moving Honors Attendants

Scottie Newlin

Kari Spanarella

Gregory White

Reflections

Doug Wolfberg

Co-founder, Page, Wolfberg & Wirth, LLC
EMS author, educator, advocate



Presentations to the Honoree Families

Readers of the Honoree Names

Tom Allenstein

Member, Association of Air Medical Services (AAMS)
CEO, MedFlight of Ohio / MedCare Ambulance
Columbus, Ohio

Brian Ceraolo

Board Member, Int'l College of Advanced Practice Paramedics
Paramedic, Operations Manager, Erlanger Health
Chattanooga, Tennessee

John Clark

COO, International Board of Specialty Certification
Red Rock, Texas

Brian Shaw

President, National EMS Memorial Bike Ride
Deputy Director, EMS West
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Randy Strozyk

President, American Ambulance Association
SVP Operations, Global Medical Response
Seattle, Washington

Christopher Way

President-Elect, National Association of Emergency Medical
Technicians (NAEMT)
Fire Chief, Kootenai County Fire & Rescue
Post Falls, Idaho



Presenters of Commemoratives

Katie Coggins

EMT, American Medical Response (AMR)
Riverside, California

Barry Hoke

Paramedic (Ret.), Sussex County EMS Honor Guard
Georgetown, Delaware

Michael McCabe

Flight Paramedic, PHI Air Medical Honor Guard
Baltimore, Maryland

Tony O'Brien

Treasurer, National EMS Memorial Foundation
Paramedic, Boston EMS
Boston, Massachusetts

Antonio Ottaviani

Critical Care Paramedic, American Medical Response (AMR)
Amarillo, Texas

Wesley Semple, Jr.

Paramedic, Ross/West View Emergency Medical Services Authority
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Shawn Stoermann

Paramedic, Commander, MN EMS Honor Guard
Forest Lake, Minnesota

Brian Washburn

Paramedic Supervisor, Center for EMS, Northwell Health
New Hyde Park, New York



In Memoriam - Honorees

Brian Jon Alnes, Firefighter / EMR
Swanville First Responders - Swanville, MN
Last Call: 01/04/2022

Brian Jon Alnes, 53, Swanville First Responders, died in the line-of-duty of COVID-19. As a veteran firefighter and EMR, Brian's work was instrumental in many facets. He was a DNR instructor, started the CISM Program at Crystal Fire and Rescue Squad, and served as Chaplain for Morrison and Todd Counties. Devoted to his community and his faith, Brian's true passion was through his work as a pastor and serving as the Executive Director at Lake Beauty Bible Camp in Long Prairie, MN. Known as "Pastor of Discomfort", he inspired others to get out of their comfort zone and improve as individuals. His motto: "Have a great day and remember who gave it to you!" Along with his devoted service to his community, his infectious laugh, smile, and unmistakable loud voice will be forever remembered. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and 4-wheeling, but most loved spending time with his family. Brian was a devoted husband to Rhonda, father to Peter, Caleb, Nathan, and Joshua, hunting partner to his beloved dog, Tank, and a grandfather.

Gina Ayres, EMT
Central EMS - Roswell, GA
Last Call: 11/17/2022

Gina Ayres, 57, Central EMS, died in the line-of-duty in an ambulance accident. A 12-year EMS veteran, she also served her community as a firefighter, was a dedicated school volunteer, spent time with patients at nursing homes, and served those less fortunate and in need. Known as caring and compassionate, she loved fiercely and her selfless service to others had no bounds. Remembered for her quick wit, beaming smile, fun, and stronger-than-life personality, Gina's love for baking and peanuts brought joy to those who served with her. Alongside her husband, Forsyth County Sheriff's Office's Deputy Sheriff Tony Skindzier, Gina raised two incredible daughters, Corinne and Abigail.



Gordon Baker, Sr., Paramedic
Harris County Emergency Services District 48 - Katy, TX
Last Call: 12/07/2020

Gordon Baker, Sr., 62, Harris County Emergency Services District 48, died in the line-of-duty of COVID-19. After a successful career utilizing his degree in electronics from Texas A&M, he chose to focus on service to his community and provided emergency medical care for nearly 30 years. He is remembered for his unmatched clinical skill and for treating every patient and coworker as family with sincere compassion. Tremendously kind and caring, Gordon acted with true love and understanding. A selfless and hardworking professional who loved his co-workers, he gave of himself generously and was known as a mentor to new EMTs and Paramedics. Gordon's influence and friendship will serve as a guide for his co-workers in caring for the community. He shared his love and passion for music and playing the piano, especially Beethoven and Bach, and his special talent for painting. He enjoyed working in the yard, spending time with puppies, decorating the Christmas tree, and a good thunderstorm. Gordon cherished God, his family, and his country and will be remembered as a remarkable humanitarian and loving soul.

Faye F. Baughman, Captain (Ret.) - Paramedic
FDNY - Brooklyn, NY
Last Call: 10/17/2020

Faye F. Baughman, 58, FDNY EMS, died in the line of duty of World Trade Center Illness. As a 27-year FDNY veteran, Faye spent many hours dedicated to the rescue and recovery efforts at the World Trade Center in 2001 and was the recipient of awards and citations from NYC for her bravery and heroism in the line of duty. Described as approachable and caring, Faye always had a great story to tell. Remembered as a hard worker who made a difference, she left the world a better place, and was a Captain to be proud of. She loved traveling, spending time at the beach, and sharing a good laugh with family and friends. Faye was a dedicated partner and known as big sister to many but was especially proud to be the mother of the joy of her life, Eric.



Andrew L. Beck, EMT

Kecksburg Volunteer Rescue Squad - Mount Pleasant, PA

Last Call: 1/22/2022

Andrew Logan Beck, 23, Kecksburg Volunteer Rescue Squad, died in the line-of-duty of COVID-19. Andy lived his lifelong dream and passion for serving others throughout his seven years as an EMT and volunteer firefighter. Dedicated to welcoming and teaching kids and future public safety volunteers, he had a big vision for the future of the fire service and EMS. Following in the footsteps of his grandfather, one of the biggest influences in his life, Andy gave his all to volunteering for the good and safety of his community. A genuine and wonderful young man who brightened a room, he is remembered for his heart of gold and as a giver of life by his friends, coworkers, family, and community. Andy's love for his community and legacy of service will live through a scholarship established in his honor. His community, family, and fur babies - Copper, Fur, and Trauma, will forever miss his big smile and cheery greeting.

Brendan J. Bessee, EMT

Salt River Fire Department - Scottsdale, AZ

Last Call: 4/8/2022

Brendan Jonathan Bessee, 24, Salt River Fire Department, died in the line-of-duty as the result of an ambulance accident. As with his passion for hockey, Brendan followed in his father's footsteps in pursuing fire science and a career in emergency medical services. Remembered for his immense potential and ability, "Bess" proudly set a skills course record in the academy at Salt River FD. His heart, sense of humor and fun, and ear-to-ear smile were larger than life and made a lifelong impact on his family, teammates, friends, and community. Known for his love for sports, including hockey, skiing, golf, and hiking, Brendan also enjoyed annual family vacations where he usually made everyone laugh. Brendan is especially missed by his best friend and sister, Danielle; his parents, Robert and Judy; and his extended family. The theme of his life is as his former coach stated, "although his stint with the team was short, his impact on its success during that time was very noticeable."



Marvin Bethea, EMT-P

St. Vincent's Catholic Medical Center - Queens, NY

Last Call: 04/29/2022

Marvin Bethea, 62, St. Vincent's Catholic Medical Center, died in the line of duty of World Trade Center Illness. As one of the first ambulance crews to respond to Ground Zero on 9/11, Marvin is described as an unsung hero who set the mark and who, proud of his service on 9/11, fought tirelessly for first responder medical benefits. He often said, "We weren't thinking of ourselves. We were thinking of the public." As a former Cub Scout, Marvin continued to connect and make a difference through a local Girl Scout Troop where he established a special pen-pal friendship. Remembered as a good friend, gentleman, gentle warrior, and a great medic who was always smiling, Marvin will live in those he mentored and inspired. His memory is an eternal light for his wife, Karen, and their many friends.

Willie Bunch Sr., Lieutenant – Firefighter / EMT

Oak City Fire Department - Oak City, NC

Last call: 8/16/2021

Willie Bunch, Sr., 58, Oak City Fire Department, died in the line of duty of COVID-19. Throughout Willie's 24 years of committed service with the Oak City Fire Department, he was known as "the gentle giant of Oak City Fire-EMS" who loved serving his community, helping save lives, and helping those less fortunate and ignored by society. He found joy in working on the farm and in music, especially while spinning turntables. A man of faith, Willie served Christ and shared his love of music through church while working in the sound room. Willie cherished the love of his life, Sharon, his son Willie Bunch Jr., and his family and friends.



Gabriel Robert Camacho, Flight Paramedic
Hawaii Life Flight - Maui, HI
Last call: December 15, 2022

Gabriel R. Camacho, 34, Hawaii Life Flight, died in the line of duty as the result of a medical airplane accident. Inspired by his own need for med-evac service, Gabe loved his work and loved helping his community. Described as a committed friend who could make you laugh, he was always there when you needed him. Gabe's parents, Rene and Lisa, his three boys, Ezra, Elias, and Titus, his brother, and his entire family, were so proud of him. He is forever loved and remembered.

Terry Lee Cassidy, EMT
Sparta Township Fire Department - Cromwell, IN
Last Call: 5/26/2022

Terry L. Cassidy, 64, Sparta Township Fire Department, died in the line of duty as a result of a medical event. Proud of his 11 years of combined service and commitment to the Sparta Township Fire Department, where he was affectionately known as "The Old G.O.A.T." (Greatest of All Time), a nickname symbolized by a goat sticker on his helmet, Terry led a life full of service and devotion to others. His instinct to disregard himself and his own needs is a trait he exemplified throughout the entirety of his service-driven life. It is abundantly clear that Terry deeply valued his fire department friendships where he is sorely missed, as well as in the close-knit, small community. He was a Notre Dame and NASCAR fan, an avid golfer, and enjoyed fishing and plowing snow. Terry is greatly missed, yet honorably remembered by family and friends, especially his mother, brother, and four children – Michael, Austin, Jeremy, and Holly.



Patricia Ann Castle, EMT
Appalachian First Response Ambulance - Stone, KY
Last Call: 02/08/2007

Patricia Ann Castle, 42, Appalachian First Response Ambulance, died in the line of duty of complications following an ambulance accident that occurred in 2007. Patricia was truly dedicated to her patients and always put their interests first. This was especially evident on her last call in which she was seriously injured when her ambulance was struck by a coal truck while she was carefully attending to the patient in the patient compartment. Patricia was loved by her colleagues and many friends. She loved her family, including her husband James, her two brothers, Todd and David, her parents and extended family in EMS.

Richard Chatterton, Deputy Chief - Paramedic
FDNY - Brooklyn, NY
Last Call: 03/01/2022

Richard Chatterton, 59, FDNY EMS, died in the line of duty of World Trade Center Illness. A 28-year FDNY EMS veteran and Active-duty Deputy Chief, Division 7, he disregarded his own needs while off duty, and despite recovering from a knee injury, he responded on 9/11. Described as a role model and mentor to all he supervised, Rick went above and beyond and made an extra effort to teach others to perform to their best. Remembered as a dedicated leader and trailblazer who others relied on, his constant priorities were helping people and keeping his family safe. Whether opening a new EMS station, administering the COVID-19 vaccine, or having coffee and discussing his favorite management book quotes with the Chief, he made the FDNY a better place. Rick loved life, enjoyed coaching his children's teams, and was always singing and dancing, even if he did not feel well. A dedicated husband of 34 years to Rose Marie and father to Tyler, Bradley, and Emily, family was Rick's priority.



Rickey “Shane” Clifford, Captain- EMT / Paramedic
Sumner County EMS - Gallatin, TN
Last Call: 1/23/2022

Shane Clifford, 44, Sumner County EMS, died in the line-of-duty of COVID-19. Shane served his county for 20 years in EMS, achieving the rank of Captain in 2021. Known for his humor and fun-loving nature, he lifted the spirits of everyone around him with his pranks and contagious laughter. Remembered for his “big heart”, he was loyal, selfless, and lived with purpose. Both friends and strangers describe his endless generosity and compassion. Always willing to help someone in need, whether that entailed organizing relief efforts for hurricane victims, or inviting a struggling coworker to lunch, Shane’s legacy will live through the lives he touched. He enjoyed fishing, loved his boat, was a Nashville Predators’ fan and a successful realtor. A dedicated husband to Lavonne, and father to Mason and Madelyn, his family was his pride and joy - “his children, his family, they hung the moon for him.”

Thurman “Corey” Cordell, Paramedic
American Medical Response - Birmingham, AL
Last Call: 01/12/2021

Thurman Howard “Corey” Cordell, 44, American Medical Response, died in the line-of-duty of COVID-19. Corey cared for others, served his community, and helped those in need while utilizing his skills to provide care on mission trips. Described as a friend you could always depend on, he always saw the good, and brought out the best, in others. Corey enjoyed camping, beach trips, racing, and was a loyal and passionate fan of the Tennessee Vols. A man of faith, he loved his family and maintained a positive attitude regardless of the circumstances. Remembered as an incredible father, Corey’s beloved daughter was the center of his world as he loved her more than anything.



Nisha Jaia Renee Dash, EMT
LifeMed Ambulance Service - Philadelphia, PA
Last Call: 09/10/2022

Nisha Jaia Renee Dash, 32, LifeMed Ambulance Service, died in the line of duty from an accident while on scene. Nisha loved her job and dedicated her life to doing what she loved - providing care for those in need. Described as kind, caring, happy and vibrant, she was a beautiful and loving soul with a bubbly personality and bright smile that lit up a room. She loved making jewelry, painting, and spending time with Girlie and Silver, her family dogs. Nisha brought joy to her mom, was dedicated to raising her 4-year-old cousin, Nya, known as her “Bug”, and was a beloved member of her family.

Dewey Bryan Davis, Lieutenant - Paramedic
CareMed EMS - Benton, TN
Last Call: 9/18/2021

Dewey Bryan Davis, 60, CareMed EMS, died in the line of duty of COVID-19. As a 40-year EMS veteran, Dewey served as a first responder, paramedic, and Sheriff's Deputy for multiple East Tennessee agencies. Known as a mentor who was always teaching and helping others be the best they could be, he loved taking care of people and loved what he did every day. Remembered as serving everyone no matter their circumstances, he was “one of the good ones” and “that guy that when he showed up on scene you absolutely knew your patient had the best care”. Described as always smiling, bright, and funny, he was a prankster whose laugh was contagious. An amazing friend who gave the biggest hugs, he never met a stranger, and “left a mark on us all”. An adventure seeker who lived every day to the fullest, he enjoyed travel, fishing, and hunting. “Dewey was not a man to let the world come to him. He was always out doing something and enjoying life.” Dewey adored his wife, Robin; daughter, Samantha; and his stepdaughter, Brittany, along with 5 step-grandchildren, and two dogs.



Troy M. Dettinger, Chief - First Responder
Union Fire and Hose Company #1 - Dover, PA
Last Call: 11/30/2022

Troy M. Dettinger, 58, Union Fire and Hose Company #1, died in the line of duty as a result of a medical event. A respected leader and mentor who was always available to help, Troy was dedicated and passionate about serving his community throughout his 29-year fire department career. He was a well-known and vital member of the fire department community. Described as a fantastic friend, he could always make you laugh and “Could fix just about anything.” As an avid outdoorsman, he enjoyed camping, 4-wheeling, fishing, and hunting. But as a father and grandfather, spending time with family was most important to Troy.

Donald L. Dodson, Paramedic
Arrow EMS – Woodland, IL
Last Call: 11/25/2020

Donald L. Dodson, 68, Arrow EMS, died in the line of duty of COVID-19. A proud veteran, Don’s life of service began in the United States Navy, where he served as a Navy SEAL, and continued through his 48-year EMS career. Remembered by his coworkers as an “Old School Paramedic,” Don was a consummate professional and skilled clinician, who expected, and gave, nothing less than perfection. Described as “forgetting more than most people ever learned,” he left a mark as a mentor and true servant who positively impacted the lives of his patients, partners, and peers. He enjoyed traveling, fishing, gardening, yardwork, dogs, and shooting. A true family man, Don was a loving husband to Lori, father to Tyler, Allex, Angela, Justin, Nicholas, and Brian, a grandfather and special brother.



Frank Duff, Jr., FF - Paramedic
Columbus Fire Department – Columbus, OH
Last Call: 09/19/2021

Frank Duff, Jr, 66, Columbus Fire Department, died in the line-of-duty of COVID-19. A 26-year Fire Department veteran, Frank served most of his extraordinary career at Station 17/Rescue 17 on the city's West Side with additional assignments at Station 2 and 10. Before following his passion to become a Firefighter and Paramedic, he worked as a mechanic alongside his father at Duff's Auto Care. A beloved coworker and mentor, he was described as "the perfect firefighter" throughout his career. Remembered for his servant's heart, he was known for always having a quiet, calm, patient, reserved, and kind demeanor. He treated everyone like family and loved helping his co-workers, especially with cars. He loved hiking, biking, and traveling and frequently visited the Great Smokey Mountains. Frank was a father, stepfather, and devoted man of faith.

Douglas E. Dzubinski, EMT
Community Life Team (UPMC) - York, PA
Last Call: 12/4/2020

Douglas E. Dzubinski, 53, Community Life Team (UPMC), died in the line of duty of COVID-19. His 30-year EMS career included service as the Emergency Management Coordinator for the Windsor Borough and as a long-time volunteer firefighter. Remembered as dedicated, compassionate, and hardworking, Doug was always willing to listen and help others. Doug is described as an amazing friend, and "one of the finest EMS providers" who never refused a shift and lived for his work serving others. He was a member of the Windsor Lions Club and passionate scuba diver. He enjoyed diving in the Caribbean, Honduras, Mexico, Cuba, and Guadalupe Islands, and volunteered as a scuba diver at the National Aquarium in Baltimore. Doug was a loving husband to his wife of 28-years, Penny, and an encouraging and supportive father to Bryanne.



Michael Earley, EMS Captain (Ret.) - EMT
FDNY EMS - Brooklyn, NY
Last Call: 01/26/2022

Michael Earley 55, FDNY EMS, died in the line of duty of World Trade Center Illness. Mike bravely served in the rescue and recovery at Manhattan Box 5-5-8087 World Trade Center. His 20-year career included service at FDNY EMS Division 4 (EMD and Station 11). Affectionately known as “Shrek,” Mike is remembered as a strong and generous guy, with a larger-than-life personality to match. His years of friendship and love created wonderful memories for those fortunate enough to know him. Mike was a Little League softball coach and board member, active in the Knights of Columbus and loved the Mets, Jets, Knicks, and Rangers with a true passion. Most of all, Mike adored his wife Cindy, and his daughters Kaitlyn and Meagan.

Mark R. Ellis, EMT
Renton Volunteer Fire Department – Plum, PA
Last Call: 10/18/2022

Mark R. Ellis, 64, Renton Volunteer Fire Department, died in the line-of-duty of a medical event. Serving as the department’s Medical Officer, he was actively involved in volunteer fire service training collaborations. After a successful 42-year engineering career, he found his true passion in EMS. Known as a kind and genuine soul, he made an impact on everyone he met, and “had a way” of making others, the fire service, and EMS better. Described as a “guru” and “do-er,” Mark enjoyed tinkering in his garage where he constantly taught himself, and others, new things. A man of faith, he is remembered for times shared in prayer and thoughtful discussion with his co-workers. Most important to Mark was spending time with the family he adored. A widower of his wife Jennifer, Mark is remembered as “the best dad” to Monica and Amy, grandfather to Bradley, Bennet, and Carmela, and as a brother.



James Edward Evans, Paramedic
Applying Healthcare EMS – Baxley, GA
Last Call: 11/03/2022

James Edward Evans, 57, Applying Healthcare EMS, died in the line-of-duty of a medical event. James' life of service in EMS included 20 years as a paramedic with Applying Healthcare, and 10 years as a flight paramedic with Air Evac Lifeteam. Revered by his peers, and known to put a smile on anyone's face, he was "a hoot and loved to endearingly pick on colleagues but had a huge heart for helping others in any way he could." Described as "one of a kind," James was known for his big heart and big hugs. James adored, and was always thinking of, his wife Rena. He deeply loved his children, Brandi, Kyle, and Kevin, ten grandchildren, his brothers and sisters, and his special fur baby, Lulu.

Gloria Gordon, Lieutenant (Ret.) - EMT / Paramedic
FDNY EMS - Brooklyn, NY
Last Call: 09/10/2021

Gloria "Gigi" Gordon, 58, FDNY EMS, died in the line-of-duty of World Trade Center Illness. GiGi's 19-year EMS career began as part of the Health and Hospital Corporation and continued with FDNY, where she became a paramedic and ultimately rose to the rank of Lieutenant. On September 11, 2001, she responded to Manhattan Box 5-5-8087 World Trade Center spending many subsequent months in the rescue and recovery effort at ground zero. Described as someone who put others before herself, Gloria's memory will live through her wife, Sharon, and many family members.



Joseph “Joe” Grady II, EMT
Fort Barnwell Rescue Squad - Dover, NC
Last Call: 02/18/2022

Joseph “Joe” Grady II, 38, Fort Barnwell Rescue Squad, died in the line of duty of a medical event while responding to a call. Joe served through multiple EMS agencies and was actively pursuing his paramedic licensure. An educator at heart, he considered being a paramedic his dream career and pushed his fellow students, never letting them give up - “you changed my life and I hope you know it,” said a classmate. Joe’s legacy will continue through his fellow students that committed to complete paramedic school in his honor: “We’re doing it for Joe!” Known for his famous fist bump, he is described as humble, charismatic, and everyone’s comic relief. A man of many hobbies, Joe especially enjoyed time at the gun range, loved Arizona ice-tea and smoker grills, and wanted to open his own business and name it “Joker’s South.” His deep faith led him to a passion for ministry and a life of service. Joe most loved spending time with his wife Shaquim and his family. He loved his mother, Susan, grandmother Molly, his brothers and sisters and will forever be a part of the men and women with whom he served.

Pablo Guzman, Lieutenant (Ret.) - EMT
FDNY EMS - Brooklyn, NY
Last Call: 02/01/2022

Pablo Guzman, 63, FDNY EMS, died in the line of duty of World Trade Center Illness. Pablo served proudly with the 42nd Infantry Division as a Sergeant in the United States Army National Guard for the State of New York. On September 11, 2001, Pablo responded to Manhattan Box 5-5-8087 World Trade Center and worked tirelessly for months helping victims and their families. An educator and motivator, he is described as having the desire to be both a spiritual and civil servant. Pablo was known as an excellent trumpet player and avid music lover with a vibrant faith in God. He was a devout Christian leader and mentor in the Assemblies of God Royal Rangers Ministry for Boys. Pablo is remembered as a loving husband to Diane, his beloved wife of 36 years, a dedicated father to his son Jonathan, a wonderful son to Mary, and a brother.



Tyler Harris, EMT
Carbon County EMS, Saratoga, WY
Last Call: 12/21/2022

Tyler Harris, EMT, Carbon County EMS, died in the line of duty in an ambulance accident. Tyler was an aspiring paramedic with a tremendous heart who loved his job and whose passion was helping others. An “all-around country boy who loved guns, fishing, camping, and hunting with his grandparents, father, and boys,” Tyler brought energy to every room he entered with his contagious smile, laugh and goofy sense of humor. He was known for his amazing voice and special accents when telling stories, the British one being a favorite. He loved to sing, especially in the shower, and used his talent to create special memories and traditions singing to his wife while they danced in the kitchen on Friday nights. His strong faith and deep love for his family guided him in raising his boys to love God and respect the land and people. Tyler was a devoted husband to Ashley, dedicated father to their three sons Noah, Elijah, and Jonah, a wonderful son to Jason and Kathie, grandson, and brother to Sharrayah. He was a true gift who made sure his family knew how much he loved them.

Edward “Ned” Hayes, Paramedic
Cottage Hose Company Ambulance Corporation – Carbondale, PA
Last Call: 09/03/2022

Edward “Ned” Hayes, 71, Cottage Hose Company Ambulance Corporation, died in the line of duty of a medical emergency. Ned began as a volunteer EMT and ultimately served his community doing what he loved as paramedic for 35 years. A great partner and mentor, known for his excellent skills, strong sense of professionalism, and humor, he “always entered a room with a bright sunshine smile.” “Pa,” as he was called by his five grandchildren, loved to deer hunt, play golf, and host family gatherings where he would cook his famous crab legs and “cooked to order” juicy steaks. The 4th of July was a special event where his spectacular fireworks display took center stage. Ned, a true family man, recently celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary with his beloved wife Donna. A wonderful father to Kimberly, Kerry, and Edward Ryan, he cherished his grandchildren, loved his sister, and was faithfully followed by his dear companions, his dogs Matilda and Grace.



Robert A. “Bobby” Jones, Firefighter / Paramedic
Reese & Community Volunteer Fire Company - Westminster, MD
Last Call: 01/20/2022

Robert A. “Bobby” Jones, 59, Reese & Community Volunteer Fire Company, died in the line of duty of COVID-19. Bobby followed his heart into service and lived his dream for more than 40 years as a career firefighter and paramedic, as well as a volunteer. From his career fire department service to life member as a volunteer, Bobby was a staple in the community and known as a dedicated mentor who leaves behind an enormous legacy. Described as a kind-hearted friend and compassionate soul with an immeasurable passion and dedication for his profession, Bobby made his community and country a better place. Known as a man of courage, with an “unshakable sense of calm” and an infectious smile, he is remembered as having “a way of bringing sunshine into darkness”. A widower, Bobby loved his family including his mother, siblings, stepdaughters, and grandchildren.

Sarah Kaderli Junell, Paramedic
City Ambulance Service – Houston, TX
Last Call: 01/08/2022

Sarah Kaderli Junell, 31, City Ambulance Service, died in the line of duty in an ambulance accident. Her strength and commitment rivaled her compassion as a paramedic. Sarah was a beautiful spirit described as “always bringing happiness with her”. Remembered as giving, caring, and kind, she touched the lives of so many. Sarah enjoyed spending time with her family and loved her parents Steven and Sheila, her brother Jonathan and wife KT, her nephews Caleb, David, and Ian and always talked about her “cute pups”. Her light will be carried by all who loved her.



Bruce Lang, EMT

Pine Haven Volunteer Fire Department - Pine Haven, WY

Last Call: 12/15/2022

Bruce Lang, 68, Pine Haven Volunteer Fire Department, died in the line of duty of a drowning accident during an emergency response. Bruce's life of service began in the United States Army and continued as he served his community for 30 years as an EMT and volunteer firefighter. Known as a mentor, he helped guide and train new volunteers. During his 36-year career as a coal mine mechanic, Bruce served as a volunteer member of the coal mine rescue team. A staple in Pine Haven, he was described as the kindest, most amazing man with a "heart of solid gold," always doing something for others. Remembered as a "mechanic extraordinaire" who could fix anything, he believed strongly in doing everything possible to find a solution to a problem and help. After fashioning a makeshift ambulance out of a hearse when his community was in need but could not afford one, he drove while his wife provided care. He enjoyed elk hunting, fishing, horseback riding, snowmobiling, and the peacefulness of the mountains. His most special memories were with his daughter teaching her to hunt and fish. Bruce loved spending time with the most important people in his life - his wife of 43 years, Linda, and daughter Becca. He loved his family to the "moon and back."

Jason Connor Lang, Firefighter / First Responder / EMT Student

West Memphis Fire Department - West Memphis, AR

Last Call: 02/26/2022

Jason Connor Lang, 20, West Memphis Fire Department, died in the line-of-duty in an accident on scene. Connor's life of service to his community began as a volunteer firefighter and continued in his professional fire service career where he was in the final days of completing his EMT training. Described as a future leader that was passionate and always polite, he was known for his great heart, enthusiasm, bravery, and eyes that shined. He was a proud Eagle Scout from Boy Scout Troop #216, loved riding his motorcycle, and enjoyed a good movie night. Jason loved spending time with his fiancée Kaitlin, parents Joe and Sheryl, brother Nathaniel, stepbrother Nicholas, and many friends.



Michael Lynch, EMS Chief - Paramedic
Boothwyn Fire Company - Boothwyn, PA
Last Call: 12/19/2022

Michael W. Lynch, 56, Boothwyn Fire Company, died in the line-of-duty of a traumatic injury. Passionate about his work, he served as an EMS Chief and member of the Delaware County Emergency Health Services Council during his 34-year paramedic career. Through his many years of dedicated service, Michael was always ready to offer assistance to anyone in need and is described as one of the best instructors anyone could have. Remembered as making the world a better place, he was known for his kind, calm, and gentle demeanor. Described as a leader and mentor, his legacy will live through his contributions to training others in emergency care. A devoted husband to Linda and loving father to Zachary, Adrianna and Aiden, Mike loved his family unconditionally.

Fred Manno, Paramedic
North Huntington EMS and Rescue - North Huntington, PA
Last Call: 07/30/2022

Fred Manno, 64, North Huntington EMS & Rescue, died in the line-of-duty of a medical event. As a 40-year EMS veteran, he dedicated his life and career to serving others. A charismatic leader, he was described as a passionate, kind-hearted, and gifted clinician. As one patient's mother recounts: "Fred was so calming and comforting on that agonizing ride to the children's hospital. I will never forget him." Undoubtedly making an indelible impression on the hearts of those he touched throughout his life and career, Fred was an inspiration and one of a kind, with a sense of humor like no other. A great conversationalist and listener, he was a true friend and a joy to be around. "How could you not love Fred?" He enjoyed a good cigar, was a devout fan of the Trans-Siberian Orchestra, enjoyed shooting at the range, was a connoisseur of hot sauce, and never missed an opportunity to post pictures of his extraordinary breakfast plates. He made the most of every day and enjoyed life with his family and friends. Fred had an affinity for dogs, especially his most loved companion, Lady.



Melanie Robinson Massagee, Lieutenant - Paramedic
Gaston County EMS – Gastonia, NC
Last Call: 01/09/2022

Melanie Robinson Massagee, 57, Gaston County EMS, died in the line-of-duty of COVID-19. A veteran paramedic dedicating 41 years of selfless service to others, Melanie undoubtedly left an enduring impression on the hearts of others. A leader, outstanding paramedic, and gracious mentor, she is remembered for her bubbly personality, warm smile, patience, and kindness. A devout follower of God with unwavering faith, described as a strong woman and beautiful person, she impacted countless lives both personally and professionally. She loved spending time with her family and especially cherished time fishing with her father. Melanie was a loving, caring, and compassionate wife of 37-years to Buzzy Wayne, mother to Ericka and Tonya, a grandmother, daughter, and sister.

David Tomas Mejia, EMT
American Medical Response - Irwindale, CA
Last Call: 01/21/2021

David Tomas Mejia, 57, American Medical Response, died in the line-of-duty of COVID-19. David's service began in the United States Armed Forces, continued in the Bay Area where he was a Forest Fire Fighter, then as an EMT. Known as a caring and dedicated professional while in uniform, his friends and family describe his curiosity and love of many hobbies. Remembered for his unconditional love, David's legacy will be carried by his nieces and nephew.



Mark A. Miller, Chief – Paramedic
Wayne Township Fire and Rescue – Waynesfield, OH
Last Call: 10/22/2022

Mark A. Miller, 58, Wayne Township Fire and Rescue, died in the line of duty of a medical event. His life of service began in the United States Navy where he proudly served as a Radioman aboard the USS America (CV-66), and as an EMT. Following his honorable discharge, Mark pursued certification as a paramedic and continued to serve numerous communities through various agencies and roles, including as a paramedic instructor and EMS Chief. Described as kind, gracious in nature, and selfless, he was an awesome partner and outstanding person, always serving others, and the “epitome of what EMS was about.” Mark enjoyed traveling, was active in the local racing community, serving as Track Paramedic and Gridman for area racetracks, and was a member of VFW Post 1275. A man of faith, he treasured and loved his family. Mike was a husband to Julie, father to Kayla, Karstin, Ethan, and Evan, Fiancé to Autumn, future stepfather to Isiah and Guage, a grandfather, and a brother.

Jonathian “John” Myers, EMT
East Pennsboro Ambulance Service, Inc. – Enola, PA
Last Call: 11/16/2021

Jonathian “John” Myers, 40, East Pennsboro Ambulance Service, Inc., died in the line of duty of COVID-19. As a life member of Enola Fire Company No.3 - Midway Fire Company, John’s devoted service began at age 14 responding to fire department calls. A trusted, valued, dedicated team member and leader, he “always stood ready to help others.” Responsible for training oversight, he helped mold numerous EMTs and paramedics. Remembered for his calming, soothing, and compassionate nature, John knew just how to comfort people in their time of need and demonstrated consistent love and respect for his EMS family. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his service from East Pennsboro EMS. An avid sportsman who loved guns, he enjoyed shooting and teaching gun safety. Known for his great sense of humor and infectious laugh, he wanted to bring joy and happiness to his friends and family. John loved his family, including his parents, Dorothy and Robert, his brother Jimmy, and his beloved fiancé, Holly.



Robert “Don” Parrish, Paramedic
Pilcher’s Ambulance Service - Dothan, AL
Last Call: 10/06/2022

Robert “Don” Parrish, 70, Pilcher’s Ambulance Service, died in the line of duty of a medical event. Don’s exemplary service began with his 20-year career as a Firefighter/Paramedic with Dothan Fire Department. After retirement, he dedicated an additional 30 years to EMS at Pilcher’s, and recently reached the milestone of 20 years of National EMS Certification. Pilcher Ambulance Service 2021 EMT of the year, and affectionately known as “Ole Bud,” he was described as an awesome paramedic “doing exactly what he loved”. Remembered as a “gem,” he was loving, kind, dependable, dedicated, compassionate, and faithful in his service. He loved to support the Ashford High School marching band, was past president of the Band Association, and loved Auburn Football. A Man of faith and family, Don loved his wife of 30 years, Pam, daughter Kimberly, stepdaughter Jennie, grandchildren, Rachel, Kaylee, and Jaidyn, and very special grand dog, Beau.

Courtney Parry, Flight Nurse
Hawaii Life Flight - Maui, HI
Last Call: 12/15/2022

Courtney Parry, 46, Hawaii Life Flight, died in the line of duty of a medical airplane accident. Known by her colleagues as an “extraordinary nurse...with a vibrant spirit,” she was a tremendous partner, passionate about others, and loved her job. With a sense of humor that made everyone laugh and smile, Courtney was a loving and positive light that brought joy. Described as genuine, loyal, and selfless, she was an exceptional friend willing to do anything for anyone. An energetic, and adventure-loving soul, Courtney enjoyed travel, planned to explore Greece with her daughter, and loved playing with her two dogs. Courtney is remembered as an amazing woman, mother to Sydney, Jarrod, and Kayden, a sister, and a friend. She will be loved forever and will live in those she loved.



Michael Patrick, EMT
MedStar EMS- Summerdale, AL
Last Call: 12/16/2020

Michael J. Patrick, 69, MedStar EMS, died in the line-of-duty of COVID-19. A United States Marine Corps veteran, and 30-year postal service employee, Michael's life of service continued after retirement when he became an EMT. True to his goal of using his time to serve others, his dedication to providing aid and assistance through the global pandemic was evident in his exemplary service during this difficult period. Described as loving, caring, and courageous, he was a loyal and dependable friend with a servant's heart who enjoyed fishing and loved Auburn University football. Remembered for his unwavering commitment to his faith and family, Michael was a loving husband to Diane, father to Michael Jr., Christopher, Leigh, Gage, Dakota, Sierra, and Cory, and was a grandfather, and a brother.

Troy Potter, EMT-I
Brunswick County EMS - Lawrenceville, VA
Last Call: 10/25/2021

Troy Potter, 43, EMT-I, Brunswick County EMS, died in the line of duty of COVID-19. Serving in EMS for more than 25 years with various agencies, Troy held numerous positions, ultimately earning the rank of Captain. Known to his co-workers as "T-Roy" or "T-Pot," he loved EMS, made a name for himself through his actions, served humbly, and positively impacted many lives. Remembered as unique and funny, Troy was kind, compassionate, generous, and a good friend who was loved by many. Troy loved going to his original home and being on the family farm. He enjoyed life and especially working on heavy farm equipment and vehicles with his dad. Troy's fiancé Cierra was the love of his life along with his daughter, Adelynn Lou and future stepson, Hunter. He loved his sister Corrie, and his mother and grandmother whom he missed dearly.



Nickolas Ramirez, Deputy Fire Marshal - FF / Paramedic
San Diego Fire Department- San Diego, CA
Last Call: 2/16/2022

Nickolas Ramirez, 59, San Diego Fire Department, died in the line-of-duty of COVID-19. Nick's life of service began in the United States Navy and continued throughout his 31 years of service in Fire and EMS. Part of the 60th Basic Fire Academy class, and just days away from retirement, he served the last 19 years at SDFD stations 10, 23, and 34. Described as an excellent firefighter and outstanding paramedic with an exceptional work ethic, Nick loved the fire service and took patient care very seriously. It was his heart, and boundless compassion, that truly set him apart. Beloved in the community, Nick is remembered as a generous and humble man whose infectious smile, fun energy, and quick wit brightened a day and left everyone around him in stitches. He enjoyed spending time with his family, also an integral part of the SDFD family, boating, and camping. Nick cherished and adored his wife Terrie and his daughters, Stephanie and Nicole.

Ernest "E.R." Rudder, Captain - FF / EMT
Bush Fire Department – London, KY
Last Call: 09/25/2021

Ernest "E.R." Rudder, 74, Bush Fire Department, died in the line of duty of COVID-19. Throughout his life dedicated to serving others, E.R. set a high professional bar, served as a wonderful role model, and made a positive impact. A founding member of the Bush Fire Department, he served his community for 30 years as a volunteer firefighter, a Sheriff's Deputy (Sgt.-Ret.), a biology teacher (30 years), a principal (16 years), and a school bus driver. Describing himself as a "jack of all trades and master of none." He loved traveling and watching The History Channel, Pawn Stars, and The Pickers, was known to smoke a pipe, and appreciated a John Deer tractor. A man of faith, he served as a deacon of Providence Missionary Baptist Church and was a member of Gideons International. His childhood sweetheart, and wife of 54 years, Judy, "was the only girl I ever dated," and he noticed her "With your pigtails and big brown eyes," before they were even in 8th grade, E.R. said. Spending time with his mother, brother and sister, his children, Dawn and Marc, grandchildren and great grandson, who E.R. considered his biggest rewards, were his most cherished moments.



Alison Russo, Captain - Paramedic
FDNY - Brooklyn, NY
Last Call: 9/29/2022

Alison Russo, 61, FDNY EMS, died in the line duty after being fatally stabbed by an assailant outside her station. In her 24 years of dedicated service to FDNY EMS she responded to over 25,000 emergency calls, including Ground Zero on 9-11, and volunteered, for almost 30 years, with Huntington Volunteer First Aid Squad. Described as a mentor, and the “best of the best,” she loved her station and was beloved by her colleagues. Affectionately considered “mother of the station,” Alison was always there for her co-workers, or “kids” as she called them. Remembered as a beautiful person who always put others first, she “wore her heart on her sleeve and would give you the shirt off her back.” An outdoor enthusiast, Alison loved watersports, going to concerts, and had recently begun golfing. Alison’s daughter, Danielle, her K-9 best friend, Bailey, and her mother and father, will carry her legacy along with the many lives she positively impacted through FDNY and HVFAS. She truly loved her family, and friends as well as the city that she served so well.

James E. Sauer, EMS Pilot
Mercy Flight - Buffalo, NY
Last Call: 04/26/2022

James E. Sauer, 60, Mercy Flight, died in the line of duty as a result of a medical helicopter accident. As a 40-year US Army and NY Army National Guard veteran, he served multiple deployments to the Middle East for operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, Restore Hope and Desert Storm. Jim’s honorable life of service, and aviation career, continued as a pilot for the New York State Police, Bill Law Aviation, and American Eagle. He served as a police officer for the Rochester and Holley Police Departments and was a volunteer firefighter. A passionate aviator, Jim found his love for flying at age 13 in the Civil Air Patrol. He was a mentor to many pilots. A selfless, dedicated professional, exceptional in everything he did, he is remembered as “an outstanding top-class aviator, individual and human” who “lived to fly and flew to live”. He especially appreciated the saying “the office is small, but the view is beautiful.” He enjoyed farming, adventuring, trying new businesses and family. A man of faith, he was dedicated husband to his wife of 39 years, Marie, father to Joshua and Laura, grandfather of six, and a brother.



David Spink, Engineer- Firefighter / Paramedic
Barstow Fire Protection District – Barstow, CA
Last Call: 01/09/22

David Spink, 56, Barstow Fire Protection District, died in the line of duty as a result of an accident on-scene. A 32-year fire department veteran who loved his job, David is described as a professional engineer who was “very sound in his knowledge, skills and abilities.” He loved learning and reading, specifically about how things worked, and was drawn to future innovations. He enjoyed the outdoors and riding the Segway, quad, and motorcycles, gardening, scuba and sky diving, and was the owner of Handy Car Wash. He especially loved when his home, and pool, were filled with family and friends. A man of deep faith and family, he was married to the love of his life for 34 years, Colleen Ruth, father to their son, Dallen, and was a loving son and brother. David was devoted to three things during his life on earth - Christ, family, and protecting his community. Dallen, following in his father’s footsteps, is now a paramedic/firefighter for BFPD. David’s core values and characteristics will continue to serve in this world through him.

William Stalls, Firefighter / EMT
Oak City Fire-EMS Dept – Oak City, NC
Last Call: 08/15/21

William Stalls, 69, Oak City Fire-EMS Department, died in the line of duty of COVID-19. Dedicating 43 years to serving his community through EMS and the fire department, and more than 20 years through the town government, William was the epitome of a public servant. A “jack of all trades,” he served as a firefighter and EMT and in various town positions and roles, including as Mayor and as a commissioner. He was often described as a dedicated and giving man, with a love for Oak City, and its citizens, for whom he gave his all. The fire department, to which he dedicated so much of himself, became his family. His impression and impact on Oak City will endure, and his service remembered.



Michael Stephenson, Firefighter / Paramedic
Vinton County EMS - McArthur, OH
Last Call: 01/16/2022

Michael Stephenson 58, Vinton County EMS, died in the line-of-duty of Covid-19. Throughout his more than 30-year career in EMS, with the last 11 years dedicated to Vinton County, Mike served multiple agencies and departments as a fire fighter and paramedic. Known as a dedicated, hard worker, and great paramedic, he was committed to public service and loved his career. Remembered for his kind and patient manner, he never let a teachable moment pass. Described as a great friend, he always encouraged others to go after what they wanted in life, wanted the best for them, and poured his heart and soul into any project he spearheaded. As head Scout Master for 17 years to Troop 236, he cared deeply for his scouts and volunteered countless hours. High adventure trips were special to him as they allowed his scouts to gain life experiences. His love of genealogy and history is evidenced in the stories and photos he posted and in the care he took in gathering accurate information to honor families. His work is permanently displayed in the Dunkle Hall museum. Mike was a son, brother, foster father to a son, and good friend. He will be remembered for his dedication, love, and friendship.

Nicholas Theofilis, Firefighter / Paramedic
Penn Hills EMS – Pittsburgh, PA
Last Call: 11/27/2022

Nicholas Theofilis 23, Penn Hills EMS, died in the line-of-duty in an ambulance accident. Described as “born to serve”, Nick found his passion for serving others while in high school. As an Eagle Scout, he developed a love for first aid and began training to be an EMT, was member of the Naval ROTC, a certified lifeguard, CPR Instructor, and firefighter. He was an enthusiastic public servant, known as a great paramedic who loved what he did, and was in the process of becoming a master mason. Upbeat and comical, Nick made others smile, laugh, and feel at ease, and he had an ability to bring everyone together. Kind-hearted, compassionate, and loyal, he made himself available to anyone who needed help. He is remembered as a “caring friend for all”, a description inscribed on a small plaque by his corner bar seat near the kitchen at his favorite watering hole. A beloved son, brother, grandson, Nick was “solid gold head to toe.”



Steven Thorsen, EMT
FDNY- Brooklyn, NY
Last Call: 06/19/2022

Steven Thorsen, 65, FDNY EMS, died in the line of duty of World Trade Center Illness. Proud to be an EMT and of his uniform, Steven served the FDNY EMS for 27 years, receiving honors and awards for bravery, sacrifice, and selflessness. Described as “debonair and chivalrous” with a magnetic personality, and remarkable sense of humor, his words and expressions were larger than life. Known to be very social, Steven helped organize battalion events, even after retirement from FDNY Station 23. A gifted artist renowned for his ability, he was so proud to be commissioned by FDNY to paint works for Engine 168 and Battalion 123. His art pieces, on display in numerous locations, will serve as a lasting legacy. As a master-faux artist, Steven refined and perfected his process to marbleize wood. Growing up, Steven loved days with his grandparents, who owned an inn. He loved fishing, horseback riding, the beach, and taught himself to speak Italian. A beloved husband, Steven treasured his wife, Toni Ann, his cat, Moe, and his art. He was a stepfather to Danielle, Alanna, Anthony, and Tory, and grandfather of two.

Daryl E. Tombs, Paramedic
AMR - Corning, NY
Last Call: 01/16/2021

Daryl E. Tombs, 52, American Medical Response, died in the line of duty of COVID-19. Daryl’s life of dedicated service included 30 years as a critical care paramedic, 911 dispatcher, volunteer firefighter, and instructor. Regarded as a talented and patient mentor, he instructed countless EMS students. Respected and adored by colleagues, Daryl was a wonderful person who made everyone smile, and served as an inspiration to those around him. His service is described as an “example of how everyone in EMS should be and how everyone should live their lives.” Remembered as a true gentle giant, Daryl was a good friend who provided guidance, laughter, love, and teddy bear hugs. He loved “to sing off key and make own his own lyrics when he forgot the words,” enjoyed estate and yard sales, camping, and Dunkin’ Donuts coffee. A loving brother and family man, the love of Daryl’s life was Carole, his wife, along with his children, Adam, Justin, Cameron, Brittany, Mackenzie, Kaitlyn, his grandchildren.



Brian M. Treptow, EMS Pilot
Hawaii Life Flight - Maui, HI
Last Call: 12/15/2022

Brian Treptow, 47, Hawaii Life Flight, died in the line of duty as a result of a medical airplane accident. An experienced helicopter and airplane pilot, Brian served others while doing what he loved so much. As a pilot and instructor, he flew in Hawaii, Alaska, Florida, and the Gulf of Mexico, as well as for a regional airline and cargo company. Described as a kind, loyal, funny, and a beautiful soul with a contagious laugh, he was “one of the good ones.” Optimistic and fun-loving, his energetic, curious, and adventurous spirit reflected his zest for life. His adventures led him to extensive travel, snowboarding, mountain biking, hiking, kayaking, sailing, surfing, and SCUBA diving, and his accomplishments include certification as a USCG Master Captain and Dive Master. Brian loved dreaming about the next destination with Heidi, the love of his life and partner. He deeply loved his parents and sisters, his childhood cabin in Minnesota, and the island of Kauai. Brian lived his faith by demonstrating love, service, generosity, thoughtfulness, kindness, and grace.

Sara Kinsy Weaver, Crew Chief- Paramedic
Florence County EMS - Florence, SC
Last Call: 08/9/2022

Sara K. Weaver, 32, Florence County EMS, died in the line of duty as a result of an accident on scene. After serving briefly in the United States Air Force, she dedicated eight years of service in EMS to her community. Regarded as a talented and terrific paramedic doing the job she was in love with, there was “no doubt she was doing what she was meant to do.” Described as a “light in the world we all aspire to be,” Sara was an amazing friend, and a kind, sweet, and beautiful soul. Remembered for her smile that could light up any room, she was truly loving and compassionate. Sara was a woman of faith and loved by many, including her fiancé, Ashley, her parents, and sisters and brothers. Her memory is rooted in the hearts of those who loved her and, and like her favorite superhero, Captain America, her legacy lives on through Sara’s Shield, providing scholarships and first responder safety awareness education, and the Sara Weaver Act, expanding first responder benefits.



Randall “Randy” Willems, EMT
McPherson EMS - McPherson, KS
Last Call: 01/12/2022

Randall "Randy" Willems, 57, McPherson EMS, died in the line of duty of COVID-19. A 24-year EMS and fire service veteran, he began as a volunteer and ultimately retired as a Division Chief. An honorable public servant deeply committed to the safety of his community, Randy defined what a heart-filled, dedicated man should be. Known as an excellent firefighter and incredibly capable man, he invoked confidence in those around him. A respected role model, he inspired many young firefighters and EMS professionals, and his reputation encouraged and motivated those following in his shoes. Randy was an incredible man who made life fun and enjoyable for anyone in his presence. Described as a great guy, comfortable in his own skin, and always mellow, his humor and stories will be missed. He simply enjoyed life and helping people, and as an outdoorsman, enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, riding motorcycles, and remodeling homes. Randy's favorite thing to do was spend time with his family, including his wife of 28 years, Cheryl, his father, brothers and sisters, and his EMS and fire department family. An irreplaceable soul, Randy will be forever loved by all who knew him.

Juan Marcus Wilson, FF / EMT
Baltimore City Fire Department - Baltimore, MD
Last Call: 10/30/2022

Juan Marcus Wilson, 34, Baltimore City Fire Department, died in the line of duty of a medical event. An 11-year fire department veteran, Juan's passion and deep desire to help others, and serve his community, was evident to his colleagues and patients. Described as an exemplary firefighter and EMT, well-liked by the department and his company, Juan is remembered for his profound character and as "someone we could always be proud of." Engine 53, Edmondson Village, the entire BCFD, and the community will forever mourn the loss of their colleague, dear friend, EMS professional, and role model. An only child, Juan loved his family, especially his mother Jackie.



Scott Wood, FF / Paramedic

Randolph County Ambulance District - Moberly, MO

Last Call: 07/22/2022

Scott Wood, 53, Randolph County Ambulance District, died in the line of duty of COVID-19. His love for volunteer firefighting began at age 15 and led to a 35-year volunteer firefighting, first responder, and Paramedic career of over 30 years. Eventually rising to the rank of Assistant Fire Chief, he was the Monroe County First Responders Coordinator, and certified in dive rescue. Scott's love for the outdoors was especially evident in his passion for hunting. Helping others was the foundation of everything he did and as an organ donor, Scott's incredible gift immediately saved three lives. A man of faith, he loved his wife, Rebecca, daughters, Rachel and Alicia, his grandson, his parents, brother and sister, and the countless friends and co-workers that he considered family.

Bryant Lee Woodard, Chief - EMT

Henderson City-County Rescue Squad - Henderson, KY

Last Call: 05/23/2021

Bryant Lee Woodard, 57, Henderson City-County Rescue Squad, died in the line of duty of COVID-19. As the Chief of the Henderson City-County Rescue Squad for more than 30 years, "Woody" was known for his dedication and service to his community. Remembered for his great personality and sense of humor, he is described as a mentor, wonderful person, and good friend who made others feel like family. He always had a good word for everyone and was always willing to help others in need at any time. As a man of faith and dedicated to his family, he enjoyed spending time with his wife of 25 years, Michelle, his children Lauren and Jarrod, his mother, sisters, and brother.



Mark Wilson Woodcock, EMS Pilot
Air Evac LifeTeam 56 - Danville, KY
Last Call: 02/19/2022

Mark Wilson Woodcock, 59, Air Evac LifeTeam 56, died in the line-of-duty of COVID-19. He made a difference and positively impacted many lives through his 13 years of service as an EMS pilot completing 1290 patient flights. Remembered for spending many hours “bonding over Hallmark movies” with his co-workers during shifts, he was a pilot his colleagues truly enjoyed working with. Described as “simply a great man,” he was known for always wearing a smile when he picked up his crew or greeted others. Mark loved trains, woodworking, Florida, working on cars, boats, and computers and could fix anything. Mark was a devoted husband to Margaret Ann, father to Anastasia and Alexander, a grandfather, and brother.



National EMS Moment of Silence

(Agencies across the United States participate live)

Retirement of Colors

2023 National EMS Memorial Service Honor Guard

Amazing Grace

2023 National EMS Memorial Service Pipes & Drums

Taps

Leigh Chambers, Lieutenant (Ret.)

Sedgwick County EMS

Wichita, Kansas

David Naples, Paramedic

City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Emergency Medical Services

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Closing Remarks and Candlelight Remembrance Ceremony

Jana Williams

President, National EMS Memorial Service

Survivors & National EMS Honor Guard members

Music: "Go Light Your World" (by Chris Rice)

Dismissal to Atrium



2023 National EMS Memorial Service Honor Guard, Pipes and Drums

Honor Guard Commander

Ron S. Quesenberry

Captain (Ret.)

James City County Fire Department

Williamsburg, Virginia

Deputy Honor Guard Commander

John H. Soderberg

Crew Chief

City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Emergency Medical Services

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Drum Major

Kevin Haugh

Captain, (Ret.)

FDNY EMS, FDNY EMS Pipes & Drums

New York, New York

Pipe Major

Larry Jones

Paramedic Crew Chief, (Ret.)

City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Emergency Medical Services

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



Participating Honor Guard Agencies

American Medical Response (AMR)

Honor Guard

Riverside, California

American Medical Response (AMR)

Honor Guard

Colorado Springs, Colorado

American Medical Response (AMR)

Honor Guard

Jackson, Mississippi

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Portland, Oregon

American Medical Response (AMR)

Honor Guard

Amarillo, Texas

American Medical Response (AMR)

Honor Guard

Spokane, Washington

City of Austin, Austin/Travis County EMS

Honor Guard

Austin, Texas



Baltimore City Fire Dept, Police Emerald Society of Baltimore

Piper

Baltimore, Maryland

City of Boston Emergency Medical Services

Honor Guard

Boston, Massachusetts

Bucks County Firefighter and Emergency Medical Services

Memorial Honor Guard

Doylestown, Pennsylvania

CSI Aviation

Honor Guard

Killeen, Texas

Combined Emergency Services Organization

Pipes & Drums

Schertz, Texas

Fire Department of New York (FDNY) EMS

Pipes and Drums

Brooklyn, New York

Fort Meade Fire/EMS

Honor Guard

Fort George G Meade, Maryland

GA Region 1 EMS Honor Guard

Honor Guard

Rome, Georgia



Gaston County EMS
Honor Guard
Gastonia, North Carolina

Jeannette EMS
Honor Guard
Jeannette, Pennsylvania

Lancaster County EMS
Honor Guard
Lancaster, South Carolina

Medstar
Honor Guard
Fort Worth, Texas

Minnesota EMS Honor Guard
Honor Guard
Saint Cloud, Minnesota

Missouri EMS Funeral Response Team
Honor Guard
Moberly, Missouri

New Castle County Emergency Medical Services
Honor Guard
New Castle, Delaware

Northwell Health Center for Emergency Medical Services
Honor Guard
Syosset, New York



City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Emergency Medical Services

Honor Guard

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Emergency Medical Services

Pipes & Drums

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Ross/West View Emergency Medical Services Authority

Honor Guard

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

RWJBarnabas Health/Jersey City Medical Center EMS

Honor Guard

Jersey City, New Jersey

Sedgwick County Emergency Medical Services

Honor Guard

Wichita, Kansas

South Georgia Emergency Medical Services

Honor Guard

Adel, Georgia

Sussex County Emergency Medical Services

Honor Guard

Georgetown, Delaware

UMC Emergency Medical Services

Honor Guard

Lubbock, Texas



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The Board of Directors
recognizes and pays homage to
longtime volunteer
Melody Piehl
for her significant contributions to
the National EMS Memorial Service
and the larger EMS community.
Mel died earlier this year.
She was a tireless and passionate advocate for our
honorees and their families.
Her family continues to honor her legacy
by requesting that in lieu of flowers,
donations in her name are to be directed to
the National EMS Memorial Service.



2023 Appreciation

Support for our mission occurs throughout the year. Contributions, including those received after print deadline for this program, are recognized in our annual report due later this year, except for some donations made via PayPal or Facebook. Those third parties do not always provide us with the individual or organization that contributed. Therefore, we cannot credit them individually. With sincere gratitude, we note the following individuals and organizations who have helped make the many activities and events of the National EMS Memorial Service, the Weekend of Honor, and the Moving Honors tributes possible...

Legacy Sponsorship - \$75,000

Global Medical Response

(Includes Air Evac, Air Med, AMR, Guardian Flight, Med-Trans, REACH)

Weekend of Honor App Sponsorship - \$10,000

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(Includes AEV, Horton, Leader, Road Rescue, Wheeled Coach)

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Inspiring Hope Sponsorship – \$5,000

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Steve and Jill Wirth

NEMSMS “Store” & Memorabilia Donation - \$4,000

Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads (VAVRS)

Photography Support Donation - \$3,500

Allegheny Health Network Prehospital Services

Sunday Family Breakfast Sponsorship - \$3,000

National Assn of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT)

Always Remember Donation - \$2,500

Zoll/Golden Hour Data Systems

State Flags Support - \$1,600+

Faculty and Students of Medical Transport Leadership Institute

US Flags Support - \$1,500

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Always Remember Donation - \$1,000

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Always Remember Donation - \$1,000

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Always Remember Donation - \$1,000

International Board of Specialty Certifications (IBSC)

Always Remember Donation - \$1,000

Texas Association of Air Medical Services



Always Remember Donation - \$750

Tom & Jenn Liebman
Wesley Semple, Jr.

Tree of Life Crate & Pack - \$700+

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Dain Swanson, Brooklyn Park, MN

Candle Sponsor - \$500

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Always Remember Donation - \$500

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Always Remember Donation - \$250

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Arlington Cemetery Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

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Moving Honors Ambulance & Attendants

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Kari Spanarella, and Gregory White

Moving Honors Route Coordinator

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Moving Honors Video Production

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For Paul Foundation

Dawn Witherspoon and Allison Besaw

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Brynna, Laura, and Liz, Children's National Hospital

Dawn Witherspoon and Allison Besaw

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Josh and Kian Duda

Children's Teddy Bears

Missouri Emergency Medical Service Funeral Response Team
Region 2 & Support Team, Moberly, Missouri

Teddy Bear Sewing, Knitting & Crocheting

Brenda Wright with Shelbina United Methodist Church and
Stitchin' Friends Sharing Hope, Missouri

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Comfort Room, Grief, Wellness & Peer Support

Global Medical Response Peer Support Team

JoyLife Therapeutics

Natalin Hammond

Rappahannock EMS Council CISM Team

Steve Carlson

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Therapy Animals

Global Medical Response-GMR Life Therapy Dogs

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PAL Dogs, Washington DC

Rappahannock EMS Council CISM Team (Fredericksburg, VA)

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Weekend of Honor Application Support

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(Including in-kind donations and volunteer services)

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Northern Louisiana Ambulance



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Rio Ranch Ride Department
Rockville Fire & EMS
Ross/West View EMS
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*We are deeply grateful
to the numerous individuals and agencies
who participated in the Moving Honors procession.
We hope to include all of them in our annual report.
Hundreds, if not thousands, paid their respects and “touched”
the Moving Honors ambulance and Tree of Life on its journey
from Riverside, CA to Arlington, VA.
The salutes, pauses, reflections, ceremonial displays, and
other tributes were all done in an effort
to show further respect to
the honorees and their families.
Additionally, this procession created another touch point for
those who could not attend in person
as well as an opportunity
to salute those continuing to serve today.*

To learn more about the
National EMS Memorial Service
please visit
www.national-ems-memorial.org.

You can scan the QR code below
to make a donation:



Flag and Rose Logo

Designed by
Phil Bagby



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