

32nd Annual
National Emergency Medical Services
Memorial Service



July 20, 2024

**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.nemsnbr.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 valiant 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 several 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 that first year in Dallas, ideas and dreams 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 each year since with a new and expanded footprint each time. Last year they were excited to take the effort coast-to-coast across the Continental US, while plans this year include HI and AK.

Respectfully dubbed **Moving Honors**, the procession this year will make its way from AK and HI to the Seattle, WA area to near Dallas, TX where this year's Tree of Life installment is loaded and then continues through several states to Arlington, VA over multiple days. The Tree of Life housed inside this specially decorated ambulance is not removed until it is officially unveiled at the start of the Weekend of Honor. A Tree of Life replica is 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 plus send messages of hope 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 its mission to recognize fallen EMS and air medical individuals and Always Remember.

The Moving Honors ambulance is escorted by various first responder agencies along its journey and makes stops along a defined route. The procession ends its journey when it arrives in our nation's capital on July 18. The next day, it processes into Arlington, VA led by the National EMS Memorial Bike Ride, officially kicking off the Weekend of Honor. Organizers encourage those who visit the Moving Honors ambulance to "fill it" with messages which are then displayed for those in attendance at the Weekend of Honor. Industry organizations that support these efforts include: American Ambulance Association (AAA), Association of Air Medical Services (AAMS), International College of Advanced Practice Paramedics (I-CAPP), National Association of EMS State Officials (NASEMSO), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of EMS, American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP), and the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT).

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 36 fallen who are honored here today appear on the newly minted 2024 panels of the "Tree of Life," the temporary National EMS Memorial.



Program

Announcer

Eric Johnson

Executive Director, Supporting Heroes
Louisville, Kentucky

Pre-Ceremonial Candle Lighting

Amanda Daniels

Flight Paramedic
Survivor, Life Saver 4
Sylacauga, Alabama

Eileen Frazer

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

Joseph House

Executive Director, Kansas Board of EMS
Board President, National Association of State EMS Officials
Topeka, Kansas

Invocation

Chaplain Gary Dalton

Life Member, Past Chaplain
Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads
Woodstock, Virginia



Presentation of Colors and Pledge of Allegiance

2024 National EMS Memorial Service Honor Guard
2024 National EMS Memorial Service Pipes & Drums

National Anthem

Kelly Fowler

American Medical Response (AMR)
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Todd Metz

CSI Aviation, Texas
The For Paul Foundation, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Cody Poole

Black Forest Fire & EMS
Black Forest, Colorado

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Scott Davis

President, National EMS Memorial Service
Oilville, Virginia

Gamunu Wijetunge

Director, Office of EMS
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Washington, DC



Moving Honors Tribute

Tom Liebman

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

2024 Moving Honors Route Coordinator

Wesley Semple, Jr.

2024 Moving Honors Crew Chief

Megan Haverkamp

2024 Moving Honors Attendants

Jacqueline Evans

Arlene McKinney

Ben Mergendahl

Andrew Rennie

Gregory White

Reflections

Dave Page

Director, Prehospital Care Research Forum at UCLA
Paramedic, Allina Health EMS, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Chair, International Paramedic Registry



Presentations to the Honoree Families

Readers of the Honoree Names

Brian Ceraolo

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

Lars Granholm

Board President, National EMS Memorial Bike Ride
Paramedic District Supervisor, Sussex County EMS
Millsboro, Delaware

Jim Houser

Board President, Association of Air Medical Services
President, Center for Emergency Medicine of Western Pennsylvania
West Mifflin, Pennsylvania

Michael Kaduce

West Coast Region Director, National Assn. of EMTs (NAEMT)
Director, Falck Health Institute, Falck Ambulance
Los Angeles, California

Cherie Leigh Pepping

Board President, Association of Critical Care Transport
Executive Director-Critical Care, Superior Air-Ground Ambulance
Elmhurst, Illinois

Randy Strozyk

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



Presenters of Commemoratives

Richard Biernstein

Paramedic Crew Chief, Ross/West View EMS Authority
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Deb Cardozo

Communications Supervisor, American Medical Response (AMR)
Colorado Springs, Colorado

James “Scooter” Green

Flight Paramedic/Base Supervisor, PHI Air Medical Honor Guard
Bastrop, Texas

Barry Hoke

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

Chris Ingram

Captain, Reno Fire Department
Reno, Nevada

Nigel Masters

Operations Officer, MN EMS Honor Guard
Forest Lake, Minnesota

Antonio Ottaviani

Critical Care Paramedic, Board Member For Paul Foundation
Dalhart, Texas

Keith Wilken

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



In Memoriam-Honorees

Ronald Adams, EMT

Elliott County EMS - Sandy Hook, KY

Last Call: 3/12/2024

Ronald “Drake” Adams, 34, Elliott County EMS, died in the line of duty due to a medical event. As a dedicated EMT, great protector and provider, he always went above and beyond to make sure everyone was okay. Described as one in a million, he was very outspoken but could steal your heart and be a prankster all in one. If you were having a bad day, he had a way that would brighten any face. A beloved husband and father, he loved his family with his whole heart. Drake will leave behind a void not only within his family but the entire community.

Joseph Back, Assistant Chief/EMT

Whitesburg Fire Department - Whitesburg, KY

Last Call: 10/30/2023

Joseph “Joe” Back, 59, Whitesburg Fire Department, died in the line of duty due to a medical event. Dedicated to helping others, Joe started his career in the fire service in 1982 as a volunteer firefighter and EMT, and later as a paid firefighter in 1993 with the Whitesburg Fire Department. Joe loved serving as assistant fire chief in a small town where he knew most everyone. A humble servant to others, Joe was always kind and caring with every patient he encountered in EMS. When not working, he enjoyed horseback riding, hunting, and maintaining a small farm. He was a beloved husband and father and leaves a legacy of service that will impact many people for years to come.



Justin Berleth, EMT
Nature Coast EMS - Lecanto, FL
Last Call: 8/9/2021

Justin Berleth, 29, Nature Coast EMS, died in the line of duty due to COVID. Dedicated to serving the citizens of Citrus County, he was an EMT for three years and had just completed paramedic training. Justin's passion for helping others also led him to be an active volunteer firefighter/ EMT. Described as "always smiling," Justin is remembered for his positive attitude and professional demeanor. Beloved by many, Justin was a loving husband, father, son, and brother and was active in his church.

Andres Botello, EMT
Victorious Care Ambulance - Laredo, TX
Last Call: 11/8/2023

Andres Botello, 66, Victorious Care Ambulance, died in the line of duty due to an ambulance accident. Dedicating his life to helping others, he retired as Captain/EMT from Zapata County FD in August of 2019 after 34 years of service. After retirement, he followed his heart and continued to serve in EMS. Known for his outstanding work ethic that never went unnoticed, he also dedicated his carpentry skills to improving ZCFD. A beloved husband, father, and grandfather, Andres loved spending time with his family.



Peter Bushey, Paramedic (Ret.)
FDNY EMS - Brooklyn, NY
Last Call: 2/23/2023

Peter Bushey, 52, FDNY EMS, died in the line of duty due to World Trade Center Illness. Carrying out his passion of being a paramedic, he joined NYC EMS in May 1996. Peter especially loved working with the members of Station 40 in Coney Island. He bravely served the department for 25 years, was a first responder at the World Trade Center, and spent months working at Ground Zero during the rescue and recovery efforts. Described as always joking and smiling, Peter was a loving husband and brother.

Jose Cepeda, EMT
Victorious Care Ambulance - Laredo, TX
Last Call: 11/8/2023

Jose “Joe” Cepeda, 23, Victorious Care Ambulance, died in the line of duty due to an ambulance accident. Following the path to serve the community and help others, Jose worked as an EMT and was a firefighter with the Zapata County Fire Department. A son, brother, and uncle, Joe will be missed by his many family members and friends.

Leonard Coney, Firefighter/EMT
Shreveport Fire Department - Shreveport, LA
Last Call: 1/6/2021

Leonard Coney, 41, Shreveport Fire Department, died in the line of duty due to COVID. Serving the community for nearly 14 years, he joined the Shreveport Fire Department in August of 2007 and was assigned to Medic 5 at Fire Station No. 5, C Shift. Beloved by his family, he is described as having a heart of gold, was compassionate, kind, and gentle. Referred to as “Sweet Tones of Cones,” by his fellow firefighters, his soft and calming voice put his patients at ease.



John Crow, EMT
Acadian Ambulance Service - Pascagoula, MS
Last Call: 1/1/2023

John Crow, 36, Acadian Ambulance Service, died in the line of duty due to an ambulance accident. With an unwavering passion for helping others, he worked as an EMT and volunteered as a firefighter at Maben Fire Department, which allowed him to further serve his community. John had a strong love for the beach and the outdoors. He was athletic, playing volleyball as well as softball in the NOLA softball league. A son, brother, and uncle, he loved his family and enjoyed a special connection with his great-niece. Coworkers said John was always there to listen if you had something to talk about and was just an amazing person. With compassion, John dedicated his life to others.

Paul Daniels, Paramedic (Ret.)
FDNY EMS - Brooklyn, NY
Last Call: 3/14/2023

Paul Daniels, 80, FDNY EMS, died in the line of duty due to World Trade Center Illness. Dedicating his life to helping others, he followed his passion for EMS by becoming a paramedic. He was a first responder at the World Trade Center where he continued to serve many months at Ground Zero during the rescue and recovery efforts. A paramedic others would strive to be, he was competent, easy-going and had a positive bedside manner with patients and families. Paul, a father, and brother was a loving family man who enjoyed being involved in local community events.



Andrew Enderes, Paramedic (Ret.)
FDNY EMS - Brooklyn, NY
Last Call: 8/31/2023

Andrew Enderes, 56, FDNY EMS, died in the line of duty due to World Trade Center Illness. A native of Staten Island, NY, he served as a paramedic with FDNY for 25 years. He always said he was raised in the wrong part of the country, so he and his wife planted roots in South Carolina. Creating his own oasis at “Drew’s Brew and BBQ,” Andrew welcomed all friends and family to come together. His family was his biggest joy, and he was so proud of the home he created for them.

Thomas Evans, Paramedic
Newtown EMS - Newtown, PA
Last Call: 10/16/2023

Thomas Evans, 64, Newtown EMS, died in the line of duty due to a medical event. With an unwavering dedication and passion for emergency services, Tom’s career as a paramedic and EMS educator spanned more than three decades with numerous EMS agencies. Described as an outstanding person and the definition of a true gentleman, he was admired and loved by his long-time companion and his peers. He enjoyed riding his Harley Road Glide, escorting veterans with Honor Flight and traveling to exotic places to scuba dive.



Ryan Foster, Paramedic
Jackson County EMS - Oak Hill, OH
Last Call: 12/6/2022

Ryan Foster, 35, Jackson County EMS, died in the line of duty due to a medical event. Ryan dedicated his life to helping others and began his journey with Liberty Township FD and obtained his EMT certification. He then became a paramedic and quickly grew his career becoming an EMS station chief and then a paramedic supervisor with Jackson County. Ryan had a great passion for helping others and was ready to help, even at a young age. Ryan helped save so many lives during his time with Jackson County. A devoted and loving husband, father, and son, Ryan treasured and enjoyed time with his family and will be deeply missed.

Marcus “Marc” Gann, Sr., EMS Pilot
Life Saver - Chelsea, AL
Last Call: 4/2/2023

Marcus “Marc” Gann, 63, Life Saver, died in the line of the duty in an air medical accident. With an unwavering love for his country, he enlisted in the Army at age 17 which began his mission of saving lives. He lived the motto “it’s not the destination, it’s the journey.” Marc achieved the goals of being a paratrooper and Army Ranger and received several commendations. He served as Assistant Chief and Chief for the County Line and Oak Grove Fire Departments and could often be seen by the side of the highway with a fireman’s boot collecting money for the volunteer fire department.



Gregory Gelsinger, Critical Care Paramedic
Tower Health - Honey Brook, PA
Last Call: 11/14/2020

Gregory Gelsinger, 63, Tower Health, died in the line of duty due to COVID. He discovered his love of emergency services while serving in the Delaware Wing Civil Air Patrol as a youth, which laid the foundation for his life's work of saving, educating, and mentoring people in all areas of emergency response. Gregory worked as an EMT and EMT Instructor for Montgomery and Chester counties, later becoming a paramedic. Dedicating his life to helping others, he served with many organizations, most notably Southern Chester County Rescue, Kennett Fire Company, Trans Care, AMR and most recently as a critical care paramedic for Tower Health. He enjoyed Star Trek and Monty Python movies, was a father, grandfather, and close friend to many.

Stephen Hayes, Paramedic
Mecklenburg EMS Agency - Charlotte, NC
Last Call: 5/13/2023

Stephen "Mark" Hayes, 53, Mecklenburg EMS Agency, died in the line of duty due to a medical event. His unwavering commitment to saving lives and providing critical care to those in need was an inspiration to his colleagues and a source of comfort to countless patients. Mark was a loving husband, father, son, brother, and man of God devoted to his family and with a passion to care for others. He was known for his love of cooking and was asked to make his famous pound cake for special events. In his free time, Mark ensured he had the best Bermuda grass on the block. Mark was deeply loved by all and will always be remembered by his family and friends.



Terryson Jackson, Captain/Paramedic
Broward County Sheriff's Office Department of Fire Rescue – Fort
Lauderdale, FL
Last Call: 8/28/2023

Terryson Jackson, 50, Broward County Sheriff's Office (BSO) Department of Fire Rescue, died in the line of duty due to an air medical accident. Born in The Commonwealth of Dominica, he relocated to Florida in 1989 where he realized his dream of becoming a paramedic firefighter. His passion flourished when he started his career in Deerfield in 2004 where he earned the rank of Lieutenant. Terryson began working in Air Rescue with BSO in 2012 where he achieved the rank of Captain and was posthumously promoted to Battalion Chief. His love of sports led him to compete in the Sheriff's Cup Golf Tournament and firefighter game competitions playing soccer and basketball. A son, brother, and father, Terryson was an integral part of the team and possessed an unwavering commitment to the community.

Timothy Johnson, Fire Chief/EMT
Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department - Warren, PA
Last Call: 10/16/2023

Timothy "TJ" Johnson, 56, Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department, died in the line of duty due to a medical event. Dedicated to serving and helping others, TJ would leave work and go to the fire station. He was employed by Whirley Industries for 34 years and most recently as the IT Director. Serving the community, he was an active member of the Pleasant VFD for the past 37 years and held the position of Chief. He was an avid Buffalo Bills fan and enjoyed hunting and traveling. A beloved husband and father, TJ loved vacationing with his family and spending time with friends.



**Kandace Kritz, Paramedic/Operations Manager
American Medical Response (AMR) - Pierre, SD
Last Call: 8/11/2022**

Kandace Kritz, 66, American Medical Response, died in the line of duty due to COVID. With a lifelong dedication to serving others, she worked toward her EMT certification and with her passion and enthusiasm for music also played in several bands. After years of volunteering and raising her children, in 2003, she began working for AMR as an EMT. Quickly advancing from EMT-Intermediate and onto Paramedic before becoming an Operations Supervisor, Kandace was a respected leader. “A mama bear to all of us” was how her own team described her. Filled with compassion and a love for people, she dedicated herself to her family, coworkers, and community.

**Matthew Madigan, EMT
Superior Air-Ground Ambulance Service - Detroit, MI
Last Call: 4/2/2023**

Matthew “Madi” Madigan, 39, Superior Air-Ground Ambulance Service, died in the line of duty while rendering aid at a car accident. With a dedication to help others, Madi was described as a selfless and valued member of the ambulance service who embodied the core values of compassion, dedication, and excellence in his service to others. As an avid traveler Matthew had visited numerous parts of the world and even lived in Australia. Matthew was a brother and an uncle and was described as patient, kind, and a hard worker who would treat everyone with the utmost respect.



Connor Mandeville-Rakers, EMT
Leroy Emergency Ambulance Service, Inc - Leroy, IL
Last Call: 9/6/2023

Connor Mandeville-Rakers, 24, Leroy Emergency Ambulance Service, died in the line of duty of a medical event. Dedicating his life to helping others, Connor was very passionate about his job working as an EMT and was also studying to become a paramedic. Connor enjoyed going to the gym, playing basketball, reading non-fictional books about history and events, and spending time with family, friends, and his pets. Friends said his passion for his job and serving the community was incredibly inspiring. A fiancé, son, grandson, and brother, he will be missed by many.

Mack McCann, Jr., Paramedic
AAA Ambulance Service - Hattiesburg, MS
Last Call: 9/15/2020

Mack McCann, 36, AAA Ambulance Services, died in the line of duty due to COVID. With an unwavering love for his country, he enlisted in the United States Army at age 17 beginning his life of service and mission to save lives. He was employed by AAA Services of Hattiesburg, but also worked as a paramedic for King's Daughters Medical Center and was a former paramedic supervisor for ASAP EMS. He worked in different areas such as Leakesville, Laurel, Brookhaven, and Lucedale. Mack was a treasured son, beloved little brother, and a cherished colleague whom some say was a legend in his field. Throughout his professional years he built another loving family among his EMS colleagues.



Jay Miles, EMT

Upper Perkiomen Valley Ambulance - Pennsburg, PA

Last Call: 4/1/2023

Jay Miles, 69, Upper Perkiomen Valley Ambulance, died in the line of duty due to a medical event. With loyalty and dedication to serve others, he volunteered as a firefighter and as a chaplain with Pennsburg Fire Company for 30 years. Jay worked part time as an EMT at Upper Perkiomen Valley Ambulance for 17 years and assisted the Montgomery County Critical Incident Stress Management Team. He retired from Merck as an EMT after 23 years of service. Jay was a beloved husband and father who also loved his community. Throughout his entire life, he held an unwavering faith in God, which he shared with those who surrounded him.

Kymber Nezat, Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)

Acadian Ambulance - Baton Rouge, LA

Last Call: 6/27/2023

Kymber Nezat, 28, Acadian Ambulance, died in the line of duty due to an ambulance accident. At the time of the accident, Kymber was pregnant with her and her husband Brennan's first child. The unborn child also did not survive. With an unwavering dedication, selflessness, and a love for serving as an EMR, she was determined to help everyone and put her best foot forward no matter the task at hand. As a beloved wife, sister and friend, Kymber was very passionate about loving her family. Adorned with a smile that would light up a room, Kymber was described as one of the sweetest and most genuine souls you would ever meet. She would have done anything to put a smile on your face or fill the air with laughter and Kymber never met a stranger. She loved life and lived it to the fullest.



Nahit Atif Oral, EMT/Firefighter
Community Volunteer Fire Department - Houston, TX
Last Call: 3/9/2023

Nahit “Atif” Oral, 49, Community Volunteer Fire Department, died in the line of duty due to a medical event. Wanting to reflect his love and benevolence for people, he became a firefighter and EMT after moving to Texas in 2016. Atif was born in Pazar, Turkey then moved to New York where he met his wife Marie Anisca-Oral, an Iraqi Army veteran. A recipient of the Academic Excellence Award for Fire Academy 2020-Alpha, he loved being a firefighter. With his enduring commitment to the profession, Atif touched the lives of many people.

Robert Pearson, Paramedic
Pafford EMS – Union, MS
Last Call: 9/17/2021

Robert “Robbie” Pearson, 58, Pafford EMS, died in the line of duty due to COVID. With a servant’s heart, Robbie dedicated his life to helping others. After volunteering as a firefighter for a year, he became an EMT then earned his paramedic certification, graduating from Alabama Fire College. Prior to working full-time in EMS, he taught auto mechanics at East Central Community College for 15 years. In his off-duty time he was known to fix friend’s cars and never take any money, earning the nick name “A-1 Shade Tree Mechanic”. He also enjoyed hunting, fishing, and a little golf. Robbie was a brother and father who passed the “EMS bug” to his son who has been in EMS for 15 years.



Mary Pipkins, EMT
ASAP EMS - Laurel, MS
Last Call: 12/30/2023

Mary “Katie” Pipkins, 30, ASAP EMS, died in the line of duty while rendering aid at a car accident. Very passionate about serving her community, she began her journey in public service through various medical positions. Dedicated to helping others, Katie worked as an EMT and a volunteer with the Mt. Pisgah VFF Association and greatly enjoyed providing help with her ASAP family. She was a member of Living Waters Pentecostal Church, a devoted daughter, loving sister, aunt, cousin, and a friend to so many. Her spirit of service and genuine personality will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Edward Pricola, RN, BSN - Flight Nurse
Care Flight (REMSA Health) - Reno, NV
Last Call: 2/24/2023

Edward “Ed” Pricola, 32, Care Flight, died in the line of duty in an air medical accident. Described as a true hero, Ed served in the U.S. Marine Corps and was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Combat Valor for saving the lives of five fellow Marines. He continued his life in the service of others as an emergency room nurse then as a flight nurse. With unwavering dedication to helping others, Ed was a loving husband, devoted father, loyal friend, and an exceptional nurse.



Samuel Russell, Flight Nurse
Life Saver - Chelsea, AL
Last Call: 4/2/2023

Samuel “Adam” Russell, 43, Life Saver, died in the line of duty in an air medical accident. Dedicating his entire short life to helping others, he began his career with the Hanover Volunteer FD, and as soon as he was old enough to join the Alexander City Fire Department, he did. Adam worked exclusively in service to others as a firefighter, paramedic, and registered nurse. With unwavering devotion, he was a blessing to so many close friends who became family. His family knew they could always depend on him. The faith that was the foundation of his life played out through the prayers he shared with his crew before each flight. He lived and died a hero.

Patricia Scaduto, EMT (Ret.)
FDNY EMS - Brooklyn, NY
Last Call: 1/2/2023

Patricia “Patty” Scaduto, 59, FDNY EMS, died in the line of duty due of World Trade Center Illness. Dedicating her life to serving her community, Patty became an EMT for NYC EMS and spent 35 years taking care of the residents and visitors to New York City. She was a first responder at the World Trade Center and worked on the rescue and recovery efforts in the months following. Patricia just wanted to do her job without any fanfare, one of the many reasons that made her special. A beloved wife and devoted mother, she loved the quiet life and enjoyed being a homemaker.



Anthony Simpson, EMT
American Medical Response (AMR) - Maui, HI
Last Call: 8/8/2023

Anthony “Tony” Simpson, 43, American Medical Response, died in the line of duty in the 2023 Maui wildfire. Born in Washington DC, he lived in many places before moving to Maui in 2006. Prior to living in Maui, Tony completed CPR and first aid training, which he taught while also working at a coffee shop. His journey serving others through EMS began when he became an EMT and worked in Oahu before returning home to Maui to work for AMR. Always friendly and welcoming, he befriended and helped those in the homeless community. A beloved son and brother, Anthony was the kind of person that people were drawn to and was always up for everything.

Stephen Skipton, EMT
University EMS and City of Camden - Camden, NJ
Last Call: 8/23/2014

Stephen “Skip” Skipton, 41, University EMS and City of Camden, died in the line of duty due to World Trade Center Illness. Steve’s EMS journey, filled with a passion to help others, began when he was a teenager serving as a junior firefighter. He volunteered at Bellmawr Park, becoming Chief in his twenties. He worked as an EMT for 17 years, including responding to the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. Steve was an EMS instructor and an avid fire photographer contributing to countless training slides and videos. Steve enjoyed bike riding, visiting the beach and spending time with family. Known for his sense of humor, strength and commitment, his family remembers him as an unselfish and devoted husband and father.



Hilda Vannata, EMT (Ret.)
FDNY EMS - Brooklyn, NY
Last Call: 9/20/2023

Hilda Vannata, 67, FDNY EMS, died in the line of duty due to World Trade Center Illness. Hilda embodied public service and joined FDNY EMS as an EMT where she served for 26 years. She and her husband, an NYPD officer, spent countless hours helping in the post 9-11 efforts. Becoming a mother was her most humbling, wonderful and rewarding experience and often told her son, “You can’t put a price tag on peace of mind.” As beloved wife, mother, daughter, sister, aunt, colleague, and friend she was known by all as a warm and caring person who always went out of her way to help anyone in need.

Scott Walton, EMS Pilot
Care Flight (REMSA Health) - Reno, NV
Last Call: 2/24/2023

Scott Walton, 46, Care Flight, died in the line of duty in an air medical accident. Receiving multiple “Employee of the Month” awards as a pilot and flight instructor, Scott continued his joy of serving others as a Guardian Flight pilot. He had a passion to fly and took his path to aviation following the steps of his grandfather, who flew B-24 bombers in World War II. Scott often volunteered for his church and had a passion for helping those in need. As a dedicated father and husband, he made ordinary moments special. Scott lit up a room and made everyone feel at ease, no matter what the situation. He participated in hockey, NROTC, and flight club in his younger years.



Elizabeth Watkins, EMT
Southern Paramedic Service - Brinley, AR
Last Call: 1/10/2023

Elizabeth “Liz” Watkins, 25, Southern Paramedic Service, died in the line of duty in an ambulance accident. With a passion for serving others, she fully enjoyed her career serving others as an EMT. Liz graduated from Greenbriar High School and studied at Central Baptist College. To make a difference in the lives of others was her life’s desire. A loving daughter, granddaughter, and sister, she will be greatly missed by her family, loving friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing Liz and her EMS family.

Ryan Watson, Flight Paramedic
Care Flight (REMSA Health) - Reno, NV
Last Call: 2/24/2023

Ryan Watson, 27, Care Flight, died in the line of duty in an air medical accident. With his passion of being a Flight Paramedic and armed with a positive attitude, Ryan took pride in everything he did including every call and patient interaction. Described as having an infectious personality, he had a spirit of adventure and desired to help others no matter the situation. As a loving husband, new father, son, brother, friend, and an incredible care provider, he had an unwavering dedication to his family and community. The family loved running the Reno Tahoe Odyssey run, and Ryan was set to run the relay race. The family held his spot and carried a baton inscribed with Ryan's name.



Michael Wilcox, EMT
Starke County EMS - Knox, IN
Last Call: 8/5/2023

Michael Wilcox, 49, Starke County EMS, died in the line of duty due to an ambulance accident. Mike grew up and lived in North Judson and graduated from college with a degree in Criminal Justice. With unwavering dedication, he selflessly served his community in many ways throughout his lifetime including law enforcement, firefighting, and emergency medical services. As a loving father, husband, son, brother and friend, Mike lived for his family and was always willing to drop what he was doing to be there for them.



National EMS Moment of Silence

(Agencies across the United States participate live)

Retirement of Colors

2024 National EMS Memorial Service Honor Guard

Amazing Grace

2024 National EMS Memorial Service Pipes & Drums

Taps

Leigh Chambers, Lieutenant (ret.)
Sedgwick County EMS
Wichita, Kansas

David Naples, Paramedic (ret.)
City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Emergency Medical Services
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Closing Remarks and Candlelight Remembrance Ceremony

Jana Williams
Immediate Past-President, National EMS Memorial Service

Survivors & National EMS Honor Guard members
Music: "Go Light Your World" (by Chris Rice)

Dismissal to Atrium



2024 National EMS Memorial Service Honor Guard, Pipes and Drums

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Captain (ret.)

James City County Fire Department

Williamsburg, Virginia

Deputy Honor Guard Commander

John H. Soderberg

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City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Emergency Medical Services

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Drum Major

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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



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Riverside, California

American Medical Response (AMR)

Honor Guard
Colorado Springs, Colorado

American Medical Response (AMR)

Honor Guard
Jackson, Mississippi

American Medical Response (AMR)

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Portland, Oregon

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Amarillo, Texas

American Medical Response (AMR)

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Spokane, Washington

City of Austin, Austin/Travis County EMS

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Austin, Texas

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Broward Sheriff's Office Fire/Rescue

Memorial Honor Guard
Fort Lauderdale, Florida



Bucks County Firefighter and Emergency Medical Services
Memorial Honor Guard
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Honor Guard
Killeen, Texas

Combined Emergency Services Organization
Pipes & Drums
Schertz, Texas

Fire Department of New York (FDNY) EMS
Honor Guard
Brooklyn, New York

Fire Department of New York (FDNY) EMS
Pipes and Drums
Brooklyn, New York

For Paul Foundation
Honor Guard
Pembroke Pines, Florida

Gaston County EMS
Honor Guard
Gastonia, North Carolina

Hackensack Meridian Health
Honor Guard
Hackensack, New Jersey

James City County EMS
Honor Guard
Williamsburg, Virginia



City of Jeannette EMA

Honor Guard
Jeannette, Pennsylvania

Lancaster County EMS

Honor Guard
Lancaster, South Carolina

Medstar Mobile Healthcare

Honor Guard
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Honor Guard
Forest Lake, Minnesota

Missouri EMS Funeral Response Team

Honor Guard
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New Castle County Emergency Service

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PHI Air Medical Services

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City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Emergency Medical Services

Honor Guard
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Emergency Medical Services
Pipes & Drums
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

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Honor Guard
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

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UMC Emergency Medical Service
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Honor Guard
Vancouver, Washington

Washoe County Sheriff's Office
Honor Guard
Reno, Nevada



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2024 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 - \$50,000

Global Medical Response

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

Building Community Sponsorship - \$10,000

Metro Aviation

Lighting the Dark Sponsorship - \$6000+

Anonymous and Facebook directed donations

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Inspiring Hope Sponsorship - \$5,000

Acadian Ambulance

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Inspiring Hope Sponsorship - \$5,000
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(Includes AEV, Horton, Leader, Road Rescue, Wheeled Coach)

Inspiring Hope Sponsorship - \$5,000
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Inspiring Hope Sponsorship - \$5,000
Steve and Jill Wirth

NEMSMS “Store” & Memorabilia Donation - \$4,000
Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads (VAVRS)

Photography Support Donation - \$3,500+
Anonymous PayPal directed donations

Sunday Family Breakfast Sponsorship - \$3,000
National Assn of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT)

Always Remember Sponsorship – \$2,500
Page, Wolfberg & Wirth, LLC

Always Remember Sponsorship – \$2,500
PWW Advisory Group



Challenge Coin Donation - \$2,000

Zoll/Golden Hour Data Systems

US Flags Support - \$1,500

Air & Surface Transport Nurses Association (ASTNA)

State Flags Support - \$1,400+ (cash, QR donors listed separately)

Faculty and Students of Medical Transport Leadership Institute

Chaplain Support Donation - \$1,200

Wes, Sue, and Wesley, Jr. Semple

Always Remember Donation - \$1,000

Fraternal Association of Professional Paramedics

Always Remember Donation - \$1,000

International Board of Specialty Certifications (IBSC)

Always Remember Donation - \$1,000

NYC EMS Green and White Foundation

Always Remember Donation - \$1,000

MEMSA

Always Remember Donation - \$700

Byron Andrews

G Kenneth Morgan

Candle Sponsor - \$600

Timothy & Judy Kellogg

Always Remember Donation - \$500

Tom & Jenn Liebman



Always Remember Donation - \$400

Lynn Beard

Adopt-a-Family Contributions -\$350

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King George Virginia Vol Fire & Rescue

MN EMS Honor Guard

Shawn Stoermann

VA Assn of Vol Rescue Squads-District 10

Jana Williams & Family

Always Remember Donation - \$250

Equifax-Blackbaud Giving Fund

Greater Manassas Volunteer Rescue Squad Auxiliary

Scott Feldmann

Always Remember Donation - \$200

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Arlington Cemetery Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

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Rappahannock EMS Council CISM Team (Fredericksburg, VA)

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For Paul Foundation



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Dawn Witherspoon and Allison Besaw

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

Dawn Witherspoon and Allison Besaw

Judy and London Nicholson

Children's Teddy Bears

Missouri Emergency Medical Service Funeral Response Team
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Teddy Bear Sewing, Knitting & Crocheting

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

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Steve Carlson

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by donating time, talent, travel, or other support for our mission)

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The REMEMBERship Program
(a recurring giving plan)

*This unique new program allows anyone who wishes
to support the National EMS Memorial Service
or those who have lost a friend, loved one, or colleague
a means to not only remember them,
but to also provide support to others
in their honor.*

*Anyone can join for just \$9.99/month
and members receive an annual challenge coin.*

*We are incredibly grateful to the following individuals:
who have already signed up:*

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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 impact report.
Hundreds, if not thousands, paid their respects and “touched”
the Moving Honors ambulance and Tree of Life on its journey
from Seattle, WA 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,
the REMEMBERship giving program,
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Flag and Rose Logo
Designed by
Phil Bagby



National EMS Memorial Service
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