

*33<sup>nd</sup> Annual*  
*National Emergency Medical Services*  
*Memorial Service*



**July 19, 2025**

**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](http://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 of having died in the line of duty and who is the organization that is congressionally sanctioned to conduct the annual service. [www.national-ems-memorial.org](http://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](http://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 of 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 organizations' 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. We anticipate that the National EMS Memorial Service will be held at the permanent site in the 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 more volunteers, nearly all of whom are active EMS providers in their communities. They, along with families, friends, and colleagues, could not gather in 2020 to honor the fallen, which made the impact of the pandemic more difficult. Having no permanent memorial to visit at another time further complicated the grieving process. 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 on how to transport this "precious cargo" from Dallas to the Weekend of Honor that first year, ideas and dreams turned into a plan when 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 with a new and expanded footprint each time. The route and stops are now planned yearly with current and former honorees' families and colleagues in mind.

Respectfully dubbed **Moving Honors**, the procession this year began in Riverside, CA, made several stops before pausing near Dallas, TX where this year's Tree of Life installment was loaded, and then continued 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 goals of the Moving Honors procession are multifaceted. 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 and send messages of hope forward to the honoree families and EMS colleagues at the other end of its journey. Third in a much smaller capacity, is to inspire fundraising to support the National EMS Memorial Service, allowing it to continue its mission to recognize fallen EMS professionals. It also draws attention to the Foundation's efforts to build a permanent memorial.

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 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 that are then shared with honoree families and 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), 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 29 fallen who are honored here today appear on the newly minted 2025 panel of the "Tree of Life," the temporary National EMS Memorial.



## ***Program***

### **Announcer**

#### **Eric Johnson**

Executive Director, Supporting Heroes  
Louisville, Kentucky

### **Pre-Ceremonial Candle Lighting**

#### **Kevin Dillard**

Founder, National EMS Memorial Service  
Fredericksburg, Virginia

#### **Jan Eichel**

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

#### **Joseph House**

Executive Director, Kansas Board of EMS  
Immediate Past President, National Assn. of State EMS Officials  
Topeka, Kansas

### **Invocation**

#### **Kate Passow**

Chaplain, Sterling Volunteer Rescue Squad  
Director, National EMS Memorial Bike Ride  
Loudoun County, Virginia





## **Presentation of Colors**

2025 National EMS Memorial Service Honor Guard  
2025 National EMS Memorial Service Pipes & Drums

## **Pledge of Allegiance**

**Christopher Lindsay**  
Chief Operating Officer  
Virginia Department of Health  
Richmond, Virginia

## **National Anthem**

**Derek Gray**  
American Medical Response (AMR)  
Riverside, California

**Todd Metz**  
CSI Aviation, Texas  
The For Paul Foundation, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

**Cody Poole**  
Black Forest Fire & EMS  
Black Forest, Colorado

## **Welcome**

**Scott Davis**  
President, National EMS Memorial Service  
Oilville, Virginia



## Opening Remarks

### **Gamunu Wijetunge**

Director, Office of EMS

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Washington, DC

## Moving Honors Tribute

### **Tom Liebman**

Director, National EMS Memorial Service

VP Operations-Northwest Region, GMR

2025 Moving Honors Route Coordinator

### **Jacqueline Evans**

2025 Moving Honors Crew Chief

### **Megan Haverkamp**

2025 Moving Honors Attendants/Therapy Dogs

**Jesse Baker**

**Chase Lott**

**Michael Carrillo**

**Arlene McKinney**

**Jessica Fleming**

**Andrew Rennie**

**Esteban Garcia**

**Madilyn Velez**

**“Bailey”**

**“Dex”**

## Reflections

### **Christopher Way**

Board President, National Assn. of Emergency Medical Technicians

Fire Chief, Kootenai County Fire and Rescue

Hayden, Idaho



## **Presentations to the Honoree Families**

### **Readers of the Honoree Names**

#### **Jim Houser**

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

#### **Wayne Jurecki**

President-Elect, American Ambulance Association  
President & CEO, Bell Ambulance, Inc.  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

#### **Nick Loporcaro**

CEO, Global Medical Response (GMR)  
Lewisville, Texas

#### **Cherie Leigh Pepping**

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

#### **Dr. Stephanie Queen**

CNO/SVP of Clinical Services, Air Methods Corporation  
Board of Directors, AAMS  
Littleton, Colorado

#### **Casey Thompson**

Director-at-Large, Air & Surface Transport Nurses Association  
Clinical Education Manager, Life Flight Network  
Missoula, Montana



## **Presenters of Commemoratives**

### **Jim Davis**

SWAT-Sniper Team Lead, Honor Guard Commander  
Washoe County Sheriff's Office  
Reno, Nevada

### **Antonio Ottaviani**

Vice-President, Honor Guard Commander, For Paul Foundation  
Critical Care Paramedic, Host, Echoes of Valor  
Dalhart, Texas

### **Andy Schepis**

Paramedic, Sedgwick County EMS  
Major, Sedgwick County EMS Honor Guard  
Wichita, Kansas

### **Wesley Semple, Jr.**

Paramedic, Ross/West View Emergency Medical Service Authority  
Manager, Prehospital Operations, Allegheny Health Network  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

### **Haley Sledge**

Assistant Operations Supervisor, American Medical Response  
Lt. Commander, MS AMR Honor Guard  
Jackson, Mississippi

### **Shawn Stoermann**

Emergency Management Director, Brown County MN  
Commander, MN EMS Honor Guard  
Forest Lake, Minnesota



## ***In Memoriam - Honorees***

**Bethany Aicken, Flight Nurse**  
**Air Evac Lifeteam - Williamstown, KY**  
**Last Call: 10/7/2024**

Bethany Aicken, 40, Air Evac Lifeteam, died in the line of duty in an air medical accident. Living her dream job, Bethany dedicated her life to helping others as an ICU nurse with Norton Healthcare, a travel nurse during the Covid Pandemic, and then as a flight nurse. Described as having an adventurous spirit, she loved the beach and pool. Beloved by so many, her absence leaves a void and she will be remembered for her compassion and commitment as a flight nurse.

**Gale “Butch” Alleman, EMS Pilot**  
**Air Evac Lifeteam - Williamstown, KY**  
**Last Call: 10/7/2024**

Gale Alleman, 66, Air Evac Lifeteam, died in the line of duty in an air medical accident. With a passion for helping others, Butch dedicated his life to service as a Pilot Instructor in the United States Army and Army National Guard, and then as an EMS pilot. Living life to the fullest with a love for adventure, he was an Eagle Scout, an avid NASCAR and football fan, and loved to fly. Characterized as a gentle man with a kind soul, Butch will be remembered for his unwavering commitment to others.



**David M. Austin, EMT (Supervisor)**  
**Egg Harbor Township EMS - Egg Harbor Township, NJ**  
**Last Call: 10/1/2024**

David Austin, 52, Egg Harbor Township EMS, died in the line of duty due to a medical event. With compassion and a dedication to saving lives, he loved teaching newer EMTs by sharing his experience of more than 30 years. He was very proud and passionate about helping and serving his community and loved coaching youth football and lacrosse. A devoted and loving father, son, brother, friend, coworker and uncle, David will be remembered for always having a smile and deep commitment to others. Described as a true hero with a big heart, he will be greatly missed by so many.

**Gregory Bauer, Firefighter/EMT**  
**Columbus Division of Fire - Columbus, OH**  
**Last Call: 10/18/2021**

Gregory Bauer, 56, Columbus Division of Fire, died in the line of duty due to Covid. Serving with the Columbus Fire Department for 25 years, Greg dedicated his life to helping others on and off the job. Respectfully called the “mayor” as the senior person at the fire house, he had a passion for mentoring young firefighters. Greg took pride in being the primary driver of the engine and was always available to support others on the team. With an infectious smile and laughter, friends enjoyed being around Greg and felt lucky to have known him. His memory will live through his family and many friends.



**Randolph Breton, Clinical Education Manager**  
**AMR Physicians Transport Services - Herndon, VA**  
**Last Call: 9/04/2020**

Randolph Breton, 61, AMR Physicians Transport Services, died in the line of duty due to a medical event. With a lifelong dedication to caring for others, Randy impacted the entire community by passionately serving in EMS for forty-five years, beginning with the Sterling Volunteer Rescue Squad, then as a life member of Hamilton Volunteer Rescue Squad. He served as Chief of Operations at AMR Physicians Transport Service for 12 years before becoming Clinical Education Manager and receiving multiple industry awards. An advocate for EMS and with unwavering dedication, he deeply cared for patients and crews. As an avid Washington Nationals fan, Randy attended every opening day game since 2005. Remembered for his big heart and devotion, Randy leaves a legacy not to be forgotten.

**Michael Clarke, Paramedic**  
**Saint Charles County Ambulance District - Saint Peters, MO**  
**Last Call: 10/14/2024**

Michael Clarke, 27, Saint Charles County Ambulance District, died in the line of duty due to a medical event. With an unwavering dedication to serving his community and compassion for everyone, he was respected for his ability to put patients at ease and admired for his positive energy at the station. He was recognized along with two colleagues for their life saving efforts when a patient went into cardiac arrest. With a tremendous love for his family and friends, Michael left an indelible mark on so many.



**Ian Cooperstein, EMT/BLS Supervisor, Deputy Director of Operations  
Sullivan Paramedicine Inc. - Hurleyville, NY  
Last Call: 9/22/2021**

Ian Cooperstein, 39, Sullivan Paramedicine Inc., died in the line of duty due to Covid. Dedicated to a life of service, Ian began his EMS career as a junior member with the Town of Liberty Volunteer Ambulance Corps, later serving as the Deputy Director of Operations for Mobilemedic EMS. A well-known and respected EMT, Ian also owned and operated Aden Valley Landscaping. Ian will be remembered for his smile and contagious laughter.

**Anthony Cozzino, Lieutenant/Paramedic  
Fire Department City of New York (FDNY) - Brooklyn, NY  
Last Call: 9/7/2024**

Anthony Cozzino, 51, Fire Department City of New York (FDNY), died in the line of duty due to World Trade Center Illness. Committed to protecting and serving his community, he dedicated 26 honorable years to FDNY EMS, retiring as a highly decorated EMS Lieutenant. He proudly played bagpipes with FDNY EMS Pipes and Drums Band, served as a Haz-Tac Paramedic, part of the FDNY Dignitary Protection Unit, and the Division 5 Counter Terrorism Task Force. His motto, “find one, be one, teach one,” reflected his desire to teach, share his knowledge, and leave everyone a better EMS clinician. Described as having a larger-than-life personality with a contagious sense of humor, he touched the lives of so many and his legacy will continue. Anthony was extremely proud of his faith, his career, his country and most of all his family.





**Robert DeLeon Jr., Captain/Paramedic**  
**Fire Department City of New York (FDNY) - Brooklyn, NY**  
**Last Call: 4/16/2024**

Robert DeLeon Jr., 62, Fire Department City of New York (FDNY), died in the line of duty due to World Trade Center Illness. Dedicated to serving the City of New York, Bobby retired after 36 distinguished years, many committed to the Bronx. Entrusted to oversee the maintenance, audit, and distribution of narcotic medications for all New York City EMS units, his service, leadership, and attention to detail helped shape and support the city's entire EMS system. His critical contributions leave a lasting impact on the EMS system and his community.

**Steven "Fitz" Fitzgerald, Flight Paramedic**  
**Air Evac Lifeteam - Weatherford, OK**  
**Last Call: 1/20/2024**

Steven Fitzgerald, 47, Air Evac Lifeteam, died in the line of duty in an air medical accident. Fitz lived his passion for caring for others through his more than 20 years of service with the Oklahoma Army National Guard, including tours in Iraq and Afghanistan as a Flight Paramedic, and many years with EMSA. Remembered as kind and compassionate, he is described as hard working and an amazing mentor. Fitz cared deeply for his family and especially loved spending time with his grandchildren.



**Mark Gibson, Paramedic**  
**Emerson Ambulance Service Inc. - Jonesboro, AR**  
**Last Call: 8/9/2024**

Mark Gibson, 56, Emerson Ambulance Service Inc., died in the line of duty due to an ambulance accident. Devoted to helping others, Mark's 38 years of EMS service includes a 28-year career with Memphis Fire Department where he retired as a Charge Paramedic. Additionally, he served his community as a member of the Masonic Lodge and as a Shriner. He enjoyed fishing and hunting, but his greatest joy was being with his family, especially his grandchildren. Remembered as a helping hand with an amazing soul, Mark leaves a legacy for caring for those in need.

**Todd E. Giles, Captain/Paramedic**  
**Morristown-Hamblen EMS - Morristown, TN**  
**Last Call: 4/5/2024**

Todd Giles, 60, Morristown-Hamblen EMS, died in the line of duty due to a medical event. Dedicating his life to serving his community and country, he was a member of the Morristown Rescue Squad from the age of 16 and served in the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division of the United States Army. Described as humble and kind, he was well respected and had a great sense of humor. Todd's love for his wife, family, and the community he served best define who he was, and he leaves a profound legacy.



**Russell Haslam, EMS Pilot**  
**Air Evac Lifeteam - Weatherford, OK**  
**Last Call: 1/20/2024**

Russell Haslam, 53, Air Evac Lifeteam, died in the line of duty in an air medical accident. Armed with a desire to live a life helping others, he served as a Chief Warrant Officer in the 160<sup>th</sup> Special Operation Aviation Regiment of the United States Army, receiving, along with other commendations, the Bronze Star with Valor. Upon retirement, his service continued as an EMS pilot. Remembered as a movie fanatic and a pottery enthusiast, he was a great friend who cared enough to listen. Russell was so proud of his daughters and loved spending time with his family.

**Richard M. Hempel, Lieutenant/Paramedic**  
**Groesbeck Volunteer Fire-Rescue - Groesbeck, TX**  
**Last Call: 5/9/2023**

Richard Hempel, 53, Groesbeck Volunteer Fire-Rescue, died in the line of duty due to a medical event. With an unwavering commitment to serve his community, his EMS career began with the Lake Jackson Explorers Program at the age of 15. His life of service continued as a police officer, firefighter, and paramedic at Limestone County EMS and Groesbeck Volunteer Fire-Rescue. A man of God who loved his family more than anything, Rick will always be remembered for his integrity, servant's heart, and endearing smile.



**David Jarvis III, Firefighter/Paramedic**  
**Columbus Division of Fire - Columbus, OH**  
**Last Call: 12/9/2021**

David Jarvis, 55, Columbus Division of Fire, died in the line of duty due to Covid. Giving his all to help others, he dedicated more than 27 years as a paramedic with the Columbus Fire Department where he supported Law Enforcement as a Tactical EMS team member. He served more than 25 years in the United States Army Reserves where he earned the rank of Master Sergeant and deployed to the Middle East. Described as a competent leader with “a sense of humor when thing got tough,” he was always kind, encouraging, laughing, and telling funny stories. He was a fisherman, sports enthusiast, and trusted friend who loved helping his neighbors and community. More than anything, David was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather.

**Jeanne A. Lackey, Flight Nurse**  
**Trinity Mother Frances Hospital, Flight for Life - Tyler, TX**  
**Last Call: 2/13/1989**

Jeanne Lackey, 29, Trinity Mother Frances Hospital, Flight for Life, died in the line of duty in an air medical accident. Dedicating her life to caring for others, she is described as “bold as a bear” no matter the situation or patient’s condition. Her simple acts, such as holding a patient’s hand, reflected her connection and attention to every patient. She enjoyed playing golf, snow and water skiing, playing board games, and loved to cook. Described as a beautiful, funny, intelligent soul, she took care of those around her. Jeanne is remembered for her kindness and sense of humor.



**Chastian McWhorter, EMT**  
**Somerset-Pulaski County EMS - Somerset, KY**  
**Last Call: 4/1/2024**

Chastian McWhorter, 26, Somerset-Pulaski County EMS, died in the line of duty due to an ambulance accident. Known for his huge heart, smile, and desire to help others, he is described as always willing to serve and respond to those in need. He loved fishing, video games, basketball, football, and learning new things. A beloved husband and father, Chastian will be remembered for always being ready to laugh and for loving his children and wife dearly.

**Gerald Morgan, Sr., EMS Pilot**  
**Trinity Mother Frances Hospital, Flight for Life - Tyler, TX**  
**Last Call: 2/13/1989**

Gerald Morgan, 46, Trinity Mother Frances Hospital, Flight for Life, died in the line of duty in an air medical accident. His life of service began in the United States Army where he completed 3 tours in Vietnam. A highly decorated pilot, he proudly received the Silver Star for heroic conduct, the Bronze Star, and the Distinguished Flying Cross. Described as “goofy”, he was the life of the party and did whatever it took to make people smile and laugh. He loved swimming, music, singing, flying, and skydiving. Gerald is remembered for dancing while making breakfast every Sunday and for loving his family deeply.



**Kathryn Lea Ohnheiser, Flight Nurse**  
**Trinity Mother Frances Hospital, Flight for Life - Tyler, TX**  
**Last Call: 2/13/1989**

Kathryn Lea Ohnheiser, 31, Trinity Mother Frances Hospital, Flight for Life, died in the line of duty in an air medical accident. Emotionally vested in caring for her patients, she was their dedicated advocate. Known to her friends as K.O., she was very maternal and known to watch over her friends and colleagues. Kathryn was a beautiful person who loved her family and loved talking about them.

**Lawrence Rand, Police Officer/EMT**  
**Port Authority of New York and New Jersey – Manhattan, NY**  
**Last Call: 4/8/2021**

Lawrence Rand, 65, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, died in the line of duty due to World Trade Center Illness. Lawrence's life of service started as an EMT with FDNY EMS then continued through 24 years as an officer with the Port Authority Police Department. Described as having the uncanny ability and personality to naturally comfort those in need, he had a great sense of humor with a laugh to match. Lawrence was one of a kind and will be greatly missed by anyone whose life he touched.



**Mark Steffens, Division Chief/Paramedic**  
**Fire Department City of New York (FDNY) - Brooklyn, NY**  
**Last Call: 11/11/2024**

Mark Steffens, 62, Fire Department City of New York (FDNY), died in the line of duty due to World Trade Center Illness. With compassion, dedication, and bravery, Mark served as a paramedic with FDNY EMS for 29 years. Remembered for his competence, strength, and dedication, he is described as a mentor and true gentleman. Finding immense joy in life, and known for his integrity and kindness, he inspired others to be their best selves. Mark was a devoted and loving husband, brother, friend, and colleague.

**Jeremy Sutton, Captain/Paramedic**  
**Jefferson County EMS - New Market, TN**  
**Last Call: 8/31/2024**

Jeremy Sutton, 44, Jefferson County EMS, died in the line of duty due to an ambulance accident. Jeremy's life of service began at a young age as Junior Squadman following in his grandfather's footsteps and continued through 23 years of service with Jefferson County EMS. With a servant heart, Jeremy spent his life helping those in need, whether on the clock or volunteering. As a husband, father, friend, teacher and public servant, Jeremy leaves a legacy and impact that will live through those that loved and respected him.



**Christopher Swierkowski, EMT**  
**Fire Department City of New York (FDNY) - Brooklyn, NY**  
**Last Call: 5/11/2024**

Christopher Swierkowski, 58, Fire Department City of New York (FDNY), died in the line of duty due to World Trade Center Illness. Described as a perfect gentleman with a deep sense of duty, he served tirelessly and with compassion throughout his 24-year career with FDNY EMS. He was proud of his Polish heritage and known for his love of Oreos and pierogis. Christopher loved his family and would do anything to make them happy.

**Adam Tebben, Flight Nurse**  
**Air Evac Lifeteam - Weatherford, OK**  
**Last Call: 1/20/2024**

Adam Tebben, 35, Air Evac Lifeteam, died in the line of duty in an air medical accident. Inspired by his mother's love of the nursing profession, he was a leader in his field and encouraged others to seek nursing careers. A highly esteemed national speaker, he was an advocate for the nursing profession and especially focused on leadership and development. Living life to the fullest, he had a passion for cooking and loved playing sports, especially baseball. Adam loved spending time with his family, road trips, and considered his wife his "good luck charm" when hunting.





**James Thomas, Paramedic**  
**Flight for Life Ground Ambulance - Tyler, TX**  
**Last Call: 5/31/1988**

James Thomas, 32, Flight for Life Ground Ambulance (which later became Champion EMS), died in the line of duty due to a traumatic injury. Dedicating his life to serving his community, he selflessly gave to help those in need. His memory lives on and is missed by all of those that loved and knew him.

**Stephen J. Walsh, EMT**  
**Community Rescue Squad - Copake, NY**  
**Last Call: 11/16/2024**

Stephen Walsh, 60, Community Rescue Squad, died in the line of duty due to a medical event. With a lifelong commitment to serving others, he proudly served as a flight engineer and pilot with the New York Air National Guard 105<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing. In addition to his public safety and military careers, he also worked as a DJ for a local radio station and as a captain for Hudson River Cruises. A beloved husband, father, brother and community servant, Steve is remembered for his unwavering dedication to his family and his service to his community.



**James Welsh, Flight Paramedic**  
**Air Evac Lifeteam - Williamstown, KY**  
**Last Call: 10/7/2024**

James Welsh, 29, Air Evac Lifeteam, died in the line of duty in an air medical accident. Described as a best friend to everyone with an ability to connect with anyone. Known as someone one could rely on for anything, he was always willing to do extra, always with a smile, and always with a positive attitude. He was a member of the National Wild Turkey Federation and owned and operated Hot Shot Drone Deer Recovery, a service that helps locate wounded deer. Remembered as an outstanding family man, James was looking forward to being a father and loved his family dearly.

**Randy Williams, EMT**  
**Leon County EMS - Tallahassee, FL**  
**Last Call: 8/11/2021**

Randy Williams, 46, Leon County EMS, died in the line of duty due to Covid. Remembered as a hard worker and for his passion to serve others, he was a decorated EMT known to courageously face the unknown. Described as a bright light on the darkest days, Randy was an avid cyclist with a brilliant smile, joyous attitude, kind heart, and was known for his warm hugs and unwavering optimism. Randy loved his family deeply and his life of love and service is his legacy.



**Steven “Z-Man” Zuckerman, Paramedic  
Eagle County Paramedic Services - Edwards, CO  
Last Call: 2/23/2024**

Steven Zuckerman, 61, Eagle County Paramedic Services, died in the line of duty due to a medical event. Steve’s commitment to service included 25 years as a paramedic for Eagle County Paramedic Service, head of the Beaver Creek Ski Patrol, and as a member of Vail Mountain Rescue. Steve’s dedication to excellence in mountain safety was recognized internationally. Described as a superhero, Steve made a difference every day and worked to keep residents, visitors, and athletes safe. Living life to the fullest, he loved windsurfing and had a passion for Bruce Springsteen. His legacy is his dedication to service as a lifesaver, leader, and friend who brought people together even in the most challenging of times. Steven loved his family dearly and his favorite role was as a father.



## **National EMS Moment of Silence**

*(Agencies across the United States participate live)*

## **Retirement of Colors**

2025 National EMS Memorial Service Honor Guard

## **Amazing Grace**

2025 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**



## ***2025 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

### **Pipe Major**

**Larry Jones**

Paramedic Crew Chief, (ret.)

City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Emergency Medical Services

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



## **Participating Honor Guard Agencies**

### **Austin/Travis County EMS**

Honor Guard  
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**Fire Department of New York (FDNY) EMS**

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## ***2025 Appreciation***

*Support for our mission occurs throughout the year. Contributions, including those received after the print deadline for this program, are recognized in our impact report, 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...*

### **Building Community Sponsorship – \$91,000**

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### **Building Community Sponsorship – \$70,000**

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### **Kids Supplies & Support Bags**

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Dawn Witherspoon and Allison Besaw

### **Family Support Bags**

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### **Child Life Specialists and Kids Activities**

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### **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

### **Comfort Room, Grief, Wellness & Peer Support**

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Steve Carlson

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### **Donated Photography**

Leigh Chambers

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### **Weekend of Honor Website Developer/Support**

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eservices Payment Technology



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North Dakota EMS Association  
North Dakota Hwy Patrol and their Honor Guard Team  
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Patriot Guard Motorcycle Escort Team  
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**(Individuals helping us make a difference**

**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 or \$120/year  
and members receive an annual challenge coin.  
We are incredibly grateful to the following individuals  
who have made this recurring commitment:*

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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 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,  
the REMEMBERship giving program,  
or to donate, please visit  
[www.national-ems-memorial.org](http://www.national-ems-memorial.org)  
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*Flag and Rose Logo*  
Designed by  
Phil Bagby



**National EMS Memorial Service**  
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**(202) 888-2730**

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