



# State EMS Awards Book of Recognition



**Department of Human Services  
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**<http://egov.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/ems>**



*The Meritorious Service Medal recognizes an individual for a particular act of meritorious service in EMS.*

**Wayne Huwe Jr.  
Morrow County Ambulance District, Irrigon Ambulance  
Irrigon Volunteer Fire Protection District.**

*Nominated by Christopher Jung, EMT-Basic, Morrow County Health District*

On September 29, 2005, two construction workers were overcome by hydrogen sulfide gas inside a sewer system upgrade project.

The local fire department, having only a few confined spaces in their community and never having an incident prior to the sewer upgrade, had little training, equipment or experience in dealing with such a technical rescue.

Mr. Huwe returned to the station and brought back ventilation equipment used to push clean air into the manhole.

Mr. Huwe went down into the manhole in an initial attempt to rescue the workers, but was unsuccessful in retrieving a victim. After a local resident returned to the scene with his personal rock climbing gear, the citizen descended into the confined space, placed a harness on one victim, and with the aid of others above, raised the victim out of the space.

Wayne then donned the gear himself and was able to make a successful rescue of the second victim.

Wayne risked his life by going into a technically challenging rescue situation to save the life of the construction worker. Later when OSHA investigated the incident, the monitored levels of gas were found to be many times over IDLH (Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health) levels.

**Thank you, Wayne. Your confidence, training and willingness to become involved saved the life of another.**



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## **First Responder of the Year**

**Chris Lanter, First Responder  
Banks Fire District #13**

*Nominated by Levi Eckhardt, EMT-Intermediate, Banks Fire District #3*

Chris Lanter's interest in the fire service started at birth, with his father and uncle being career firefighters.

Chris joined Banks Fire District #13 as a Cadet Firefighter in 2004. He went through the student firefighter program while he was attending high school and later acquired his First Responder certification and completed his firefighter training.

Chris is a very dedicated, compassionate individual, which has allowed him the opportunity to develop his patient care skills. Presently Chris is involved in wildland firefighting with a private contractor.

He has recently completed his EMT-Basic training and plans to attend Portland Community College in the fall to earn his Fire Science degree and EMT-Paramedic certification.

For these reasons and so many others, Chris Lanter is proudly presented the First Responder of the Year Award. Chris represents what our profession stands for...commitment, caring and dedication.

**Thank you, Chris for your commitment and dedication to EMS in Oregon.**



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## **EMT – Basic of the Year**

### **Jeremy Raymond, EMT-Basic Metro West Ambulance**

*Nominated by Jan Lee, EMT-Paramedic, Training Manager, Metro West Ambulance*

Jeremy Raymond is the kind of provider for whom the phrases “excellence in customer service” and “a true passion for EMS” were coined! He started as an EMT-Basic in the Wheelchair Division of Metro West Ambulance in 2004. He progressed and was promoted to field training officer and then onto supervisor. As a field-training officer, he provides training, evaluation and guidance in all aspects of performance from clinical skills to customer services.

Jeremy is also very involved in the award-winning special events division at Metro West Ambulance. Jeremy is a valuable member of the medical team that provides coverage to Cycle Oregon and the Portland International Raceway. Whether in an ambulance, on a bicycle, in a first aid tent or on a golf cart, Jeremy knows how important and how difficult it can be to provide outstanding medical care for large events.

Jeremy Raymond operates as a troubleshooter, trainer, mentor, promoter of excellent customer service and excellent patient care for Metro West Ambulance. He gives outstanding customer service not only for the patients, but also their families, bystanders, receiving staff and everyone else involved in the call.

Jeremy is married and is a father of two children. For fun, he volunteers as medical staff for the Oregon Road Rally. He is able to combine his love of medicine and his love of racing into a great way to volunteer his time.

For these reasons and so many others, Jeremy Raymond is proudly presented the EMT-Basic of the Year Award. Jeremy represents what our profession stands for...commitment, caring and dedication.

**Thank you, Jeremy your compassion, leadership, and dedication to your community, and EMS in Oregon are to be commended.**



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## **EMT – Intermediate of the Year**

### **Alan Munhall, EMT-Intermediate Lakeview Disaster Unit**

*Nominated by Charley & Carl Tracy EMT-Basic & Intermediate, Lakeview Disaster Unit*

Alan Munhall has gone above and beyond to provide his expertise to the Lakeview Disaster Unit where he serves as Secretary. Alan became an EMT 1998. In addition to his role at Lakeview, he is the Assistant Chief at Thomas Creek - Westside Volunteer Fire Department. The Bureau of Land Management, Alan's employer, allows employees to respond while on the job.

One incident occurred on July 29, 2005, in Adel, Oregon, 30 miles east of Lakeview. A rancher, while attempting to repair a baler, was underneath it when the needles came down, picked him up and smashed him into the undercarriage. Being "tied up," he freed himself after struggling to get his pocket knife out. He attempted to reach help and was fortunately in a location with cell phone service.

Upon hearing the tone for an ambulance east of Lakeview, Alan, working in the area, responded to the scene. He placed oxygen on the patient and started IV fluids when the ambulance and Air Life were still at least 20-25 minutes away.

Alan, his wife, 3 dogs and 2 cats have called Lakeview home for nearly 15 years. Together, they have spearheaded telecommunications for the agencies response units.

As a pilot, Alan offers his private plane to members traveling out of the region for trainings, strategic planning, and related business. Alan has taught EMT-Intermediate and Low Angle Rescue classes.

For these reasons and so many others, Alan Munhall is proudly presented the EMT-Intermediate of the Year Award. Alan represents what our profession stands for...commitment, caring and dedication.

**Thank you, Alan your compassion, leadership, and dedication to your community, and EMS in Oregon are to be commended.**



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## **EMT – Paramedic of the Year**

### **Don Thomas, EMT-Paramedic Medix Ambulance Service, Inc**

*Nominated by Duane Mullins, EMT-Paramedic, Chief of Operations, Medix Ambulance*

Don has been in EMS since 1986. His experience includes as a career Firefighter/Paramedic with Astoria Fire Department and a part time employee at Medix beginning June of 1990 and full time in 2005.

Currently, he is a Paramedic/Supervisor, Field Training Supervisor and Medix's Training Officer.

Don and his wife, Kelly, have three kids and make their home in Warrenton.

Don is an excellent example of a Paramedic who puts his patient's safety, treatment, and transport above all else. His only belief being that he is just doing his job.

Medix Ambulance is proud to have Don as a part of our team and nominate him for this well deserved award.

For these reasons and so many others, Don Thomas is proudly presented the EMT-Paramedic of the Year Award. Don represents what our profession stands for...commitment, caring and dedication.

**Thank you, Don your compassion, leadership, and dedication to your community, and EMS in Oregon are to be commended.**



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## **EMS – Educator of the Year**

**Louisa Partain, EMT-Intermediate  
Portland Community College  
Banks Fire District #13**

*Nominated by Mary Bruner, EMT-Basic; Kal Robertson, PCC; Levi Eckhardt, Banks FD #13*

In 1994, Louisa Partain taught her first EMT-Basic class at Portland Community College. An unprecedented one hundred percent of her students passed. Her professional, cooperative, creative and inventive methods of challenging her students have proven successful with her continued role as an EMS Educator. Louisa demonstrates her love of the profession and the role of an educator by continuing her own professional development; she is currently enrolled in Paramedic School.

Louisa assists in teaching EMS Courses at Banks Fire Department as an active member for the past 15 years. She “goes the extra mile” to ensure her students have the highest level of training.

Following are excerpts from letters written about Louisa:

"Her lectures were very interesting including good analogies to explain what she was illustrating. I felt Louisa cared about us, especially when she asked about our comprehension of the voluminous facts and procedures."

“My life has not been a fluffy one, matter of fact I hit some grandma boulders!” Every blue moon a powerful strong, smart and amazing female steps in to guide me. I want to tell you about one, her name is Louisa Partain.

Louisa taught me how to be an EMT but she also taught me how to challenge my negative barriers and face my fears. Because of her, I am a stronger person, mother, grandmother, coworker, friend and most of all a dream chaser.

In class, Louisa is stern, yet able to know when to insert humor in class.

**Louisa’s character, strength, and the ability to touch a person's soul is truly a gift of which EMS in Oregon can be proud.**



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## **EMS Administrator of the Year**

**James D. Fuiten**

**President/Owner Metro West, Pacific West and Medix Ambulance**

*Nominated by Jan Lee, EMT-Paramedic, Training Manager, Metro West Ambulance*

J.D. is an EMS leader who believes that EMS should be community-based and that a good EMS provider must have strong ties to the communities with which it serves. A native Oregonian, J.D. grew up in the business; he ran his first ambulance call in 1969 and was certified as an EMT in 1972. He has continued the legacy of emergency medical services that his father started over fifty years ago.

J.D. is involved with the Oregon Ambulance Association and is on the Board of Directors of the American Ambulance Association. He recognizes EMS and all those who support it. He is a member of the board of Tuality Hospital. J.D. donates to Providence and Legacy annual fundraisers, to the Columbia Memorial and Providence Seaside Foundations, to the “Tweet of Dreams” for the Jackson Bottom Slough, the Children’s Museum of Portland, and the Walk of Life. He sponsors a local Boy Scout Explorer program in Clatsop County and donates medical coverage to assist non-profit agencies in their fundraising efforts.

Under his direction, Metro West has been involved with the Stop Kids Intoxicated Driving (S.K.I.D) program and DUII Presentations in Clatsop schools. Metro West reached out to elementary schools on the issue of bike safety, donated helmets to community children, and sponsored radio education programs in Lincoln County.

Other acts of generosity include the donation of equipment to fire departments in Clatsop County; provided paid insurance premiums to local Quick Response Teams, an ambulance, converted into an “activity vehicle” offering activities to residents, used ambulances for use as command and mobile communication centers. He donated ALS Ambulances, complete with medical supplies and equipment, to the countries of Ethiopia, Mexico and Russia.

**Thank you, James D. Fuiten for your continued dedication to EMS in Oregon.**