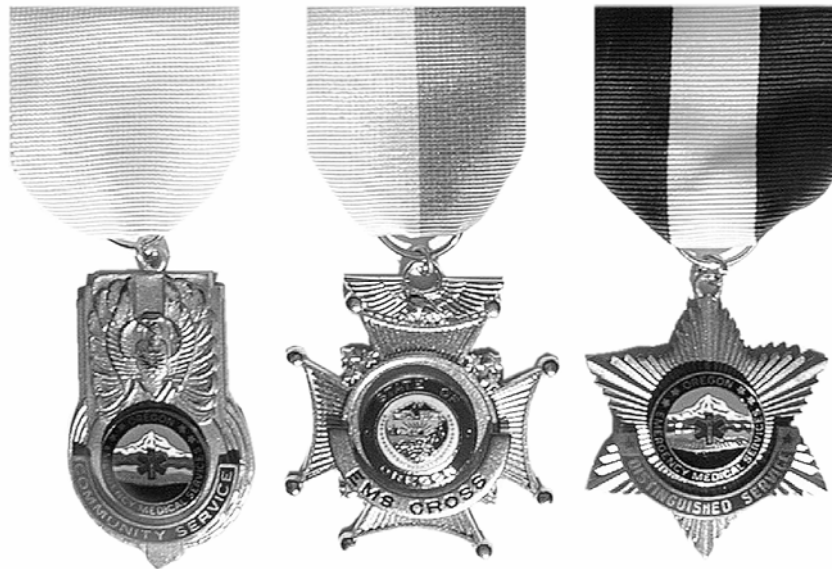




# **2008 State EMS Awards Banquet**



## **Book of Recognition**

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format, please contact the EMS & Trauma Systems  
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## *INTRODUCTION*

The Oregon EMS Awards Program is intended to recognize excellence, to foster achievement, and to honor those in and around EMS Systems whose acts and deeds stand out from the day-to-day excellence of that system.

The 2008 EMS Awards Program *Book of Recognition* memorializes the recipients of EMS program awards during the award cycle of June 1, 2007 through May 31, 2008. Listed in the succeeding pages are brief descriptions of the awards presented and citations upon which they are based.

There are many noteworthy acts performed every day by EMS providers across the State of Oregon. It is not possible to recognize the hundreds of providers responsible for those many good deeds. This book is dedicated not only to those whose names and deeds are included, but to any others who, unknown to this committee, also performed acts and deeds representing the best traditions of our calling and profession.

Bob Leopold  
Director  
EMS & Trauma Systems

Ritu Sahni, MD  
Medical Director  
EMS & Trauma Systems

Maria Campbell  
Award Coordinator  
EMS & Trauma Systems

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## CIVILIAN SERVICE MEDAL

*The Civilian Service Medal recognizes a civilian who provides extraordinary service during the course of an EMS emergency.*

**Name:** Steve Godwin, Larry Boettcher, Ron Billings, and Dewain Farner



On September 28, 2007, Steve Godwin, Dwain Farner, Ron Billings, and Larry Boettcher; from Vinson Brothers Construction of Knappa, Oregon were working in southern Clatsop County.

The work was being overseen by Oregon Department of Forestry. The inspector fell off the trail, seven vertical feet, landing on his head.

Larry, saw a flash of movement. He turned to see the inspector on his hands and knees, trying to get on his feet. Larry jumped out of his excavator to help the victim. It appeared; the victim was going into shock and could cause further injuries to himself. Larry stabilized his neck and head, with his hands; and tried to get him to remain still.

Steve, Dwain, and Ron got down to the victim, they saw blood from a bad cut on his head and signs of hypothermia. They applied a bandage to control the bleeding. Dwain started the process of calling for help, but the cell phones do not work in that location. Larry continued to stabilize the head/neck of the victim, as they got him to his feet, Steve and Ron supported him. They walked the victim up to a crew-cab pick-up and positioned him in the front seat while the victim's head/neck was stabilized by Ron.

They started to slowly drive out of the woods, towards Seaside. Dwain was able to make contact on a CB radio to call for help. At least one hour was cut by getting the victim out of the woods.

The next day the victim went in for surgery to fuse two vertebrae. He is now recovering and is back to work. The operating room nurse said the victim's injuries could have been much worse; resulting in paralysis or death; if it was not for the quick first aid and assistance.

## EMS IMPACT MEDAL

*The EMS Impact Award recognizes an individual who has made a substantial contribution to the Department of Human Service's efforts to develop a statewide EMS system.*

**Name:** Mike Verkest, AAS, EMT-P

**Agency:** American Medical Response



October 15-19, 2007, during TOPOFF4 (the largest full-scale disaster exercise involving local, state and federal incident response) AMR Operations Supervisor, Mike Verkest, developed and utilized an innovative patient tracking system used by the Medical Branch of the incident. Mike was assigned to the Transport Sector and knew the difficulties that accompanied this role, even with small numbers of patients. TOPOFF4 planned for hundreds of casualties.

To enhance patient tracking, Mike customized an Excel spreadsheet that utilized bar codes off triage tags. He programmed it to show the patient's triage status by written number and color bar and developed bar codes for local hospitals using a handheld scanner to enter data. Patient gender was the only additional input needed. Chris Koppenhafer, AMR's Clinical Data Analyst, collaborated on the project, making refinements based on feedback from Mike.

The completed system included a spreadsheet designed to track patients triaged and transported in a Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) and an 'on-line' version that updated simultaneously for hospitals and other locations. Mike uploaded the program to a dedicated 'Google' users group; allowing local hospitals to log on and

watch as information about incoming patients were updated (status on scene, transport, etc.). Conversely, the data entry computer identified hospitals that were currently accessing the site. Other entities, like the Emergency Operations Center, were also able to monitor the site.

The tracking system debuted at TOPOFF and was an overwhelming success. Not only did it keep receiving hospitals informed, it assisted in the “wrench” thrown into the system by drill coordinators: "missing and injured Canadian citizens" were located using the scanned data and a simple “roll call” to the hospitals. Mike Verkest has shared its success with fellow EMS providers and continues to have ideas on how to enhance the system.





## COMMUNITY SERVICE MEDAL

*The Community Service Award recognizes an EMT who has made outstanding commitment to the non-patient care aspects of a community's EMS system. Special emphasis is on EMS public information, education, and relations, community education, and prevention programs.*

**Name:** Sheila Jackson, EMT-P

**Agency:** Corvallis Fire Department



Sheila Jackson has made a tremendous commitment to the City of Cornelius and their children. Sheila has made an outstanding commitment to non-patient care aspects in her EMS community.

This year alone Sheila has personally taught over 1400 children personal, medical, and fire safety. These children, from many diverse backgrounds, attend the numerous schools in her fire district. From planning the many events, to purchasing supplies and then coordinating and producing the programs she has touched many children as a volunteer paramedic and firefighter with the Cornelius Fire Department. These children take home their excitement and handouts to their parents educating and developing great public relations to even more people in the community.

Sheila works with multiple agencies as the Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Specialist at the Cornelius Fire Department. She intervenes with children who start fires. She works with their parents. She recommends strategies and educational programs for the families to participate in to prevent further fire setting.

In addition, she has taken on the duty of helping her department educate their firefighters, EMTs, and officers. As the new EMS coordinator she has brought in more topics than just the normal patient assessment. Sheila has offered non-patient care educational opportunities including Child Abuse Recognition & Reporting and Elder Abuse Recognition & Reporting and Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy.

Sheila Jackson through her many aspects of service, touch the community with EMS Public Information, Education and Relations.



## UNIT CITATION

*The EMS Unit Citation recognizes acts of organizations, units, or specially constituted teams in providing emergency pre-hospital care or EMS system support activities under extreme circumstances.*

**Agency:** AMR and Rural Metro in Grants Pass – Mike Anderberg, EMT-B (RMFD); Jamie Beech, EMT-P (AMR), Lt. Lloyd Lawless, EMT-B (RMFD); Ryan Small, EMT-B (RMFD); and Ben Stevenson, EMT-I (AMR)



**Mike Anderberg**  
**Fire Fighter, EMT-B**



**Jamie Beech**  
**EMT-P**



**Lt. Lloyd Lawless**  
**EMT-B**



**Ryan Small**  
**Fire Fighter, EMT-B**



**Ben Stevenson**  
**EMT-P**

On January 9, 2008, a call was placed for a 59 year old male who was working at an industrial location. Some steel framework had fallen from a fork lift and struck him from behind. Rural Metro firefighters were in the area conducting training and responded quickly. They found a male with some steel still on top of him, utilized workers on scene to help remove it, and found a patient with a severely deformed leg, pale and cyanotic. Respiratory rate was 10 and patient was moaning. Small told Anderberg to stay on the radio while he conducted a rapid trauma assessment. They called for the Lieutenant to come to the scene as well. Small tried to establish a better airway, but the patient's jaw was clenched. He managed to open it (using a bite stick) enough to get an OPA in to assist ventilations with a BVM. The patient had a peripheral pulse of 40. Lt. Lawless arrived and began setting up a LZ for Mercy Flights. When AMR arrived Stevenson went to work immediately, utilizing all of his EMT-I skills. He established an IV and an IO. Beech attempted intubation and found a very difficult airway, He and Stevenson used a combitube instead of wasting time with multiple attempts. The patient was packaged on a LSB and moved to the LZ, with a GSC of 3. The patient had a lacerated liver, spleen, multiple spinal fx., tib/fib fx, closed head injury, pneumothorax, and possible other injuries.

Although the call is not so unusual, the way it was handled was seamless and smooth, that many have commented on how well it went. Everyone on this call, from the newest in EMT class firefighter to the 20+ year veteran Paramedic, all worked well together to provide the patient with the best care and ensure he had the best chance for a positive outcome. Everyone was especially impressed with Small and his level head and quick thinking, and Stevenson's ability to flawlessly use all of his new EMT-I skills while keeping a level head and setting up for the Paramedic. These guys run into each other from time to time on calls, but do not work together regularly, yet anyone watching would think they did.



**Agency:** Winston-Dillard Fire and Rescue – Shawn Pattee and Audrey Pollinger



**Shawn Pattee, EMT-P**



**Audrey Pollinger, EMT-P**

On February 15, 2008, Paramedics Audrey Pollinger and Shawn Pattee responded 4 miles up a Mt Kenyan logging road, 3500 feet above the valley floor covered with 2 1/2 feet of snow. They responded to a female with a history of multiple CVAs and numerous medical conditions, complaining of a headache - similar to her previous CVAs.

When they encountered snow and ice, they placed tire chains and continued. The local fire district was driving ahead of them with a brush truck. About 1 1/2 miles from the residence, snow became impassible and the brush truck and the ambulance became stuck. The dispatcher also reported their patient was complaining of chest pain. They continued by hiking (with equipment) through knee-deep snow. Upon arrival, they assessed and treated their patient. Dispatch attempted to send a helicopter. However, due to a lack of a landing zone and patient's weight beyond safe winch limits, neither the US Coast Guard nor the Oregon National Guard could assist.

Meanwhile, a volunteer firefighter arrived on a 4 wheel all terrain vehicle. With only one option left, they transported their patient to the ambulance on the 4-wheeler, and hiked back down through the snow. Once in the ambulance, Pattee continued patient care while Pollinger borrowed a shovel and removed accumulated snow and ice in order to move the ambulance (dug it out of the snow). Upon removal of the snow, freeing the ambulance, Pollinger notice an inside dual tire was flat. Pollinger requested another ambulance meet them. They transported

their patient to the other ambulance, exchanged vehicles, and continued transporting to the hospital. The patient was admitted for medication imbalances.

This crew demonstrated determination and commitment to providing emergency medical care under extreme circumstances. Their perseverance demonstrates their high level of professionalism and is worthy of recognition.



**Agency:** Vernonia Volunteer Ambulance Association – Tara Bamberg, EMT-B; Teresa Bernardi, EMT-I; Caressa Brooks; Norman Brown; Randy Carlton, EMT-B; Raymond Cota; Shelly Cota, EMT-B; Christie Davis; Matt Davis; Torie Ellis; Michelle Kay, EMT-P; Charlotte Koch, EMT-B; Scott Laird, EMT-B; Kristina McCord, EMT-B; Tom Moss, EMT-B; Daniel Owens, EMT-B; Lisa Ragsdale, EMT-B; Holly Vaughn, EMT-B; Wayne Vaughn; and Darrell Wolfe, EMT-B.



On December 3, 2007, the lives of those who live and work in the city and surrounding areas of Vernonia were changed forever. It was a devastating event that started with expected winter rains and escalated to a dangerous flood situation that challenged the EMS system in this remote region of our state.

In Vernonia, the EMS system is comprised of the Vernonia Volunteer Ambulance Association in conjunction with paid personnel from Metro West Ambulance, the Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District and the Vernonia Police Department. As the majority of personnel in all three branches are volunteers, these groups were not only responding to an overwhelming need but to their own family and friends.

As soon as the Vernonia Volunteer Ambulance Association volunteers knew it was going to flood, they all started responding to the station-no tap outs were needed for these dedicated EMT's and drivers – they all knew what was coming as many had already lived through a similar flood in 1996. This time, they had no idea of knowing the devastation the waters would bring.

The volunteers split up – some started the preparations for ambulance response and transport while others headed out on rescue boats bringing in stranded citizens while other volunteers headed to the medical clinic in town to bring medical supplies, equipment and Dr. Gilmore, the clinic’s physician to the fire station to set up a make shift clinic. Little did they know that this marked the beginning of two weeks of putting their lives aside to help others survive the immediate destruction.

During the initial response – the two ambulances were split, one on each side of the river so no one would be completely cut off from emergency care. Quickly Vernonia was cut off from the rest of Columbia County as roads washed out, debris from the winds blocked access and the waters covered normal access routes. Then the phones went down – only a few cell phones provided access to outside help. In a small town, people know if help can’t get to you – you best get to it ...and they did. In a short time the Vernonia Fire Station which houses both fire and ambulance were overwhelmed with patients. Patients walked in or were driven in. Others were found by our ambulances and rescue that were patrolling accessible neighborhoods or picking up patients being brought in by the rescue boats. The ambulance bay was turned into a makeshift clinic directed by Dr. Phyllis Gilmore and Robert Giusti, Family Nurse Practitioner with the assistance of volunteers and paid staff. The clinic was the mainstay of all medical care for the first four days. The volunteers acted as triage, care providers, hand holders, tear wipers, and big time huggers in addition to their normal EMS responsibilities. All of their lives changed forever.

There are hundreds of small stories of heroism, rescues, integrity, and outstanding service that occurred during those days. All would be worthy of an award. The most important thing to share is the dedication to Emergency Medical Services that the volunteers have. No matter how bad, or how hard it is, they’ll be there because EMS is who they are and we are thankful for them all.



## LIFESAVING MEDAL

*The Lifesaving Medal recognizes an EMT who, while in an off-duty or volunteer capacity, makes an extremely noteworthy contribution to efforts which result in the saving of a life.*

**Name:** Donald Meyers, EMT-B

**Agency:** AMR Special Services Division, Sandy Fire District



On July 28, 2007 Don Meyers had to act as EMT and Lifeguard, alone and without equipment. While Don Meyers was swimming in the White River and diving through its waterfalls, he surfaced and saw arms waving-- pointing past him. He looked and saw a hand, just above water, slowing sinking below the surface. Don swam toward the victim -- though he'd taken a lifeguarding class he'd never used the skills.

Don's leg hit something-- an arm. He pulled the drowning man to the surface (which pushed *him* under) then began to move to shore. With assistance from other swimmers they reached the shallows and bystanders helped lift them to shore. More shouts-- another victim was under water! Don and others rushed back into the river. The second victim was pulled in and was also moved to the beach. Exhausted, Don followed but moved quickly to make his assessment of victims.

Two drowning victims were on shore, limp and lifeless. Don observed they were both blue and didn't seem to be breathing. Don (the only person with medical training) checked each one, expecting to perform CPR, and found weak carotid

pulses. He instructed bystanders to hold cervical spine immobilization and then roll the victims onto their sides when they began vomiting, then breathing spontaneously. Don moved back and forth between the two, monitoring them while their color and vital signs improved, and as they regained consciousness. Warm towels were brought to keep the two from chilling further. An emergency room physician arrived but determined nothing else could be done until EMS arrived. Approximately an hour after being submerged and lifeless the two men were transferred to the care of local EMS providers. Both victims were able to walk out of the canyon, thanks to the efforts of Don Meyers.



**Name:** Ginger Slavens, EMT-B

**Agency:** Department of Homeland Security, United State Coast Guard Auxiliary



From: Commandant

To: Ms. Ginger R. Slavens, USCG Auxiliary

Subj: AUXILIARY LETTER OF COMMENDATION

1. I note with pride and am pleased to commend you for your performance in assisting in a successful cardio-pulmonary resuscitation of a child on 14 November 2007. Responding to an emergency request from an Auxiliary scanner, you proceeded to a home where a thirteen year old was choking and experiencing difficulty breathing. Demonstrating the highest degree of proficiency, you assessed the situation and immediately initiated CPR on the child who was not breathing. With the highest level of professional judgment, you directed the mother to continue rescue breathing while you contacted the local ambulance service. Using your technical skills as a Nationally Registered Emergency Medical Technician-B, you continued to attempt to get the child to breathe. During this rescue, you calmed the mother while directing and assisting with advanced life saving procedures. Your finely honed skills, quick thinking, and thorough grasp of the situation not only helped to resuscitate the child but provided a calming effect on the child's family even after the ambulance transported the child to hospital care.

2. You are to be commended for your spirit of service and your dedication to saving life. You have upheld the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

3. You are hereby authorized to wear the Commandant's Auxiliary Letter of Commendation Ribbon Bar.

For the Commandant,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J.P. Currier".

J. P. CURRIER

Rear Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard  
Commander, Thirteenth Coast Guard District

## MERITORIOUS SERVICE

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

**Name:** Phyllis Gilmore, MD – Providence Medical Group and Robert Giusti, FNP



**Dr. Phyllis Gilmore**



**Robert Giusti, FNP**

On December 3, 2007, Dr. Gilmore and Robert “Bob” knew that the flood waters were heading towards Vernonia but had no idea just how intertwined their lives would become with their community’s EMS system during that day and for the days to come.

Dr. Gilmore is a family practitioner at the Providence Medical Group Vernonia Clinic. In the small town of Vernonia, being a family practitioner allows her a chance to establish relationships and to get to know her patients as people. She said, “I like the feeling that I can make a positive difference in someone’s life”. During this winter’s flood, Dr. Gilmore made a difference in numerous lives.

Robert “Bob” Giusti is a Family Nurse Practitioner. Bob believes in partnering with his patients and their families. He said, “To me, the best moments are when the patient’s physical, psychosocial and spiritual needs are met and together we’re able to improve their health and well-being”. As the waters rose, Bob was there with Dr. Gilmore to make sure all patients’ needs were being met.

As the waters started to rise, flooding the Providence Medical Clinic, Dr. Gilmore and Robert Giusti knew their community would need the medical supplies, equipment and services they could offer. They also knew that their location would soon be underwater along with what they would need.

Working together with the volunteers of the Vernonia Volunteer Ambulance Association and the Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District, they were able to save medications, equipment and supplies by loading them onto the one truck that was barely able to make it to the clinic.

Dr. Gilmore and Bob Giusti headed with the volunteers back to the ambulance bay of the fire station. There they set up a make shift clinic that would become the main medical treatment center for this community for the next four days. Vernonia was cut off from the rest of Columbia County as roads washed out, debris from the winds blocked access and the waters covered normal access routes. In addition, the phones went down-only a few cell phones provided access to outside help. In a small town, people know if help can't get to you – you best get to it...and they did any way they could. Dr. Gilmore and Bob Giusti went into action as the make shift clinic in the ambulance bay became busier and busier. Patients walked in or were driven in. Others were found by the ambulances and rescue that had been patrolling accessible neighborhoods or meeting rescue boats loaded with patients.

Dr. Gilmore and Bob Giusti worked closely with the Vernonia Volunteer Ambulance Association and the Metro West Ambulance Paramedics and EMTs to make sure all patients received the care they needed. Dr. Gilmore was heard saying numerous times “I don't care if you're not my patient, you are now”. Bob echoed the same sentiment. During that time, everyone who needed them was “their patient”.

As disaster medicine was not their forte, they bonded with EMS refining a system of triage and treatment that allowed all to be quickly cared for no matter how serious or minor. Overseeing this treatment/staging area for medical patients was an exercise in ingenuity and resourcefulness. Whether it was assisting EMS with transporting patients out to local hospitals or ensuring patients who had lost everything including their prescription medications were helped, Dr. Gilmore proved to be a link in the medical chain of survival for this community.

During those initial days, Dr. Gilmore and Bob Giusti made the fire station their home. Available 24/7 for anyone who needed them. As more help arrived, they continued their efforts overseeing and establishing a larger clinic area inside a tent outside of the fire station. They are happily back in their everyday positions continuing to care for the community.

The Vernonia Volunteer Ambulance Association and Metro West Ambulance have worked closely with the PMG Vernonia Clinic in the past but in December of 2007, a disaster occurred that brought everyone together. Dr. Phyllis Gilmore and Robert Giusti were there for not only their patients but for the rescuers, the community and anyone who needed them.

## EMS CROSS

*The EMS Cross recognizes an EMT who by act and deed represents the most outstanding achievement in EMS over an extended period of time. This is the highest award that can be conferred in the absence of extreme conditions and extraordinary circumstances.*

**Name:** Larry Shock, EMT-P

**Agency:** Eugene Fire and EMS



Larry Shock has been awarded the Oregon EMS Cross for 2008 based on 32 years of outstanding service, accomplishments, and especially his exemplary attitude.

Larry's future career began to take shape when he was 14 years old and completed a Red Cross First Aid course and became a swimming instructor at the YMCA. Following employment with California Department of Forestry, the US Army on a Medevac helicopter and Montana Department of Forestry, Larry and his wife Diane came to Eugene in 1976. After fruitless inquiries about Fire Department employment, Larry joined the private ambulance service Medical Services Incorporated (MSI). During his three-year tenure at MSI Larry's attitude, empathy and meticulous attention to detail manifested themselves. Following his employment by Eugene Fire Department in 1979, and later with the assumption of EMS services by Eugene Fire Department in 1981, Larry set an example for all EMS workers to emulate. Larry's quest for excellence, combined with Chief Bill

Bass's desire to further community EMS care and conditions, resulted in Eugene Fire and EMS receiving the JEMS Magazine Outstanding EMS System of the Year Award in 1985. While constantly striving to enhance protocols and thereby patient care, Larry was continuously involved in upgrading and innovating equipment for EMS personnel. A few of his many accomplishments are devising and putting into service a completely self-contained ALS airway kit, helping form and outfit the Eugene Water Rescue Team, the Eugene High-Angle Rescue Team, as well as helping acquire and operate the Eugene Fire Mobile Aircraft Rescue Firefighting Simulator, Eugene's Field Training/Evaluation Paramedic Program, the ongoing evolution to electronic charting, and continuing to work with Lane County Sheriff's Department. Larry has never hesitated to help train and advise all who train for or consider an EMS career. What Larry is most known for is his constant upbeat, courteous and empathetic attitude toward everyone he encounters; be it patient, peer, student or member of the general public.

All EMS workers at every stage of the patient care process in all of Lane County have benefited from Larry's influence and attitude, and untold patients owe their lives and well-being to Larry and his care. He is most deserving of this award.



**Name:** Donald Cooper

**Agency:** American Medical Response of Northwest, Inc.

Don has dedicated his life to EMS. He started as a CPR certified worker over 25 years ago. He has achieved and been awarded many accommodations over the years such as the Breakfast of Champions Award for one of the Reach and Treat team for calls conducted during the Timbered Rock Fire in 2002 and Clinical Excellence Award from the agencies Supervising Physician.

He became a Field Training Officer for the American Medical Response and one of those FTO's that really takes the time to get to know how best to help the new person find their way, their style, and their confidence. He has worked tirelessly to improve his own clinical skills, as well as those of upcoming EMTs and Paramedics. For his attitude and efforts to assist his fellow EMTs he has received the FTO of the Year Award twice so far.

Don's interest in EMS doesn't stop with the working in the agency his works he gives of his knowledge and passion for the field by teaching at Rogue Community College, as well as the students at Grants Pass High School's SERT (Student Emergency Response Team) program.

He has responded not only to emergencies at home but abroad. He served a 30 tour in Baton Rouge during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. His competence and enthusiasm made it an easy decision to give him the position of night Incident Commander for dispatch in his area of response.

Don's love of EMS transmits in many ways. His passion to educate others, the effortless way he gives of himself during emergencies, and the respect and care he exhibits to the community when answering calls make him a favorite son of many. Many in the community have been heard to say, "If ever I were hurt, I want Don Cooper to be there."



## MEDAL OF VALOR

*The Medal of Valor recognizes acts of personal valor or heroism in the delivery of emergency medical care, which results in the saving of a life under extreme conditions and in extraordinary circumstances.*

**Name:** Senior Trooper Michael Holloran

**Agency:** Oregon State Police

Senior Trooper Michael Holloran, with Oregon State Police in The Dalles, was the first person to reach the site of a serious crash on New Year's Eve. The crash occurred on Highway 35, north of Mount Hood Meadows ski resort. Just after 11:00 a.m., the driver of a 2005 Honda sedan with 5 passengers was attempting to pass in the left lane when the car lost control on an icy, shady spot. The Honda spun 180 degrees into the northbound lane where it rear-end collided with the front-end of a northbound Chevy Blazer.

The driver of both vehicles, ages 21 and 25, were wearing safety belts and uninjured. However, sitting in the Honda's backseat were the driver's mother, his 8-year-old sister, and his 24-year-old girlfriend. None were wearing safety restraints.

Trooper Holloran arrived at the crash scene within a minute of the call and began lifesaving efforts to the three critically injured females. The 8-year-old was unconscious and unresponsive. She was resuscitated and transferred to Emanuel Pediatric ICU where she met the criteria for brain death. The mother was apneic and in cardiac arrest. She was flown to OHSU where she died 13 hours post crash from blunt head and chest trauma. The girlfriend was transported to Emanuel Hospital with massive head trauma. According to news reports, she was in a coma for more than 3 months. She is now relearning how to walk and talk.

Trooper Holloran is a nationally certified Child Passenger Safety Technician. He is well known in his community as a tireless child safety seat advocate. In addition to ticketing drivers who are not wearing seat belts, he has been known to turn negative experiences into positive opportunities by providing child safety seats to some families he has stopped.



**Name:** Jeremy Houston, EMT-P; Bob Johnson, EMT-P; Wayne Wilson, EMT-B, of Medix Ambulance and Gary Dick of Pacific Power and Light



**Jeremy Houston, EMT-B    Wayne Wilson, EMT-B  
(Not pictured: Robert Johnson, EMT-P or Gary Dick from PPL)**

Monday morning December 3, 2007 at approximately 0100 hours Medix Ambulance, with a crew of Paramedic Jeremy Houston, Paramedic Robert (Bob) Johnson, EMT-B Wayne Wilson, were dispatched for male that had been struck by a tree and thrown against his pickup. The patient had been clearing trees from Highway 202 just east of Astoria, Oregon. The wind was blowing more than 100 mph over the last 6 hours, and would blow consistently this hard or more for the next 24 hours, making this one of the worst windstorms ever to strike the North Coast area of Oregon.

As Jeremy, Wayne and Bob, along with Olney Walluski, and Astoria Fire Department and Gary Dick of Pacific Power and Light worked their way to the patient by cutting trees that had blown across Highway 202 and continued to fall as they advanced to the location of the patient. The other obstacle was downed power lines and the poles that support them, which also means this was all being done without electricity, as it had been out for the last 8 hours.

It took 47 minutes to access the patient who was then entered into the Trauma System at Columbia Memorial Hospital (CMH) for Impact/Significant Intrusion and Paramedic Discretion. The patient was conscious, but complained of significant pain in the lower back and right ankle. Patient had a c-collar placed EMS provider in the residence. He was place din full spinal immobilization and

placed him on a gurney for transport to CMH in Astoria.

As hard as all this sounds, this was the easy part. Scene time was about 30 minutes and more trees and power poles had fallen behind the ambulance and fire vehicles on scene and Jeramy and Wayne were unable to transport to the hospital. As PP&L and Astoria Fire cleared a path the width of a fire truck from the west, Olney Walluski crew cleared from the east. Jeramy, Wayne, and Bob continued patient care at the Olney Walluski Fire Station in the back of their ambulance while keeping the trauma hospital CMH advised of patient condition and the effort being put forth to clear a path so that the patient could be brought to their facility.

Safe evacuation of the patient would not have been possible, except for the assistance from Gary Dick, a lineman from PP&L who was working on downed power lines in the area. At great personal risk Gary lead the safe removal of trees by working with Astoria Fire Department personnel and single handedly safely removed the power lines that were obstructing the ambulance with their patient.

After 3 hours of very hard work under the most extreme circumstances one can imagine, a path approximately ½ mile in length was cleared and the patient was able to be transport to CMH. As the ambulance snaked its way thru the cleared sections of the highway for more than 5 minutes, everyone nervously waited for more trees to block the route.

Through the cooperation, hard work, and dedication of all the agencies, involved, Jeremy, Wayne, and Bob were able to provide the necessary care the patient needed and keep him stabilized under the absolute worst conditions anyone can imagine. There is no way to ever prepare for the provision of patient care under these conditions, but Jeramy, Wayne, and Bob did an amazing job of taking care of their patient.



## EMS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR

*The EMS Administrator of the Year honors an EMS system administrator who has distinguished him or her self through noteworthy contribution to a local, regional, or statewide EMS system.*

**Name:** Shawn Baird, EMT-P

**Agency:** Woodburn Ambulance



Shawn Baird began his career as a Paramedic at Woodburn Ambulance in 1990 shortly after finishing the Program at Chemeketa Community College. Over the next few years, he not only developed into an excellent Paramedic, but had also had proven himself as a naturally born leader at Woodburn Ambulance. After only a few years Shawn became an Owner of Woodburn Ambulance. It should be noted that during the time Shawn decided to take over the Operations of our Company, he was quite aware of the challenges that EMS was about to face from the Medicare Reform Act. When it seemed as though many in the EMS community was resigned to accept defeat, Shawn continued to, and continues to this day, to be a key figure in the fight for legislation that affects the EMS Community. He also holds several positions on committees through-out the State of Oregon, and is frequently asked for his opinion or advice on key issues involving EMS.

On an agency level, Shawn instills and promotes leadership qualities in ALL of his employees. He keeps an "Open Door" policy and makes a point to personally know each and every employee in his company. The attitude that Shawn has with his employees is one of "If it's important to you, then it's important to me, too" and will drop whatever he is doing to discuss concerns or ideas with them. Between all his meetings and responsibilities he has through-out the State, Shawn

still finds the time to occasionally jump on an ambulance call with a crew or fill an open shift. He feels that being able to see EMS from a field perspective is vital to his ability to make sound and competent decisions as a leader in EMS.



## EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

*The EMS Medical Director of the Year Award honors a physician who serves or has served the EMS system by providing medical direction, on-line or off-line, and who has served with distinction.*

**Name:** Craig Warden, MD

**Agency:** Clackamas Fire District #1



Dr. Craig Warden is Medical Director of Oregon's second largest fire district serving over 200,000 Oregonians and its numerous visitors to the "End of the Oregon Trail".

Dr. Warden came to Clackamas Fire District #1 through an agreement with Oregon Health Science University in 2005, where he is currently Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine, Emergency Physician, Medical Director of Medical Resource Hospital (MRH), Medical Toxicologist for the Oregon Poison Control Center (OPC). Along with his duties at Clackamas Fire District #1 he is the Medical Director for Clackamas County 9-1-1 (CCOM).

Dr. Warden is an accomplished author, educator, former Paramedic and innovator. Because of Doctor Warden's leadership the fire district, our EMT's and Paramedics have embraced participation in a national study on cardiac resuscitation, resulting in some of the highest cardiac arrest save to alive at discharge percentages in the country. This spirit of risk taking is personified in his implementation of a rescue airway as an option for paramedics to secure an airway while doing CPR, now being considered as the standard for Cardiac Arrest care in the Portland Metropolitan area.

Our organization is proud of Dr Warden's numerous educational and professional endeavors, but our highest praise and accolades come from his advocacy of our paramedics and EMT's in the field, providing service within the service.

As medical professionals we are humbled by the commitment all Medical Directors give to each EMS agency in our state. Dr. Warden is our deserving candidate for EMS Medical Director of the Year for 2008.





## EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

*The EMS Educator of the Year Award honors an EMS educator, either pre-service or in-service, who excels as a teacher or who has made a significant contribution to the EMS education program in Oregon.*

**Name, certification level:** Karen Anderson, RN

**Agency:** Eugene Fire and EMS Department



Karen started her career at Eugene Fire & EMS in 2000, since then, she has trained over 100 EMT Intermediates and Paramedics to become fully functioning field medics. She is responsible for ongoing class coordination and skills check-offs to maintain the 167 certified department EMTs. Prior to her employment with Eugene Fire & EMS, Karen was active in training EMT students in the emergency department where she worked as a nurse preceptor for countless nursing and paramedic students.

Karen acts as the liaison between Eugene Fire and the medical community. She is active on the Medical Control Board in Lane County and without her organizational skills and medical background the protocols for all of Lane County EMS Agencies would not be the same.

Karen has a work ethic that is hard to match. She is here everyday working as efficiently as possible, providing EMS continuing education and training to our staff. She shows patience and understanding to employees when presenting complex topics taking time to ensure that each employee has a true understanding of the material being presented. She is always dependable and often times works overtime to meet all the commitments that this job demands. She never complains and always sees the good or the potential in everyone.

Karen is proud of her students' accomplishments and is excited to hear their stories of patient encounters. She feels personally responsible for their education and takes her job to heart. Karen is compassionate, dedicated and is a great example to everyone she mentors. This care is evident in the way she teaches, she is always a gentle hand, a listening ear, and is truly an advocate for EMS in the State of Oregon.



## FIRST RESPONDER OF THE YEAR

*The First Responder of the Year Award honors a First Responder who is exemplary in his/her quality of patient care and/or dedication to their community and to the EMS system.*

**Name, certification level:** Lydia Durham, First Responder  
**Agency:** Banks Fire District #13



Banks Fire District is sure that, Lydia Durham joined the department to share her wide range of talents —she has many.

This coming fall, Lydia will have been on the department 6 years. In that time Lydia has donated many, many hours being a volunteer firefighter and First Responder, while promoting the department.

Lydia was instrumental in organizing a local car wash to raise funds for AEDs. She also contacted local business and convinced them to donate. Because of Lydia's persistence Banks Fire was able to procure defibrillators this year.

Lydia is also a proud supporter of the American Cancer Society's *Relay for Life*. She recruited volunteers, and/or spouses and organized a Banks Fire team. This is the second year the Banks Fire team will be "walking for life".

Lydia's next endeavor was to have a team (firefighters) entered in the Portland to Coast relay. So, once again, Lydia recruited personnel and

assembled a team. Then she convinced the Banks Fire District Board of Directors to back the team. With Lydia's drive and determination, we're sure you'll see her at the finish line planning the District's next mission.

As you can see, Lydia is an advocate for firefighter wellness, and community involvement. But her dedication doesn't stop there. She's also involved in many other events either as a chairperson, or participant. Lydia is just unstoppable!

Banks Fire District values Lydia's dedication, and appreciates her enthusiasm for life. Whether Lydia's responding on an alarm, or living everyday life, her compassion for others always shines through.

Lydia is married and the mother of two children. Lydia's husband, Mike, is also on the department in the capacity of Chaplain. Her son was on the department, but recently joined the Air Force as a firefighter. We're still working on her daughter.

THANKS Lydia for being you.....



## EMT-INTERMEDIATE OF THE YEAR

*The EMT-Intermediate of the Year Award honors an EMT-Intermediate who is exemplary in his/her quality of patient care and/or dedication to their community and to the EMS system.*

**Name, certification level:** Mara Solano, EMT-I

**Agency:** Lane County



My first impression of Mara was that she was going to be a problem. English was obviously her second language and the EMT Intermediate course can be difficult for people that speak only one language. I'm happy to report that she proved me wrong. Mara has a sharp, inquisitive mind, with an attention to detail. She would show up to class every night on her bicycle, sometimes dripping wet from her ride in the rain, but always with a smile that was often accompanied by the most open and infectious laugh I have ever heard. Her attitude in the classroom was always upbeat and sunny. I would sometimes shake my head in wonder as she would leave class at night, several safety lights flashing on her and the bicycle, like some demented Christmas tree. The other students soon took notice of Mara as she began getting perfect scores on the quizzes and first semester final. She became someone the others would seek advice and knowledge from and soon the legendary Mara web page was born. Mosby and Brady could learn a few things from her work. Her graphs and handouts are simple, easy to understand, and an excellent learning tool. She put in hours of work to improve her own understanding of EMS and to help her fellow students. I would see pages from her web site floating around the classroom and excited students talking about how helpful they were. Throughout both semesters, Mara was the kind of student instructor's hope for. She was attentive, involved, interested, and always happy to be in class. At the end of the course, the student I thought was going to be a problem had the highest final score of any student I had ever taught.



## EMS Commitment To Quality

*Honors an EMS system or individual EMS agency, or sub-unit of an EMS agency, which has demonstrated commitment to the principles of quality improvement, customer service and excellence in EMS to Quality Award.*

**Agency:** Life Flight Network, LLC



Life Flight Network is proud to celebrate 30-years of providing high-level critical care to the pre-hospital environment. As a vital component in many Oregon and Washington EMS systems, Life Flight is one of the oldest, safest, and most reputable flight programs in the nation.

Life Flight celebrates its ability to provide an unparalleled level of safety, patient care, and leadership in the air-medical industry. Medical crews are qualified in advanced skills such as chest tube insertion, surgical and needle cricothyrotomy, invasive line monitoring, blood administration, and intubation. State of the art medical equipment and modern aircraft combine to give crews the edge in excellent care and rapid, safe response. Hospitals, EMS agencies, and patients have come to depend upon the Registered Nurse / Paramedic crews that are available 24-7.

Established in 1978 as part of Emanuel Hospital, Life Flight was the 4<sup>th</sup> hospital-based air ambulance in the country and the first on the west coast. In the 1990's, Life Flight continued its non-profit mission while forming a consortium program owned by Legacy Emanuel Hospital, Providence Health System, and Oregon Health & Science University.

Life Flight dedicated three additional helicopters this year to increase its service level to the Pacific Northwest; Life Flight 5 in Eugene, Life Flight 6 in the Columbia River Gorge, and Life Flight 7 in Longview. In addition to two Portland based helicopters in Aurora and Hillsboro, two fixed wing aircraft are available for long-distance transports, including domestic and international flights.

Life Flight thanks everyone who has helped us safely perform our mission during the last 30 years. We embrace the future with confidence and enthusiasm, and will continue to work hard to earn the respect of the medical community and the patients we serve.

## DIRECTOR'S MEDAL

*The Director's Medal recognizes an individual for particularly noteworthy and substantial contribution to the EMS system of the State of Oregon.*

**Name, certification level if applicable:** Paula Derr, RN, BSN, CCRN

**Agency:** St. Vincents Medical Center



This award is for an individual whose career has had significant impact on the EMS and trauma system of Oregon. She has been involved in the EMS community for over thirty years and has been dedicated to high quality care and the development of resources for prehospital and hospital staff.

Paula Derr, RN, BSN, CCRN started her career after attending Emanuel School of Nursing, her initial nursing career was in Salem and she then became a critical care/emergency nurse and supervisor at Providence Saint Vincent's Hospital. Paula quickly became involved in the education of prehospital and hospital staff in emergency care and trauma care. She was involved in the Oregon Emergency Nurses Association since its inception, was one of the originators of the Oregon trauma nursing course and then the first instructor and course director for the Trauma Nurse Core Course.

Paula's creativity and passion is possibly best recognized in her authorship, along with two other outstanding EMS providers, to produce the prehospital care guide, a nationally known resource for EMS providers and utilized around the world for emergency care providers. Paula has also authored a guide for nurses and several books for elder care and care taking.



Paula is a dedicated member of the American Heart Association, where she served as a stalwart and committee advocate for improvement of resuscitation for many years. Paula was on the board of the American Heart Association, particularly involved as the ACLS, Advanced Cardiac Life Support Heart Association Faculty member, and traveled throughout Oregon to put on ACLS instructor courses and trained numerous physicians, nurses and paramedics as course directors and instructors. Paula worked with the heart association to nominate an outstanding physician as the first Pediatric Advanced Life Support faculty and became a PALS instructor herself. Paula has also taught and organized the ENPC – Emergency Nurses Pediatric Courses in Oregon.



**Last Call**

Karl Corbin

Randilyn Dean

Gale Gurr

Floyd Louis Sayers

John Wells