

# Maryland EMS News

For All Emergency Medical Care Providers

Vol. 30, No. 6

June 2004

## Maryland EMS Stars of Life Awards



Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., and Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq. (Chair, Maryland EMS Board) with the Maryland EMS Week 2004 Proclamation.

### MIEMSS Kicks Off EMS Week

On May 17, MIEMSS kicked off EMS Week (May 16–22) with a two-part special awards ceremony at the State House in Annapolis. The first part focused on eight children and youth who were recognized for taking action to ensure that others would receive the “right care when it counts.” First Lady Kendel S. Ehrlich assisted with the morning ceremony for children.

The second part of the awards presentation honored 24 recipients with Maryland Star of Life Awards. Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., assisted with the presentation of certificates that represented nine categories of recognition.

Photos and summaries of the achievements of each award winner follow, beginning with the Maryland Stars of Life and followed by children/youth whose actions ensured the “right care when it counts.”

EMS Star of Life Awards were presented to EMT-P Wendy Bowersox, EMT-I Stephanie Lowry, EMT-B Josh Willet, EMT-B Bethany Six, and EMT-B Wendy Parker, all from Taneytown’s Medic 59 in Carroll County. The crew was returning from a call when they observed a child struck by a pick-up truck. The child was unconscious and not breathing. The team immediately started rescue breathing and stabilized the patient. The child was transported to the Johns Hopkins Pediatric Trauma Center by Maryland State Police Med-Evac helicopter. Following her hospital stay and therapy for a fractured hip, the child is once again as active as any first-grader.

The Maryland EMS Citizen Award was presented to Thomas R. Mullen, president and CEO of Mercy Medical Center in Baltimore. Mr. Mullen rescued two 13-year-old boys from the icy waters of the Tred Avon River outside his Oxford home on February 16, 2004, when the air temperature reached a high of 32 degrees. He waded 150 feet in water nearly up to his shoulders to pull them out, and then wrapped them in blankets until the Department of Natural Resources Police, the Oxford Police, and Oxford Volunteer Fire Company assisted with medical care. The boys were transported to Memorial Hospital in Easton where they were treated and released the same day.

The EMS Provider of the Year Award was presented to EMT-P Margaret Stein. Ms. Stein serves as a Paramedic for Talbot County EMS, has volunteered her time organizing and training people for Talbot County’s award-winning AED pro-



Maryland EMS Star of Life Award: (L→) Wendy Parker, Bethany Six, Josh Willet, Stephanie Lowry, 6-year-old Morgan Longenecker who was saved by the 5 award recipients, Wendy Bowersox, Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., and Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq. (Chair, Maryland EMS Board).

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## EMS Recognizes Children for Giving 'Right Care When It Counts'

On May 17, MIEMSS honored eight children and youths; each had assisted in providing a lifesaving service to someone in his/her community. Their actions had ensured that people in Maryland had received the "right care when it counts." First Lady Kendel S. Ehrlich assisted with



*Dr. Robert R. Bass (Executive Director, MIEMSS), Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq. (Chair, Maryland EMS Board), and First Lady Kendel S. Ehrlich with the proclamation for EMS for Children Day in Maryland. This is a special day during EMS Week (this year May 19) that recognizes the unique needs of children and families during sudden illness and injury.*

the ceremony, joining MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Robert R. Bass, Maryland EMS Board Chairman Donald L. DeVries, Jr., and Cyndy Wright-Johnson who directs the EMS for Children program at MIEMSS. Many EMS dignitaries, providers, families, and friends also attended the ceremony held at the State House in Annapolis.

The following received special certificates for "giving the right care when it counts":

**Kelvin Amaya (Baltimore City).** The Baltimore City Fire Department was conducting a "sweep" installation of smoke detectors after a fatal fire. Seven-year-old Kelvin assisted the fire department by translating not only for his family but for others in their building, enabling many smoke detectors to be placed. Kelvin knew about the importance of prevention from the Inspector Detector Fire Program conducted at General Wolfe Elementary School.

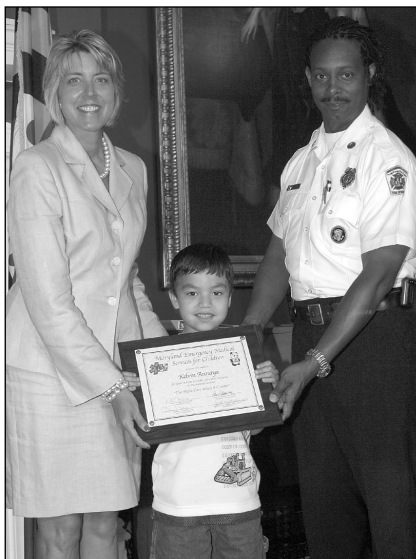
**William Aquero (Frederick County).** In October 2003, William, who is 11 years old, was watching TV with his older brother, who had a known cardiac problem. His brother

fell and William performed CPR as he had been taught at Boy Scouts only two weeks earlier. Adult family members dialed 9-1-1 and EMS responded. William's brother was transferred to Children's National Medical Center where he later received a heart transplant in March 2004.

**Kalin Rhinehart and Londyn Beechum (Prince George's County).** Nine-year-old Kalin and 10-year-old Londyn, students at Tulip Grove Elementary, were the leaders in a student-written Safety Public Service Announcement completed during the after-school program at their school. Tulip Grove received an EMS-for-Children Injury Prevention Special Project award in 2003.

**Michaela Warsaw (Garrett County).** On June 11, Michaela, who is 9 years old, went looking for her Dad (Bruce Warsaw) on their farm. She found him with severe injuries and remembered what she had learned at Yough Glades Elementary School. She went to a neighbor's home to dial 9-1-1. When EMS arrived, Michaela took them to where her father was lying.

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**EMS-C Award: The Right Care When It Counts.** First Lady Kendel S. Ehrlich, Kelvin Amaya, and Lt. Eugene Jones (Baltimore City Fire Department).



**EMS-C Award: The Right Care When It Counts.** First Lady Kendel S. Ehrlich, William's brother Marco, and William Aquero.

## EMS Recognizes Children for Giving 'Right Care When It Counts' (Con't)

(Continued from page 2)

**Steven Widmann (Prince George's County).** Fourteen-year-old Steven had taken first aid and CPR, as well as earned his Boy Scout First Aid and Lifesaving Merit badges. These came in handy on March 19, 2004 when he was with his mom in a car and they came upon a motor vehicle crash. Steve helped his mom by getting the first-aid kit and then

holding C-spine traction while his mom (a paramedic) cared for the patient and talked with EMS.

**Dillon Williams (Baltimore County).** Six-year-old Dillon provided his dad with the birthing instructions (given by an Emergency Medical Dispatcher on the phone) for the delivery of his new brother who was born at home. Dillon met EMS at the door and took them to his parents and new baby brother.

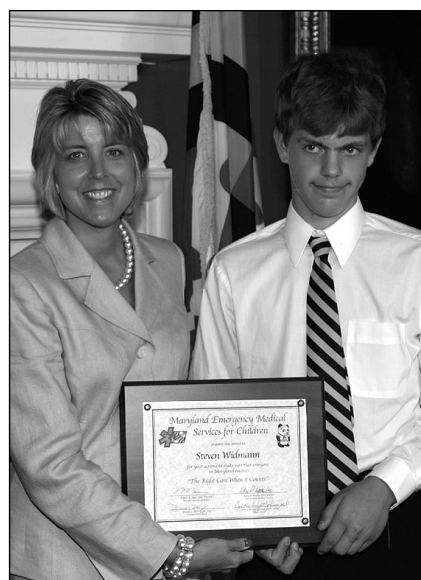
**Rebecca Woods (Prince George's County).** During the Fall of 2003, Rebecca, who is four years old, participated in the RISK WATCH® program at Chapel Forge special education center, learning how to keep herself and her family safe. She can demonstrate how to get out of the house, "get low and go," and "stop, drop, and roll." She also knows how to evacuate a bus and where the danger zones are located.



**EMS-C Award: The Right Care When It Counts.** Kalin Rhinehart and Londyn Beechum with their after-school care director Mrs. Anissa Logan.



**EMS-C Award: The Right Care When It Counts.** First Lady Kendel S. Ehrlich, Michaela Warsaw, Paramedic Danny Moon, and Bruce Warsaw (Michaela's father).



**EMS-C Award: The Right Care When It Counts.** First Lady Kendel S. Ehrlich and Steven Widmann.



**EMS-C Award: The Right Care When It Counts.** First Lady Kendel S. Ehrlich and Dillon Williams.



**EMS-C Award: The Right Care When It Counts.** First Lady Kendel S. Ehrlich and Rebecca Woods.

## Maryland EMS Stars of Life Awards (Con't)

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gram, assisted in continuing education programs, and serves as volunteer Captain for the Oxford Fire Company, where she often volunteers on Oxford's ALS ambulance. She also serves as the co-chair of Winterfest, the annual EMS continuing education conference hosted by Talbot County.

**The Outstanding EMS Program Award was presented to St. Mary's Hospital.** The hospital supports St. Mary's EMS community through active involvement in educational programs and an excellent working relationship with the prehospital

care providers. The efforts of the hospital demonstrate a true team concept in the delivery of EMS care.

**The EMS for Children Award was presented to Ed and Audrey Thurston.** The Thurston's (from Prince George's County) have a combined total of more than 71 years in the fire rescue services. But they have also donated countless volunteer hours in prevention efforts and provided leadership in bringing the National Fire Protection Association Risk Watch® Program into schools for children with special needs. They also focus on training emergency responders on how to respond to

school bus incidents involving special needs children. The program provides safety education to school employees and bus drivers. It also provides vital health information to first responders in the event of a vehicle crash or student illness. In addition, first responders are trained on school bus extrication and evacuation techniques.

**The Quality in EMS Award was presented to Andrew Ballinger, Roland Berg, and Andrew Bluestein (all of Prince George's County).** This Quality Improvement Team has provided data collection tools that are used statewide. Through the team's actions, EMS Quality Improvement programs across Maryland have been greatly enhanced.

**The Leon W. Hayes Award for Excellence in Emergency Medical Services was presented to Richard Mettetal.** Mr. Mettetal recently retired after 18 years as MIEMSS Region II Administrator, serving the EMS communities of Frederick and Washington counties. He is highly committed to and has supported the county governments, hospitals, and Fire and EMS providers throughout Region II. He was part of the implementation, modification, and evaluation of the quality assurance and improvement program, 12-lead program, special response team, emergency medical dispatch system, EMS conferences, and many other programs.

**The EMS-Geriatric Award was presented to EMT-P David R. Snyder (Baltimore County).** Paramedic Snyder has demonstrated commitment, dedication, and perseverance in advancing and enhancing the delivery of prehospital geriatric

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**Maryland EMS Citizen Award.** Thomas R. Mullen (award winner), his wife Wendy, Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., and Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq. (Chair, Maryland EMS Board).



**EMS Provider of the Year Award.** Paramedic Meg Stein, Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., and Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq. (Chair, Maryland EMS Board).



**Outstanding EMS Program Award.** Nelson Figueroa, RN (Director of Emergency Services), Christine Wray (President and CEO), both of St. Mary's Hospital, Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., and Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq. (Chair, Maryland EMS Board).

## Maryland EMS Stars of Life Awards (Con't)

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emergency care on the local and national levels. He is becoming a recognized authority on EMS prehospital care for the elderly. His academic background and experience have led him to become a program developer and co-editor of a geriatric EMS textbook, which has become a component of a comprehensive EMS prehospital training program with the acronym GEMS (or Geriatric Emergency Medical Services). Also on the national level, he is working to obtain dedicated federal funding for EMS geriatric programs. Recently he

was recognized by the Baltimore County Fire Department with a "Distinguished Service" award for his pioneering work in creating a cooperative program with the Baltimore County Departments of Aging and Social Services to address the needs of the elderly when identified by responding EMS units.

**The MIEMSS Director's Excellence in EMS Award was presented to nine agencies from Allegany and Garrett counties for their response to the Interstate-68 crash on May 23, 2003, in Finzel,**

**Maryland. Those recognized included:**

- Allegany County Emergency Operations Center
- Allegany County Fire and Rescue Board
- Garrett County Emergency Operations Center
- City of Cumberland Fire Department
- Frostburg Area Ambulance Service
- Western Maryland Health System
- Eastern Garrett County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department

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**Quality in EMS Award.** Andrew Bluestein, Roland Berg, and Andrew Ballinger, Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., and Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq. (Chair, Maryland EMS Board).



**EMS for Children Award.** Ed and Audrey Thurston, Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., and Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq. (Chair, Maryland EMS Board).



**Leon W. Hayes Award for Excellence in EMS.** Richard Mettetal (recently retired MIEMSS Region II Administrator), Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., and Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq. (Chair, Maryland EMS Board).



**Maryland EMS-Geriatric Award.** Paramedic David R. Snyder, Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., and Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq. (Chair, Maryland EMS Board).

## Maryland EMS Stars of Life Awards (Con't)

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- **Garrett County Fire/Rescue Association**

- **Garrett County EMS Committee**

The following scenario greeted the award recipients who responded to the I-68 crash last May:

Because of fog, visibility was nearly zero on Big Savage Mountain in Finzel in Garrett County around 1:15 PM when five cars were involved in a crash in the eastbound lane of I-68. At 2 PM, as patients were being treated and loaded into ambulances and as vehicles were being moved out of the roadway, motorists in the westbound lane of I-68, slowing to see what was occurring at the wreck site, set off a second chain-reaction crash. Over 12 excruciatingly long minutes, cars and trucks plowed into each other. A tangle of damaged cars, trucks, and tractor-trailers was left in its wake. A 20-mile stretch of I-68 was closed in both directions, from LaVale to Grantsville. The mass collision involved **40 separate collisions and 80 vehicles, and ultimately led to 70 injured patients.** The Maryland EMS System came together, working effectively in one of the most rural areas of the state.

Following the MIEMSS presentation of certificates to children/youth who gave "the right care when it counts," Barbara Beckett, State Coordinator for the Maryland Safe Kids Coalition, recognized two Maryland Safe Kids Coalition members for their tireless childhood injury prevention efforts.

Below are excerpts from her presentation remarks:

"Thanks to the generosity and assistance of First Lady Kendel Ehrlich, who serves as Honorary Chairwoman of the Coalition, we have been able to reach a greater number of Maryland families about methods for decreasing unintentional childhood injuries and deaths. . . .

"One of Mrs. Ehrlich's first experiences with the Coalition came as a result of child safety seat assistance provided by our first awardee. . . .

"On any given day, when she comes home from her paid job, where she assists in safely bringing children into the world as a labor



**MIEMSS Director's Excellence in EMS Award.** The following accepted awards on behalf of their organizations for their lifesaving actions after the I-68 crash: (Left to right): Rod Bowser, Bill Hardy, Nick Wiland, Mark McKenzie, Vince Pyle, Matt Metts, Glenda Baker, Phil Rook, Mike Schinaldecker, Walter Lee, Scott Durst, Richard DeVore, William Herbaugh, Bill Lambertson, Phil Knotts, Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq. (Chair, Maryland EMS Board), Marlene Beard, Jerry Adams, Sherry Troutman, and Dean Bolden.



Deborah Baer (Safe Kids Lifetime Achievement Award), First Lady Kendel S. Ehrlich, Cynthia Wright-Johnson (Maryland Safe Kids Coalition Public Service Award), and Barbara Beckett (State Coordinator for Safe Kids).

and delivery nurse, she puts on her volunteer hat and continues her life-saving efforts by serving as an instructor in the safe transportation of children of all ages.

"Sometimes there are families already waiting in the driveway for

their appointment to learn how to properly install a child safety seat, or at the very least, there are innumerable child passenger safety questions or calls for appointments on her answering machine.

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"She has served as a charter member of the Maryland Safe Kids Coalition and also is world-renowned and respected for her expertise in child passenger safety.

"It gives me great pleasure to ask **Deborah Baer** to join First Lady Kendel Ehrlich to accept this well-deserved **Maryland Safe Kids Coalition Lifetime Achievement Award**.

"Our next awardee has taken the term 'public service' to a whole new level. Her leadership, enthusiasm, and commitment to injury prevention have served as a model for other Maryland Safe Kids Coalition members to follow.

"As an example of her numerous contributions, thanks to her persistence and grant-writing expertise, Maryland has received the benefits of the Risk Watch® Program, which is an injury prevention curriculum for grades K-8. . . .

"In addition to her administrative duties as a career specialist in injury prevention, she also devotes untold hours to providing hands-on, community-based outreach as a Coalition volunteer.

"It is my pleasure to ask **Cynthia Wright-Johnson** to join First Lady Kendel Ehrlich to receive this well-deserved **Maryland Safe Kids Coalition Public Service Award**."

## Conference Changes

Two changes have been made to the Schedule and Registration form for the Topics in Trauma Conference (sponsored by Peninsula Regional Medical Center and its Division of Trauma) that appeared in the May issue of the *Maryland EMS News*.

Break-out Session "A" at 1:30 on Friday, September 17 is now "Management of the Morbidly Obese Patient" by Eric C. Nager, MD.

In addition, Carousel Hotel registration for accommodations closes August 16 (not the 20th).

For additional information or in the event of severe weather-related conditions, please call Lisa Hohl, Peninsula Regional Medical Center, at 410-543-7328.

## Celebrating EMS Week: May 16-22



*The Ridge Volunteer Rescue Squad sponsored a 5K Run/Walk Fundraiser.*

Below is a sampling of EMS activities across the state:

- The Ridge Volunteer Rescue Squad kicked off EMS Week with a 5K Run/Walk Fundraiser. A health fair and ambulance demonstrations were held in conjunction with the fundraiser.
- Throughout EMS Week, members of the Leonardtown Volunteer Rescue Squad (LVRS) went to St. Mary's County schools to demonstrate to students and teachers how equipment and materials in the ambulance are used. On May 22, LVRS members and auxiliary went to Leonardtown Shopping Center to host an EMS Awareness Day. They were joined by the Leonardtown Vol. Fire Department, St. Mary's County Sheriff's Department, Children's Hospital, Health Connections, and St. Mary's County ALS Unit. Activities during the day included motor vehicle extrications, blood pressure screenings, and ambulance tours, as well as free gifts and raffles.
- Upper Chesapeake Health System placed an ad in local newspapers saluting the prehospital EMS providers who "provide day-to-day lifesaving services of the medical 'front line.'"
- The Lexington Park Volunteer Rescue Squad celebrated EMS Week on May 22 by holding an open house, giving blood pressure screenings, doing CPR demonstrations, and having various displays.
- George's Creek Ambulance Service in Lonaconing had an open house/spring fling on May 22. Their new ambulance was on display, while indoors blood pressure screenings were conducted and health brochures, membership applications, and subscriptions were available.
- On May 22, Southern Garrett County Rescue Squad held an "EMS Day in the Park." Special activities were scheduled for the children to make them aware of EMS providers and their services. Ambulances, fire trucks, and police cars were displayed. In addition, safety seat checks were conducted as well as blood pressure screenings.
- The Shore Health System of Maryland placed an ad in local newspapers thanking the rescue and fire personnel, medical professionals and volunteers who stand ready to serve the community every day. The ad's headline read: "First on the scene. First in our hearts."

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Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.

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## DATED MATERIAL

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- The Princess Anne Fire Department held an Open House on May 22 which featured firefighters and EMS personnel talking about their jobs and giving safety tips.
- The Open House held by the Fire/EMS Division of the Ocean City Department of Emergency Services on May 16 featured displays, blood pressure checks, dive equipment, paramedic rescue units, and the mass casualty unit.
- The Community Fire Company of Rising Sun, Inc., held its annual EMS Day on May 22. Events included med-evac helicopter demonstrations, child safety seat inspections and installations, blood pressure and cholesterol checks by Upper Chesapeake Healthlink, visits by Dora the Explorer and Trauma Roo (the American Trauma Society mascot), and activities with the Cecil County Department of Emergency Services.



Members of the Leonardtown Volunteer Rescue Squad "pop" the door during an auto extrication demonstration.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### *EMS Educational Opportunities*

**September 17**

#### *PRMC "Topics in Trauma" 14th Annual Trauma Conference*

Carousel Resort Hotel, Ocean City  
Contact: Lisa Hohl, RN, Trauma Nurse Coordinator, PRMC, 410-543-7328

**September 28**

#### *Mid-Atlantic Lifesafety Conference*

Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab, Laurel  
Contact: Fire Marshal's Office, 1-800-525-3124

**October 22-24**

#### *Pyramid 2004*

Solomon's Island  
Contact: MIEMSS Region V Office, 301-474-1485 or toll-free at 1-877-498-5551