

MIEMSS' Annual Awards Ceremony Held to Honor Maryland Youth, EMS Providers, and Citizens

In a two-part ceremony on May 21, 2013, MIEMSS honored children from across Maryland and presented its annual Stars of Life Awards to honor EMS personnel, programs, and citizens. Children whose actions ensured that people in Maryland receive "The Right Care When It Counts" received awards during the first part of the ceremony. The second half of the event recognized Annual "Stars of Life," individuals and groups nominated and selected by a statewide review committee for distinguished EMS service. Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley provided two Proclamations, one recognizing EMS Week, May 19 – 25, and a second naming May 22, 2013, as EMS for Children Day.

MIEMSS honored seven Maryland youths with Right Care When It Counts awards, including two young women who received Right Care When It Counts Champion Awards for their role in injury prevention. The Right Care When It Counts program recognizes children and youths that took action to provide a life-saving service to someone in their community. **Lucas Custer (Harford County), Thomas Callahan Glace (Cecil County), Nathan Haupt (Baltimore City), Clay Wargo (Calvert County), and Taji Lee (Prince George's County)** received this award. **Morgan Alder and Natalie Wilson (both of Carroll County)** each received a Right Care When It Counts Champion Award.

Nathan Haupt was presented an award for quick thinking that saved his sister from serious injury. Last July, Nathan and his family were camping when his sister Natalie's shirt suddenly caught fire. Having remembered what to do in this situation, Nathan, then 10 years old, instructed Natalie to "stop, drop, and roll." Fortunately, Natalie has

healed well from her burns, but the outcome could have been very different if Nathan had not reacted as quickly as he did.

Clay Wargo, 10 years old, received an award for his actions that saved a classmate from choking. On February 7, 2012, one of Clay's classmates at Huntingtown Elementary School began to choke during lunch. Clay saw that his friend was grabbing his neck, was unable to speak, and had started to turn red. He remembered being told by his firefighter father how to recognize when a person is choking and how to administer aid. He slapped his friend on the back and successfully dislodged a piece of food. His friend has made a full recovery and Clay has been called a hero by his classmates and school officials.

Lucas Custer, age 11, and Thomas Callahan Glace, also age 11, each received a Right Care When It Counts award for contacting 9-1-1

(Continued on page 2)



Lucas Custer, age 11, was presented with a Right Care When It Counts Award, which he received at his school during morning announcements. From left to right, he was joined by Rhonda Polk, Public Safety Dispatcher III/911 Public Educator; Lisa Chervon, MIEMSS Region III Administrator; and Ross Coates, Harford County Department of Emergency Services. Lucas also received a Gold 9-1-1 award for his heroic efforts.



Right Care When It Counts awardee Nathan Haupt, 11 years old, is pictured center. Joining Nathan is Dr. Robert R. Bass, MIEMSS Executive Director, left; Cynthia Wright Johnson, MIEMSS EMS for Children Director, center left; Katie Manger, Johns Hopkins Pediatric Burn Center, center right; and Dr. Allen R. Walker, Associate State EMS Medical Director for Pediatrics, right.

MIEMSS Presents 2013 Statewide Awards

(Continued from page 1)
when faced with an emergency at home. On December 13, 2012, Lucas called 9-1-1 to report that his mother was unconscious. Lucas remained on the phone for approximately nine minutes, stayed with his mother, followed all the dispatcher's instructions, and was very calm throughout the ordeal. EMS arrived and transported Lucas's mother to a nearby hospital for treatment for a seizure. Lucas was unable to attend the May 21 ceremony, but was presented with his award at a special ceremony on June 5.

On April 26, 2012, Thomas Callahan Glace's father suffered a serious injury to his eye. A resident in the home called 9-1-1 and 10-year-old Thomas, known to his friends and family as Cal, picked up the phone to talk with the dispatcher. Cal remained calm on the phone and provided the dispatcher with all the necessary information to determine what resources to send. He also communicated instructions from the dispatcher to his injured father while waiting for EMS. Although Cal was unable to accept his award in person, Cynthia Wright-Johnson, Director

of Emergency Medical Services for Children at MIEMSS, accepted on his behalf.

Also receiving a Right Care When It Counts award was Taji Lee, who was unable to be present to receive his award. Accepting for Taji was Teresa Ann Crisman from the Prince George's County Fire Department. On November 29, 2012, 13-year-old Taji Lee observed a fire on the second floor of his home. He grabbed a fire extinguisher to try to put it out, but the fire was too heavy. Realizing the danger, Taji warned his mother and sister to

(Continued on page 3)



Thomas Callahan Glace (not pictured), age 11, was awarded a Right Care When It Counts certificate, but was unable to attend the ceremony. Accepting on his behalf was Cynthia Wright Johnson, MIEMSS EMS for Children Director, center. Dr. Robert R. Bass, MIEMSS Executive Director is pictured left, and Dr. Allen R. Walker, Associate State EMS Medical Director for Pediatrics, is pictured right.



Morgan Alder, center left, and Natalie Wilson, center right, were presented with Right Care When It Counts Champion Awards for their work in fire safety and injury prevention. Joining them from left to right are Dr. Robert R. Bass, MIEMSS Executive Director; Cynthia Wright Johnson, MIEMSS EMS for Children Director; Debbi Gartrell-Kemp, Winfield Community Volunteer Fire Department; and Dr. Allen R. Walker, Associate State EMS Medical Director for Pediatrics.



Clay Trego, center, was awarded a Right Care When It Counts certificate for saving a friend from choking. Pictured from left to right are Dr. Robert R. Bass, MIEMSS Executive Director; Teresa Ann Crisman, Prince George's County Fire and EMS Department; Cynthia Wright Johnson, MIEMSS EMS for Children Director; and Dr. Allen R. Walker, Associate State EMS Medical Director for Pediatrics.



Taji Lee (not pictured), was awarded a Right Care When It Counts certificate, but could not attend the ceremony on May 21, 2013. Accepting the award on his behalf was Teresa Ann Crisman, Prince George's County Fire and EMS Department, center left. Also pictured, from left to right, are Dr. Robert R. Bass, MIEMSS Executive Director; Cynthia Wright Johnson, MIEMSS EMS for Children Director; and Dr. Allen R. Walker, Associate State EMS Medical Director for Pediatrics.

MIEMSS Presents 2013 Statewide Awards

(Continued from page 2)

leave the house. His mother, who suffers from a condition that makes mobility difficult, was reluctant to leave, but Taji carried her out of the house over his shoulder “firefighter style.” Although she tried to return to the house, Taji carried her out a second time, and locked the door so she could not get back in. Once his family was safe, Taji ran to a neighbor’s house to call 9-1-1. His home was severely damaged, but no one was injured in the fire.

This year, two young women who demonstrated a commitment to fire safety and injury prevention each received a Right Care When It Counts Champion award. In 2012, Morgan Alder, age 14, was named Maryland Fire Chief’s Junior Miss Fire Prevention. During the competition, Morgan made a presentation on visual smoke alarms for the hearing impaired. Morgan has held various Miss Fire Prevention titles, and has made significant contributions to fire prevention in her community. She has participated in meetings, fundraisers, parades, the National Night Out event, the Maryland State Firemen’s Association Convention, and has volunteered her time to help install and change smoke alarm batter-

ies in her neighborhood through Winfield Community Volunteer Fire Department’s (WCVFD’s) Free Smoke Alarm Program.

In 2011, Natalie Wilson, age 13, competed for the title of Junior Miss Winfield Fire Prevention and made an impressive presentation on the dangers of novelty lighters. She even wrote a memo for parents and caregivers about novelty lighters with tips for preventing fires caused by these dangerous items and urging a ban on their sale in Carroll County. She continued to discuss this topic for a variety of audiences in 2012, when she was also crowned the Maryland State Firemen’s Association’s Junior Miss Fire Prevention for the North Central Region. During her tenure, she assisted in teaching fire prevention in local schools and during WCVFD’s Open House and staffed a fire prevention information table at a “World Thinking Day” event.

For the next part of the ceremony, the 2013 Stars of Life Awards were presented. First, **Maryland Star of Life Awards**, awarded to individual(s) or teams for an outstanding rescue, were presented to two well-deserving teams. The first award went to the Dorchester County Department of Emergency Services

Communications and EMS Division.

The following individuals each received a Star of Life Award:

Brian Stevanus, EMD

Nick Kovach, EMD

Cindy Coker, EMD

Bonnie Phillips, Communications Supervisor

Kim Browning, Division Chief of Communications

Eddie Dean, CRT-99/Firefighter

Greg Harrison, Paramedic/Firefighter

Matt Meekins, EMT/Firefighter

Bridgett Adshead, Paramedic

Robert Davis, EMT

Debbie Wheedleton, Paramedic/Firefighter

Shawn Starkey, EMT/Firefighter

Charles Layfield, EMT/Firefighter

Anne Harris, Paramedic

Wayne Sides, CRT-99

Noah Lyden, Paramedic

Tanya Darling, CRT-99

Thomas Oliver, EMT

Around 11:00 pm on the night of December 16, 2012, the Dorchester County 9-1-1 center received a number of calls regarding an apartment fire on Race Street in Cambridge, Maryland. Callers indicated that several people were trapped on upper floors of the building. Cambridge Rescue Fire Truck was alerted, as were two Dorchester County EMS units.

Cambridge City Police arrived on the scene and confirmed reports that individuals were jumping from the second and third floors and others were trapped and hanging from windows with heavy fire present. A short time later EMS arrived pulling directly up to the front of the complex, which was heavily involved with fire. Without hesitation, these providers climbed on top of their ambulances and assisted bystanders with removing trapped victims. Cambridge Rescue Fire Company also arrived to assist with rescues and control the highly destructive fire.

Many patients suffered burns and serious traumatic injuries along with smoke inhalation. Once the rescues were completed, EMS went into mass casualty incident mode. Medic Eddie Dean established medical branch and requested multiple units to assist. Triage and treatment sections were set up and all hands worked to treat the injured patients and prepare them for transport. Several patients were transported to Easton Memorial, Dorchester General, and Peninsula Regional Medical Center. Once patient care was under control,

(Continued on page 4)



Maryland Stars of Life Award

Dorchester County Department of Emergency Services Communications and EMS Division were awarded a Star of Life Award for their response to a fire with multiple patients. In the back row, pictured left to right, are Dr. Robert R. Bass, MIEMSS Executive Director; Paramedic Noah Lyden; Paramedic/Firefighter Debbie Wheedleton; EMT Robert Davis; Paramedic Bridgett Adshead; Paramedic/Firefighter Gregory Harrison; EMD Brian Stevanus; EMD Nick Kovach; EMD Cindy Coker; and CRT-99 Tanya Darling. In the front row are, from left to right, CRT-99 Wayne Sides, EMT Thomas Oliver, EMT/Firefighter Charles Layfield, EMT/Firefighter Matthew Meekins, CRT-99/Firefighter Eddie Dean, and EMT/Firefighter Shawn Starkey. For a full list of awardees, see “MIEMSS’ Annual Awards Ceremony Held to Honor Maryland Youth, EMS Providers, and Citizens.”

MIEMSS Presents 2013 Statewide Awards

(Continued from page 3)

rehab for the firefighters was established and implemented.

From the time of the first phone call to 9-1-1 until the last piece of apparatus cleared the incident, the “systems approach,” emblematic of Maryland’s emergency medical services system, was prevalent. There is no doubt that the heroic rescues made by the Cambridge Police Department and by the crews of Dorchester County Department of Emergency Services reduced injuries and prevented fatalities.

A second **Maryland Star of Life Award** was presented to responders from St. Mary’s County and the crew of Maryland State Police Aviation Command Trooper 7. Each of the following individuals received this award:

Heather Jacobs, EMT
Lori Marsh, EMT
Courtney Wathen, EMT
Cpl. Tabitha Mattingly
Pilot Michael Gartland
Joe Held, Paramedic
Marie Kurtz, EMT-IVT
Jim Kurtz
John Raley, EMR/Firefighter
Markie Trowbridge,
Paramedic/Firefighter
Ben Woodill, CRT-99/Firefighter
Ryan Raley, EMT/Firefighter
Kenny Dickerson, EMR/Firefighter
Keith Hemming, EMT/Firefighter
Reid Colomo, EMT/Firefighter
Ronnie Cox, EMR/Firefighter
Patrick Doering, EMT/Firefighter
Antwan Thomas, EMT/Firefighter
Troy Cook, EMT/Firefighter
Will Jones, EMT/Firefighter
Paul Lenharr, Paramedic
Brian Flanyak, Paramedic

On the night of June 29, 2012, one of the most devastating storms to roll through the United States hit the Mid-Atlantic. The deadly *derecho* storm had Maryland’s emergency medical services providers scrambling from one call to another throughout the night. The storm was just settling down when a call for a motor vehicle crash came in at 06:45 on June 30. Fire and EMS crews arrived on the scene at Three Notch Road and Point Lookout Road at 06:51.

On the scene, there was no clear evidence that a crash had taken place. However, a witness to the incident, who was—remark-



Maryland Stars of Life Award

Providers from St. Mary’s County received a Maryland Star of Life Award for remarkable rescue efforts following a motor vehicle crash. Pictured back row, from left to right, are Dr. Robert R. Bass, MIEMSS Executive Director; EMT Heather Jacobs; EMT Courtney Wathen; Paramedic Joe Held; Jim Kurtz; Pilot Michael Gartland; EMT/Firefighter Will Jones; and EMT/Firefighter Troy Cook. Picture front row, from left to right, are EMT/Firefighter Reid Colomo, EMT Lori Marsh, Cpl. Tabitha Mattingly, EMT-IVT Marie Kurtz, and Paramedic Brian Flanyak. For a full list of awardees, see “MIEMSS’ Annual Awards Ceremony Held to Honor Maryland Youth, EMS Providers, and Citizens.”

ably—an administrative member of the Mechanicsville Volunteer Rescue Squad (MVRS), reported that a truck had overturned the guardrail. The rescue team could barely see the vehicle down the steep embankment; it was hidden by dense brush and trees. Two members from MVRS and two firefighters began to descend the nearly 90° vertical embankment about 50 feet until they were able to locate the vehicle. The top of the cab had been crushed against two trees, which, by sheer chance, had also stopped the truck from rolling into a three-foot deep creek.

The roof of the truck had been crushed so badly that a few inches of space was all the ambulance crew had to assess the patient, who was unresponsive and exhibiting agonal respirations. Firefighters on the scene went about extricating the patient from the car, which took only six minutes. Once free from the crushed vehicle, the patient was long-boarded and pulled to street level using a basket. The providers pulled themselves back up the 50-foot ravine to street level to continue patient care.

The unrestrained driver was suffering a head injury, flail chest, and bilateral arm fractures. Shortly after being lifted from the embankment, the patient was flown by Maryland State Police Trooper 7 to the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center with life-threatening injuries.

Despite having responded to numerous calls throughout the previous night and early morning because of the *derecho*, these teams raced to the call, organized a risky rescue, and did not hesitate to put themselves in danger to help save this patient.

Two individuals from Sherwood High School, **Jennifer Jones, School Nurse**, and **Patrick Rooney, Security Team Leader**, were recipients of this year’s **Maryland EMS Citizen Award**. On Thursday, June 7, 2012, Sherwood High School students were boarding their buses when a student with a known cardiac condition and an implanted defibrillator suffered cardiac arrest. Without hesitation, the high school staff jumped into action to save this young man.

Having known of his condition, school nurse Jennifer Jones had been a key participant in this student’s out-of-hospital care. Ms. Jones always kept an automated external defibrillator (AED) nearby in the event he had a significant problem.

On the day of this incident, while the student’s implant device should have returned his heart rhythm to normal, it had failed and he had become pulseless. Together with Patrick Rooney and other staff members, Ms. Jones began CPR and utilized the AED, which advised to shock. The student received eight shocks from the AED and CPR was continued until medics arrived.

(Continued on page 5)

MIEMSS Presents 2013 Statewide Awards

(Continued from page 4)

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue (MCFR) Medic 704 and Paramedic Engine 704, with members Captain Greg Ruff, Firefighter Jeff Thomas, Firefighter John Laque, Master Firefighter Tony Mora, and Paramedic/Firefighter Jessica Moncada, arrived on the scene and continued care. The patient remained without a pulse, but CPR continued. Intubation and IV access were difficult to obtain, but MCFR personnel provided exemplary care and transported him quickly to MedStar Montgomery Medical Center. Although it took quite some time to get him stabilized, the medical team at MedStar was able to return his heart rhythm to normal. Because of the remarkable care provided by the staff at Sherwood High School and MCFR, in addition to the advanced care at the hospital, the patient awoke, began breathing on his own, and eventually was able to be taken off all supportive medications and devices.

Two awardees were selected to receive the **MIEMSS Director's Award for Excellence in EMS**. First, four members of the Ocean City Beach Patrol, **Sgt. James McVey, IV, Crew Chief Jacob Ritter, Assistant Crew Chief Joseph Keefe**, and **Surf Beach Facilitator Diana Theobald**, received this award for responding to a medical emergency following a surfing competition.

On July 23, 2013, the last heat in a surfing competition in Ocean City, Maryland, had just ended when one of the competitors began to complain of feeling unwell. As he stood on the judge's platform, he suddenly collapsed, and became unconscious and pulseless. As a crowd began to gather, Diana Theobald, the Surf Beach Facilitator, immediately took charge of the situation and helped clear the stage for Ocean City Beach Patrol EMS to access the patient. Crew Chief Jacob Ritter and Assistant Crew Chief Joseph Keefe arrived to care for the patient and did an excellent job in assessing the scene, notifying appropriate personnel, and retrieving equipment. Sgt. James McVey responded to the scene by ATV and immediately deployed his AED. The AED advised to shock, which Sgt. McVey delivered. The patient regained a pulse, but required rescue breathing until EMS arrived. The professionalism and swift actions of these team members undoubtedly helped save this patient's life.

The second **MIEMSS Director's Award for Excellence in EMS** was awarded post-



Maryland EMS Citizen Award

Jennifer Jones, RN, left center, and Patrick Rooney, Security Team Leader, right center, hold their certificates for the Maryland EMS Citizen Award. Kiersten Henry, CRNP, front row, far right, nominated the team for this award. From left to right in the back row are Dr. Robert R. Bass, MIEMSS Executive Director and members of Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Paramedic Engine 704 and Engine 704: Firefighter Jeff Thomas, Master Firefighter Tony Mora, Paramedic/Firefighter Jessica Moncada, Firefighter John Laque, and Captain Greg Ruff.



Director's Award for Excellence in EMS

Members of the Ocean City Beach Patrol received the MIEMSS Director's Award for Excellence in EMS. Pictured, from left to right, are Dr. Robert R. Bass, MIEMSS Executive Director; Sgt. James McVey, IV; Assistant Crew Chief Joseph Keefe; Crew Chief Jacob Ritter; and Surf Beach Facilitator Diana Theobald.

humously to **NREMT-P Brigitte E. Heller**, a leader in EMS for more than 30 years who dedicated her life to saving others and promoting emergency medical services throughout Washington County and Maryland. She made it her mission to bring the best EMS care to her community, including bringing quality advanced life support (ALS) to her hometown of Boonsboro, Maryland.

Paramedic Heller worked in several Washington County departments, including serving as a charter member and past chief of Boonsboro EMS, Boonsboro Fire Department, and the Volunteer Fire Company of Halfway. She also gave generously of her time to serve on the Statewide Jurisdictional Advisory Council, as a member of the Maryland

(Continued on page 6)

MIEMSS Presents 2013 Statewide Awards

(Continued from page 5)

Voluntary Ambulance Inspection Program project, on the Maryland Critical Incident Stress Management Team, and as the Region II Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council Secretary, Vice President, and President. When the eMEDS electronic data collection program was introduced in Washington County, she was instrumental in its adoption.

Along with her service on various statewide committees and programs, Paramedic Heller assisted with many statewide and jurisdictional EMS drills as an evaluator and as a member of the MIEMSS moulage team.

Educating EMS providers was an important part of Paramedic Heller's life. As a Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute instructor, she conveyed her vast knowledge of EMS care to countless students and served as the coordinator for the ALS training academy for Washington County.

Whether providing care "on the ground" or volunteering her time to make the delivery of EMS better statewide, Paramedic Heller exemplified Maryland's very best in emergency services. Although she passed away in June 2012, MIEMSS is proud to honor her memory with this award recognizing her life of service to others. Accepting on Paramedic Heller's behalf were members of her family, Terry Doyle, Brittany Heller, and Crystal Krocker. Kevin Lewis, Director of Washington County Division of Emergency Services, was also present to acknowledge this award on behalf of Paramedic Heller.

Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services was this year's recipient of the **Outstanding EMS Program Award**. Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services (HCDFRS) was recognized for two notable achievements in 2012. First, HCDFRS was selected as the 2012 Heart Safe Community of the Year for implementing a prehospital EMS procedure to improve cardiac arrest resuscitation and survival.

HCDFRS also received this award for its partnership with Howard County General Hospital (HCGH) to develop and implement a S-T Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) program that is a model for other fire and rescue departments throughout Maryland. The program is comprised of annual education and recertification for ALS providers on STEMI physiology, recognition, and treatment; a procedure for activating a STEMI alert from the field; and feedback packet provided to HCDFRS from HCGH for training and improvement purposes. This program has successfully resulted in reduced "door-to-balloon" times



Director's Award for Excellence in EMS

Friends and members of Brigitte Heller's family attended the awards ceremony to accept the MIEMSS Director's Award for Excellence in EMS on her behalf. Pictured are, left to right, Dr. Robert R. Bass, MIEMSS Executive Director; Terry Doyle; Brittany Heller; Crystal Krocker; and Kevin Lewis, Director of Washington County Division of Emergency Services.



Outstanding EMS Program Award

The Outstanding EMS Program Award went to Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services. Pictured from left to right are Dr. Robert R. Bass, MIEMSS Executive Director; Deputy Chief/Paramedic John Butler; Matthew Levy, Associate Medical Director; Robin Wessels, Howard County General Hospital Emergency Department Nurse Manager; Master Firefighter/Paramedic Andrew Kim; Captain/Paramedic Michael Stoner; Executive Battalion Chief of EMS/Paramedic James Brothers; and Firefighter/Paramedic Sarah Gajewski.

and increased chances of patient survival for STEMI patients treated in Howard County.

Next, the **EMD Provider of the Year Awards** were presented to two well-deserving recipients. **EMD/EMT Crystal Klinedinst** was selected to receive this award for her role in providing life-saving instructions to a 9-1-1 caller. At about 5:30 on the morning of December 1, 2012, EMD Klinedinst took a desperate phone call from a woman who reported that her husband was unresponsive. The 53-year old patient, as EMD Klinedinst

discerned over the phone, was experiencing agonal respirations. She immediately directed the patient's wife to start giving CPR. Although the patient's wife was frantic with worry, EMD Klinedinst remained calm and successfully talked her through the procedure. The patient's wife continued CPR for about seven minutes. Remarkably, her husband began breathing again on his own prior to the arrival of EMS. EMD Klinedinst's ability to recognize signs that the patient required CPR,

(Continued on page 7)

MIEMSS Presents 2013 Statewide Awards

(Continued from page 6)

as well as her calm and professional demeanor, was critical to this patient's survival.

Also receiving an **EMD Provider of the Year Award** was the **Caroline County Emergency Services Communications Division**. On December 3, 2012, Caroline County Emergency Services received a 9-1-1 call reporting a man had been electrocuted at a work site. A dispatcher in call-taking training immediately obtained the location and made sure the scene was secure. A second dispatcher began to provide CPR instructions to the caller. With the assistance of other bystanders, the caller provided CPR until medical assistance arrived. Back at Caroline County's call center, the Shift Supervisor on duty dispatched a Fire and EMS response as soon as he determined that the patient was suffering a cardiac event and the Police Dispatcher started the closest Caroline County Sheriff's Office unit to provide assistance with the AED.

EMS units from Caroline and Talbot Counties, along with Preston Volunteer Fire Company responded to the incident scene. EMS took over CPR, attached an AED to the patient, and determined that a shock was advised. Although the patient was provided ventilation support, he remained pulseless until the second AED shock was administered. As he regained a pulse and began breathing on his own, an ambulance crew arrived. The patient was packaged and transported to Easton Memorial Hospital. During transport, the patient was cared for by Preston Volunteer Fire Company EMS personnel and was eventually able to converse with the crew.

The dispatch crew of Cody Bennett, Mary Berneski, Tyler Williams, and Shawn Starkey did an exemplary job in obtaining the pertinent location, providing CPR instructions to the workers on scene, and sending the most appropriate response vehicles to the patient. This team demonstrated remarkable skill and knowledge, greatly improving the chances that this patient would survive.

Sgt. Scott Wheatley was this year's recipient of the **EMS Provider of the Year Award**. Sgt. Wheatley is a full-time Paramedic and EMS Supervisor with Queen Anne's County Emergency Medical Services Division. Sgt. Wheatley is also the Quality Assurance Coordinator (and a part-time Paramedic) for Dorchester County Emergency Medical Services. Often found in the classroom, Sgt. Wheatley spends much of his time teaching others the skills necessary to succeed in EMS on topics from medicine to leadership. He is often sought out to teach across the State of

Maryland. Sgt. Wheatley is truly a leader and we applaud his demonstrated dedication to emergency medical services.

The **Maryland EMS for Children Award** was presented to **Debbie Gartrell-Kemp** of the Winfield Community Volunteer Fire Department. Ms. Gartrell-Kemp has an outstanding record of involvement in fire prevention, fire safety, and education at the Winfield Community Volunteer Fire Department

and in the community, Carroll County, and across Maryland. Her list of accomplishments is substantial. Beyond her duties as Vice President of the Winfield Fire Department in 2012, she is a certified Fire Safety Educator III, arranges day care and school visits to the fire department for children during fire prevention week, assists boy and girl scouts in obtaining their fire safety badges, arranges

(Continued on page 8)



EMD of the Year Award

The Caroline County Emergency Services Communications Division was awarded EMD of the Year. Pictured from left to right are Dr. Robert R. Bass, MIEMSS Executive Director; Stephen T. Hurlock; Shawn Starkey; Mary Berneski; and Cody Bennett.



EMD Provider of the Year Award

EMD Provider of the year, Crystal Klinedinst, right, was presented with her award by Dr. Robert R. Bass, MIEMSS Executive Director.



EMS Provider of the Year Award

Sgt. Scott Wheatley, pictured right, of the Queen Anne's County Emergency Medical Services Division was presented the EMS Provider of the Year Award. He is joined by Dr. Robert R. Bass, MIEMSS Executive Director.

MIEMSS Presents 2013 Statewide Awards

(Continued from page 7)

Junior Firefighter birthday parties, is a child passenger safety technician, and is involved with the Safe Kids organization at Winfield Elementary School. She also initiated a poster contest and awards ceremony for elementary school children in the community.

Ms. Gartrell-Kemp has also been involved in helping fundraise and obtain grants for the fire department, maintaining the fire department website, and writing articles for local newspapers. She organized a large fire safety open house for the community and

headed a Hurricane Sandy relief clothing and food drive. Her commitment to fire prevention and life safety is remarkable, as is her enthusiasm and dedication to her community, especially its children.

Presented next was the **Maryland EMS for Geriatrics Award**, which went to **Oak Crest Emergency Medical Services**, located in Parkville, Maryland. Oak Crest Emergency Medical Services has succeeded in providing high quality patient care coupled with effective institutional policies, community outreach programs, and a variety of training opportunities for its 2,400 long-term residents and 1,300 staff members.

The facility's emergency dispatch center is able to quickly provide complete medical records to emergency services providers and the on-site medical facility works closely with Oak Crest Emergency Medical Services to ensure rapid access to its residents' physicians. The facility also provides outreach programs including community blood pressure checks, training in the proper use

of mobility devices, fall prevention, and emergency preparedness. Oak Crest Emergency Medical Services also provides free training to its entire staff in basic first aid to maintain the safety and well-being of its residents.

Oak Crest Emergency Medical Services has demonstrated a strong commitment to the safety and health of Maryland's geriatric population.

The **Leon W. Hayes Award for Excellence in EMS**, given for a lifetime achievement, was presented to Mr. J. Brad Frantz, who provided 38 years of service to the citizens of Garrett County as the Director of the Department of Emergency Management. Mr. Frantz started his career in EMS as a dispatcher—before the 9-1-1 system was implemented in Garrett County—and eventually became the assistant director of one of the first 9-1-1 call centers. He soon took over the position of Director of Emergency Management, overseeing emergency services dispatch throughout the county and the construction of a new call center.

Throughout his tenure, Mr. Frantz sought out and acquired much-needed resources to help emergency services keep the citizens of Garrett County safe. He coordinated disaster drills and training for providers and served on MIEMSS Region I Council for many years.

Most recently, Mr. Frantz helped establish Emergency Services clubs in two local high schools to promote youth interest in emergency medical services and firefighting.

(Continued on page 9)



EMS for Children Award

For her work in fire prevention and life safety for children, Debbie Gartrell-Kemp, center, was presented with the EMS for Children Award. Also pictured, from left to right, are Dr. Robert R. Bass, MIEMSS Executive Director; Fire Chief Zach Schneider, Winfield Community Volunteer Fire Department; Cynthia Wright Johnson, MIEMSS EMS for Children Director; and Dr. Allen R. Walker, Associate State EMS Medical Director for Pediatrics.



EMS for Geriatrics Award

Dr. Robert R. Bass, MIEMSS Executive Director, left, presented the EMS for Geriatrics Award to Oak Crest Emergency Medical Services, represented by Scott Spangler, center, and Eric Trautman, right.



Leon W. Hayes Award for Excellence in EMS

The winner of the Leon W. Hayes Award for Excellence in EMS was J. Brad Frantz, pictured center, of Garrett County. Also pictured, from left to right, are Dr. Robert R. Bass, MIEMSS Executive Director; J.T. Collins, Southern High Emergency Services Club; Katie Dignan, Northern High Emergency Services Club; and Phil Rook.

Understanding Legal Implications of Photo Sharing on Social Media

A Primer for EMS Providers

So that providers better understand the legal implications of violating laws or policies related to sharing images on social media, MIEMSS is providing this information concerning the use of pictures of patients, scenes from medical emergencies, medical records, or other images related to the practice of emergency medical services (EMS) by EMS providers.

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) establishes the federal standards for privacy of health information and addresses photographs and other patient imagery. Generally, HIPAA applies to health care providers who transmit health information in electronic form in connection with billing. Under HIPAA, health information that identifies an individual is protected from unauthorized disclosure. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 160.103 defines such information as follows:

Individually identifiable health information is information that is a subset of health information, including demographic information collected from an individual, and:

- (1) is created or received by a health care provider, health plan, employer, or health care clearinghouse; and

- (2) relates to the past, present, or future physical or mental health or condition of an individual; the provision of health care to an individual; or the past, present, or future payment for the provision of health care to an individual; and
 - (i) that identifies the individual; or
 - (ii) with respect to which there is a reasonable basis to believe the information can be used to identify the individual.

This definition includes photographs of patients taken by EMS providers if the patient can be identified, whether directly or indirectly. Health information that neither identifies nor provides a reasonable basis to identify an individual can be shared.

Under HIPAA, information related to a patient's medical condition is deemed to identify the patient if it contains any of the following identifiers of the individual or of relatives, employers, or household members of the individual:

- (A) Names
- (B) All geographic subdivisions smaller than a state, including street address, city, county, precinct, zip code, and their equivalent geocodes, except for the initial three digits of a zip code if, according to the current publicly available data from the Bureau of the Census:
 - (1) the geographic unit formed by combining all zip codes with the same three initial digits contains more than 20,000 people; and
 - (2) the initial three digits of a zip code for all such geographic units containing 20,000 or fewer people is changed to 000.
- (C) All elements of dates (except year) for dates directly related to an individual, including birth date, admission date, discharge date, date of death, and all ages over 89 and all elements of dates (including year) indicative of such age, except that such ages and elements may be aggregated into a single category of age 90 or older
- (D) Telephone numbers
- (E) Fax numbers

- (F) Electronic mail addresses
- (G) Social security numbers
- (H) Medical record numbers
- (I) Health plan beneficiary numbers
- (J) Account numbers
- (K) Certificate/license numbers
- (L) Vehicle identifiers and serial numbers, including license plate numbers
- (M) Device identifiers and serial numbers
- (N) Web Universal Resource Locators (URLs)
- (O) Internet Protocol (IP) address numbers
- (P) Biometric identifiers, including finger and voice prints
- (Q) Full face photographic images and any comparable images
- (R) Any other unique identifying number, characteristic, or code, except as permitted by paragraph (C) of this section
- (S) Any other information that you know could be used alone or in combination with other information to identify an individual who is a subject of the information

This broad definition includes a photograph that shows a patient's physical features or tattoos or a license plate belonging to the patient or patient's family. Similarly, a photograph of a medical record, such as EKG or a unique injury or treatment, could also be linked to a specific patient. If an image both identifies the patient as defined above and includes information about the patient's physical or mental health or the provision of health care to that individual, it could be considered individually identifiable health information under HIPAA. Accordingly, distributing such a photograph, whether via electronic mail or messaging, by posting it on social media site, or through any other media, may be an unauthorized disclosure of protected health information and violate HIPAA. The following penalties for violating HIPAA may apply: 42USC1320d-5(a)(1): General penalty for failure to comply with requirements and standards.

Except as provided in subsection (b), the Secretary shall impose on any person who violates a provision of this part a penalty of not more

(Continued on page 10)

MIEMSS Presents 2013 Statewide Awards

(Continued from page 8)

As a direct result of these efforts, many of the club members have volunteered to serve at local fire/EMS departments and others have continued to pursue careers in other aspects of health care. Mr. Frantz helped acquire funds for scholarships to assist two local high school students continue their education in the health care field.

Mr. Frantz oversaw many positive changes in emergency services and management over his distinguished career and we are honored to recognize his many years of service to the citizens of Garrett County.

MIEMSS congratulates the 2013 award winners and thanks all EMS professionals for their service.

Understanding Legal Implications of Photo Sharing on Social Media

A Primer for EMS Provider

(Continued from page 9)

than \$100 for each such violation, except that the total amount imposed on the person for all violations of an identical requirement or prohibition during a calendar year may not exceed \$25,000

42USC1320d-6(a) and (b): Wrongful disclosure of individually identifiable health information

(a) A person who knowingly and in violation of this part

- (1) uses or causes to be used a unique health identifier;
- (2) obtains individually identifiable health information relating to an individual; or
- (3) discloses individually identifiable health information to another person, shall be punished as provided in subsection (b).

(b) Penalties

A person described in subsection (a) shall-

- (1) be fined not more than \$50,000, imprisoned not more than 1 year, or both;

- (2) if the offense is committed under false pretenses, be fined not more than \$100,000, imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both; and
- (3) if the offense is committed with intent to sell, transfer, or use individually identifiable health information for commercial advantage, personal gain, or malicious harm, be fined not more than \$250,000, imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both.

To learn more about HIPAA, EMS operational programs are encouraged to review the materials provided by the US Department of Health and Human Services at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/index.html>, and consult their local counsel.

In addition to the federal standards in HIPAA, Maryland has its own law regarding the confidentiality of medical records found in the Annotated Code of Maryland (Health General Article, Sections 4-301, et seq.). EMS and other health care providers may not improperly disclose any medical record, including an EKG or other document disclosing condition

or treatment. Penalties for violation of this law may include fines up to \$250,000 and imprisonment, in addition to civil liability.

Additionally, publication of such pictures on social media websites or other distribution of such photographs by EMS providers may constitute prohibited conduct under COMAR 30.02.04.01 and subject an EMS provider to discipline by the EMS Board—*whether the patient is identifiable or not*. The EMS Board has previously found such actions (i.e., posting pictures of patients in compromised situations) to be unprofessional conduct and the basis for disciplinary actions against EMS providers.

Within this legal framework, individual EMS operational programs may develop policies for social media use that are appropriate to their program and the community they serve. If you have any questions about this information, please feel free to contact MIEMSS at info@miemss.org.

Protocol Update Must be Completed Before July 1, 2013

Reminder: the 2013 protocol update became available on MIEMSS' Online Training Center on March 1, 2013. As a Maryland EMS provider, you **MUST** complete the 2013 Protocol Update matching your level of licensure before July 1, 2013.

Please take note that you are required to take the *Maryland Medical Protocols for EMS Providers* update that represents YOUR LEVEL of licensure/certification. There are four versions of the protocol update on MIEMSS' Online Training Center (www.emsonlinetraining.org): Emergency Medical Responder (EMR), Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Advanced Life Support (ALS), and Base Station. Although you are permitted to take any or all of the protocol updates, the only way for you to meet the 2013 requirements is to complete the update that represents your level of licensure/certification.

If you did complete and pass protocol update training, but your record indicates a failure to comply with the 2013 requirements, please be sure that you completed the correct course.

If you have any questions about the content of the *2013 Maryland Medical Protocols for EMS Providers*, contact the Office of the State EMS Medical Director at 1-800-762-7157. If you have questions related to the technical aspects of the Online Training Center, send an email to OnlineTraining@miemss.org or call the MIEMSS Office of Licensure and Certification at 410-706-3666 or 1-800-762-7157.

Save the Date!

Peninsula Regional Medical Center

23rd Annual Trauma Conference

Topics in Trauma

September 27, 2013
7:15 am - 4:30 pm

Clarion Resort and Hotel,
Ocean City, MD

Registration will be available
August 5, 2013

For more information,
call 410-912-2844

Fireworks and Sparkler Safety for the Summer Months

Important Tips from the Office of the Maryland State Fire Marshal

With warmer weather, public fireworks displays attract thousands of spectators every year. These licensed and inspected events afford Marylanders a safe and pleasurable way to celebrate. Often, however, people are tempted to use legal or even illegal fireworks. The following tips can help Marylanders enjoy fireworks – safely!

- Plan to attend one of hundreds of licensed and inspected public fireworks displays held annually across Maryland.
- Remember, the only fireworks allowed for personal use in Maryland are snap n' pops, party poppers, black snakes, gold-labeled sparklers, and ground-based sparkling devices.
- If allowing children to participate, they should only use legal fireworks with close adult supervision. Make sure to keep spar-

klers away from the body and loose fitting clothing. Read and follow the instructions on the sparkler package! Sparklers burn at approximately 1,200°F.

- Never mix alcohol and fireworks. The combination can be deadly.
- Fully extinguish remains of fireworks in water before disposal.
- All fireworks are banned in Baltimore City, Prince George's County, and Montgomery County. The town of Ocean City, Howard County, and Harford County have specifically prohibited ground-based sparkling devices.

By following these simple safety tips, Marylanders can avoid injury and enjoy a wonderful July 4th holiday and summer season.

New Staff, Including Region IV Associate Administrator, Join MIEMSS

Anna Sierra has joined MIEMSS as the Region IV Associate Administrator. She is a proud graduate of UMBC with a bachelor's degree in Political Science and International Security and, more recently, of Philadelphia University with a master's degree in Disaster Medicine and Management.

Anna volunteered with the Laurel Volunteer Rescue Squad for several years as an EMT-B, which introduced her to the world of EMS and emergency management. She comes to MIEMSS from Oak Ridge Associated Universities in Arlington, Virginia, where she supported the Department of State's nuclear non-proliferation and port security programs and the Department of Energy (DOE)/National Nuclear Security Administration's Office of Emergency Response and National Technical Nuclear Forensics. Most recently, she assisted DOE and the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the design and development of a number of pre-detonation improvised nuclear device exercises and lead the exercise evaluation team for DOE assets responding to a DOD-sponsored stolen nuclear weapon exercise.

Anna is looking forward to getting back to her roots in EMS and taking a more active role in emergency management administration and operations.

Contact information for Anna is as follows:

Anna Sierra, MS
MIEMSS Associate Region IV Administrator
301 Bay Street, Suite 306
Easton, MD 21601
Phone: 410-822-1799
Fax: 410-822-0861
asierra@miemss.org

We are also pleased to announce that SYSCOM/EMRC has hired four new EMS Communications Operators: Katherine Draper, Samantha Jean Freund, Brian Parham, and Kevin Vaught. Scott Barquin and Robert Paxton, Jr., have joined the State Office of Commercial Ambulance Licensing and Regulation (SOCALR) as ambulance inspectors. MIEMSS also welcomes Charles Dorsey, who is the new Administrative Assistant for the Office of Regional Programs and Dayo Bello, who joins the Information Technology as a



Anna Sierra, MS, is MIEMSS' new Region IV Associate Administrator.

Computer Network Specialist II. Mark New is working with the Department of Licensing and Regulation as an EMS Training Specialist.

Congratulations are in order for Chris Bechtel, who was recently promoted to Lead Computer Network Specialist and for Jeff Sexton, who has been hired as a full-time Commercial Ambulance Service Specialist, having formerly held this position as a contractor.

MIEMSS, *Maryland EMS News*
653 W. Pratt St., Baltimore, MD 21201-1536



Governor Martin O'Malley
Lt. Governor Anthony Brown

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Services Systems
653 W. Pratt St., Baltimore, MD 21201-1536
www.miemss.org

Chairman, EMS Board: Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq.
Executive Director, MIEMSS: Robert R. Bass, MD

Managing Editor: Aleithea Warmack (410-706-3994)
Design & Layout: Gail Kostas
Photography: Jim Brown & Brian Slack
(unless noted otherwise for specific photos)
