

Maryland EMS News

For All Emergency Medical Care Providers

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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
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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.

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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
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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.

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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,

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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.”