

# Maryland EMS News

For All Emergency Medical Care Providers

Vol. 31, No. 7

June 2005

## Legislators Team-Up to Help EMS & Fire



(L-r) Delegate Dan Morhaim, MD, and State Senator Thomas "Mac" Middleton

State Senator Thomas "Mac" Middleton and Delegate Dan Morhaim, MD, recently joined forces to increase protection from blood borne pathogens for EMS and fire personnel. The two legislators sponsored identical bills to allow testing of a patient for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) when a health care worker caring for the patient is exposed to the patient's blood, but the patient refuses to be tested for HIV.

Maryland's health care providers, including EMS and fire, are

frequently exposed to blood and other bodily fluids when they care for ill or injured patients. Despite universal precautions, these workers can be exposed to a patient's blood or bodily fluids that may contain HIV. In this situation, the patient's blood needs to be tested to determine whether HIV is present: if the patient's blood tests positive for HIV, the health care worker can receive necessary treatments; however, if no HIV is detected, the health care worker need not undergo these costly treatments which often cause serious side effects. Current Maryland law allows for testing a patient's blood after an exposure when the patient is unable or unavailable to consent to testing, but, until now, the law did not address the situation that arises when a patient refuses to consent to testing.

The new law, which becomes effective in October, allows testing of an available sample of the patient's blood that was previously drawn for other testing purposes when a health care worker has been exposed to that blood, but the patient refuses to be tested. The bill also adds "public

safety workers" to the list of those who can require HIV testing (defined as "career or volunteer member of a fire, rescue, or EMS department, company squad or auxiliary; any law enforcement officer; or state fire marshal or sworn member of state fire marshal's office) and requires MIEMSS and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to collect and report data on exposures and refusals to consent to testing.

Senator Middleton's bill passed in the final hours of the 2005 General Assembly Session; Delegate Morhaim's bill was also moving toward final passage when the session ended. Only one bill needed to pass in order to change Maryland law. Both bills received strong support from MIEMSS and a coalition of EMS, fire, and health care workers including the Maryland State Firemen's Association, the Professional Fire Fighters of Maryland, the Maryland Nurses Association, MedChi, the Maryland Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians, and the Association of Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology.

## MIEMSS Kicks Off EMS Week

EMS Week is a national celebration that is held annually. Each year Maryland joins the nation in recognizing its prehospital care providers—30,000 statewide. Events sponsored by numerous EMS providers are held locally across the state. Many focused on the national theme—"EMS: Ready, Responsive, Reliable"—which emphasized the responsiveness and compassion of EMS providers whose timely and attentive intervention save countless lives. See page 7 for samplings of photos that capture the spirit of EMS Week.



**Governor's EMS Week & EMSC Day Proclamations.** Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. (center) with (l) Dr. Robert R. Bass (MIEMSS Executive Director) holding the EMS Week Proclamation and (r) Dr. Joseph L. Wright (MIEMSS) holding the EMSC Day Proclamation.

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

On May 13, MIEMSS honored 11 children and teens; each had assisted in providing a life-saving service to someone. Their actions had ensured that people had received the "right care when it counts." Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., assisted with the ceremony, joining MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Robert R. Bass, Cyndy Wright-Johnson who directs the EMS for Children program at MIEMSS, and Dr. Joseph L. Wright, Associate State EMS Director for Pediatrics at MIEMSS. Many EMS dignitaries, providers, family, 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."

**Bobbi Lapp, 8 years old, from Garrett County**, found her mother unresponsive (due to a medical emergency) three times over the past three years. Bobbi recognized the signs of low blood sugar, and each time called for help. She has learned how to prepare the life-saving medication her mother needs and helped the adult neighbors give the medication until EMS arrived.

**Josiah Storer, 16 years old, from Washington County**, educated his community about injury prevention. He has been a Boy Scout for many years and received training in first aid and injury prevention. For his Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project, he planned and conducted a community health and safety fair, organizing many of the community agencies across the county.

**Miranda Besaw, 9 years old, from Harford County**, acted very quickly one day when her mom lac-

(Continued on page 3)



(L-r) Dr. Joseph L. Wright (MIEMSS), Cyndy Wright-Johnson (MIEMSS), Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Bobbi Lapp and her mother Ms. Terri Lapp.



(Back, l-r) Dr. Joseph L. Wright (MIEMSS), Cyndy Wright-Johnson (MIEMSS), Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., (front, l-r) Mrs. J. Robert Storer and her son Josiah.



(L-r) Dr. Joseph L. Wright (MIEMSS), Cyndy Wright-Johnson (MIEMSS), Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Miranda Besaw and her mother Ms. Jessica Besaw.



(Back, l-r) Dr. Joseph L. Wright (MIEMSS), Cyndy Wright-Johnson (MIEMSS), Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Mrs. Mary Martin (mother of Tyler), and Evelyn Graf (Steven and Tyler's "nana"); (front, l-r) Steven Burrall and Tyler Martin.

## EMS 'Right Care When It Counts' (continued)



(L-r) Dr. Joseph L. Wright (MIEMSS), Cyndy Wright-Johnson (MIEMSS), Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., with Jesica McLane and Travis Bowes and their families.



(L-r) Dr. Joseph L. Wright (MIEMSS), Cyndy Wright-Johnson (MIEMSS), Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., and Michael Fessler.

(Continued from page 2)

erated her fingers on a mirror. She dialed 9-1-1 and calmly followed the Emergency Medical Dispatcher's directions until EMS arrived.

**Steven Burrall and Tyler Martin, cousins ages 7 and 5, from Anne Arundel County,** were at the right place to help their grandmother when their grandfather became sick and then unresponsive. While one boy went for a neighbor's help, the second boy called 9-1-1 and helped relay information from his grandmother.

**Nathaniel "Chase" Tyler, 6 years old, from Somerset County,** made two very quick and important decisions on a snowy January day. When a friend fell through the ice on a pool, he knew to first reach her with a garden hose and then get an adult to help pull his friend from the freezing water and to dial 9-1-1.

**Stephen Reisinger, 8 years old, from Queen Anne's County,** remained very calm in a very scary situation when he found his grandmother was having heart problems. He dialed 9-1-1 and talked with the Emergency Medical Dispatcher until the EMS providers arrived to provide care for his grandmother.

**Jesica McLane and Travis Bowes, from St. Mary's County,** both 17 at the time, were first responders at their high school when they found another student having a seizure. While first protecting her from harm, they directed others to get the school nurse and remained until EMS arrived. Both are EMS



(L-r) Dr. Joseph L. Wright (MIEMSS), Cyndy Wright-Johnson (MIEMSS), Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Stephen Reisinger and his mother Mrs. Gary Reisinger.

members of Bay District Volunteer Fire Department in St. Mary's County.

**Michael Fessler, 17 years old, from Montgomery County,** was on a transatlantic flight when he provided care to a stranger enabling the flight to reach its destination and not make an emergency landing. Prior to this incident, as a high-school student, he became an EMT-B.

**Tommy Sheppard, 5 years old, from Prince George's County,** was at home with his 2-year-old sister when his mom sustained a severe head injury from a horse and became unresponsive. He called his neighbors, a nurse and an EMT, who quickly came and provided care using the first aid kit that Tommy had gotten ready



(L-r) Dr. Joseph L. Wright (MIEMSS), Cyndy Wright-Johnson (MIEMSS), Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Tommy Sheppard and his mother Mrs. Thomas Sheppard.



(L-r) Dr. Joseph L. Wright (MIEMSS), Cyndy Wright-Johnson (MIEMSS), Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Nathaniel "Chase" Tyler and his father Curtis Tyler, Jr.

# Maryland EMS Stars of Life Awards

On May 13 at the State House in Annapolis, MIEMSS presented its annual Maryland Stars of Life Awards that honor EMS personnel, citizens, and EMS programs statewide. Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., assisted with the presentation of award plaques that represented nine categories of recognition. Two award winners were selected for the Leon W. Hayes Award for Excellence in Emergency Medical Services. Photos and summaries of the achievements of the award winners follow.

**Corporal David Svites, who is with the Maryland State Police Aviation Command (Southern Maryland Section), received the Maryland EMS Star of Life Award.**

On January 19, 2005, the actions of Corporal Svites were integral in saving the life of a man trapped in his sports utility vehicle for 3 hours, with his legs crushed between the dashboard and metal door. Realizing the possible need for an amputation to free the victim, Corporal Svites called for the Shock Trauma GO

Team, and then assisted the surgeon with the amputation while the patient was still entrapped. He then accompanied the patient to the Shock Trauma Center in the helicopter. After 33 days in Shock Trauma, the patient was discharged for rehabilitation therapies.

**Brother Thomas McCluskey and Ken Quinones received Maryland EMS Citizen Awards.**

On September 11, 2004, they pulled Holly Holley from a burning car, extinguished the flames with their shirts, and took her across the street seconds before the car exploded, thereby saving her life. Mr. Quinones is a second-year Bible student at Valley Forge Christian College in Phoenixville, Pennsylvania and Brother McCluskey is a Redemptorist seminarian living in Washington, DC. Both were traveling on Route 97 in Bowie when they saw the flames shooting into the air and immediately stopped to help. The Bowie Volunteer Fire Department & Rescue Squad arrived just as the car exploded and arranged to have Ms. Holley transported by Med-Evac helicopter to the Washington Burn Center where she was treated for burns covering 60 percent of her body. The EMS Awards ceremony was the first time that Ms. Holley met her rescuers.

**Chief Sharon Eskins received the 2005 Maryland EMS Provider of the Year Award.** Chief Eskins, a paramedic, has been in the volunteer fire-rescue-EMS service for close to 30

*(Continued on page 5)*



**Maryland EMS Citizen Award.** (L-r) Brother Thomas McCluskey (award winner), Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Holly Holley, Ken Quinones (award winner), and Commander John R. Frazier (EMS Board).



**EMS Provider of the Year Award.** (L-r) Chief Sharon Eskins (award winner), Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., and Commander John R. Frazier (EMS Board).



**Maryland EMS Star of Life Award.** (L-r) Commander John R. Frazier (EMS Board), Colonel Thomas E. "Tim" Hutchins (Superintendent of the Maryland State Police [MSP]), award winner Corporal David Svites (MSP Aviation Command), and Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.

# Maryland EMS Stars of Life Awards

## (Continued)

(Continued from page 4)

years, the last 19 in Calvert County. Her skills have made the critical difference in the lives of many patients. Currently chief of Calvert Advanced Life Support, Inc., she was instrumental in forming the Calvert County Chapter of SAFE KIDS Coalition and authored a children's book on fire safety entitled "Rosie's Spots." She also played a key role recently in revamping the Calvert Advanced Life Support, Inc. to ensure zero out-of-service time.

**The Maryland State Police Aviation Command, Frederick Section received the Outstanding EMS Program Award.** This year, in addition to providing med-evac missions of critically injured patients, the Frederick Aviation Section did several life-saving, extremely complex hoist rescues of fall victims in mountainous and remote areas. Undertaking a new role, they also performed over 170 homeland security missions during the last year.

**Charles W. Wills received the Leon W. Hayes Award for Excellence in Emergency Medical Services.** This summer Charlie Wills will celebrate 50 years of service in Fire and EMS in Charles County. He has also served in many leadership positions and also as an EMT instructor. In 33 years of teaching, he has instructed close to 4,000 EMTs. Charlie has held many positions while serving as a volunteer with Potomac Height Volunteer Fire

(Continued on page 6)



**Outstanding EMS Program Award.** (L-r) Colonel Thomas E. "Tim" Hutchins (Superintendent of the Maryland State Police [MSP]), MSP Pilot Phillip Trez, MSP Medic Corporal Tobin Tribel, Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., and Commander John R. Frazier (EMS Board).



**EMS for Children Award.** (L-r) Holly Tyler Guschke, Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., W. Edward Mullikin, and Commander John R. Frazier (EMS Board). Ms. Guschke (communications specialist) and Mr. Mullikin (director) accepted the EMS for Children Award on behalf of the Talbot County Emergency Management Agency.



**Distinguished Hospital Award.** (L-r) Carole Mays, Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Marcia Kuklane, and Commander John R. Frazier (EMS Board). Ms. Mays and Ms. Kuklane accepted the Distinguished Hospital Award on behalf of St. Joseph Medical Center.



**EMS-Geriatric Award.** (L-r) Dr. David Chang (award winner), Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., and Commander John R. Frazier (EMS Board).

# Maryland EMS Stars of Life Awards

## (Continued)

(Continued from page 5)

Department & Rescue Squad. In addition, he is a Hall of Fame member of the Southern Maryland Volunteer Firemen's Association and of the Maryland State Firemen's Association. He also has worked on many statewide EMS committees and taught at many statewide conferences. He frequently visits Annapolis, trying to get legislation that will benefit the volunteer EMS providers and firefighters. Along with all of these activities, he continues to demonstrate dedication to excellence in patient care while averaging 500-800 EMS calls a year.



**Leon W. Hayes Award.** (L-r) Charles W. Wills (award winner), Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., and Commander John R. Frazier (EMS Board).

**Edgar Crist received the Leon W. Hayes Award for Excellence in Emergency Medical Services.** An EMT since the 1950s, Edgar Crist has been continuously active as an EMT and firefighter in Frederick County and Brunswick Fire Departments in many capacities. He is a past president of the former Frederick County Ambulance Association and is currently president of the Region II EMS Advisory Council, a position he has held several times in the past. He is also the archivist for the county, documenting or filming many special events and training sessions. According to his peers, he is a legend in Frederick County.

**Talbot County Emergency Management received the EMS for Children Award** for implementing a "9-1-1 for Kids Program" that is demonstrated to all first-graders (approximately 500 a year) in the county. They are taught how and when to call 9-1-1 and actually practice making calls, hearing the questions that they will be asked in a real emergency.

**David Chang, PhD, MPH, MBA, was honored with the Maryland EMS-Geriatric Award** for his commitment in advancing the delivery of prehospital geriatric emergency care. An active member of the MIEMSS

Geriatric EMS Advisory Committee, Dr. Chang has collected and analyzed data on the under-triage of elderly patients to trauma centers. He later presented these data at several EMS conferences in Maryland. He also developed a survey to assess possible causes for inappropriate triage of elderly trauma patients. Dr. Chang is affiliated with the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions.

**The Cecil County Department of Emergency Services was honored with the Emergency Medical Dispatch Program of the Year Award.** Cecil County's emergency medical dispatch program is a model for others. It is used to dispatch all responding units, including those manned by volunteers and by career personnel. Use of special computer software and quality assurance reviews on at least 50 percent of all dispatches helps to ensure accuracy.

**The first recipient of the Distinguished Hospital Award was St. Joseph Medical Center in Baltimore County.** St. Joseph Medical Center had demonstrated the most significant improvement in timely EMS access to emergency patient care through successful implementation of Hospital Best Practice Strategies from 2003 to 2004.



**Leon W. Hayes Award.** (L-r) Robert Jacobs (President, Maryland State Firemen's Assoc. (MSFA)), Edgar Crist (award winner), Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Commander John R. Frazier (EMS Board), and Bobby Balta (2nd vice-president, MSFA).



**Emergency Medical Dispatch Program of the Year Award.** (L-r) Captain Stephanie Reynolds, Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Lieutenant Holly Trego, and Commander John R. Frazier (EMS Board). Capt. Reynolds and Lt. Trego accepted the Emergency Medical Dispatch Program of the Year Award on behalf of the Cecil County Department of Emergency Services.

# Celebrating EMS Week May 15-21



*People driving or walking on Calvert Street could not miss Union Memorial Hospital's public tribute to EMS providers.*



*Baltimore City EMS demonstrated extricating victims from a crashed car at Baltimore's Inner Harbor.*



*Baltimore County EMS had several displays at the White Marsh Mall, including one on the correct use of child safety seats.*

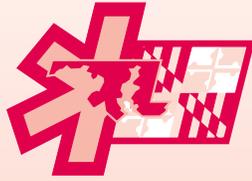


*The emergency department staff of St. Joseph Medical Center in Baltimore County offered prehospital care providers a piece of "EMS Week" cake.*



*At the ambulance entrance of Franklin Square Hospital, EMS providers were greeted by a huge banner saluting them during EMS Week.*

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



Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.  
Lt. Governor Michael S. Steele

Copyright© 2005 by the  
**Maryland Institute**  
for

**Emergency Medical Services Systems**  
653 W. Pratt St., Baltimore, MD 21201-1536  
[www.miemss.org](http://www.miemss.org)

*Chairman, EMS Board:* Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq.

*Executive Director, MIEMSS:* Robert R. Bass, MD

*Managing Editor:* Beverly Sopp (410-706-3248)

*Design & Layout:* Gail Kostas

*Photography:* Jim Brown, Dick Regester, Brian Slack,  
Fernando Tosti (unless noted otherwise for specific photos)

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID  
BALTIMORE, MD  
Permit No. 9183

**DATED MATERIAL**

## Leaving EMS Reports at Hospital

It is essential that an EMS provider who delivers a patient to the hospital ensures that a copy of the MAIS, EMAIS, or jurisdiction's report is given to the hospital emergency department. If you are completing the paper report at the hospital, there is no reason not to provide a copy to the unit clerk or the care provider who receives your patient. If you are completing an electronic run report such as EMAIS at the hospital, a printout should be given to the appropriate ED staff person. If you are completing your electronic or paper report at a location other than the receiving facility (e.g., your station), **it is your responsibility to make sure the hospital receives a completed copy of that report.**

Services completing reports (paper or electronic) outside the hospital are responsible for providing a "cheat sheet" with basic patient information to the hospital staff at the time of patient delivery. Information on the "cheat sheet" should include, but not be limited to, the patient's chief complaint, pertinent past medical history, current medications, allergies, vital signs, and any care provided by the EMS providers. The

use of a "cheat sheet" does not substitute the need for providing the hospital with a completed copy of your report. MIEMSS will be monitoring the EMAIS system to identify "pending reports" that are being left incomplete for extended periods of time.

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS** *EMS Educational Opportunities*

#### **September 23**

##### **Trauma Conference**

Sponsored by Peninsula Regional Medical Center  
Clarion Hotel & Conference Center, Ocean City, Maryland  
For information, contact Lisa Hohl, RN, Trauma Nurse Coordinator, PRMC, 410-543-7328

#### **September 27**

##### **Mid-Atlantic Life Safety Conference**

Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab, Laurel, Maryland. Contact the Office of the State Fire Marshal, 800-525-3125.

#### **October 14-16**

##### **PYRAMID 2005**

Solomons Holiday Inn, Solomons, Maryland  
For information, contact MIEMSS Region V Office at 301-474-1485 or toll free at 1-877-498-5551.

## **Maryland EMS News: Last Printed Issue!**

This is the last issue of the "Maryland EMS News" that will be printed and mailed to you. Beginning in August, the newsletter will be in electronic form only. It can be viewed on the MIEMSS website ([www.miemss.org](http://www.miemss.org)) in the MIEMSS Information column and will also be emailed to individuals who provide their email addresses. To facilitate receiving *your own personal e-copy* of the newsletter, MIEMSS is urging you to register online. (To register for your personal e-subscription of the "Maryland EMS News," please go to the MIEMSS website, click on "subscribe to the Maryland EMS News," and follow the directions by providing your name and current email address.)

