

2016 NAEMT General Membership Meeting Script

VOICE OVER:

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome NAEMT President Chuck Kearns!

CHUCK KEARNS:

Good evening, friends. Welcome to the 2016 NAEMT General Membership Meeting! It is an honor to share this evening with you and I thank you all for being here. Tonight, we come together to celebrate the accomplishments of our association and to recognize the many people contributing to our successes. We will also pay tribute to those who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in our profession.

First, let's share appreciation for our great country. Please stand, and join me in our Pledge of Allegiance.

< Pledge of Allegiance >

Please be seated.

While NAEMT is a national organization representing our nation's EMS professionals, through our education programs, we also serve the global EMS community. I would like to welcome the many members of our association who traveled from around the world to be with us this week in New Orleans. Thank you very much for your special efforts to attend NAEMT's annual meeting.

In May, members of the NAEMT Board of Directors represented our association at the National EMS Memorial Service. It was a beautiful service... but also a stark reminder of the sacrifices made while responding to the needs of patients. Let us share a moment of silence to remember all the EMS practitioners who made the supreme sacrifice to help their patients, communities and country.

They will never be forgotten. Their sacrifice should inspire all of us to make our EMS profession better — and safer — for our practitioners and for the patients we serve. **We** hold the power for change within EMS!

Helping to bring positive change to our profession are my fellow members of the NAEMT Board of Directors. This fine group contributes their time, experience and notable effort to the ongoing success of our association. I am truly blessed to work with them and it is my pleasure to recognize them. Board members... please stand as I call your name, and audience... please hold your applause until all have been introduced.

1. Dennis Rowe, President-elect

2. Bruce Evans, Secretary
3. Scott Matin, Treasurer
4. Don Lundy, Immediate Past President
5. Sean Britton, Region I Director
6. Robert Luckritz, Region I Director
7. Chad McIntyre, Region II Director
8. Cory Richter, Region II Director
9. Brian Schaeffer, Region III Director
10. Jason Scheiderer, Region III Director
11. Terry David, Region IV Director
12. Troy Tuke, Region IV Director
13. Charlene Cobb, At-Large Director
14. Matt Zavadsky, At-Large Director
15. Dr. Paul Hinchey, Medical Director

Thank you all very much for your dedication and commitment!

I would also like to ask our Past Presidents here this evening to please stand and be recognized. Your leadership created the strong foundation to support our association's growth and success. Thank you for your service and continued confidence.

The support of our members has contributed to NAEMT's record of success this year. In accordance with our bylaws, I am proud to provide a report on the work of our association this year:

1. NAEMT published benchmark reports on two top issues for our profession – the role of EMS data in patient care, and the mental health services currently provided by agencies to their practitioners. Both reports covered the results of national surveys that our association conducted on these subjects. We greatly appreciate the work contributed by our EMS Data and EMS Workforce Committees on these initiatives.
2. We partnered with St. Louis University to conduct a study on the usability of ePCR systems to help our industry improve these systems and advance their use. A summary of the results of this study will be provided to all members by the end of the year. Dr. Alex Garza, the lead investigator in this study and a member of our EMS Data Committee, will discuss his findings tomorrow during the EMS World Leadership Lightning Round at 3:30 pm. He will also present the findings at the National Association of EMS Physicians conference this January, and will publish the study in a peer-reviewed journal in 2017.
3. We are leading the dialog on the transformation of our profession to “EMS 3.0.” We held the first “EMS Transformation Summit” in Washington D.C. in April in conjunction with EMS On The Hill Day to educate all EMS professionals on how to be successful in the new healthcare environment. And, we have produced tools to help EMS professionals and other healthcare stakeholders understand this transformation, including infographics and a PowerPoint presentation. We are partnering with several other national EMS organizations to develop a collaborative approach to implementing this transformation. We are also planning for the 2017 EMS 3.0 Transformation Summit to be held in Arlington, Virginia, on April 24, in conjunction with EMS On The

Hill Day. I hope that you will plan to attend both important events.

4. Throughout the current Congressional Session, NAEMT has taken a position on 36 federal bills impacting EMS. Each bill was carefully vetted by our Advocacy Committee. With leadership from our network of Advocacy Coordinators, and the help of thousands of members, we gained 270 new co-sponsors for our bills, and congressional committee hearings. We succeeded in getting passage of H.R. 1818, the Veteran EMT Support Act, by the House of Representatives and signed by the President. This “win” could not have been achieved without the advocacy efforts of OUR members.
5. We know that advocacy works. We must continue to visit with all members of Congress and their staff on a regular basis. It is the only way to ensure that they understand the essential role EMS serves in every community.

At this year’s EMS On The Hill Day, we visited 258 congressional leaders and their legislative aides. We are deeply grateful to all of the EMS professionals who made the trek to our nation’s Capitol to meet with their elected leaders. Our goal for 2017 must be to have all 535 members of Congress receive visits from their EMS constituents so that all congressional leaders who are voting on legislation that impacts EMS understand EMS and how they can help us provide care to our patients.

EMS On The Hill Day 2017 will be held on April 25 with a special briefing the evening before. Make plans now to attend. Check out the Advocacy section of the NAEMT website for information. Most importantly, help us ensure that all states are represented and that all members of Congress are visited!

6. NAEMT published TWO new editions of education courses:
 - a. The 2nd edition of Advanced Medical Life Support – AMLS – and
 - b. The 2nd edition of EMS Safety

Congratulations to the AMLS and EMS Safety committees, and all authors, contributors and reviewers! These new editions offer some of the very best in EMS continuing education.

7. To help strengthen our efforts at the state and local levels, we have invested in the development of a national network of NAEMT Education Coordinators and NAEMT Membership Coordinators. Many new coordinators have been appointed and are already hard at work. Along with our Advocacy Coordinators, these new coordinators will help promote and encourage active engagement in NAEMT programs. All three networks also provide expanded opportunities for our members to actively contribute to the growth and success of our association.
8. We enhanced the benefits package provided to our members:
 - a. Tuition discounts on Columbia Southern University online courses
 - b. Exclusive NAEMT scholarship at Columbia Southern University
 - c. Institute for Healthcare Improvement – IHI – Open School Scholarships, with up to 100 scholarships available.
 - d. Discounts on World Point training kits for students that contain products for use

- in trauma course scenarios and skills sessions
 - e. Discounts on Emergency Care and Safety Institute resources from Jones and Bartlett Learning
 - f. Discount on NAEMT Instructor resources from Jones and Bartlett Learning
 - g. Finalizing member discount on insurance from Geico
9. Throughout the year, we raised awareness on a variety of other issues and challenges that impact our ability to provide quality patient care, including:
- a. Violence against our practitioners;
 - b. Gaps in training and necessary equipment to respond to disasters;
 - c. Integration of EMS into national preparedness planning;
 - d. Maintaining standing orders for emergency medications;
 - e. Increased funding for EMS innovation, preparedness and quality improvements;
 - f. Diversity in EMS; and
 - g. Quality improvement in EMS. And the list goes on...
10. We've also got some exciting projects to share with members in the coming months:
- a. A new report on the state of EMS preparedness.
 - b. A follow up study on the state of community paramedicine and mobile integrated healthcare in our country
 - c. Several new education courses, thanks to the tireless work of our exceptional education leaders:
 - i. An All Hazards Disaster Response course
 - ii. An Advanced Geriatric Education for EMS course, both of which were beta tested over the last two days here at EMS World Expo.
 - iii. A Medical Life Support course specifically for EMTs
 - iv. A Critical Care Review course to prepare for Critical Care recertification, and
 - v. A course to help EMS address Psychological Trauma in Emergency Patients

I hope you are as proud of NAEMT's work as I am. I also hope that you share these accomplishments with colleagues and emphasize the difference NAEMT is making for our profession and the patients we serve.

We must use these achievements as a foundation to meet our profession's challenges today and on the horizon. We must continue to grow and evolve to meet the evolving needs of the EMS profession and the healthcare environment in which we operate. While we are proud of our accomplishments, we cannot sit back. To bring the kind of change we want in EMS, we must be willing to continually change and adapt to meet the needs of our profession. Together, we CAN and **WILL** bring the changes **WE WANT** to EMS!

Please join me in giving our great association and you, our outstanding members, a round of applause for these significant accomplishments!

Thank you.

NAEMT's Corporate Partners are just that – our partners. They support our mission, and programs that represent and serve the EMS profession. On behalf of all members of NAEMT, please accept our appreciation and gratitude.

Will our Corporate Partner representatives please stand and remain standing when called:

Premier Partners:

1. EMS World
2. Jones and Bartlett Learning
3. The National Registry of EMTs

Diamond Partners:

1. Columbia Southern University
2. EMS1
3. Markel [Mar-kull]

Presidential Partner:

1. Stryker

Gold Partners:

1. Braun
2. Intermedix
3. OnStar

Silver Partners:

1. 5.11 Tactical
2. American College of Emergency Physicians
3. Fitch and Associates
4. JEMS

Bronze Partners:

1. American Heart Association
2. Gold Cross -- *medical transport*
3. Mayo Clinic
4. ProMed Network
5. Skedco
6. Solutions Group – *billing services*

Annual Partners:

1. Coalition Against Bigger Trucks
2. E.V.S., Ltd. -- *emergency vehicle seating*
3. MyHealth.Us -- *QR life codes*
4. Nasco – *manikins and simulators*
5. National EMS Museum
6. Page, Wolfberg & Wirth – *legal services*
7. Physio-Control
8. Pulsara – *healthcare mobile app*
9. SunStar Paramedics

Service Partners:

1. And all of our service partners:

5.11 Tactical Inc.; Ambutrak; Apex Innovations; Avis Rental Cars; Budget Rental Cars; Cardiac Science; CentreLearn; Certified Ambulance Group; Clear Collar; Columbia Southern University; Dell; EMS GrantsHelp; EMS Innovations; EMS World Magazine; Fit Responder; General Communications; Hertz Rental Cars; IceDot; *JEMS* Magazine; Jones & Bartlett Learning; Journal of Special Ops Medicine; Keurig (Better World Brands); Mac's Lift Gate; Medic CE; MedicAlert; Page, Wolfberg & Wirth; Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Journal; Red The Uniform Tailor; SAVVIK (Formerly NCEMSC); Skyscape; WorldPoint; Wyndham Hotels

Thank you to all corporate sponsors for your support.

Our Board is strongly supported by the work of NAEMT committees. Our volunteer committees really do the heavy lifting on our many projects and programs. Please join me in thanking our committees. Again, please hold your applause until all are called. Committee members, please stand when your committee is announced:

1. Advocacy Committee, chaired by Bruce Evans
2. Advanced Medical Life Support (AMLS) Committee, chaired by Jeff Messerole
3. Candidacy and Elections Committee, chaired by Dennis Wilham
4. Education Committee, chaired by Dennis Rowe
5. EMS Data Committee, chaired by Matt Zavadsky
6. EMS Preparedness Committee, chaired by Fergus Laughridge
7. EMS Safety Committee, chaired by Mike Szczgiel
8. EMS Workforce Committee, chaired by Garrett Hedeem
9. Emergency Pediatric Care (EPC) Committee, chaired by David Meysenburg
10. Finance Committee, chaired by Scott Matin
11. Geriatric EMS (GEMS) Committee, chaired by Daniel Talbert
12. Leadership Development Committee, chaired by Don Lundy
13. Membership Committee, chaired by Cory Richter
14. Military Relations Committee, chaired by Ben Chlapek
15. Mobile Integrated Healthcare-Community Paramedicine Committee, chaired by Matt Zavadsky
16. Principles of Ethics and Personal Leadership (PEPL) Committee, chaired by Leslie Hernandez
17. Prehospital Trauma (PHT) Committee, chaired by Larry Hatfield

I also wish to recognize those members who serve as coordinators within their states and regions, and internationally to support our programs. I ask our coordinators to stand and be recognized:

1. Our U.S. state and regional education coordinators, our Canadian provincial education coordinators, and our national education coordinators in countries around the world. Thank you!
2. Our network of state-level Advocacy Coordinators. These members are our grassroots advocacy powerhouses. Congratulations on your great success this year!
3. And, our new network of Membership Coordinators. We are already seeing some positive results from your efforts.

Now, please help me thank the Board of Trustees of the NAEMT Foundation. The NAEMT Foundation is a separate, non-profit organization. Its mission is to support a better future for EMS. Will our Foundation Trustees please stand?

The NAEMT Foundation awards scholarships to individuals interested in pursuing careers in EMS, and each year, sponsors the Health Occupations Student Association's Future Leadership Conference, providing judges for the EMT competition at the event.

Thank you, Trustees.

44 EMS associations are affiliated with NAEMT, and their representatives form our Affiliate Advisory Council. Thank you for your support of NAEMT and for sharing your insights and perspectives on important EMS issues. Will the Council members and chair, Terry David, please stand as we applaud you with sincere thanks?

I cannot overstate the respect I have for our retiring Board members and their many dedicated hours of service to our association. Each has brought unique perspectives that have enhanced the quality of our initiatives. It is with tremendous gratitude that I recognize them.

1. Scott Matin – please come to the podium.

Scott, it was my pleasure to recruit you to the NAEMT Board of Directors, and you have never disappointed. As a member of our Board, and then as NAEMT's Treasurer, you have served with tremendous integrity, insight and commitment. As one of the founding authors of our Principles of Ethics and Personal Leadership course, you helped NAEMT break new ground in EMS education. We will miss you dearly at our Board table, but we wish you the very best for the future. Please accept this plaque as a very small representation of our esteem and affection for you.

2. Don Lundy... please come to the podium.

Don, you have served on the NAEMT Board since 2007 and have made so many contributions to our success. You have represented NAEMT on critically important

national initiatives and provided outstanding leadership to our association as our 2013-14 President. And, I owe you personal thanks for the sound advice and guidance you provided me when I was president-elect that helped prepare me for my role as president. Please accept this plaque as a small gesture of our great thanks for your service as a member and officer of the NAEMT Board.

Thank you both for your service!

Each year, the NAEMT President may recognize one or more individuals who have gone above and beyond in supporting our organization through the NAEMT Presidential Leadership Award. This year, I would like to bestow this award on some very worthy individuals. It is my pleasure to present the first Presidential Leadership Award to Dennis Rowe. Dennis, please join me at the podium...

Dennis Rowe has been actively engaged in NAEMT education for many years. These last two years, Dennis has led our efforts to modernize our education structure so that it can better support all of our programs, and our NAEMT training centers and faculty. He has demonstrated tremendous leadership under sometimes-difficult circumstances. As we all know when it happens in our EMS agencies, organizational change can be challenging and stressful. Dennis has led our association through this organizational change with a steady hand, clarity of purpose, and respect. It is with deep appreciation that I present the last of tonight's Presidential Leadership Awards to Dennis Rowe.

I'm pleased to present the next Presidential Leadership Award to Sean Britton. Sean, please join me at the podium.

Sean has demonstrated leadership through his work on the EMS Workforce Committee and the EMS Preparedness Committee. He served as a catalyst in the development of a new international workgroup looking at the issue of EMS suicide, and, he has participated as part of the author team for our new All Hazards Disaster Response course that was beta tested on Monday. Sean is a great example of how hard our volunteer Board members work on NAEMT's many different projects. I am proud to present a Presidential Leadership Award to Sean Britton.

The final Presidential Leadership Award Recipient is Robert Luckritz. Rob, please join me on the stage.

Besides being a medic, Rob is an attorney. Rob has generously provided his expertise on legal issues and public relations to our association. He has given us sound advice and counsel on a wide range of association issues, and I personally have benefitted from his insights and perspectives. Rob is another great example of the depth of knowledge and expertise we have on our Board that contributes to our strength. I am pleased to present this Presidential Leadership Award to Rob Luckritz.

I will be passing on the presidency at the end of the year. Before I do, I want you to know how much I have appreciated the opportunity to lead this tremendous association. What we have been able to accomplish in these past two years, is nothing short of amazing and an experience for which I am truly grateful. I want to specially thank the members of the NAEMT

Board, NAEMT committee members and coordinators for your support. And, I must thank my family – my beautiful wife Dotty, and my children, Sloan, Hailey, Eddie and Tommy for their love, support, patience and sacrifice which allowed me to serve. It has been an honor to serve you and my privilege to make the EMS profession a little better because of the work we've done together.

Now, it gives me great pleasure to begin our presentations of the National EMS Awards of Excellence. Please welcome NAEMT At-Large Director Matt Zavadsky and Christine Emerton from Jones and Bartlett Learning to present the NAEMT/Jones and Bartlett Learning EMS Educator of the Year award.

MATT ZAVADSKY:

Our first award is the NAEMT/Jones and Bartlett Educator of the Year Award. **Leageay Barnes**, EMS program director at Tulsa Community College, helped develop her college's online hybrid and traditional EMS programs and training partnerships with local fire and police agencies. She has guided paramedic students to become instructors, was involved in the NREMT psychomotor competency portfolio project, has served on the National Association of EMS Educators Board of Directors and as a representative to the NREMT Board. According to Jeffrey Goodloe, medical director, "She has proven to instill a sense of duty and drive in her faculty and students." Barnes is an editor and has written articles for several industry publications. She has also received the Oklahoma EMT Association's educator of the year award. Joseph Sherrell, an EMS officer with the City of Tulsa reported that he has "never observed an educator genuinely care so much about each individual student. She will do anything to help a student be successful." Leageay Barnes, congratulations on being our 2016 Educator of the Year!

CHUCK KEARNS:

Congratulations! Now, I ask NAEMT Region IV Director Terry David and Chad Brown from Braun Industries to present the NAEMT/Braun Industries EMT of the Year award.

TERRY DAVID:

This year's NAEMT/Braun Industries EMT of the Year is **Nicole Richards** from Burlington, Colorado. Nicole is a dedicated volunteer EMT for Kit Carson County Ambulance Service. She has used her own physical and personal pain to provide better care to her patients. "Her commitment and compassion for patients, as well as her personality, were cemented into her character after being a trauma patient herself," said Scott Sholes, president of the EMS Association of Colorado, of which Richards is a member. A letter submitted by the Kit Carson County Board of Commissioners stated, "She has a gift for helping patients remain calm during treatment. As an EMT, she has the utmost regard for her patients and after they have been delivered to the hospital, follows up to see how they are faring." Nicole is outgoing and consistently seeks ways to improve her skills and knowledge. A former patient said, "She is a prime example of all Kit Carson County Ambulance Service represents." Please join me in congratulating Nicole Richards as our 2016 EMT of the Year!

CHUCK KEARNS:

Well done, Nicole! Now, I ask NAEMT Region IV Director Troy Tuke and Melissa [*“Duh-mer”*] Dummer from Nasco to present the NAEMT/Nasco Paramedic of the Year award.

TROY TUKE:

It's a true pleasure to present the 2016 NAEMT/Nasco Paramedic of the Year Award to **Bryn Arnold** of Indianapolis, Indiana! Bryn works for Indianapolis EMS and was nominated by Tom Arkins, Indianapolis EMS Section Chief who said, “She is one of those paramedics who has the gift of being great at her job. She is not only a stellar clinical provider; she is an overall great person. Bryn shows compassion for all of her patients no matter the circumstances.” Arnold has been acknowledged for her leadership skills and for taking new employees, students and observers under her guidance. Arkin noted, “When they spend time with her, I know that they are not only receiving good clinical education but are also being taught humanity, humility and compassion for patients.” This year, Bryn was awarded the Indiana EMS for Children’s Pediatric Hero Award for her excellent support of a child patient in the emergency department. Joseph Caldwell, a colleague, said “Bryn understands that 90% of this job isn’t about high priority or critical runs. Ninety percent is holding peoples’ hands when they are scared and telling them that no matter what happens, we are prepared to help them.” Please join me in congratulating Bryn Arnold as our 2016 Paramedic of the Year.

CHUCK KEARNS:

Congratulations, Bryn! I now ask NAEMT Military Relations Committee Chair Ben Chlapek and Paul Vecchio from North American Rescue to present the NAEMT/North American Rescue Military Medic of the Year award.

BEN CHLAPEK:

It is a great honor to present this year’s Military Medic of the Year award to **Sergeant Ernest Parrish**, stationed at the Joint Base Lewis-McChord in the State of Washington. Sergeant Parrish is a paramedic and Special Operations Command medic in the United States Army. He distinguished himself while serving in Afghanistan where he, despite his own wounds, treated and coordinated the medical evacuation of three very seriously wounded casualties. Medical Director Charles Moore stated, “Sergeant Parrish’s superior professionalism, expertise and unwavering commitment to excellence contributed to saving the lives of these three casualties.” General Daniel Allyn, vice chief of staff of the U.S. Army, referred to Sergeant Parrish in a speech citing “the amazing passion, creativity and skill of Army Ranger medics.” Sergeant Parrish loves to teach and has served as an Advanced Ranger First Responder instructor on four separate occasions. He believes in the importance of developing junior medics and conducting special training to ensure they are trained and prepared for whatever they encounter on the battlefield. Sergeant Parrish works to expand his medical proficiency and has a passion for prolonged field care. Gen. Allyn once remarked, “There is not another Army on this planet that provides the same level of medical care as ours does, and that amazing care is due to our outstanding military medics, like Ranger Sergeant Ernie Parrish.”

On behalf of the EMS profession and the great country you serve, it is our honor to present you with the 2016 Military Medic of the Year Award!

CHUCK KEARNS:

Please welcome my friend Scott Cravens from EMS World and Melanie Phillips from Nasco to present the National EMS service awards. Scott and Melanie...

SCOTT CRAVENS:

Our first service award is the Dick Ferneau Service of the Year award. It is our pleasure to present the 2016 award to **New Hanover Regional Medical Center's Emergency Transport Services!** New Hanover is an integrated system with unique divisions for 9-1-1 response, critical care transport and non-emergent transport. New Hanover operates 45 ground emergency vehicles and two helicopters that cover more than 1.1 million miles a year. It employs more than 200 medical and administrative staff and responded to more than 47,000 requests for transport services in 2013. Its clinical innovations include state-of-the-art intervention processes and collaborations for lethal conditions like cardiac arrest, stroke and sepsis; streamlined care for mental health patients and crisis intervention training for front-line staff; and use of emerging medications like naloxone (in concert with law enforcement) and tranexamic acid. Its operational best practices include plans (supplemented by training and close cooperation with law enforcement) for active-shooter and high-threat situations; a robust community paramedic program to reduce hospital admissions (as well as a nurse help line); partnership with an emergency medicine pharmacist; accreditation by the College of American Pathologists as the country's first mobile laboratory service; quality improvement mechanisms that include real-time anonymous reporting of errors and near-misses; a sustained emphasis on research, with multiple publications; participation with local, regional, state and national entities to foster better care; and a focus on safety that encompasses patient lifting/movement, the ambulance environment and employee health.

SCOTT CRAVENS:

It's my pleasure to present our next award with Terry Kehoe of ZOLL...

Please join us now in recognizing **Valhalla Volunteer Ambulance Corps** with the 2016 ZOLL Volunteer Service of the Year Award! Since 1961, nine years before EMS was chartered in New York City, the Valhalla Volunteer Ambulance Corps has been responding to emergencies. Providing prehospital services has been difficult at times, says Sue Briggs, who earns a living as a nurse practitioner when she's not serving as a Second Lieutenant at Valhalla. "When I came here 12 years ago, we couldn't manage our call volume with volunteers alone. It was particularly hard during the day. We had to hire an EMT or driver to fill in about 60 hours a week." Given the growing use of paid providers by other EMS organizations since then, it wouldn't be surprising if Valhalla's reliance on per-diem people had been increasing. According to Briggs, though, Valhalla has moved in the opposite direction. "As of about five years ago, we were down to 12 paid hours a week," she says. "Now we're at zero. We've been all volunteer since 2014." The squad has embraced a number of prehospital interventions that had once been ALS only. "We've been doing glucometry for two years and added Narcan about a year ago," says Briggs, who also says modernization isn't limited to the field; Valhalla has been working on integrating ePCR for 18

months. “It cost us about \$11,000 to get ePCR up and running. The state seems to be pretty happy with our progress, though; they’ve given us a grade of 97% which, according to them, is very good – especially for newbies.”

CHUCK KEARNS:

Wow...thanks to all of our 2016 award recipients. You are all shining stars in our profession. Thanks again to our sponsors for their support in recognizing those whose outstanding achievements have made a difference for their patients and communities.

Our final award... the Rocco V. Morando Lifetime Achievement Award... is NAEMT’s most prestigious recognition of an individual’s contribution to emergency and mobile patient care and the EMS profession. The award is granted to select individuals who, through their actions, leadership and spirit, have demonstrated a lifetime commitment and dedication to the advancement of EMS. The National Registry of EMTs is the generous sponsor of this award and I now ask Severo “Tré” Rodriguez to join me at the podium for the award presentation.

Our 2016 Rocco V. Morando Lifetime Achievement Award recipient has truly demonstrated a lifetime of commitment, contributions and leadership to EMS.

He is currently the Chair of the International Academies of Emergency Dispatch – IAED – the organization charged with setting standards, establishing curriculum, and conducting research for public safety dispatch worldwide. Prior to joining IAED, he served as CEO of Richmond Ambulance Authority in Virginia.

He has also served as the Executive Director and CEO of Metropolitan Ambulance Services Trust in Kansas City, Missouri, and as chief financial officer for the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine, an organization dedicated to the global improvement of prehospital and emergency healthcare, public health, and disaster health and preparedness.

He has provided expert technical assistance in countries across the globe, including the design for an Emergency Medical Transport program in Central Bosnia and an EMS assessment for the country of Lebanon.

This year’s recipient is a past President of the American Ambulance Association and was a member of the Institute of Medicine’s Committee on the Future of Emergency Care in the U.S. Health System. His career also includes work at Road Safety International, Inc., Surrey Ambulance Service, and the American International Health Alliance. He serves on the editorial boards of leading prehospital care journals, has received numerous recognitions, and was named one of the 20 most influential leaders in EMS by *JEMS* magazine.

He is a true pioneer and trailblazer in EMS. He is a consummate researcher, who has been a principle investigator in numerous clinical and operational studies. It is impossible to overstate the impact he has had on the EMS industry, and on the patients who are alive today because of this contribution to EMS system design, dispatch protocols and clinical research.

Our recipient is a greatly admired leader and EMS ambassador around the world — and an outstanding role model for all EMS professionals. Most everyone in our audience tonight knows who I am speaking out. Our 2016 recipient is truly an icon to everyone in EMS.

It is a great personal honor and privilege to present the 2016 Rocco V. Morando Lifetime Achievement Award to — Jerry Overton!

CHUCK KEARNS:

Jerry, thank you very much for your leadership, vision and tireless efforts to grow and strengthen EMS in our nation and across the globe.

We are now at the conclusion of this year's General Membership Meeting. I invite you all to join me down the hall — in Room 271 – for the NAEMT Member Reception, generously sponsored by the National Registry of EMTs and Columbia Southern University. Thank you.