

**2017 NAEMT General Membership Meeting**  
**“Advancing the EMS Profession”**  
**Script**

**DENNIS ROWE:**

Good evening, friends. Welcome to the 2017 NAEMT General Membership Meeting! It's an honor to share this evening with you, and thank you all for being here. Many of our members could not be with us tonight because they are responding or recovering from hurricanes, earthquakes, wildfires and other disasters that have delivered such devastating blows. Their presence is missed and our prayers continue for all our EMS brothers and sisters as they rebuild their lives and their communities.

Tonight, we come together to acknowledge the strength of our association and how NAEMT is leading the advancement of the EMS profession. We will celebrate our accomplishments and recognize the many people who contribute to our success. We will remember those who are no longer with us, and, and recognize those who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in EMS.

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.

NAEMT represents and serves our nation's EMS professionals. And through our education programs, we also serve the global EMS community. To all our members who traveled from around the world to be with us... welcome to Las Vegas! 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. I ask Troy Tuke, NAEMT Region IV Director,

and Deputy EMS Chief for Clark County, Nevada to the podium to lead us in a prayer for our fallen comrades.

**TROY TUKE:**

<prayer>

**DENNIS ROWE:**

Thank you, Troy. These heroes will never be forgotten. Their sacrifice inspires us to make our EMS profession better — and safer — for our practitioners and for the patients we serve.

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

1. Matt Zavadsky, President-elect
2. Bruce Evans, Secretary
3. Chad McIntyre, Treasurer
4. Chuck Kearns, Immediate Past President
5. Sean Britton, Region I Director
6. Robert Luckritz, Region I Director
7. Susan Bailey, 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. Jonathan Washko, At-Large Director
15. Dr. Craig Manifold, Medical Director

Thank you all very much for your dedication and commitment!

In accordance with our bylaws, I am proud to provide a report on the work of our association this year.

Let's start with Advocacy - a key component of our mission is to advocate on behalf of our profession and our patients. This year...

1. NAEMT worked with the National Association of EMS Physicians, American College of Emergency Physicians, and other organizations to introduce and pass the **Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act** in the US House of Representatives. This bill, now waiting for a Senate vote, would improve the DEA registration process for EMS agencies and clarify that EMS practitioners are permitted to administer controlled substances through standing or verbal orders when certain conditions are met.
2. In collaboration with International Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Association of Firefighters, and the American Ambulance Association, NAEMT worked with the House Ways and Means Committee to introduce a bill to maintain the ambulance Medicare extenders at their current rates for another 5 years, and to begin the process of cost reporting, consistent with all other healthcare providers.
3. NAEMT also joined with the Fire Chiefs and Firefighters, as well as the National Association of Counties, National Association of Towns and Townships, the National Volunteer Fire Council and other organizations in a letter to support the Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Act.
4. NAEMT wrote a letter to the Senate and House Transportation Committee leadership to oppose any legislation that would increase the legal size or weight limits of trucks because of the serious safety risks inherent in allowing bigger trucks on our nation's roads and bridges.
5. NAEMT provided comment to OSHA on the scope, industry interventions, and data collection on incidents of workplace violence in EMS. NAEMT recommended that all national and state EMS organizations and EMS agencies place greater emphasis on the use of reporting tools such as EVENT, the anonymous incident reporting tool.

6. NAEMT signed on to a letter to Senate leaders requesting funding for the EMS for Children program at the Health Resources and Services Administration in the Fiscal Year 2018 Labor, HHS, Education appropriations bill.
7. We actively supported state adoption of REPLICA by engaging NAEMT members on how to advocate for the passage of the legislation in their states.
8. NAEMT sent an official request to the new FEMA Administrator to include EMS professionals from all delivery models on FEMA's committees.
9. We hosted another successful EMS On The Hill Day on April 25. 250 EMS professionals from 42 states, D.C. and Puerto Rico discussed EMS issues in meetings with 226 congressional leaders and their staff. Please save April 11, 2018 on your calendar for next year's EMS On The Hill Day!
10. As a special EMS Week outreach to congressional leaders, NAEMT partnered with the American College of Emergency Physicians to coordinate a National EMS Week on the Hill exhibit on May 25. The exhibit was held on Capitol Hill and enabled national EMS organizations to directly interact with Members of Congress and their staff on the care their members provide to their patients.
11. Last month, we coordinated with Fairfax County, VA EMS and Rescue to provide EMS coverage for this year's Congressional basketball game. Prior to the game, congressional members and staff received training in CPR and hemorrhage control.
12. We continued to work with our congressional champions to build the House EMS Caucus, which now stands at 35.

Another key component of NAEMT is education - to improve how we practice patient care through quality education and training. This year...

1. Four new continuing education courses were launched – All Hazards Disaster Response, Advanced Geriatric Education for EMS, EMS Vehicle Operator Safety, and Psychological Trauma of the EMS Patient. All four courses offer high quality, evidence

based and field-tested content. And, we streamlined the process for becoming an instructor for these new courses by offering affordable online orientations for our current NAEMT instructors.

2. Our PHT, AMLS, and EPC Committees are all working on revisions of current courses:
  - a. A Basic version of AMLS specifically for EMTs will be published at the end of this year. The AMLS committee is just beginning development of the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of AMLS.
  - b. The PHTLS 9<sup>th</sup> edition is in development and will be published in October of 2018 in conjunction with next year's EMS World Expo.
  - c. The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of our TECC course was beta tested yesterday and today. The final version will be published in the first quarter of 2018.
  - d. A shorter version of this course, "TECC for Law Enforcement" is now in development and will be published in the second quarter of 2018.
  - e. The EPC Committee is working on an 8-hour refresher of the course, and will begin development of the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of EPC early in 2018.
3. Today, we held a successful World Trauma Symposium. Now in its sixth year, the symposium provided outstanding trauma education presented by global experts. I want to thank Dr. Lance Stuke for moderating the symposium, and all of our great presenters.
4. A couple of weeks ago, we announced the launch of Recert, a new online education service that provides EMS practitioners with access to high-quality education and free access to a personal dashboard for monitoring their progress to recertification and state licensure. NAEMT partnered with the Jones and Bartlett Public Safety Group to develop Recert. I am pleased to report that NAEMT members receive a 15% discount on all Recert subscriptions and courses.
5. NAEMT education continued to expand throughout the world with the launch of new training centers in Estonia, Indonesia, Kenya, Jordan, and Lithuania, bringing the total number of countries to 65!
6. To help advance EMS globally, NAEMT launched the International College of Paramedicine, an initiative to improve the quality of prehospital and out-of-hospital

patient care through the development of model standards of practice, professional competence, and education. This new organization will work with clinical and technical experts in paramedicine from across the globe to identify the professional competencies for paramedicine practitioners and the education standards that are needed to ensure that competencies can be met. ICP will advocate for and promote the adoption of paramedicine standards by applicable governmental entities and other stakeholders, and the use of written and skills evaluation to validate the professional competence of paramedicine professionals. ICP will appoint a board of international advisors to assist in this endeavor. The Board will include representation from leading emergency medical organizations across the globe.

7. NAEMT published the results of our National Survey of EMS Preparedness for Disaster and Mass Casualty Incident Response. The report provides insight into the level of proficiency and training of EMS practitioners to provide medical response during disasters and mass casualty incidents.
8. NAEMT adopted a new position statement calling for additional training for EMS practitioners and the establishment of Ambulance Strike Teams and Emergency Medical Task Forces within state and regional EMS systems and large EMS agencies.
9. NAEMT collaborated with national EMS stakeholders to publish a vision statement for the industry on the collection, use and exchange of EMS data. This statement is being used to guide us in developing new educational resources to support implementation of the vision, and in advocating for better integration of EMS data within the healthcare system.
10. We published a position statement outlining the attributes of an EMS Culture of Personal Wellbeing and Resilience and the roles of practitioners, agencies, and the community in its achievement. This statement will be used as a guide to developing tools to assist our members and their agencies.
11. NAEMT hosted the EMS 3.0 Transformation Summit on April 24. Over 200 participants from around the country learned strategies on how EMS can thrive in an outcomes-based healthcare economy. The program featured leaders from EMS, healthcare and government who provided their insights on key essentials for a successful transformation to EMS 3.0. Next year's Summit is scheduled for April 10, 2018 immediately prior to EMS On The Hill Day.

12. To help our communities, elected officials, and stakeholders better understand EMS, NAEMT created a new informational brochure for EMS agencies and practitioners titled *What Is EMS?* We also produced talking points about EMS 3.0 to help our members explain the transformation of our profession to healthcare providers, payers, and community leaders.
13. Seven scholarships were awarded to members to help them advance their careers. Additional scholarships will be awarded in 2017 for a total of \$25,000 in EMS scholarship awards.
14. In collaboration with our organizational partners in the National EMS Safety Council, a new guide for Developing an EMS Agency Safety Program has been produced. This new guide is free and can be downloaded from the NAEMT web site.
15. We launched a new NAEMT Store in collaboration with Land's End for our members and faculty to purchase NAEMT and NAEMT education branded apparel.
16. And, we launched the redesigned NAEMT website last month with service enhancements for members and course administrators. The web site, along with all of our communications – including social media, emails and printed reports – represent our commitment to providing you with relevant and timely information to support you and our profession.

Folks... as you can see, we are keeping rather busy. And, these are just the highlights of the tremendous work being accomplished by the hundreds of members who volunteer their time to these projects and keep our association moving with forward momentum.

I hope you are as proud of NAEMT's work as I am. Let's give each other and our great association a round of applause for these significant accomplishments!

It's now my pleasure to ask Immediate Past President Chuck Kearns to the podium for the next segment of our program.

**CHUCK KEARNS:**

Thank you, Dennis.

Our accomplishments would not be possible without the active engagement of our committees. NAEMT committee members spend many hours on our projects and initiatives. 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 Terry David
2. Advanced Medical Life Support Committee, chaired by Jeff Messerole
3. Candidacy and Elections Committee, chaired by Dennis Wilham *[Will-um]*
4. Education Committee, chaired by Rick Ellis
5. EMS 3.0 Committee, chaired by Matt Zavadsky
6. EMS Disaster Preparedness Committee, chaired by Jim Judge
7. EMS Safety Committee, chaired by Mike Szczygiel *[Sea-gull]*
8. EMS Workforce Committee, chaired by Garrett Hedeem
9. Emergency Pediatric Care Committee, chaired by Shannon Watson
10. Finance Committee, chaired by Chad McIntyre
11. Geriatric Education for EMS Committee, chaired by Daniel Talbert
12. Leadership Development Committee, chaired by Chuck Kearns
13. Membership Committee, chaired by Chris Way
14. Military Relations Committee, chaired by Dr. Craig Manifold
15. Principles of Ethics and Personal Leadership Committee, chaired by Leslie Hernandez
16. Prehospital Trauma Committee, chaired by Julie Chase

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 when called 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. Thank you!



3. And, our new network of Membership Coordinators. We are already seeing positive results from your efforts. Great work!

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 International Leadership Conference, providing judges for the EMT competition at the event. Thank you, Trustees.

47 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!

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:

**Elite Partners:**

1. EMS World
2. Medtronic

**Premier Partners:**

1. JEMS
2. Jones and Bartlett Learning
3. National Registry of EMTs
4. Stryker

**Diamond Partners:**

1. Columbia Southern University

2. EMS 1
3. Markel

**Gold Partners:**

1. Braun Ambulance
2. OnStar

**Silver Partners:**

1. American College of Emergency Physicians
2. Fitch and Associates
3. iSimulate

**Bronze Partners:**

1. Abbott
2. American Heart Association
3. Digitech
4. Gold Cross
5. ProMed Network
6. Skedco
7. Special Operations Medical Association

**Annual Partners:**

1. 5.11 Tactical
2. Abaris Group
3. Candor Insurance
4. Coalition Against Bigger Trucks
5. EMS Survey Team
6. H and H Medical
7. International Police Bike Mountain Association
8. Logis Solutions
9. National EMS Museum
10. Page, Wolfberg and Wirth
11. Panakeia
12. Pelvic Binder

13. Philips Lifeline
14. Physio Control
15. Pulsara
16. Solutions Group
17. Sunstar Paramedics
18. TEMS Solutions
19. Z-Medica

**Service Partners:**

1. And all of our service partners.

Thank you to all corporate sponsors for your support and for the innovations, products and services you provide.

I will now turn the podium back to President Rowe.

**DENNIS ROWE:**

Thank you, Chuck.

While NAEMT is a forward focused association, we never forget our past, how we have grown over the years, and the members who led us through challenges and obstacles along the way so that we could be the great association that we are today. We shall always remember and appreciate the leadership that our Past Presidents provided NAEMT. They provided a strong foundation for us to prosper. I ask all of our Past Presidents here with us tonight to please stand and be recognized.

We were very saddened by the passing of Jon Best, President of NAEMT from 1994 to 1996. I ask NAEMT President-elect Matt Zavadsky to say a few words in memory of Jon.

**MATT ZAVADSKY:**

Jon had a long and illustrious EMS career, and was an influential member of the NAEMT leadership during very dynamic times for our profession, and our association.

I met Jon when he came to the Joint Hospital Planning Council in Bridgeport, Connecticut to create the first paramedic delivery system for the region, collaborating with three very competitive hospital systems on a unified paramedic medical direction. He was also the Emergency Services Director for the City of Bridgeport, helping transition the city's EMS system from a police-based, BLS system to a dedicated ALS ambulance contractor. During this time, Jon also served as the EMS Incident Commander for the April 23, 1987 L'Ambiance Plaza building collapse in Bridgeport, which killed 28 construction workers. The recovery of all the victims took more than a week. His steadfast leadership and crisis management of this largest construction disaster in Connecticut's history helped prevent additional loss of life.

Jon's 'take no prisoners' approach to the advancement of EMS in New York, Connecticut and our nation, made him at times a controversial figure in EMS, but like Batman, the one we needed during times of unprecedented change in our profession. I will miss him personally, and his direct, no nonsense approach to EMS system advancement.

**DENNIS ROWE:**

Thank you, Matt, we wish Jon's family and friends our condolences on his passing.

About a month ago, NAEMT unexpectedly lost one of the greatest supporters of our profession and association. A person who devoted decades to our cause, and continued to serve even after he no longer practiced as an EMT. He is a person who touched so many of us in the profession through his work at NAEMT and at the state level. He was like a missionary, calling on all EMS practitioners to believe in our profession and in our national association. There really was no one like... **PAT MOORE.**

Pat's contributions to EMS are a shining example for us all. Pat served his state and association in Arkansas, and NAEMT for over two decades.

Pat was involved in EMS for 40 years, first as an EMT beginning in 1974, and then as an EMT-I in 1986. Pat helped establish a hospital-based paramedic service in his community that was Arkansas' most award-winning service. He served as an instructor for more than 25 years and was recognized by the State of Arkansas and nationally, by NAEMT as Instructor of the Year. Pat served in many leadership positions in the Arkansas EMT Association, including as it's President. As a well-respected EMS leader in this state, he served on the Arkansas Governor's

EMS Advisory Committee. At the federal level, Pat served on several important EMS panels and councils, including at NHTSA and FEMA.

Under Pat's steady leadership:

1. NAEMT launched the EMS Safety course, the only national course that provides comprehensive training in EMS Safety,
2. NAEMT published the first edition of the AMLS course materials, and the seventh edition of PHTLS. NAEMT began offering the U.S. Department of Defense, TCCC course.
3. NAEMT published position statements on EMS safety standards, patient safety, operational and domestic preparedness, EMS medical direction EMS Medicare reimbursement, and extension of the Public Safety Officers' Benefits program to all EMS practitioners.
4. NAEMT took the bold step to hold its first EMS On The Hill Day.

Pat's leadership and commitment to the betterment of our profession are exemplary. But to those who knew Pat, it was his comfortable, yet decisive leadership style... and his loyalty to his EMS family in Arkansas and at NAEMT... that truly distinguished him. Pat made a lasting imprint on our hearts. He was a true friend who will be sorely missed.

We are privileged to share our celebration of Pat's life with his wife, Leslie, a fellow EMS practitioner who also served NAEMT for many years.

Leslie, thank you for being with us today. Please accept this remembrance gift as a small gesture of our love for Pat. Please accept our heartfelt condolences to you, your children and grandchildren, and Pat's great fellowship of friends in Arkansas and across the country.

**DENNIS ROWE:**

I continually learn about leadership from the examples of great leaders. One of the greatest leaders in EMS, and of our nation, is Dr. Frank Butler, Chair of the U.S. Department of Defense Committee on TCCC and NAEMT's Military Medical Advisor. Dr. Butler gave me permission to share with you these leadership lessons that he developed for TCCC, but are fully relevant for EMS:

1. Nothing gets a pass because “that’s the way we have always done it.”
2. It does not matter how good the plan is – if nobody is using it.
3. If what you are doing is not working, do something else.
4. Maintain an active search for good ideas – wherever they can be found – and process them as though lives depend on it.
5. Make needed corrections quickly as additional evidence and experience is gained.
6. Effective strategic messaging is needed to inform and inspire decision makers.
7. Evidence does not drive advances. People do that.
8. Lessons learned are not really lessons learned – unless we actually learn them.

With these leadership lessons in mind, I selected this year’s NAEMT Presidential Leadership Award recipients. Each of them has demonstrated their understanding of these lessons through their exemplary work on behalf of NAEMT. I am pleased to recognize them this evening.

**1. First, I’ll ask longtime friend, John Fitzsimmons, to join me at the podium...**

John has demonstrated tireless dedication and commitment to recruiting new NAEMT members. He has also supported NAEMT committees, advocacy and many activities for decades. Thank you, John, for all you have done... and continue to do... for NAEMT!

**2. Next, I ask Patrick Wick and Jan Fillippo to come to the podium.**

Patrick serves as NAEMT national education coordinator in France. Jan serves as our national coordinator in the Netherlands. Both serve, along with **Riana Constantinou**, from Cyprus, as part of the leadership of NAEMT’s European education partners group. They each have worked tirelessly to expand NAEMT education within Europe and globally to countries in the Mid-east and Africa. They have worked in partnership with our Education Committee and NAEMT’s headquarters staff to clarify policy issues and resolve challenges. They are sincere partners in our education mission.

Riana could not be us this evening, but Patrick and Jan please accept these Presidential Leadership Awards for your outstanding leadership and commitment to NAEMT education throughout Europe and the world. Your efforts have helped our professional colleagues across the globe gain access to high quality continuing education.

**3. Finally, I ask Dave Page to the podium.**

For the few people in the audience who may not know Dave, he is a longtime member of NAEMT and one of our very experienced faculty. He is also a member of our Education Committee. Dave has a passion for learning and a deep commitment to help EMS practitioners across the globe improve their ability to care for their patients. Fluent in Spanish from his many years growing up in Mexico, Dave has combined his language capability with his expertise in EMS education to help NAEMT grow and flourish in Latin America. Dave has devoted thousands of hours to work with our faculty in Latin America, and universities and government leaders to expand access to NAEMT education.

Dave, please accept this Presidential Leadership Award for your tremendous leadership in support of NAEMT education throughout the region.

Congratulations to our 2017 Presidential Leadership Award Recipients!

Now, it gives me great pleasure to begin presentation of the 2017 National EMS Awards of Excellence. Please welcome NAEMT At-Large Director Jonathan Washko and Chad Brown from Braun Industries to present the NAEMT/Braun Industries EMT of the Year award.

**JON WASHKO:**

Our first award is the NAEMT/Braun Industries EMT of the Year and we are honored to present it to **Ryan Houser** of Morristown, New Jersey.

Ryan has worked in EMS since age 16. He is driven to help others, and has aspirations of one day becoming a neurosurgeon... working in federal law enforcement... and advancing the field of tactical medicine. Ryan is a volunteer EMT for Morris Minute Men EMS. He is the Assistant Captain and helps with agency's operational readiness and recruitment. He also chairs the agency's membership and equipment committees.

Ryan is creating awareness videos to support community education and encourage agency volunteers. He attends Rutgers University full time and is certified as a firefighter with the Morris Township Fire Department. Ryan is also an EMT for Cedar Knolls Fire Department and the Morris County Office of Emergency Management. He serves on judiciary committees to support juveniles, and works at Morristown Medical Center as an Emergency Medical Technician.

A colleague said, “Ryan dedicates considerable time to his pursuit of providing exceptional patient care to individuals in the prehospital and hospital setting. Ryan has truly modeled his entire life around helping others, whether patient or peer, and his work as an EMT has become one of the most significant parts of his identity.”

Please join me in congratulating Ryan Houser as our 2017 EMT of the Year!

**DENNIS ROWE:**

Well done, Ryan! Now, I ask NAEMT Region I Director Rob Luckritz and Melissa Dummer from Nasco to present the NAEMT/Nasco Paramedic of the Year award.

**ROB LUCKRITZ:**

It’s a true privilege to present the 2017 NAEMT/Nasco Paramedic of the Year Award to **Terry Bottjen** of Faith, South Dakota.

Terry is certified as a paramedic in South Dakota and through NREMT. He has served EMS for 37 years in ground and air ambulance agencies and as an educator. Terry has volunteered over 50,000 hours of service and received both the South Dakota Governor’s Volunteer Award and the JC Penny Golden Rule Volunteer of the Year Award. He is also an experienced Scuba rescue diver. Terry has received commendation letters from state and federal leaders and recognitions locally.

It was through personal experience that Terry saw the challenges of EMS in remote areas. So, he began his own volunteer first responder unit, which was headquartered in his home. At his own expense, he bought an ambulance and began the volunteer Hill City Ambulance Service. He later donated the agency to the community.

Terry is also a Pastor. He believes that EMS practitioners are the hands of God every time they reach out to help patients. His colleague said, “With all his leadership and lifesaving skills, the thing that impresses me most about Terry is his compassion.” Another said, “Terry is one who more than exhibits exactly what EMS stands for.”

Please join me in congratulating Terry Bottjen as our 2017 Paramedic of the Year.



**DENNIS ROWE:**

Congratulations, Terry!

I'd now like to welcome NAEMT Region II Director Susan Bailey and Christine Emerton from Jones and Bartlett Learning to present the NAEMT/Jones and Bartlett Learning 2017 EMS Educator of the Year award.

**SUSAN BAILEY:**

It's an honor to present the NAEMT/Jones and Bartlett Educator of the Year Award to **Ginny Renkiewicz** of Fayetteville, North Carolina.

Ginny has devoted the past 17 years to the instruction of others. She was nominated in recognition of her sacrifice and dedication to advancing education and research in EMS. She holds numerous certifications and has received several national awards. She is widely published and presents at conferences. She spends countless hours, inside and outside the classroom, educating future generations of EMS professionals. She is also advancing her own education to earn a Ph.D. in Health Science and specialize in respiratory care.

Ginny has excelled in implementing curriculum in accordance with state and national guidelines with a 100% first-time pass rate on state EMT and Paramedic credentialing exams.

A colleague said, Ginny "is an educator of the highest order and has been responsible for developing some of the finest paramedics with whom I've had the pleasure to work." Another said, Ginny "is one of the few prehospital education professionals who not only inspires young paramedics, but also grows and inspires developing and accomplished educators."

Ginny Renkiewicz... congratulations on being named the 2017 Educator of the Year!

**DENNIS ROWE:**

Congratulations, Ginny! I now ask NAEMT Medical Director Dr. Craig Manifold and Paul Vecchio from North American Rescue to present the 2017 NAEMT/North American Rescue Military Medic of the Year award.

**DR. CRAIG MANIFOLD:**

It is a great privilege to present this year's Military Medic of the Year award to **Jacob Ponczkowski**, a Sergeant in the U.S. Army at the Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington State.

Sgt. Ponczkowski serves in the U.S. Army 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, as a military combat medic. He is also a paramedic. Most recently, Sgt. Ponczkowski was honored with a Bronze Star Medal with Valor for efforts to support Operation Freedom Sentinel in Afghanistan. The Joint Task Force citation read: "Sgt. Ponczkowski's poise while under direct fire undoubtedly saved the lives of his fellow rangers and directly contributed to the success of the task force."

His medical director wrote: "Sgt. Ponczkowski – "Ponch", as he's known – has continuously set the example of what a Medic is and should be. On one particular night in Afghanistan, Sgt. Ponch heroically put his life in peril as he fought through enemy fire to save the life of a U.S. advisor."

Another comrade remarked that Sgt. Ponczkowski has impressive medical ability and knowledge. And he is a great soldier who trains himself – and helps others – to go above and beyond the standard. Sgt. Ponczkowski has earned the Expert Field Medical Badge for special skills. He is qualified as a Dive Medical Technician, is a graduate of Ranger School, and has advanced instructor certifications.

On behalf of the EMS profession and the great country you serve, thank you for your service. It is our honor to present you with the 2017 Military Medic of the Year Award!

**DENNIS ROWE:**

Now, please welcome my friend Scott Cravens from EMS World and Terry Kehoe from ZOLL to present the National EMS service awards. Scott and Terry...

**SCOTT CRAVENS:**

It is our pleasure to present the 2017 Volunteer EMS Service award to **Greenlawn Fire Department EMS** of New York.

Greenlawn Fire Department EMS serves a population of 25,000 with a staff of 38 EMTs and 3 paramedics. The agency runs 2300 emergency calls per year and does not bill for services. The department recently acquired a Lifenet system to transmit 12-lead EKGs directly to the hospital to decrease door-to-balloon times in cardiac emergencies. EMTs are all trained in 12-lead EKG acquisition and transmission to the hospital. The agency also recently implemented a "check and inject" program of epinephrine in cases of anaphylactic shock.

Staff wellness is a priority, as the district constructed a gym that's free for all members and instituted mandatory annual physicals for EMS staff. Greenlawn Fire Dept. EMS is currently equipping all vehicles in the fleet with a stretcher loading system and power stretchers to ensure caregiver safety. Twice annually, the department holds a patient "lifting and moving" class. Greenlawn recently instituted a CPR campaign with community outreach to help residents wishing to get Heartsaver certified.

During EMS week, the rescue squad hosts activities to introduce the public to what EMS is and to educate them on calling 9-1-1. The agency consistently brings educational programs to elementary and high schools to help raise awareness of emergency medical services.

Please join us now in recognizing Greenlawn Fire Department EMS with the 2017 ZOLL Volunteer Service of the Year Award!

**SCOTT CRAVENS:**

Next, I'll ask Melanie Phillips from Ferno to help present the NAEMT/Dick Ferneau Career Service Award. It is our pleasure to present the 2017 award to **Allina Health EMS**

**Allina Health EMS** serves more than 100 Minnesota communities and employs nearly 570 paramedics, EMTs, dispatchers, special transportation drivers, maintenance and administration and support personnel. Services include priority medical dispatch, 9-1-1 pre-arrival instructions, emergency and non-emergency ambulance response, the Greater Minnesota Ride program and wheelchair transport.

This year, to support the development of evidence-based practice, Allina Health EMS added an in-house epidemiologist and a manager of EMS analytics to expand research, analysis and interpretation of information. In 2015, Allina's communications center became one of only 144

dispatch centers in the world to achieve accreditation by the International Academy of Emergency Dispatch. Allina launched a mobile integrated healthcare project to reduce the number of readmission and ED visits for patients with mental health issues or frequent hospital readmissions for CHF, COPD or cardiac conditions. In 2015, the agency conducted the first Allina Health EMS Freedom House EMT class to recruit and train inner-city St. Paul residents as EMTs.

Please join us now in recognizing **Allina Health EMS** with the 2017 NAEMT/Dick Ferneau Career Service of the Year Award!

**DENNIS ROWE:**

Wow...thanks to all of our 2017 award recipients. You are all shining EMS 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.

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 N119 – for some fun at the NAEMT Member Reception, generously sponsored by Columbia Southern University and the National Registry of EMTs. Thank you!