



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 15, 2019

2019 National EMS Awards of Excellence Recipients Announced

Clinton, Miss. – NAEMT and EMS World are pleased to announce the recipients of the 2019 *National EMS Awards of Excellence*. The awards will be presented during NAEMT's General Membership Meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 15, in New Orleans, Louisiana, and on Oct. 16, during EMS World Expo's opening ceremony. We congratulate the following recipients and recognize their outstanding contributions to the EMS profession and the patients they serve:

Debby Carscallen, Paramedic, Moscow, Idaho
2019 NAEMT/Nasco Paramedic of the Year, *sponsored by Nasco*

Freya Whalen, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Clever, Missouri
2019 NAEMT/Braun Industries EMT of the Year, *sponsored by Braun Industries*

Michael Dailey, MD, FACEP, FAEMS, Delmar, New York
2019 NAEMT/Bound Tree EMS Medical Director of the Year,
sponsored by Bound Tree Medical

Melissa Stuve, Portland, Texas
2019 NAEMT/Jones & Bartlett Learning EMS Educator of the Year,
sponsored by Jones & Bartlett Learning

HM1 Kenneth Russell, US Navy, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina
2019 NAEMT/North American Rescue Military Medic of the Year,
sponsored by North American Rescue

San Antonio Fire Department EMS, San Antonio, Texas
2019 Dick Ferneau Career EMS Service of the Year, *sponsored by Ferno*

Princess Anne Courthouse Volunteer Rescue Squad, Virginia Beach, Virginia
2019 Volunteer EMS Service of the Year, *sponsored by ZOLL*

Debby Carscallen is a paramedic for the City of Moscow-Volunteer Fire Department in Idaho. Debby was nominated by Pam Rogers, a co-worker through Debby's volunteer roles as a firefighter, paramedic, police officer, and now EMS division chief for the City of Moscow. "She is an incredible and valuable member of our community and an outstanding paramedic," said Pam. Debby is recognized as a coach, teacher, leader, mentor, and champion of the physical safety and emotional well-being of crews. Debby has improved the onboarding process and many volunteers have advanced to pursue careers in EMS. She recruited volunteers to help with fundraising to purchase AED's for all schools and police vehicles in the community. She is an advocate for CPR and Stop the Bleed classes and inspires others to become advocates for community education.

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“Debby is a paramedic whose purpose and focus are to serve her community and patients,” said Nicole Wheaton of Gritman Medical Center. Debby frequently spends evenings helping EMS agencies in small, rural communities conduct training. She is also working to create a Peer Support Group to support and advocate for the mental health of our First Responder community.

Freya Whalen is an EMT for CoxHealth in Springfield, Missouri. Freya was nominated by her peer Aerla McCoy who said, “Freya is honest and genuinely compassionate to her patients, making them feel taken care of. She has a drive to make the patient experience the best healing experience possible. She is a shining example of an EMT.” Freya is a volunteer fire lieutenant and EMT for a 911 and transfer hospital-based service. She is the recipient of Missouri’s 2018 Kenneth E. Cole Memorial EMT-B of the Year award. Freya also trains peers in the fire service, EMS services, and as an instructor. Freya is passionate about passing knowledge to the next generation of EMTs. She is an EMT field training officer, providing prehospital training for newly hired and student EMTs. Her goal is to go beyond the textbook and locate needs in the emergency medical service industry. She educates the community in CPR, bleeding control, AED use, and injury prevention and safety. Freya has been an advocate for child safety, EMS practitioner safety and resilience, and patient care. Quoted in a local publication Freya said, “In healthcare, we are given a rare opportunity to be there for someone in their darkest time and to help them. Be it big or small, the things we do and say are important,” she says.

Michael Dailey, MD, FACEP, FAEMS, is the Regional EMS Medical Director for REMO, a six-county region surrounding Albany, New York, with a population of close to one million people, and also a Medical Director for a dozen EMS agencies. He is a member of multiple national and state organizations and has been a strong voice locally, playing an active role in protocol and systems development. Nominators Luke Duncan, MD, and Steven Kroll, MHA, EMT, said Dr. Dailey, “has been one of the most significant and impactful EMS physicians and Medical Directors in New York State.” Dr. Dailey is credited with helping agencies advance clinical improvement and excellence, and mentoring EMS agency leaders who struggle with sustainability and clinical issues. “Mike uses every precious moment to get something done,” they continued. His strength has been in motivating groups of interested parties to get involved and advance important causes, and he leads them to tackle challenge after challenge together. As the Chief of the Division of Prehospital and Operational Medicine and Professor of Emergency Medicine at Albany Medical Center, Mike is educating many young physicians to become EMS leaders. Jason Cohen, Chief Medical Officer of Boston MedFlight said, “Dr. Dailey is devoted, fair, competent, equitable, compassionate, and inspiring. He helps others and communities without pretense, working tirelessly to make things better for our patients and our profession.”

Melissa Stuve is the EMS Program Director at Del Mar College in Corpus Christi, Texas, and sits on the Education Committee of the state of Texas Governor’s Emergency Trauma Advisory Council, and also serves as the Education Committee Chair for the Coastal Bend Regional Advisory Council. She has also served as a question writer for the National Registry (NREMT) and was able to significantly improve the college’s Paramedic program pass rates to 100 percent. “Melissa has demonstrated time and again her dedication and commitment to the success of Del Mar’s Public Safety—EMS Program, as well as to each student engaged in the program,” said Ricardo Quintero, Deputy Fire Chief, Corpus Christi Fire Department. She directed the effort to achieve accreditation to assure quality instruction was delivered to every student. She introduced technology and improvements that gave students the resources to become skilled EMTs. Former student Frank Funke noted, “Melissa sets her students up with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed. She has built relationships in our area with her students going into the field and clinical work. Melissa continues to work on her own professional development and is completing her Ed.D. “Her influence in the lives of practicing EMT’s and paramedics cannot be emphasized enough,” said Roberto Ruiz, an EMS Instructor under her supervision.

HM1 Kenneth Russell is a Special Operations Independent Duty Corpsman currently serving as the acting Medical Chief and Lead Petty Officer for Company M, 3D Marine Raider Battalion. Serving the US Navy for the past seven years, Petty Officer Russell has deployed with 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion in Okinawa, Japan as well as serving two overseas tours to Africa with Marine Special Operations Teams. He is a successful leader, trainer, mentor and subject matter expert. “HM1 Russell is a top performer within Marine Special Operations Command,” said HMCS Michael J. Mason. He was awarded the prestigious MARSOC Luke Milam Excellence Award in 2019 for his tremendous abilities both as a medical professional and a tactical leader. HM1 Russell led a responding joint Department of Defense team of over 30 personnel in the care of 21 multi-system trauma patients consisting of prolonged evacuation times of up to 6 hours. In the past year, HM1 Russell has answered his calling as an independent medical provider within a Special Operations Command. He has sought civilian education, achieved the height of his technical progression, earned the highest marks in fitness and molded a diverse group of specialists into a team, leading to the best possible outcome in a combat zone for nearly two dozen casualties. “Without reservation, HM1 Russell represents the top candidate for nomination by 3D Marine Raider Battalion, Marine Special Operations Command,” continued HMCS Mason.

Nominees for the Paramedic and EMT of the Year Awards are scored on how the nominee: provides superior patient care; is an effective advocate for patients and their families; works with peers to foster a positive work environment; demonstrates professionalism in interacting with patients, their families and other medical professionals; and demonstrates a commitment to continuing professional education.

Nominations for the Educator of the Year Award are scored on how the nominee: consistently demonstrates commitment to providing high quality, professional education for EMS practitioners; serves as an outstanding role model for EMS practitioners in the classroom and in the community; effectively mentors EMS students at all stages of their professional development; introduces and incorporates innovative approaches and tools in the classroom, which enhance students' learning experiences; and contributes and participates in the development of education content that expands the body of quality EMS curriculum.

Nominees for the Military Medic of the Year Award are recognized military medics (MOS-qualified active, reserve or National Guard US Army Medic, Navy Corpsman or Air Force Medic) who demonstrate excellence in the performance of military emergency medicine, with their primary role being that of theater patient care.

San Antonio Fire Department EMS (SAEMS) serves the city of San Antonio and surrounding regions with a 400-person staff, 43 ambulances and an EMS budget of \$68 million, responding to 160,000 calls per year. The agency is “innovative, progressive and fearless when it comes to protecting the health and safety of citizens and prehospital responders,” said C.J. Winckler, deputy medical director of San Antonio Fire Department. In October 2018, SAEMS began to offer patients whole blood as a treatment for hemorrhagic shock. SAEMS has deployed behavioral health and MIH programs that are a first of their kind in the nation. SAEMS and the UT Health Department of Emergency Health Sciences Office of the Medical Director (OMD) Research Division have forged relationships that improve the health and safety of citizens and responders by conducting evidence-based research. As a response to threats of MCIs, terror attacks and active shooter incidents, SAEMS and UT OMD collaborated to form the Medical Special Operations Unit, a specialized team of paramedics trained to provide the highest level of medical care and ensure the health of uniformed personnel. SAEMS helped create two programs to improve out-of-hospital cardiac arrest survival, including a prehospital extracorporeal membrane oxygenation cardiopulmonary resuscitation algorithm and a program that will require local hospitals to become accredited resuscitation centers. Additional programs include a medical screening tool for behavioral health patients, a wildland firefighter force protection team, prehospital infant safe sleep initiative, an acute care station in the largest homeless shelter in Texas, a sepsis triage protocol, LVO stroke identification tool, and clinical operating guidelines apps. “SAEMS represents what it means to provide excellence in EMS,” said Winckler. “This stems from the Chief of SAFD’s directive, ‘Do what’s right.’ This isn’t just a slogan; this is a philosophy that’s lived by our firefighters and paramedics every day.”

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Princess Anne Courthouse Volunteer Rescue Squad (PACHVRS) has served the emergency medical needs of the Princess Anne/General Booth/Redmill/Salem areas of the City of Virginia Beach since 1947. Its 110 operational and administrative members serve approximately 50,000 hours per year. PACHVRS lists a fleet of four ALS-equipped ambulances, staffing one ALS-equipped ambulance at each of two stations each shift, answering approximately 5,000 calls annually. Committed to professional development, PACHVRS leadership nominates members for recognition through local, regional, and national programs as well as outside community organizations. PACHVRS provides coordination, scheduling and staffing for large-scale events each year. Community education includes safety and first aid training at schools and civic organizations, as well as members who lead Stop the Bleed and Hands Only CPR education. As an agency in a teaching system, PACHVRS' ambulances frequently operate with a three-person crew that includes a trainee. A recent design change included an extended-cab type 1 ambulance design with 4-point restraints and cot retention devices for patient and crew safety. Regularly scheduled "Squad Days" promote comradery and build esprit de corps outside of the duty environment. On May 31, 2019, PACHVRS units were the first on the scene of the Virginia Beach Active Shooter incident. PACHVRS' signature blue ambulances soon became the leading image on local and national newscasts. On June 2, members walked from PACHVRS' home station to the memorial site to pay respects before gathering at a local eatery for dinner. "We work and respond to calls together, so it is only right we break bread together," said Trevor Kirk, NRP, chair of the board of directors for PACHVRS. "We join the rest of the city in making sure Virginia Beach will not be remembered as a place of violence, but as a place of unwavering support and love for our community. It has been my pleasure to nominate this amazing organization for this award."

Nominees for the Service of the Year Awards are scored on the following: advances in EMS education and training in the agency; innovations in prehospital care and protocol development implemented by the agency; medical community involvement with the agency; EMS system/program upgrades implemented by the agency; worker safety and well-being programs implemented by the agency; injury and illness-prevention projects implemented by the agency; and public-education project sponsorships the agency is involved in.

About NAEMT - Formed in 1975 and more than 72,000 members strong, the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians ([NAEMT](http://naemt.org)) is the only national association representing the professional interests of all emergency and mobile healthcare practitioners. NAEMT members work in all sectors of EMS, including government agencies, fire departments, hospital-based ambulance services, private companies, industrial and special operations settings, and in the military. Contact: Kathleen Taormina, Marketing and Media Director, kathleen.taormina@naemt.org

About EMS World - EMS World is the leading brand for the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) field - and includes EMS World magazine, EMSWorld.com, EMS World Expo, Revista EMS World, and EMS World Americas. EMS World Magazine is the most authoritative source in the world for clinical and educational material designed to improve the delivery of prehospital emergency medical care. EMSWorld.com provides the web's most comprehensive EMS news coverage, product information, job listings, videos and a host of educational features and columns. EMS World Expo is an annual EMS focused education conference. The conference is hosted in partnership with the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT). The event offers classes on tools, technologies, and trends in prehospital care and also features an exhibit hall. Visit www.emsworld.com

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