



STARS OF LIFE

2020

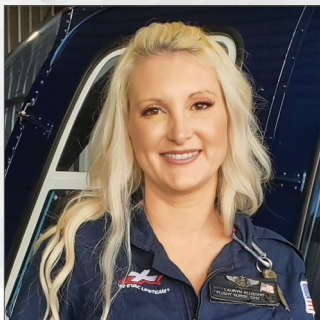


**Global Medical
Response**

2020 CLASS OF STARS



- | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 4 Lauryn Allgood
<i>Opelousas, LA</i> | 16 Josh Edmonds
<i>Jackson, MS</i> | 28 Will Moser
<i>Juneau, AK</i> |
| 5 Sergio Alvarez
<i>Herndon, VA</i> | 17 Ismael Esparza
<i>Palm Springs, CA</i> | 29 Diana Priego
<i>Sacramento, CA</i> |
| 6 Brad Andrews
<i>Tucson, AZ</i> | 18 Kelly Ferris
<i>Oklahoma City, OK</i> | 30 Matthew Scott
<i>Eagle Pass, TX</i> |
| 7 Olga Borozinski
<i>Las Vegas, NV</i> | 19 Peter Gauna
<i>Safford, AZ</i> | 31 Mary Springer
<i>North Charleston, SC</i> |
| 8 James Brodigan
<i>Poplar Bluff, MO</i> | 20 Nolan Gerety
<i>Portland, OR</i> | 32 Kayla Stack
<i>Tulsa, OK</i> |
| 9 David Burnside
<i>Woodway, TX</i> | 21 Samantha Greene
<i>Belleville, IL</i> | 33 Rain Swift
<i>Aiea, HI</i> |
| 10 Loretta Burton
<i>Youngstown, OH</i> | 22 Scott Hedrick
<i>Evansville, IN</i> | 34 James Tarver
<i>Natchez, MS</i> |
| 11 Loretta Cardwell
<i>Sacramento, CA</i> | 23 Kyle Hilb
<i>Phoenix, AZ</i> | 35 Chase Tucker
<i>Yakima, WA</i> |
| 12 Destiny Carter
<i>Colorado Springs, CO</i> | 24 Clifford Jacks
<i>Concord, CA</i> | 36 Wendy Unmacht
<i>Nashville, TN</i> |
| 13 Luke Combs
<i>Rosebud, SD</i> | 25 Sean R. Luce
<i>Columbus, OH</i> | 37 Joshua Young
<i>Greenwood Village, CO</i> |
| 14 Mathew Cox
<i>Stockton, CA</i> | 26 Adam Martin
<i>Buffalo, NY</i> | |
| 15 Amira Drakes
<i>Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago</i> | 27 Bryan McKeon
<i>Monterey, CA</i> | |



LAURYN ALLGOOD

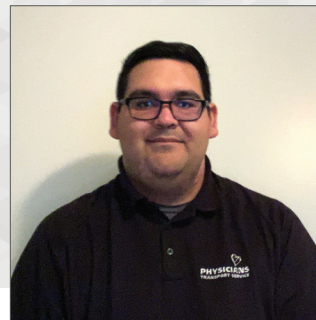
Opelousas, LA

Flight Nurse | Air Evac Lifeteam

Lauryn Allgood is being honored as a Star of Life for her contributions to quality improvement across her organization. Lauryn's Quality Enhancement Program Director marked her as a standout contributor when Lauryn joined a committee tasked with mitigating or eliminating risk. When that leader moved into a new position, she transitioned Lauryn to lead the committee and continue the project to completion.

Lauryn accepted the challenge evincing an ingrained desire to lead and innate knack of being a leader. She impressed her colleagues with her ability to learn, think critically, problem solve and, most importantly ask the right questions. By the time Lauryn had completed the companywide project, her efforts had impacted every single flight crew member in the Air Evac organization. She has helped foster a culture of continuous improvement that is not limited to improving patient care, but touches all areas of operations and all people.

Lauryn is a skilled clinician who holds a Master's degree in Nursing and is committed to providing care at a moment's notice. This makes her service outside the designated scope of a flight nurse all the more noteworthy. She reflects the best values of the company and is an asset on the job and off.



SERGIO ALVAREZ

Herndon, VA

EMT | American Medical Response

Sergio Alvarez is being honored as a Star of Life for exemplifying the GMR mission of being Patient Focused and Caregiver Inspired. As first responders, we all know about tough calls. For Sergio this has been especially true. He was faced with the need to rush to the aid of his own sister who had experienced a medical event at her home leading to cardio-respiratory failure. Without hesitation, Sergio reacted and performed high-quality CPR until care could be turned over to the arriving EMS crew. Unfortunately, his sister passed away later. But his act of heroism and strength—of patient focus in a situation where focus was nearly impossible—is an inspiration to his caregiver peers. His drive is undeterred. He learns from both positive and negative experiences and shows a strength unparalleled by most. He is a superb representative of GMR. He is compassionate. He gives much, takes little and expects nothing in return. That he has helped someone is enough for him.

Sergio is studying to become a doctor and is currently working in lab studies, exploring and developing new techniques and treatments for eradicating cancer cells in the human body. He recently earned his NREMT-Paramedic certification and will be in the field in that capacity soon.



BRAD ANDREWS

Tucson, AZ

EMT | American Medical Response

Brad Andrews is being honored as a Star of Life for his quick action in saving an unconscious patient in the ambulance bay of a local hospital. Brad was in the bay when a car sped in with the patient inside. After realizing the patient was nonresponsive, Brad acted immediately and began CPR. Even as hospital staff wheeled the patient into the ER, Brad continued his resuscitation efforts. The patient was a code save and was able to walk out of the hospital a few days later. But Brad's service extends beyond his clinical expertise. He was recently working standby for a marathon. As the last runner struggled with 2.5 miles remaining, she asked Brad to take her to the finish line in the ambulance. Brad wouldn't let her quit. With the ambulance following close behind, Brad and the marathoner walked the remainder of the course. She crossed the finish line.

Brad has worked in the EMS industry since 2001. He is known as a fixer, a doer, who will go to extraordinary lengths to help his peers and the people of his community. He is an ideal representative of the company and the industry.



OLGA BOROZINSKI

Las Vegas, NV

Flight Nurse | AirMed International

Olga Borozinski is being honored as a Star of Life for her leadership, exceptional clinical care and her commitment to mentoring and educating new team members. Olga is the primary nurse for highly complicated transports involving Impella/Balloon/ECMO and sometimes multiple LVAD devices at the same time. In all these complicated cases she has always shown the utmost confidence and skill in the safe delivery of these patients to their destination for the higher level of care they needed. Olga has also dedicated un-tolled hours on on-base tasks beyond the scope of her flight nurse position, including marketing to local hospitals and collecting feedback from them on how we can better serve our customers. Perhaps her greatest role is as a teacher. She has an exceptional knowledge base that she shares freely with her colleagues. She is a leader in providing training and assists in varied courses to improve treatment to the vast range of patients AirMed serves.

Olga has been a flight nurse for four years. She earned her CCRN and continues to educate herself in order to provide even higher levels of patient care. Her colleagues say she is a skilled, caring, efficient and loyal nurse whose contribution to the team has been invaluable. Olga says that she would not be able to do what she does without her amazing partners in flight, her work family and the love and support of her husband and two boys.



JAMES BRODIGAN

Poplar Bluff, MO

Base Pilot Supervisor/Line Pilot
Med-Trans/EagleMed

James (Jim) Brodigan is being honored as a star of life for his quick actions that enabled an elderly patient to reach a local ICU. Jim was off duty pursuing his hobby when he visited the home of a man who had an old pinball machine for sale. The man suddenly paled, weakened and became short of breath. Soon, he collapsed to the floor and was unresponsive. After directing the man's wife to call 911, Jim found the man had no pulse. He began chest compressions. After several minutes the man slowly came to and was able to raise his arm as a response. EMS arrived and transported the patient to a local ICU. The man's family called to thank Jim and told him the patient was hanging on in ICU. When the patient's wife called two days later, it was to say that her husband had passed on. But she gave Jim her heartfelt thanks for that extra time she had with her husband. It meant so much to her, and that meant everything to Jim.

Jim has been flying EMS aircraft for more than 15 years. His colleagues say he is humble, even unassuming, but that the more you are around him the more you see his deep compassion, razor-sharp intelligence and his wisdom that comes from both successes and failures, as he would tell you himself.



DAVID BURNSIDE

Woodway, TX

Telecommunicator
American Medical Response

David Burnside is being honored as a Star of Life for his quick action in saving a cardiac arrest victim while off duty, as well as assisting in the delivery of baby via telecommunications. David was at a 4th of July concert in Waco shortly after completing EMD training in Dallas. While enjoying the music and dancing, he witnesses a man a few rows from him collapse. David ran to the man and began CPR immediately. When police on scene brought an AED, it was David who applied the device and continued treatment before EMS transport arrived. The patient survived his heart attack. A few months later, in his role as a telecommunicator, David calmly assisted a caller through the complete birth of a healthy 6 lb. 10 oz. baby girl before first responders could arrive. He is the first dispatcher at the Waco Communications Center to receive the Stork Award.

David has been with AMR only since June of 2019. The actions above demonstrate that he is extremely calm in the face of adversity and the consummate professional already. His coworkers see him as a motivator. He continually takes on additional training and is working towards becoming certified in ERT.



LORETTA BURTON

Youngstown, OH

Paramedic/FTO
American Medical Response

Loretta (Lorie) Burton is being honored as a Star of Life for her actions that saved the life of a cardiac arrest patient in April of 2019. On that day, she and her EMT partner were called to a dental clinic parking lot where they found an 81-year-old male in cardiac arrest. With the help of her partner, Lorie began CPR and then continued ALS care on her own. Lorie was able to establish a return of spontaneous circulation and the patient was transported to the emergency department of a local hospital. He was released a few days later with no neuro deficits or cardiac damage. This save was a direct result of Lorie's dedication to the patients she serves. That dedication perhaps was demonstrated best when Lorie was the medic on the scene of a car accident involving the man who had earlier tried to shoot her policeman husband. She treated this patient with respect and he received the best of care, as anyone who knows Lorie knew he would.

Lorie has been in EMS for 18 years. She began her career as an EMT and continued her education to become a paramedic. She attained the rank of supervisor but reduced her hours to part time to care for her five children. She is a proud member of the Youngstown community.



LARRY CARDWELL

Sacramento, CA

Flight Paramedic
REACH Air Medical Services

Larry Cardwell is being honored as a Star of Life for his role as an advocate for change and innovation in his organization. Larry built a Beta Weather and Flight Planning Station that is unparalleled in terms of ease of use, fidelity, scope and dependability of flight-planning information. His state-of-the-art system has helped REACH crews and patients fly safer, ultimately earning him the REACH Safety award in 2019. In addition to his commitment to safety, Larry is one of a handful of clinicians trained to transport neonatal intensive care unit patients. As such he has received the intensive training to care for newborn babies who require intensive medical care and specialized technology. All of Larry's patients receive ICU-level care and his trademark compassion and respect. He is a vigorous advocate for them and goes well above and beyond in his service to them, his community and his company.

Larry has been a paramedic for eight years. Based on his continued advancement of process improvement and innovation, as well as his clinical expertise, Larry's colleagues believe there is no better candidate to receive the industry's highest honor and represent the company in Washington.



DESTINY CARTER

Colorado Springs, CO

Paramedic | American Medical Response

Destiny Carter is being honored as a Star of Life for putting herself in harm's way while physically restraining a potential suicide victim. Destiny was first on the scene where a girl stood dangerously near the edge of the bridge on the other side of a chain-link fence. Destiny tried to talk her down but quickly realized she was serious about jumping. As the girl began to lean forward toward the precipice, Destiny grabbed the back of her coat through the links in the fence. She held her there precariously. The girl tried to slip out of her coat, but Destiny was able to grab her belt and pants. When the girl kicked her legs out over the edge, the belt broke, but still Destiny held fast. A local K-9 police unit arrived and they used the officer's dog leash to secure the girl until a ladder unit brought her down safely with no injuries. Call it destiny.

Destiny began with AMR as an EMT and quickly enrolled in the paramedic academy and earned her certificate. She has always displayed the highest level of professionalism in all her endeavors and coworkers say she always puts other's needs before her own and is exceptionally compassionate.



LUKE COMBS

Rosebud, SD

Pilot | Guardian Flight

Luke Combs is being honored as a Star of Life for his overall contributions to his local operation, including his piloting skills, his commitment to safety and his willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty. Luke performs duties that are vital to his community, that's a given for any air medical pilot. But Luke actively seeks out ways to improve all aspects of his work, the shared safety of his colleagues and Guardian Flight operations in general. Luke will fly crews in five different states and still pick up time in open slots that would otherwise result in downtime, making sure patients reach their destinations and get the critical care they need. When he's not doing that, he's assisting an ambulance crew with maintenance on their vehicles, removing snow from hospital access points, or just fabricating and welding all the benches and shelves used on the base. His colleagues describe him as polite, good natured, a non-judgmental seeker of facts, a man of many talents and a friend.

Luke has been an air medical pilot for five years. He has many certifications and can pilot multiple aircraft. He is an active member of the South Dakota Pilots Association. He enjoys participating in Guardian events such as elementary school, flight medicine and nursing presentations.



MATHEW COX

Stockton, CA

Paramedic | American Medical Response

Mathew Cox is being honored as a Star of Life for his off-duty actions that saved a boy from drowning. In January last year, Mathew was enjoying a vacation in Hawaii. While relaxing on the beach, he noticed a young boy splashing in shallow water near rocks. In what seemed mere minutes, the strength of the waves increased significantly, crashing violently on the sandy shore. Mathew looked for the boy and noticed he was being pushed by the waves into the sharp rocks. A moment later, the boy was pulled under by the strong current below. Mathew ran into the water. He caught a brief glimpse of the boy and dove in. Fighting the current himself, he reached the boy and pulled him back to the shore and his waiting parents. Mathew's coworkers would not be surprised by his actions that day. They know he lives by the belief that you should leave a person or a place a little better than you found it.

Mathew began his career with AMR as an EMT in 2014 at a mere 18 years old. He quickly enrolled in paramedic school and earned that title. He continues to embrace educational opportunities, seeking out senior paramedics for tips and feedback. He strives for the best care for each patient he encounters.



AMIRA DRAKES

Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago

EMT/Preceptor/AFOS
Global Medical Response

Amira Drakes is being honored as a Star of Life for the difficult delivery of a baby. Responding to a pregnancy call, Amira took over when the mother's amniotic sac burst on the way to the hospital. She leapt to action. She prepared to deliver the baby then and there but realized the child's head was stuck in the birth canal. Her training took over and she was able to facilitate the birth—but the baby was not breathing. Amira worked to begin spontaneous breathing and new she had succeeded when the baby cried and she was able to place it in the grateful hands of the mother. Amira also had a notable save of a cardiac patient in route to the hospital and was able to achieve a return of spontaneous circulation that saved the patient's life.

Amira has been with GMR TT for more than three years, she has sought additional credentials by completing numerous courses. She strives to become a paramedic, serves as a preceptor, and is an Alternate Field Operations Supervisor.



JOSH EDMONDS

Jackson, MS

EMT/FTO | American Medical Response

Joshua (Josh) Edmonds is being honored as a Star of Life for his commitment to the community as demonstrated by the help he gave a homeless man in need. Josh and his partner were recently called to the scene where a young homeless man had been assaulted. After treating the man's injuries on the scene, they transported him to a local level-one trauma hospital. They transferred care to the great ER team there, but Josh was concerned as the man became agitated when told his clothes would have to be cut off due to his injuries. They were his only clothes, he said. But there was nothing to be done. Knowing the temperatures were dropping, Josh drove back to the station to find clothing for the man. He returned with several pairs of pants and shirts as well as a jacket he had in the car. He gave them to the homeless man and the left to take another call.

Josh has been an EMT for 11 years and has served as an FTO for 9 years. He assisted the training of literally hundreds of employees and EMS students. He is an excellent clinician who routinely goes above and beyond the call of duty, inspiring his colleagues with his skill, integrity and humility.



ISMAEL ESPARZA

Palm Springs, CA

Paramedic | American Medical Response

Ismael Esparza is being honored as a Star of Life for putting his own life at risk while off duty and pulling a victim from a burning car on the side of a mountain. Late one October evening, Ismael was driving down a mountain road when he saw that a car had gone off the road, flipped down the embankment on its roof, and burst into flames. He could hear screaming. Ismael called 911 then jumped into action. He made his way 200 feet down the mountainside and tried to pry the car doors open—to no avail. Knowing time was short, Ismael instead broke a window with his bare hand sustaining lacerations. The fire burned his clothes and skin, yet still he pulled one of the occupants out of the car. Conscious, the victim said there was someone else in the vehicle. Ismael called out. But no reply came. The flames engulfed the car and Ismael's only recourse was to ensure the safety of the passenger he had freed. He carried him back up to the road and waiting EMS, a bittersweet save.

Ismael has been in EMS for 12 years and began working for AMR in 2012. He has been a volunteer firefighter, an EMT and now is a Paramedic for AMR Desert Cities. He is active in the community, collecting toys, blankets and clothing for the local homeless shelter.



KELLY FERRIS

Oklahoma City, OK

Paramedic
Emergency Medical Services Authority

Kelly Ferris is being honored as a Star of Life for her leadership, patient care, clinical skills and commitment to her coworkers: factors that have revealed themselves in many ways during her career. She has several cardiac arrest saves—people who are alive today with no defects because she was there for them. She saved an infant choking on a sucker who was cyanotic and limp before she initiated breathing and handed the happy baby back to its parents. She delivers food and necessities to the homeless. She is always ready to listen to and check up on coworkers who have had a particularly tough call. Last year, she worked closely with a fellow paramedic who was dealing with addiction. She worked tirelessly to help them get clean and sober, which they are today. She has also helped numerous veterans get into programs to beat addiction as well.

Her coworkers sum her up as the epitome of a true leader. She is highly intelligent, fiercely proud of what she does, knowledgeable in the medical field and constantly striving to improve herself. In short: she is an untiring professional who performs her duties with confidence, skill and respect.



PETER GAUNA

Safford, AZ

EMT | Lifeline Ambulance

Peter (Pete) Gauna is being honored as a Star of Life for his unwavering commitment to community service. Colleagues say that community service is not what Pete does, but who he is. Pete started the annual First Responders Strike Out Cancer Softball Tournament to foster inter-agency relationships between first responders and healthcare workers and to raise money for cancer patients. The event has raised several thousand dollars already. Pete also coordinated a “Fill the Ambulance with Toys for Tots” challenge. He coordinated with the Marine Corps to have a Lifeline Ambulance in front of a local store where they collected more than 300 hundred toys and several hundred dollars. Pete’s compassion extends to his coworkers as well who he helps out when times are troubled, with a kind word or even financial assistance. As a direct result, Pete was awarded with the “Above & Beyond” award by his EMS peers.

Pete has worked as an EMT for nine years. He is constantly seeking to learn more about his craft and has hosted and completed several Search & Rescue continued education classes including rope rescue. He is trying to get the S&R team recognized as a EMS agency by basing it at the local hospital.



NOLAN GERETY

Portland, OR

Paramedic | American Medical Response

Nolan Gerety is being honored as a Star of Life for his actions in saving a pedestrian who had been struck by a drunk driver. Nolan and his partner arrived to find that the patient required intubation, but it could not be performed due to the patient's injuries. Nolan made the decision to perform surgical cricothyrotomy—an incision made through the skin and cricothyroid membrane to establish a sustainable airway. It was Nolan's first attempt at a cric, a nerve-racking event in any clinician's career. Nolan calmly conducted the procedure. He was transporting the patient a mere eight minutes later. At the hospital, the trauma surgeon credited Nolan's quick thinking and skill for the patient's survival. Nolan's colleagues are proud of but not surprised by outcomes like these. Nolan prides himself on learning and continuing to hone the skills that enable him to provide the highest level of patient care.

Nolan has been in EMS for more than eight years and has been with AMR since 2017. He has been a firefighter/EMT and graduated paramedic school about four years ago. Though he's only been with AMR a little over two years, he's worked enough overtime to equal four years. He is now a lead paramedic.



SAMANTHA GREENE

Belleville, IL

Paramedic | Abbott EMS

Samantha (Sam) Greene is being honored as a Star of Life for her distinguished career that includes more than 30 saves. One recent save that is indicative of her commitment to patient care came when she, her partner and a paramedic student responded to a call involving a 49-year-old seizure victim. When they arrived, the patient was in full cardiac arrest. Sam leapt into action directing her coworkers and leading the resuscitation efforts that led to a return of spontaneous circulation and the patient's survival. From this example, it's also clear that Sam is a teacher. With Abbot, she serves as an outstanding Paramedic Field Training Officer, taking some of the most difficult situations and turning them into positive learning experiences. She is also a passionate advocate supporting mental health initiatives for EMS employees who face a higher risk of suicide than the general population.

Sam has been with Abbot for 12 years advancing from EMT to paramedic to crew leader and then supervisor. She also serves as a Lieutenant in a local volunteer fire department where she has educated her crew on EMS techniques that has led to them having the most clinical saves in the area.



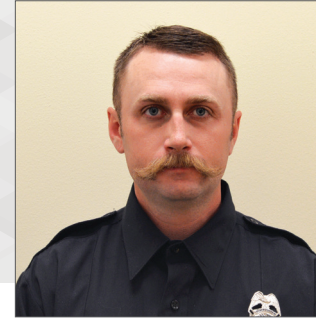
SCOTT HEDRICK

Evansville, IN

Paramedic | American Medical Response

Scott Hedrick is being honored as a Star of Life for his exceptional patient care exhibited over a long and distinguished career. His commitment to his patients is underscored by the time he puts in on the job. In the last 12 months, Scott has worked more than 3,600 hours and made more than 1,300 ambulance runs, by far the most in the Evansville operation. Over the past four years he has nine cardiac-arrest saves. Scott believes that patient care begins with training and education, and backs up that belief as an EMT skills exam proctor and a local Preceptor for both EMT and Paramedic students. He is an advocate for the EMS industry and has been active in the movement to ensure EMS reimbursement in Indiana. His supervisor and colleagues see him as the go-to person for advice and an understanding of how critical issues will impact the operation.

Scott has worked rural and urban EMS in three states. He is certified in ACLS, PALS, PHTLS and holds National Registry, Indiana, Kentucky and Illinois EMS licenses. He holds associate's degrees in Applied Science and Paramedic Sciences and is a veteran of the U.S. Army, Army Reserve and National Guard.



KYLE HILB

Phoenix, AZ

Firefighter/Paramedic | Rural Metro Fire

Kyle Hilb is being honored as a Star of Life for his actions that saved a 13-year-old boy who had collapsed on his middle school's track. Kyle and his partner, Devin Schofield, were first on the scene that day, finding a school staff member performing CPR on the young patient. Kyle stepped in immediately and took over chest compressions. He began CCR protocols for a witnessed cardiac arrest, but the young boy went into V-fib and an AED shock was necessary. A second round of CCR brought about a return of spontaneous circulation with a good BP but the boy was not breathing on his own. Kyle initiated resuscitation but the patient was unresponsive and had to be transported to the local pediatric critical care facility where he was tubed for several hours before he began to breathe on his own. The boy was conscious, communicating with family members, and in a few weeks had returned to school with no known deficits.

Kyle has been with Rural Metro Fire for 10 years. He has extraordinary situational awareness skills and possesses the traits that mark a great first responder: kindness, compassion and professionalism. Kyle was selected by the local Rotary Club as Fire Fighter of the Year for 2018.



CLIFFORD JACKS

Concord, CA

Paramedic | American Medical Response

Clifford (Cliff) Jacks is being honored as a Star of Life for his determined actions in saving a 12-year-old who had collapsed during P.E. class at a local school. Cliff and his partner responded to the call and found the child unresponsive. Thinking quickly, he was able to convert the refractory V-Fib, achieving return of spontaneous circulation after three defibrillations. Cliff made the decision to immediately transport the patient to the nearest emergency department to stabilize. But he knew he would need to be on hand to then take the patient and the critical care team to the local Children's Hospital. This forward thinking ensured that the patient got the correct level of care and contributed to the patient having a positive outcome. Cliff's commitment to always providing the highest quality of care to his patients was truly on display that day.

Cliff has been in EMS for 20 years and has been a medic for almost 15. He has continued his education, earning a BS in Molecular Biology and serving as a Field Training Officer and a Paramedic Preceptor. He is widely respected as a leader and as someone who will go out of their way to help coworkers.



SEAN R. LUCE

Columbus, OH

Firefighter/Paramedic | Rural Metro Fire

Sean Luce is being honored as a Star of Life for his leadership and his actions in saving the life of a fall and cardiac arrest victim. Sean serves as part of RMF's Airport Rescue Firefighting unit at John Glenn Columbus International Airport. He was the primary EMS provider during a routine response when he and his crew were dispatched to a hangar at the airport to treat a fall victim. In transit, the communications center updated the call indicating that the victim was now in cardiac arrest. Other units were dispatched to respond, but Sean's was still closest by several minutes. When they arrived, he took control of a chaotic situation. The patient had not had a pulse for four minutes. Sean made the call to perform a series of advanced life support interventions over the next several minutes. After a second defibrillation, the patient's eyes shot open and he was communicative. Later evaluation showed that the patient had a 100% blockage of a coronary artery requiring catheterization. In six weeks he was back at work.

Sean is in his first year with Rural Metro's ARFF unit in Columbus but has served in the fire and EMS field for several years and is the fire captain in his hometown. Sean is committed to providing care at a moment's notice and is known for taking the time to talk to patients and put them at ease.



ADAM MARTIN

Buffalo, NY

Paramedic | American Medical Response

Adam Martin is being honored as a Star of Life for his heroic action in saving a cardiac arrest patient on the roof of a mid-rise building. In a tense situation, the patient perilously close to the edge of the hot-tar roof, a 50-ft drop just inches away, Adam took over directing the life-saving interventions, performed numerous invasive procedures and coordinated medical direction. He and his AMR Western New York crew worked in coordination with the local fire department and were able to use the department's ladder-truck bucket to lower the patient to safety and eventual recovery. Diligent training and constant drilling on techniques in various situations are key contributors to Adam's successful intervention in this case and his continued work with AMR Western New York. His actions, among others involved in this life-saving act, were recognized with a local award.

Adam has spent his entire 10+ year EMS career with AMR, progressing his certifications and growing as a clinician. He serves as an ambassador of the company and his profession. His supervisors and colleagues view him as a natural leader always ready to assist with trainings within AMR or with outside agencies.



BRYAN MCKEON

Monterey, CA

Paramedic/FTO/ALT Supervisor
American Medical Response

Bryan McKeon is being honored as a Star of Life for his actions while off duty that resulted in saving a cardiac arrest victim's life. He was at his local gym when a patient in their 70s collapsed. It was a lucky day for that patient as Bryan and an off duty San Jose Fire Department medic were close at hand. Together, they began CPR and delivered a shock from an on-site AED. By the time first responders arrived the patient had a strong pulse and was regaining consciousness. Bryan stayed with the patient and continued to assist until transport. The patient was discharged two days later. This singular save is indicative of Bryan's commitment and professionalism that have also served him as he has dealt with crises such as the death of a co-worker, the local paramedic shortage and the rising opioid epidemic.

Bryan began his tenure with AMR in 2015. He continues to challenge himself, becoming an Alternate Supervisor, Field Training Officer and Preceptor to paramedic candidates. He is active in the community assisting with CPR and Stop the Bleed training programs and with the EMT program at the local college.



WILL MOSER

Juneau, AK

MICP | Guardian Flight

Will Moser is being honored as a Star of Life for his commitment to patient care in remote Alaskan communities, and his equal care for his colleagues. Will has been a devoted, skilled paramedic and he always has a great attitude when flying to calls in some of the most remote regions on the planet. He always has the drive to give the most competent and companionate care to his patients and he strives to improve himself by maintaining his training. Will is constantly supportive of his coworkers a fact that shone through during a difficult time when Guardian lost a plane and its crew. He took the time out of his day to talk to people and listen in return depending on what people needed to get through the darkest days. He also worked alongside upper management in the company to coordinate employee support. Will is sympathetic, cordial, diplomatic, and most of all a good listener: the same attributes that make him an excellent caregiver.

Will has been in EMS for about 10 years. He began his career in fire/EMS but aspired to more. He took critical paramedic classes that advanced him to the level of flight paramedic and he has completed his bachelor's degree in Healthcare Management.



DIANA PRIEGO

Sacramento, CA

Flight Nurse | REACH Air Medical Services

Diana Priego is being honored as a Star of Life for excellence in clinical care, especially for the neonatal population, over the extent of her career. As an Advanced Neonatal Nurse, Diana provides transport for critically ill premature and micro-premature babies as young as 26 weeks. She is an integral member of our neonatal services and also provides the highest level of clinical care for adult and pediatric patients as well. Demonstrating her willingness to serve during difficult times, she has represented REACH on two hurricane disaster response deployments with FEMA and helps coordinate the company's neonatal equipment and supplies to respond to such events. Diana excels at educating others and often mentors co-workers, teaches trainings and lectures at industry conferences. She is recognized as an authority in her field and has received multiple awards.

Diana has been a nurse for 15 years and in EMS with REACH for 11 years. She is a hard working clinician who is dedicated to her profession and the betterment of her patients. Her coworkers say that Diana strives to always do what is right, for her patients and as an ambassador for REACH.



MATTHEW SCOTT

Eagle Pass, TX

Base Pilot Supervisor | Air Evac Lifeteam

Mathew (Matt) Scott is being honored as a Star of Life for his leadership, integrity and the positive impact he's had on those that serve with him at AEL57. Matt's colleagues say that his focus is concentrated on safety, patients and collaboration. He constantly finds new and better ways to keep his crews safe in the air and on the ground. His reputation as a safe, seasoned and skillful pilot is unmatched. He is always available to help with a patient, from assisting in a move to simply shaking their hand and comforting them. Matt also consistently finds ways to help his co-workers and volunteers whenever it is possible to help. His willingness to assist others and his commitment to educating new employees is unequaled. He is a teacher. In training sessions he provides great detail on difficult subject matter and follows up to ensure understanding. When problems arise, he remains someone who is approachable and willing to collaborate effectively with all parties.

Matt has been a pilot since he was 17 years old and has been an EMS pilot for six years at AEL. He is a proud veteran of the United States Army where he flew Apache helicopters. His interest in patient care has led to furthering his own education with BLS CPR and Prehospital Trauma Life Support courses.



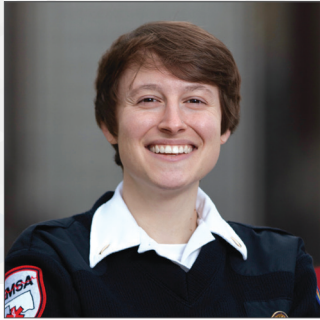
MARY SPRINGER

North Charleston, SC

Flight Nurse
Med-Trans Corporation/Medicare Air

Mary Springer is being honored as a Star of Life for her unmatched clinical skills and for being at the forefront of innovation in her organization. Her colleagues say she embodies the GMR guiding principles in her clinical and her project management duties. She is considered by far one of the best nurses in the company, managing patients with complex issues and acting as a base, regional and national resource when it comes to clinical care. She is always prepared to go above and beyond, a trait that is exemplified by her "Ready to Fly" preparedness. Mary has also been a leader in innovation for not only her clinical practice, but also for the development and quality improvement in Med-Trans as a whole. One example of this would be the regional protocol development she spearheaded. She developed and coordinated the conglomeration of Med-Trans regional protocols into one resource. Her tireless efforts made protocols electronically based, hyperlinked for easy access and quicker dissemination. She is also a mentor to new hires and even veterans who seek out her ability to simplify complex problems.

Mary is committed to continuing education within her field for the benefit of the clinician and their patients. She holds certifications in CFRN, CEN and CCRN and extends her expertise to others as a teacher and mentor to others through her work with Cornerstone where she facilitates training of other LMS administrators and manages the online training for employees.



KAYLA STACK

Tulsa, OK

Paramedic

Emergency Medical Services Authority

Kayla Stack is being honored as a Star of Life for her actions that saved the life of a cardiac arrest victim the week before Christmas last year. She and her partner arrived on the scene and found the patient to be pulseless and apneic. While Kayla went through the standard cardiac arrest protocols, it soon became apparent that this wasn't a standard cardiac arrest. The patient was in intrawakeful arrest—a condition none of the other first responders there had knowledge of. Kayla had to explain to a local rural BLS fire crew what was happening and what needed to be done. Even as she explained herself, she was keeping up with times and shocks and the full protocol. After transporting the patient to a local hospital, it was discovered that he had a 90% occlusion in his right coronary artery. The patient walked out of the hospital less than a week later with a pacemaker as an early Christmas present as well as the gift of spending the holiday with his family.

Kayla represents the ideal of what a paramedic should be. She is kind. She is patient. She is eager to serve her community and her coworkers. She is skilled and she is always ready to tackle patient emergencies. She is a role model to others who aspire to be like her.



RAIN SWIFT

Aiea, HI

RN/EMD/EMT | American Medical Response

Rain Swift is being honored as a Star of Life for her leadership when Hawaii's communication center implemented Emergency Medical Dispatch training. The roll out of critical new software required an overwhelming amount of planning and implementation. Rain stepped in and took on a major role, not only with frontline mentoring, but the mentoring of the communications leadership team as well. She began sitting in the dispatcher's seat so she could better understand day-to-day challenges. She obtained her EMD certification to address the communications department's needs more skillfully. In short: Rain made the roll out a success and continues to play a pivotal role in supporting the communications department. All of this on top of her regular duties as the Clinical Education Specialist and Nurse Lead for ground Critical Care Operations. She is always willing to take on tough projects and put in the work to ensure that they are done properly.

Rain has been in EMS for 25 years, 23 of those with AMR. She began, fittingly, in the communications department, transitioned to an EMT and scheduler, became an RN and earned her bachelor's degree in nursing. She plans to continue her education and get her master's as a Family Nurse Practitioner.



JAMES TARVER

Natchez, MS

Assistant Operations Supervisor
American Medical Response

James Tarver is being honored as a Star of Life for his dedication, motivation and composure in his supervisory role, even as he deals with health challenges of being on hemodialysis. James is highly respected by his coworkers who view him as a teacher who is always available for one-on-one talks. He stays updated on all current clinical training as well as non-clinical matters that influence the EMS industry. He is not only the go-to expert of the operation, but often is its face, presenting programs to the public in his articulate, assured manner that puts all at ease. James serves as the Trauma Network Manager, a job that requires an extensive audit of Quality Assurance and Quality Improvement practices. In the seven years he has been in that role, his operation has remained at the top of their EMS Region in compliance.

James has been in EMS since 1994 and joined AMR 11 years ago. He has served as a fire fighter and as an off-shore paramedic. Even while awaiting a kidney donor (he has one!) James voluntarily picked up 58 extra shifts (694.75 hours) in 2019, demonstrating his ongoing commitment to patient care.



CHASE TUCKER

Yakima, WA

EMT | American Medical Response

Chase Tucker is being honored as a Star of Life for reaching, treating and transporting a patient in a remote and wild area after a fall from a horse. The patient was located several miles up a riding trail where an ambulance could not reach them. Chase knew there was no time to waste. He borrowed a horse of his own and galloped up the trail. Reaching the patient, he began treatment for broken ribs and a fractured wrist. Once stabilized, the patient was put on a horse and led carefully back to the waiting ambulance and taken to a local hospital. His actions saved valuable time, probably several hours, during which the patient would have remained in pain and in danger should there have been internal injuries. For his coworkers, such action is simply indicative of Chase's endless efforts in his duties.

Chase has worked for AMR Yakima for two years. He is a team player, he is motivated and he truly cares for people. He continues to further his education and experience in the EMS field, recently accepting a position as an EMT Field Training Officer. He is a proud veteran who continually serves his community.



WENDY UNMACHT

Nashville, TN

Paramedic | American Medical response

Wendy Unmacht is being honored as a Star of Life for a career that has featured more clinical saves than her supervisors can count. Throughout her tenure, she has consistently worked to ensure that her patients are all well taken care of. That same level of compassion extends to her colleagues as well. In fact, it is her selfless approach that has made her so successful in her EMS career. She is affectionately known as “Mom” and lives up to that name with her heart, her understanding, her helpfulness and her caring. She can also be authoritarian when the situation calls for it. As a leader herself, she molds other leaders, sharing her experiences, good and bad, with junior crew members. But mostly she leads by example. She’s on the truck in the community or on the phone putting out fires in the office, generally working 12-36 hours straight. She is tireless, fearless and an inspiration to all around her.

Wendy has been with AMR for 19 years. In that time, she has done BLS, IFT Transports, 911 ALS, Critical Care, Fire Strike Teams, ER Technician, and the list goes on. She constantly strives to continue to better herself through continuing education, as well as sharing that education with her junior staff members.



JOSHUA YOUNG

Greenwood Village, CO

Flight Respiratory Therapist
AirMed International

Joshua Young is being honored as a Star of Life for his actions while transporting a critically ill patient from Mexico to the United States, and for his role as a mentor. Upon arriving at the patient’s bedside in Southern Mexico, Joshua discovered that the patient’s endotracheal tube was not properly secured. The local staff were having a difficult time attempting to re-secure it, so Joshua calmly asked them to step aside and properly secured the tube for the transport. He also comforted the increasingly agitated patient. While re-securing the tube and adjusting the patient’s ventilator settings, Joshua spoke soothingly to help the patient understand what was happening. After saving the endotracheal tube from becoming dislodged and stabilizing the patient on the ventilator, Joshua continued providing reassurance and information to the patient and his family member throughout the medical flight.

Joshua’s actions in this specific case are typical of his level of care and commitment, and demonstrate why he is sought after as a mentor. In his 25 years as a healthcare professional, he has cared for thousands of patients, flying medical missions in 30 countries and all 50 states, and during FEMA relief deployments for three U.S. hurricanes. He has spent the past 16 years as a respiratory therapy supervisor, educator, and a med-flight respiratory therapist with both helicopter and fixed-wing programs.



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