



# State EMS Awards Book of Recognition



**Department of Human Services  
Emergency Medical Services & Trauma Systems  
800 NE Oregon Street, Ste. 607  
Portland, OR 97232  
Telephone: (503) 731-4011**

**[www.dhs.state.or.us/publichealth/ems](http://www.dhs.state.or.us/publichealth/ems)**



*The EMS Cross recognizes an EMT who by act and deed represents the most outstanding achievement in EMS over an extended period of time. This is the highest award that can be conferred in the absence of extreme conditions and extraordinary circumstances.*

**Kathleen M. Hilton, EMT-Paramedic  
Blue Mountain Hospital Volunteer Ambulance**

Kathleen Hilton has worked in rural EMS for the last 16 years . . . and most of those years volunteering 24 hours a day, 7 days a week including weekends and holidays.

She has spent countless hours doing community service and safety programs such as “Trauma Nurses Talk Tough”, the “Austin DUII” programs as well as the usual fare, ACLS, PALS, PHTLS, First Aid, CPR, and EMT-Basic classes and Continuing Education Classes.

The nomination letter stated “Kathleen is one of the silent heroes of EMS that few notice because she does not aspire to be in the **Alight** and be seen . . . one of the hidden heroes that makes it all possible so others can succeed in their dreams and goals. Without the hidden heroes, those who make all things possible, there would not be an EMS system anywhere. Her sacrifice to the EMS system locally and in Oregon will never be fully appreciated or comprehended”.



*The EMS Cross recognizes an EMT who by act and deed represents the most outstanding achievement in EMS over an extended period of time. This is the highest award that can be conferred in the absence of extreme conditions and extraordinary circumstances.*

**Brian K. Burrigh, EMT-Paramedic  
St. Helens Rural Fire District**

**Lori E. Albert, EMT-Intermediate  
Polk County Fire District #1**

On December 26, 1995, an individual in his small community was nearly burned to death. He survived with 3<sup>rd</sup> degree burns covering more than 90% body surface area, and he eventually lost both hands, both feet, and his vision.

A decision was made to start a project to build him a home. The project ground on year after year, overcoming one hurdle after another. As years passed, lives changed and people moved, but Brian Burrigh and Lori Albert remained constant to the goal of building a home for the victim and his family.

Earlier this year, on January 26, 2001, Brian and Haley Sakultarawattn (skoon-tra-watt) moved into “Brian’s House” fulfilling a dream.

The Awards Committee was asked to “please consider awarding Brian Burrigh and Lori Albert the EMS Cross, the highest award available in the State of Oregon ... their dedication and service to humanity will be remembered by members of our community and I would like everyone in the State to know how proud of them I am”.



*The EMS Cross recognizes an EMT who by act and deed represents the most outstanding achievement in EMS over an extended period of time. This is the highest award that can be conferred in the absence of extreme conditions and extraordinary circumstances.*

**Larry Blumenstein, Firefighter/Paramedic  
Salem Fire Department**

The EMS Cross is conferred, “in the absence of extreme conditions and extraordinary circumstances@ but sometimes it is one of these actions that bring outstanding individuals to the attention of the EMS Awards Committee.

The following words were written about this firefighter/paramedic: **A**I wanted you to know I was touched by his bravery. I just can’t get out of my mind how impressed I was ... [he] disregarded his own safety and went into “hell” to try to save the 5 year old girl. I was so moved by [the] willingness to risk their lives to attempt to save the little girl inside. . . It was amazing to watch”.

In his 14 years with Salem Fire Department, Larry Blumenstein has not been idle. His activities include 2 terms as president of the Oregon Fire Medical Administrators Association, Co-chair of the Oregon Health Division’s task force drafting ambulance licensure legislation, founding President Oregon EMS President’s Council, first co-recipient of Oregon Health Division’s Emergency Medical Services Chiefs Medal, volunteer co-chair of Oregon SAFE Kids Steering Committee, founding member Marion/Polk SAFE Kids. He successfully lobbied the Health Division to require shoulder restraints on all Oregon ambulance gurneys. He was a technical advisor for the “Katie and Max” fire safety movie and technical advisor and graphic support for the award winning “Firefighters Are Your Friend” coloring book.

The nomination letter probably said it best. “During the past twenty years, [he] has continually distinguished himself in his profession and community by participating in worthy activities that benefit society. [His] relentless pursuit of excellence has earned him the title of “bulldog” when it comes to his crusades”.



*The EMS Cross recognizes an EMT who by act and deed represents the most outstanding achievement in EMS over an extended period of time. This is the highest award that can be conferred in the absence of extreme conditions and extraordinary circumstances.*

**Shawn Baird, EMT-Paramedic, Chief Operating Officer  
Woodburn Ambulance Service**

The nomination letter for Shawn Baird began “I believe him to be an individual who over the past ten years has made outstanding and noteworthy contributions to the betterment of the Oregon State EMS system. It is difficult to measure his contributions . . . made in the past year, as many of this year's successes are a result of many years contributions at various levels”.

As a paramedic and as the owner of the ambulance service, Shawn is a very active member of the local Area Trauma Advisory Board supporting the development of a strong statewide trauma system. He is preparing for implementation of Emergency Medical Dispatch which should reduce the number of Alerts and sirens@ responses to non-emergent calls. He and the service work to plan and execute mock disasters with actual moulage patients taken to the local ED. The service has procured grants to provide free bicycle helmets to children

Currently serving on the EMS Conference Committee, Shawn has been a member and president of the Oregon State Ambulance Association.

“He is a distinguished individual who has selflessly given thousands of hours of his time to the betterment of our State . . . and . . . he still works actively as a paramedic on an ambulance”.



*The EMS Cross recognizes an EMT who by act and deed represents the most outstanding achievement in EMS over an extended period of time. This is the highest award that can be conferred in the absence of extreme conditions and extraordinary circumstances.*

**Tom Wright, EMT-Paramedic  
Bend Fire Department  
Warm Springs Fire and Safety**

Tom Wright has been certified as an EMT in Oregon since June of 1989. He is a Native American and an adopted member of the Warm Springs Tribe in Madras, Oregon. He started out as a volunteer at Warm Springs Fire and Safety where they eventually hired him. A former “acting EMS Chief for 18 months,” he is currently the EMS Battalion Chief of Bend Fire Department.

Tom is a member of Eastern Cascades EMS Council (ECEMS) and Central Oregon Fire Instructors Association (COFIA), he has a Masters Degree in Education, is the EMS Course Director for COCC’s EMS Paramedic Program, and chairs their EMS Educational Advisory Committee. He helps teach PHTLS every year for the Paramedic program, and also is an active ACLS instructor. He is a popular EMS instructor at Central Oregon Community College where he routinely receives high student evaluations.

He is also on the Critical Incident Stress Debriefing team from Central Oregon. He constantly pushes for EMS advances in Central Oregon. His nomination simply stated in a taciturn way “Tom is one of Central Oregon’s Movers and Shakers when it comes to his commitment to EMS”.

Paramedics like Tom Wright are the lifeblood of EMS in a state with a large rural population. They teach us, lead us, and sometimes drag us into the future they see. For his efforts on behalf of EMS throughout Central Oregon over an extended period of time, we award him the EMS Cross.



*The EMS Cross recognizes an EMT who by act and deed represents the most outstanding achievement in EMS over an extended period of time. This is the highest award that can be conferred in the absence of extreme conditions and extraordinary circumstances.*

**Bill Osburn, EMT-Intermediate  
Blue Heron Paper Company**

Not all EMTs work in the back of a speeding ambulance or rescue. Many serve on Industrial First Response teams in private industry across the State of Oregon. Like this individual, many work part time at an ambulance in order to have a Medical Director and to keep their skills and training up to date since such training is more difficult to obtain at a private industrial site.

Bill Osburn is such an EMT. It was his idea for an EMS unit at Blue Heron Paper Company (then called Publisher=s Paper Company) in 1985. Recognizing that industrial EMS is vastly different from medicine practiced in an AEMS Agency, @ Blue Heron focused on prevention. Bill worked along with the plant Safety Manager, Paul Pappadis, to implement ideas to improve safety by placing CPR first aid boxes in twenty strategic places in the mill.

In 1989, while talking to a fellow employee on the phone, he became concerned that the other employee was disoriented and suspected that he might be having a stroke. He arranged for an immediate 911 call for the local ambulance. It is believed by all who know him that his call saved another employees' life that day.

Those who made the nomination noted, "There are several other documented cases where Bill has been directly involved with the successful emergency treatment of employees [with] bad injuries".

This award is made for the time and energy Bill Osburn spends staying certified and keeping his skills up, when his Areal@ job is not as an EMT. Like many EMTs, he does not work in the back of an ambulance or rescue. Like many volunteers, his efforts may go unnoticed but someone is alive because he made the sacrifices necessary to keep his skills sharp.