



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



The Medal of Valor recognizes acts of personal valor or heroism in the delivery of emergency medical care, which results in the saving of a life under extreme conditions and in extraordinary circumstances.

**Curry Munro, EMT-Paramedic
Cal-Ore Life Flight**

**Albert Harrell, EMT-Intermediate
Cal-Ore Life Flight**

At approximately 6:00 p.m. on February 25, 200, a call was received by Curry County Dispatch, reporting a capsized boat in the mouth of the Rogue River. As the responding crew arrived, they were directed to an individual in the water, 40 feet down and a 60-degree incline. The incline was down broken and slippery rock. Daylight was fading. The Coast Guard and Rescue teams were still some time away and the victim had already been in the water more than 35, minutes clinging to the jetty.

Curry Munro and Albert Harrell knew that they needed to act immediately. The company motto is “When every second counts.” They secured themselves to ropes and made their way down the jetty to the victim.

The victim was removed from the surf, loaded, and treated for a fractured rib, multiple contusions, abrasions, and hypothermia.

The victim wrote a letter supporting the nomination in which he noted “from my boating accident I acquired a hands-on experience in “abandon ship” procedure, a terrific adrenalin rush, a fractured rib ... hypothermia and [a] taste of the Rogue River and the Pacific Ocean in my lungs. [These medics] “have a special place in my heart.” The letter was signed by Dr. Maciey J. Druzdzel, who is their Medical Director.

You never know who you will meet during a rescue.



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**Bart Qualls, EMT-Basic
Jackson County Fire District #3**

**Luke Kieffer, EMT-Paramedic
Jackson County Fire District # 3**

**Joe Pariera, EMT-Basic
Jackson County Fire District #3**

Just before 7:00 p.m. on May 27, 2000 as dark started to fall, nine college students from an overturned raft dressed in t-shirts and shorts were stranded on a coffee table sized rock. The rock is located in the Rogue River 30 feet above Powerhouse Rapid. They were surrounded by white water and just below was a series of 10-15 foot waterfalls. The students were cold, wet, nearing hypothermia and on the edge of panic.

Rescuers knew that a pendulum across the current above the falls was the most likely rescue route. If a mistake is made, a cold, tired, scared victim and rescuer may end up in the water above the falls.

Tenacity in the face of daunting physical obstacles when a rescuer is forced to make multiple attempts at a rescue is one face of valor. Some people do not know when to give up. It is for just such acts we recognize Bart Qualls, Luke Kieffer, and Joe Pariera.