



# 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.*

**Steve Myren, EMT-Intermediate  
Oregon Department of Human Services - CSEPP**

The idea of challenges and the idea of playing in a bigger arena do not seem to bother this recipient of the EMS Cross. Whether it be moving from volunteer to paid EMS, individual calls to disasters, Basic Life Support to Advanced Life Support, provider to instructor, or local to state to federal programs **B** Steve Myren has risen to the occasion and excelled in that endeavor. Having recently taken a position just across the border in Washington, this EMS Cross is presented not only in recognition of Steve's professional accomplishments, but as an expression of appreciation for his contributions to Oregon EMS and emergency preparedness.

Steve is a player and a contributor regardless of what his official roll is. As a member of Oregon's recently formed Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT), Steve is an EMT-I. However, while deployed to New York at Ground Zero, Steve was asked and did serve as a Team Leader **B** a position that is usually held by a physician. This is a reflection of Steve's capabilities and competencies. Steve's real passion is teaching. During his tenure with the Emergency Medical Services & Trauma Systems section, he trained 80% of the EMS, fire, and police in Morrow and Umatilla counties regarding their role and responsibilities in the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Plan (CSEPP). Steve's most recent accomplishment which adds to his extensive teaching and training credentials is his recent assignment as Warrant Officer for Medical Training with the Oregon Defense Force Medical Command.

Thank you, Steve, for your dedication and contributions to Oregon 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.*

**Robert S. Ervin, EMT-Paramedic  
Jefferson County EMS**

To be conferred the EMS Cross is significant. To have it conferred posthumously is to be honored. The presentation of Robert S. Ervin's EMS Cross to his wife, Marian and his family, is to honor and acknowledge one who gave his life while serving others, but also gave throughout his life, serving not only his community but the EMS community at large. EMS in Central Oregon has been forever changed because of the life and contributions of Bob Ervin.

As reflected in the attendance at his funeral, Bob was known and respected not only in the EMS community, but in fire and law enforcement circles as well. Married to a nurse and a member of the Area Trauma Advisory Board (ATAB), Bob was also a known and active member of the medical community. What made him valued in Madras and its surrounding communities was Bob's belief that small and rural communities deserved and could have the highest quality of care available. Bob was committed to that belief and took actions to make it reality. At the time of his death, Bob was working on the integration of field 12 lead EKGs into the hospitalization and definitive care of acute myocardial infarction patients.

Bob's involvement in the establishment and ongoing activities of both East Cascades Emergency Medical Services (ECEMS) Council and ATAB 1 made him a driving force and advocate for quality EMS and patient care in Central Oregon. Bob's commitment to EMS ran deeply. He cared about the system which provided the care, he cared about the patient's who deserved the care, he cared about the hospital and prehospital staff who provided the care and he cared about and invested in the paramedic and EMT students who sought to provide good quality patient care. For Robert S. Ervin's dream and vision of quality, rural EMS and committing his life to making it reality, we award him the EMS Cross.

Thank you, Bob, for your dedication and contributions to Oregon 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.*

**Elsie Torkelson, First Responder  
Juntura QRU (Quick Response Unit)**

When one looks at the history and the establishment of the Malheur County Ambulance Committee or when one looks at the history and the implementation of the Juntura QRU, they will find a name in common. For her ongoing 25 years of continuous service, as a First Responder in Juntura and her historical contributions to Malheur County EMS, Elsie Torkelson is awarded the EMS Cross.

Over 25 years ago, when Malheur County established the Malheur County Ambulance Committee, Elsie made a commitment to serve her community. As an original member of the committee she would travel over 140 miles round trip to attend monthly ambulance committee meetings and to receive training. When the opportunity arose to serve her community closer to home, Elsie became one of the founding members of the Juntura QRU. As a founding member, she played a significant role in developing the program and insuring its success. In the early years when the only funding for the QRU came through fund-raisers and donations, with her own money she purchased and repaired equipment for the QRU. It was not beyond Elsie to buy tires for the QRU to be sure it was safe to operate and that EMS was available in her community. Elsie's leadership by example continues today. Having served as the President of the QRU in the past, she is currently the Secretary/Treasurer.

Through her countless runs as a First Responder and her selfless leadership of the Juntura QRU, Elsie has clearly honored her commitment to serve her community. Rural EMS works because of people like Elise Torkelson.

Thank you, Elsie, for your dedication and contributions to Oregon 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.*

### **Louis Bruneau, EMT-Basic**

It is known that EMS incidents can occur anywhere. Moreover, it is expected, that EMS crews will respond to wherever the incident is. If this is the case, a reasonable follow up question is, why aren't there EMS responders everywhere? Starting with his employer, the Portland Maintenance Bureau, Louis Bruneau has actively promoted and incorporated EMS and prehospital care into Pacific Northwest Search and Rescue, the Oregon Region of the Sports Car Club of America and USA Hockey - Oregon. A constant advocate and trainer who spreads EMS wherever he goes, Lou Bruneau is presented the EMS Cross.

Why would you want EMTs and First Responders in Public Works? To Lou, it was obvious, they are part of the Heavy/Technical Rescue Team in a joint venture with the Portland Fire Bureau. The Maintenance Bureau contingent of the Team has 20 EMTs and 10 First Responders. Through Lou's efforts, they have received training in basic rescue, hazmat, incident command, emergency vehicle operation in addition to their medical training. Lou has been a key player in making the program a success.

It makes sense that Pacific Northwest Search and Rescue personnel should have medical training and be an Oregon EMS provider agency. Lou made it happen! Knowing that there was a better way for the Oregon Region of the Sports Car Club of America to care for their own, they built a program and became an Oregon EMS provider agency. Lou made it happen! Kids get hurt playing hockey, it's a given. As part of USA Hockey-Oregon, Lou incorporated first-aid and CPR into the youth hockey coach's clinic. It seemed reasonable that this should be the standard for all youth hockey coaches. Lou made it happen! Caring about people and seeing that they are cared for is important to Lou Bruneau.

Thank you, Lou, for your dedication and contributions to Oregon 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.*

**Rosalie Durschmidt, EMT-P  
Woodburn Ambulance**

Twenty years of quality compassionate prehospital care. Twenty years as a mentor and EMS Training Officer. Nothing flashy, just consistent professionalism and a commitment to excellence in EMS; not only of herself, but of her coworkers and the company she works for. Twenty years ago, this was a company with five employees. Today it is a medium size ambulance company of forty-seven employees with a culture of quality and professionalism. A culture, which has been consistently championed by Rosalie Durschmidt through her personal character and integrity. Character and integrity, which have earned her the EMS Cross.

Unknowingly, Rose has been a mentor to many. Her passion for doing EMS right and her compassion for patients, paramedic interns and new employees has made her a role model by her actions and interactions with others. Behind the scenes, Rose is equally committed to seeing things done right. To assure clinical competency, Rose has a long history of planning and promoting monthly case reviews and educational presentations. To support local volunteer agencies, she has scheduled and facilitated joint training sessions. To promote quality in all aspects of the company, she developed and implemented a continuous quality improvement program. To remain abreast of new developments and directions in medicine and the EMS industry, Rose is continually recommending changes, upgrades, and improvements in products, procedures, and policies. Rose's commitment to personal excellence and service to others make her a role model for all of us.

Thank you, Rose, for your dedication and contributions to Oregon 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.*

**T.R. Hilton, EMT-Paramedic  
Blue Mountain Hospital Volunteer Ambulance**

When one is characterized as a strong-willed, stubborn, intelligent, an excellent educator and the most awesome patient advocate, it isn't surprising to find that this individual has been the recipient of the Paramedic of the Year in 1994 and Educator of the Year in 2001. The EMS Cross is presented for outstanding achievement in EMS over an extended period of time. For both his personal achievements and his professional success throughout Grant County and at Blue Mountain Hospital Volunteer Ambulance since 1983, T.R. Hilton is awarded the EMS Cross.

His achievements as an educator were chronicled in 2001, and as paramedic in 1994. Almost in spite of these personal achievements, T.R. presses on in serving his community. He is driven to see that people receive the care and service they deserve. His desire to help and his desire to serve have earned him the respect and support of those outside the medical and emergency services community. Relentless in his pursuit of what is best for the community, he has developed allies in both Public Health and Public Safety arenas. T.R. sets high standards for himself as well as those who work along side him. With those standards as expectations, he now has the ability to influence co-workers and to help them reach those standards. As an educator of many, T.R. is instilling these values into the next generation of EMS providers.

T.R. has set the stage for his community to continue to receive outstanding EMS for many years to come. The standard has been set.

Thank you, T.R., for your dedication and contributions to Oregon 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.*

**Frank Wallender, EMT-Paramedic  
Metro West Ambulance**

There are not too many people; involved in EMS today who can say they have been involved with prehospital care before there was EMS. To have been managing an operation of five (5) ambulances in 1966 and to still be compassionately providing care today speaks to his dedication. To have been twice selected as Washington County's Paramedic of the Year speaks to his character and abilities. To have just been honored, for the second time, with the American Ambulance Association's Star of Life speaks to the caliber of this individual. The State of Oregon also recognizes the character, abilities, and caliber of Frank Wallender in presenting him with the EMS Cross.

It cannot be better stated than in his nomination:

AMr. Frank Wallender has directly impacted the field of EMS in the State of Oregon for over 32 years not only with his excellent skills and patient care, his wonderful teaching abilities but also for the countless lives he has touched through his caring and dedication to the field of emergency medical services. Countless EMS professionals remember how Frank was there to help them find their way when they first began their career in EMS.

For these reasons and many more, we respectfully nominate Frank Wallender, EMT- Paramedic to receive the EMS Cross. We feel that over a span of 32 years, he truly does represent through act and deed emergency medical services at its finest@.

Thank you, Frank, for your dedication and contributions to Oregon EMS.