



State EMS Awards Book of Recognition



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The Director's Medal recognizes an individual for particularly noteworthy and substantial contribution to the EMS system of the State of Oregon

The Honorable Eugene Timms, Former State Senator

The State of Oregon has been honored over the years with Legislators who have championed and supported EMS legislation and other legislation, which has directly and indirectly supported the cause of EMS. Senator Eugene Timms has been a long time friend and supporter of EMS in Oregon. Coming from a rural community, he is cognizant of the unique issues facing EMS and healthcare providers in rural Oregon. While no longer an elected official, Senator Timms has continued to monitor, encourage and support EMS. For being a faithful friend to EMS, we honor and bestow the Director's Medal upon Senator Eugene Timms.

Senator Eugene Timms has been a champion for rural health his entire tenure in the state legislature. He, along with other state senators, sponsored Oregon - SB 438, the definitive rural health initiative, which was passed in 1989. This bill established the AHEC program, created the rural practitioner tax credit, and added considerable resources to the Office of Rural Health for technical assistance and recruiting. A separate bill that session, also championed by Senator Timms, moved the Office of Rural Health to OHSU.

Prior to leaving office, Senator Timms successfully championed SB 911. This bill has provided an ongoing source of funding to the EMS community for program and systems development with a focus on rural concerns. Thanks to this bill the foundation for a statewide Prehospital Registry has been laid, with byproducts being electronic documentation and quality improvement programs for small to mid size EMS agencies. Education programs are now in motion for EMS agency medical directors and EMS educators/training officers. Both are based on recognized national programs; the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's *Guide for Preparing Medical Directors* and the National Association of EMS Educators' *EMS Instructors Development Course*, respectively. As well, SB 911 also set aside funds for a mini-grant program which assists rural EMS agencies in acquiring new items required to remain compliant with changes in the ORSs and OARs, which improve patient care (ie, drugs, equipment and technology).

Thank you, Senator Timms, for your ongoing support to the EMS community in the State of Oregon.