



# State EMS Awards Book of Recognition



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*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.*

**Henry Heimuller, EMT-Paramedic  
Metro West Ambulance**

While caring for multiple patients on a motor vehicle accident scene that included a pediatric and an adult trauma code, he wondered, "Can I handle this...is this what I want to do with my life?" Henry Heimuller, EMT-P, said he knew in that moment as he looked at the scene that this was his calling. He has never questioned his choice to dedicate his life to EMS again.

Henry started as a volunteer firefighter at St. Helens in March 1980, and then became an EMT the following September. He joined Metro West Ambulance in August of 1983 working full time quickly moving from an EMT-2 to an EMT-4. In the years following, Henry served as a Senior Paramedic, Station Manager and found time to continue his volunteer work. In 1988 he became an Operations Supervisor of the Wheelchair Division.

Through the years, Henry has trained and supervised many EMS crews. His professionalism, passion, and love for this field have influenced many who have had the privilege of working with him.

Henry has touched the lives of many of the patients he has cared for during this period. The most vivid memory he has is a patient who was in cardiac arrest. Later, Henry learned the patient lived long after that day, stating he remembered and saw everything that occurred during the resuscitation.

This year, he received one of the highest honors when he was presented with the "Star of Life" in Washington, D.C. presented by the American Ambulance Association.

Thank you, Henry for your professionalism and dedication over the years to Oregon EMS.



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**Robert Nicholls, EMT-Paramedic  
Winston Dillard Fire District**

Assistant Chief Robert “Bob” Nicholls began his career at Winston Dillard Fire District (WDFD) 29 years ago as a Cadet. He has demonstrated how to perform every fire and EMS service task and taught a generation of firefighter/paramedic what it takes and what it means to be a firefighter/paramedic.

Bob has influenced a generation of fire and EMS responders throughout Douglas County and across Oregon. He is the epitome of mentoring, and his legacy will continue to be seen in the next generation of firefighter/paramedics. WDFD collaborates with Umpqua Community College on their Cadet program. Since the programs inception, Bob has assisted in placing 92.8 % of the cadets as EMTs or Paramedics in positions with EMS organizations throughout Oregon.

As Bob rose in rank his progressive attitude inspired the agency to advance. WDFD’S medical program continued to lead Douglas County, annually adding at least one new procedure, tool, or medication. These continual advances provide WDFD citizens the highest level of EMS response and pre-hospital care in the county.

Bob was instrumental in many of the “firsts” that are now commonplace in the Fire/EMS service. Bob continually demands excellence from himself and he leads others in developing excellence.

Bob is dedicated to continuous improvement of the EMS service as a whole. His efforts helped moved EMS from its beginnings to the highly technical medical service that it is today.

Thank you, Bob for your continued dedication over the years to Oregon EMS.