



# State EMS Awards Book of Recognition



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*The Community Service Medal recognizes an EMT who has made outstanding commitment to the non-patient care aspects of a community's EMS system. Special emphasis is on EMS public information, education, and relations, community education, and prevention programs.*

**Tim Birr, EMT-Basic  
Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue**

Recognized across the State as the “face and voice” of a number of public safety agencies, Chief Birr possesses an extraordinary talent for translating the chaos of an emergency scene for the media and the citizenry in a manner that consistently brings credit to the emergency services professionals he represents.

Tim became the first Public Information Officer (PIO) at the Eugene Fire Department after rising from the rank of Firefighter/EMT to Captain. In 1995, Chief Birr joined TVF&R as the Director of Community Services, where he managed the media, community, and intergovernmental relations programs.

As a frequent spokesperson for the Fire District, Tim was often in the spotlight when large incidents or political issues arose. When the satellite trucks are broadcasting your scene to the world, you want Tim to be the one representing your crews.

One of the most visible and appreciated services rendered by Chief Birr is as a member of the TVF&R Pipes and Drums band that he founded in August of 2000. The band performs at community ceremonies and events, with a special emphasis on emergency services ceremonies and memorial services for fallen peers.

Tim’s passion for everything related to emergency services is obvious to everyone he touches. He has a special rapport with the front line crews and many people are honored to describe him as a kind-hearted and giving friend – even though he is often seen sporting a plaid skirt while telling one bad joke after another.

In addition, many who have witnessed his enduring commitment to his fellow responders would agree that Chief Birr embodies the very “heart and soul” of EMS.

Thank you, Tim, for your commitment and dedication to EMS in Oregon.



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**Heather Riggs, EMT-Basic  
Monument Volunteer Ambulance**

This young lady became an EMT in 1999 and has over the past few years become an indispensable part of the community of Monument. She is a tireless worker who always finds time to assist anyone or any cause that needs a helping hand. Heavily involved in youth community services during the summer months, Heather willingly participates in everything from City Park clean-up to church cleaning, assisting with sport coaching duties to scorekeeper at all the local school sport games!

The growing and elderly population in Monument has many of them gathering at the Monument Senior Center for weekly get-together and meals. Heather readily makes herself available to these individuals, whether it is driving them to their doctor's appointments in John Day or even taking their blood pressure if they ask.

Being an EMT in a little community can be a very challenging role for even the most dedicated person! Heather has risen above and beyond what could be considered "adequate" involvement as a volunteer EMS provider. She promotes First Responder and CPR classes, organizes fund raisers, makes sure the ambulance is always spic and span, keeps records up to date... the list goes on and on. It is well known in the village what a hard worker and good person Heather is. She is someone you can count on to lend a hand no matter how dirty the job, always with a cheery word and a big smile on her face.

This wonderful young lady who gives so much to her community, yet expects nothing in return, deserves to hear how much she is appreciated, and how **very** much she deserves a well earned pat on the back for her dedication to her community and EMS!

Thank you, Heather, for your continued contributions to the community of Monument and passion for EMS in Oregon.