



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 Meritorious Service Medal recognizes an individual for a particular act of meritorious service in EMS.

**Brandon Tompkins
King City Police Department (KCPD)**

A community of nearly 3,000 residents, all over the age of 55 years, poses a challenge for EMS responders. Patients frequently present with acute, life-threatening emergencies and the likelihood of a cardiac arrest event is high.

With this in mind, Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue began partnering with the King City Police Department (KCPD) in 2002 to establish them as an AED first responder. Officer Brandon Tomkins was instrumental in bringing KCPD on board with training fellow officers and placing of two AEDs on police cruisers. An additional two AEDs will be added this year.

On July 5, 2003, 56-year-old Ralph Truitt suffered a cardiac arrest while dining at the King City Mazatlan restaurant. As luck would have it, the local ALS engine had been dispatched on a house fire five minutes earlier so EMS resources had to come from farther away than usual. With precious seconds running off the clock the cardiac arrest was announced on the police frequency, putting the new AED program to the test. Officer Tomkins was on duty and responded from nearby. Upon arrival he gave bystanders instructions to continue CPR and open the victim's shirt while he prepared the AED. In short order, Officer Tomkins had delivered one shock that converted Mr. Truitt's heart to an organized electrical rhythm. Soon after came a corresponding pulse was felt which continues to beat today.

The efforts of Officer Tomkins will forever affect the Truitt family.... and undoubtedly many more families in the future. The AED partnership forged by his work has served as an example to other peer law enforcement agencies. Tigard, Tualatin, and Sherwood Police Departments are implementing AED first response programs patterned after KCPD.

Thank you, Brandon, for your insight, dedication, and compassion towards your community and EMS in Oregon.



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EMT of the Year – Intermediate

Dale Libby, EMT-Intermediate Western Lane Ambulance

How does one distinguish a person's qualifications to be an EMT-Intermediate of the year? Some may say this is a subjective decision that may be difficult to substantiate. However in the case of Dale (Butch) Libby Jr, the choice for this award recipient is quite clear.

Butch grew up in the Siuslaw Valley region. His family is well known for hard work and dedication to the community. He began his EMS career in Florence in 1976 for Western Lane Hospital, acquired by Western Lane Ambulance District in 1989.

Butch also served as the local Fire Chief for 20 years and performed admirably during the course of his tenure. His steady demeanor during a medical call exhibits quiet confidence and skill, refined by decades of training and fieldwork.

Years of experience driving ambulances and fire engines allows Butch to drive efficiently and safely, allowing the EMTs in the back to feel comfortable and offering patients quick, professional delivery to the nearest appropriate medical facility.

His strongest attribute and the quality he is most appreciated for is his compassion for patients. Butch has quieted and comforted hundreds of patients over the years by a simple kind word or a warm hand to the hurting. His concern is real and will never be forgotten by the many patients he has assisted. Butch is a special man, truly deserving of this highest honor.

Thank you, Dale (Butch) Libby for your ongoing dedication and compassion to your community and EMS in Oregon.



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EMT of the Year – Paramedic

Jane McLaughlin, EMT-Paramedic Chiloquin Volunteer Ambulance Service

On Christmas Eve, 2003, the weather in the Klamath Basin was severe and the road conditions treacherous. A report came in that a semi-tractor/trailer traveling on Highway 97 had jackknifed on the ice. A "lifted" Durango had been unable to stop and was crushed under the trailer.

Paramedic Jane McLaughlin approached the scene and learned that there were two patients trapped underneath the trailer, both of them alive and talking to rescuers. Jane recounted that at the time, she "didn't expect anyone to be alive in there, there just wasn't room."

Paramedic McLaughlin entered the Durango through a rear window, but could only hear the patients' voices. Curt Harlan, 30, stated that he was not badly injured. Tracee Harlan, 29, informed Jane that her neck was broken and she could not feel her arms or feet. Paramedic McLaughlin managed to place a non-rebreather mask between the patients, and she remained with them despite treacherous conditions that at any time may have caused the trailer to slip and further crush the Durango.

After approximately 45 minutes, rescue crews were able to remove the trailer from the Durango. They discovered that Tracee's head was positioned bizarrely. Paramedic McLaughlin manually immobilized her head and neck in the position found throughout extrication. Once free, Tracee was moved to a long backboard, with Jane directing every move "one inch at a time." Tracee was transported to Merle West Medical Center in Klamath Falls, stabilized, and transferred to Rogue Valley Medical Center.

At Rogue Valley, and later at Craig Hospital in Denver, neurosurgeons observed that Tracee shouldn't be alive and noted what an incredible job on-scene paramedics had done. When Tracee was able to receive visitors, she asked them to thank the paramedic, Jane, for saving her life.

Thank you, Jane, for your compassion, dedication, and professionalism while caring for others in their time of need and EMS in Oregon.



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EMS Educator of the Year

Leslie D. Huntington, EMT-Paramedic Rogue Community College

In the summer of 1998, Leslie Huntington was hired on as the EMT Program Coordinator at Rogue Community College and she has been the only full-time faculty member since that time.

Leslie's dedication to student success is a priority. In a time where instructors may have little or no time for students outside of class, Leslie goes the extra mile for students who need special help. In addition, Leslie is not afraid to address personal issues that may be holding students back. Leslie has taken the initiative to go to the library and check out a book for a student who struggled with self-confidence. She has helped multiple students address issues of test anxiety and, in more than one instance, helped students work through personal problems that were clearly affecting their academic performance. Students say that Leslie has never said no to a request for help.

Leslie's dedication to the quality of graduates has been recognized throughout the state. Her students are not only strong in their knowledge and skills, but they are also well-rounded individuals.

In addition to helping students at RCC, Leslie has been involved in the National Association of EMS Educators Instructor course throughout Oregon providing new instructors the skills to teach EMT courses. Leslie has assisted other colleges by sharing her experience setting up a program, letting them know what worked and didn't work.

Leslie is well respected by colleagues as well as students. Leslie never asks for anything in return and often gives her time to students and co-workers without hesitation. Instructors like Leslie encourage students not only to be good paramedics, but good people as well.

Thank you, Leslie, for your on-going dedication, compassion, and willingness to go the extra mile for the next generation of EMS providers in the state of Oregon.



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EMS Medical Director of the Year

Charles McCart, MD Roseburg, Oregon

Dr. Charles McCart was born in Medford, Oregon. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree at Portland State University in 1988. He went on to obtain his Doctorate of Medicine from Oregon Health Sciences University in 1992 and completed his Emergency Medicine Residency at Saint Francis Medical Center at the University of Illinois in 1995. He and his wife Gail are raising their son in Roseburg, Oregon.

Dr. McCart currently practices Emergency and Occupational Medicine at Mercy Medical Center in Roseburg and is ABEM Board Certified. He is the Medical Director for several agencies in Douglas County. Dr. McCart is also a Fellow of the American College of Emergency Physicians, a member of the State of Oregon EMS Committee and an Oregon Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT) Member.

Dr. McCart's passion for pre-hospital care is apparent to all who know him. His years in the field as a life-flight pilot have given him a great measure of empathy and patience toward the medics under his supervision. He spends time with them individually reviewing protocols, providing ongoing training, and enthusiastically supporting their educational endeavors.

His compassion for people is perhaps best displayed by his annual trip to Guatemala to provide medical care to the needy and by his history of happening upon an accident scene and becoming part of a rescue team to save a patient.

Thank you, Dr. McCart, for your commitment, compassion, and dedication to the citizens, your fellow responders, and EMS in Oregon.



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EMS Administrator of the Year

Kenneth E. Parsons
Mercy Flights, Inc.

You might agree that any administrator who is operating a successful ambulance service in today's climate is worthy of the administrator of the year award. However, a successful service is only part of a successful administrator's career. It is the commitment to their employees and the community they serve that defines a truly great administrator.

Ken Parsons is a successful administrator on all accounts. He leads a successful ambulance service, Mercy Flights, Inc. He is committed to his employees; he has funded the education of two Bachelor Degrees, one Masters Degree, various EMT, paramedic, and registered nurse education. He supports local youth through a nationally honored explorer post, and oversees a scholarship program that helps these youth pursue careers in medicine.

He has served his community by providing quality care and transport, sometimes going above and beyond the expected to do what is right. A recent example was when Ken sent Mercy Flight to Seattle to bring a local firefighter home. The firefighter had terminal cancer and had no way to get back to Oregon. Ken provided the service free of charge. The firefighter died within days after the flight, and his family was overwhelmed by Ken's generosity in providing the service and tremendously grateful for the final moments he had with them. This level of service has been the hallmark of Ken's career as an administrator.

Thank you, Ken, for your continued compassion and dedication toward your community and EMS in Oregon.