



State EMS Awards Book of Recognition



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The Department of Human Services, Emergency Medical Services and Trauma System Section may present certificates of recognition, appreciation, or other awards as dictated by particular circumstances, with the concurrence of the State EMS Committee.

Richard B. Straw, EMT-Paramedic Retired

A certified emergency medical technician since 1976, Richard Straw has served Oregon's emergency medical services community in a variety of significant and noteworthy ways.

Moving from his native Ohio to Oregon in 1979, he served first with Medical Services, Inc., then the advanced life support provider for the City of Eugene and surrounding areas. Later, he moved to the City of Eugene Department of Public Safety, where he rose to the rank of EMS Chief. During his tenure Chief Straw led the successful implementation of key initiatives within the organization, including: Field Training Paramedic Program, "Single-role" Paramedic Service, Paramedic Engine Companies, 12-Lead Monitoring and Receiving Telemetry, Expanded Protocols and Standing Orders, and Enhanced Inventory Control System.

Along the way, he served as a member and officer of the Oregon State EMT Association and as a founding member of the Oregon State EMS Committee. He has also served in leadership positions in the Oregon Fire Medical Administrators Association, as chairman and planner for numerous statewide and regional EMS conferences, and as DHS-EMS exam evaluator. His unswerving loyalty and devotion to the continuous quality improvement of emergency medical service in the State of Oregon distinguished him from his colleagues and render him a leader in Oregon's EMS system.

Richard still lists his biggest accomplishment as the high quality of EMS service that evolved during his tenure in Eugene and the proactive partnerships that he was instrumental in developing with healthcare institutions and providers.

Thank you, Richard, for your on-going dedication, compassion, and willingness to go the extra mile for EMS in Oregon.