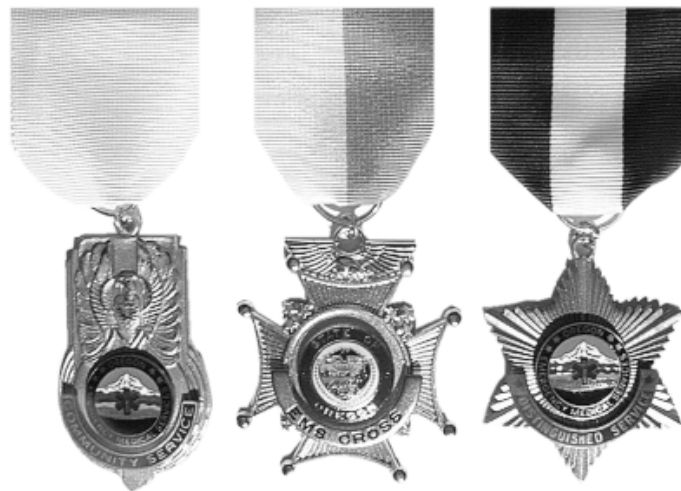




# State EMS Awards Book of Recognition



**Department of Human Services  
Emergency Medical Services & Trauma Systems  
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**<http://egov.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/ems/recognition/index.shtml>**



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

**Name:** Paula Derr, RN, BSN, CCRN  
**Agency:** St. Vincents Medical Center



This award is for an individual whose career has had significant impact on the EMS and trauma system of Oregon. She has been involved in the EMS community for over thirty years and has been dedicated to high quality care and the development of resources for prehospital and hospital staff.

Paula Derr, RN, BSN, CCRN started her career after attending Emanuel School of Nursing, her initial nursing career was in Salem and she then became a critical care/emergency nurse and supervisor at Providence Saint Vincent's Hospital. Paula quickly became involved in the education of prehospital and hospital staff in emergency care and trauma care. She was involved in the Oregon Emergency



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Nurses Association since its inception, was one of the originators of the Oregon trauma nursing course and then the first instructor and course director for the Trauma Nurse Core Course.

Paula's creativity and passion is possibly best recognized in her authorship, along with two other outstanding EMS providers, to produce the prehospital care guide, a nationally known resource for EMS providers and utilized around the world for emergency care providers. Paula has also authored a guide for nurses and several books for elder care and care taking.

Paula is a dedicated member of the American Heart Association, where she served as a stalwart and committee advocate for improvement of resuscitation for many years. Paula was on the board of the American Heart Association, particularly involved as the ACLS, Advanced Cardiac Life Support Heart Association Faculty member, and traveled throughout Oregon to put on ACLS instructor courses and trained numerous physicians, nurses and paramedics as course directors and instructors. Paula worked with the heart association to nominate an outstanding physician as the first Pediatric Advanced Life Support faculty and became a PALS instructor herself. Paula has also taught and organized the ENPC – Emergency Nurses Pediatric Courses in Oregon.