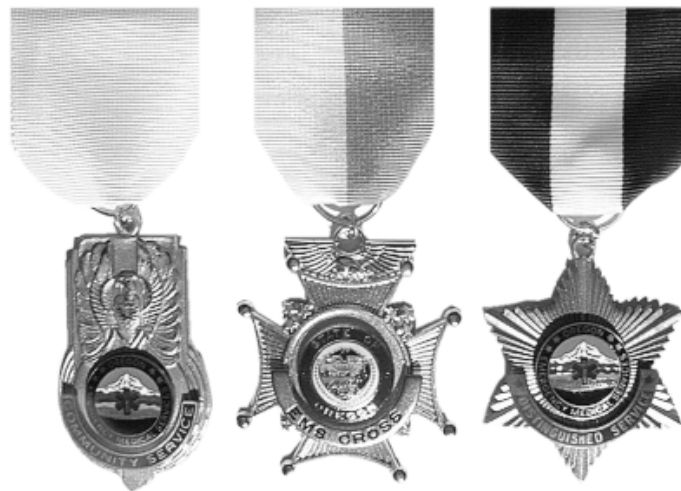




State EMS Awards Book of Recognition



**Department of Human Services
Emergency Medical Services & Trauma Systems
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Portland, OR 97232
Telephone: (503) 731-4011**

<http://egov.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/ems/recognition/index.shtml>



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

Name: Phyllis Gilmore, MD – Providence Medical Group and Robert Giusti, FNP



Dr. Phyllis Gilmore



Robert Giusti, FNP

On December 3, 2007, Dr. Gilmore and Robert “Bob” knew that the flood waters were heading towards Vernonia but had no idea just how intertwined their lives would become with their community’s EMS system during that day and for the days to come.

Dr. Gilmore is a family practitioner at the Providence Medical Group Vernonia Clinic. In the small town of Vernonia, being a family practitioner allows her a chance to establish relationships and to get to know her patients as people. She said, “I like the feeling that I can make a positive difference in someone’s life”. During this winter’s flood, Dr. Gilmore made a difference in numerous lives.

Robert “Bob” Giusti is a Family Nurse Practitioner. Bob believes in partnering with his patients and their families. He said, “To me, the best moments are when the patient’s physical, psychosocial and spiritual needs are met and together we’re able to improve their health and well-being”. As the waters rose, Bob was there with Dr. Gilmore to make sure all patients’ needs were being met.



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As the waters started to rise, flooding the Providence Medical Clinic, Dr. Gilmore and Robert Giusti knew their community would need the medical supplies, equipment and services they could offer. They also knew that their location would soon be underwater along with what they would need.

Working together with the volunteers of the Vernonia Volunteer Ambulance Association and the Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District, they were able to save medications, equipment and supplies by loading them onto the one truck that was barely able to make it to the clinic.

Dr. Gilmore and Bob Giusti headed with the volunteers back to the ambulance bay of the fire station. There they set up a make shift clinic that would become the main medical treatment center for this community for the next four days. Vernonia was cut off from the rest of Columbia County as roads washed out, debris from the winds blocked access and the waters covered normal access routes. In addition, the phones went down-only a few cell phones provided access to outside help. In a small town, people know if help can't get to you – you best get to it...and they did any way they could. Dr. Gilmore and Bob Giusti went into action as the make shift clinic in the ambulance bay became busier and busier. Patients walked in or were driven in. Others were found by the ambulances and rescue that had been patrolling accessible neighborhoods or meeting rescue boats loaded with patients.

Dr. Gilmore and Bob Giusti worked closely with the Vernonia Volunteer Ambulance Association and the Metro West Ambulance Paramedics and EMTs to make sure all patients received the care they needed. Dr. Gilmore was heard saying numerous times “I don't care if you're not my patient, you are now”. Bob echoed the same sentiment. During that time, everyone who needed them was “their patient”.

As disaster medicine was not their forte, they bonded with EMS refining a system of triage and treatment that allowed all to be quickly cared for no matter how serious or minor. Overseeing this treatment/staging area for medical patients was an exercise in ingenuity and resourcefulness. Whether it was assisting EMS with transporting patients out to local hospitals or ensuring patients who had lost everything including their prescription medications were helped, Dr. Gilmore proved to be a link in the medical chain of survival for this community.



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During those initial days, Dr. Gilmore and Bob Giusti made the fire station their home. Available 24/7 for anyone who needed them. As more help arrived, they continued their efforts overseeing and establishing a larger clinic area inside a tent outside of the fire station. They are happily back in their everyday positions continuing to care for the community.

The Vernonia Volunteer Ambulance Association and Metro West Ambulance have worked closely with the PMG Vernonia Clinic in the past but in December of 2007, a disaster occurred that brought everyone together. Dr. Phyllis Gilmore and Robert Giusti were there for not only their patients but for the rescuers, the community and anyone who needed them.



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First Responder of the Year

The First Responder of the Year Award honors a First Responder who is exemplary in his/her quality of patient care and/or dedication to their community and to the EMS system.

Name, certification level: Lydia Durham, First Responder

Agency: Banks Fire District #13



Banks Fire District is sure that, Lydia Durham joined the department to share her wide range of talents —she has many.

This coming fall, Lydia will have been on the department 6 years. In that time Lydia has donated many, many hours being a volunteer firefighter and First Responder, while promoting the department.

Lydia was instrumental in organizing a local car wash to raise funds for AEDs. She also contacted local business and convinced them to donate. Because of Lydia's persistence Banks Fire was able to procure defibrillators this year.

Lydia is also a proud supporter of the American Cancer Society's *Relay for Life*. She recruited volunteers, and/or spouses and organized a Banks Fire team. This is the second year the Banks Fire team will be "walking for life".



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Lydia's next endeavor was to have a team (firefighters) entered in the Portland to Coast relay. So, once again, Lydia recruited personnel and assembled a team. Then she convinced the Banks Fire District Board of Directors to back the team. With Lydia's drive and determination, we're sure you'll see her at the finish line planning the District's next mission.

As you can see, Lydia is an advocate for firefighter wellness, and community involvement. But her dedication doesn't stop there. She's also involved in many other events either as a chairperson, or participant. Lydia is just unstoppable!

Banks Fire District values Lydia's dedication, and appreciates her enthusiasm for life. Whether Lydia's responding on an alarm, or living everyday life, her compassion for others always shines through.

Lydia is married and the mother of two children. Lydia's husband, Mike, is also on the department in the capacity of Chaplain. Her son was on the department, but recently joined the Air Force as a firefighter. We're still working on her daughter.

THANKS Lydia for being you.....





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EMT of the Year – Intermediate

The EMT-Intermediate of the Year Award honors an EMT-Intermediate who is exemplary in his/her quality of patient care and/or dedication to their community and to the EMS system.

Name, certification level: Mara Solano, EMT-I

Agency: Lane County



My first impression of Mara was that she was going to be a problem. English was obviously her second language and the EMT Intermediate course can be difficult for people that speak only one language. I'm happy to report that she proved me wrong. Mara has a sharp, inquisitive mind, with an attention to detail. She would show up to class every night on her bicycle, sometimes dripping wet from her ride in the rain, but always with a smile that was often accompanied by



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the most open and infectious laugh I have ever heard. Her attitude in the classroom was always upbeat and sunny. I would sometimes shake my head in wonder as she would leave class at night, several safety lights flashing on her and the bicycle, like some demented Christmas tree. The other students soon took notice of Mara as she began getting perfect scores on the quizzes and first semester final. She became someone the others would seek advice and knowledge from and soon the legendary Mara web page was born. Mosby and Brady could learn a few things from her work. Her graphs and handouts are simple, easy to understand, and an excellent learning tool. She put in hours of work to improve her own understanding of EMS and to help her fellow students. I would see pages from her web site floating around the classroom and excited students talking about how helpful they were. Throughout both semesters, Mara was the kind of student instructor's hope for. She was attentive, involved, interested, and always happy to be in class. At the end of the course, the student I thought was going to be a problem had the highest final score of any student I had ever taught.





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EMS Educator of the Year

The EMS Educator of the Year Award honors an EMS educator, either pre-service or in-service, who excels as a teacher or who has made a significant contribution to the EMS education program in Oregon.

Name, certification level: Karen Anderson, RN

Agency: Eugene Fire and EMS Department



Karen started her career at Eugene Fire & EMS in 2000, since then, she has trained over 100 EMT Intermediates and Paramedics to become fully functioning field medics. She is responsible for ongoing class coordination and skills check-offs to maintain the 167 certified department EMTs. Prior to her employment with Eugene Fire & EMS, Karen was active in training EMT students in the emergency department where she worked as a nurse preceptor for countless nursing and paramedic students.

Karen acts as the liaison between Eugene Fire and the medical community. She is active on the Medical Control Board in Lane County and without her organizational skills and medical background the protocols for all of Lane County EMS Agencies would not be the same.



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Karen has a work ethic that is hard to match. She is here everyday working as efficiently as possible, providing EMS continuing education and training to our staff. She shows patience and understanding to employees when presenting complex topics taking time to ensure that each employee has a true understanding of the material being presented. She is always dependable and often times works overtime to meet all the commitments that this job demands. She never complains and always sees the good or the potential in everyone.

Karen is proud of her students' accomplishments and is excited to hear their stories of patient encounters. She feels personally responsible for their education and takes her job to heart. Karen is compassionate, dedicated and is a great example to everyone she mentors. This care is evident in the way she teaches, she is always a gentle hand, a listening ear, and is truly an advocate for EMS in the State of Oregon.





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EMS Medical Director of the Year

The EMS Medical Director of the Year Award honors a physician who serves or has served the EMS system by providing medical direction, on-line or off-line, and who has served with distinction.

Name: Craig Warden, MD

Agency: Clackamas Fire District #1



Dr. Craig Warden is Medical Director of Oregon's second largest fire district serving over 200,000 Oregonians and its numerous visitors to the "End of the Oregon Trail".

Dr. Warden came to Clackamas Fire District #1 through an agreement with Oregon Health Science University in 2005, where he is currently Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine, Emergency Physician, Medical Director of Medical Resource Hospital (MRH), Medical Toxicologist for the Oregon Poison Control



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Center (OPC). Along with his duties at Clackamas Fire District #1 he is the Medical Director for Clackamas County 9-1-1 (CCOM).

Dr. Warden is an accomplished author, educator, former Paramedic and innovator. Because of Doctor Warden's leadership the fire district, our EMT's and Paramedics have embraced participation in a national study on cardiac resuscitation, resulting in some of the highest cardiac arrest save to alive at discharge percentages in the country. This spirit of risk taking is personified in his implementation of a rescue airway as an option for paramedics to secure an airway while doing CPR, now being considered as the standard for Cardiac Arrest care in the Portland Metropolitan area.

Our organization is proud of Dr Warden's numerous educational and professional endeavors, but our highest praise and accolades come from his advocacy of our paramedics and EMT's in the field, providing service within the service.

As medical professionals we are humbled by the commitment all Medical Directors give to each EMS agency in our state. Dr. Warden is our deserving candidate for EMS Medical Director of the Year for 2008.





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EMS Administrator of the Year

The EMS Administrator of the Year honors an EMS system administrator who has distinguished him or her self through noteworthy contribution to a local, regional, or statewide EMS system.

Name: Shawn Baird, EMT-P

Agency: Woodburn Ambulance



Shawn Baird began his career as a Paramedic at Woodburn Ambulance in 1990 shortly after finishing the Program at Chemeketa Community College. Over the next few years, he not only developed into an excellent Paramedic, but had also had proven himself as a naturally born leader at Woodburn Ambulance. After only a few years Shawn became an Owner of Woodburn Ambulance. It should be noted that during the time Shawn decided to take over the Operations of our Company, he was quite aware of the challenges that EMS was about to face from the Medicare Reform Act. When it seemed as though many in the EMS community



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was resigned to accept defeat, Shawn continued to, and continues to this day, to be a key figure in the fight for legislation that affects the EMS Community. He also holds several positions on committees through-out the State of Oregon, and is frequently asked for his opinion or advice on key issues involving EMS.

On an agency level, Shawn instills and promotes leadership qualities in ALL of his employees. He keeps an “Open Door” policy and makes a point to personally know each and every employee in his company. The attitude that Shawn has with his employees is one of “If it’s important to you, then it’s important to me, too” and will drop whatever he is doing to discuss concerns or ideas with them. Between all his meetings and responsibilities he has through-out the State, Shawn still finds the time to occasionally jump on an ambulance call with a crew or fill an open shift. He feels that being able to see EMS from a field perspective is vital to his ability to make sound and competent decisions as a leader in EMS.

