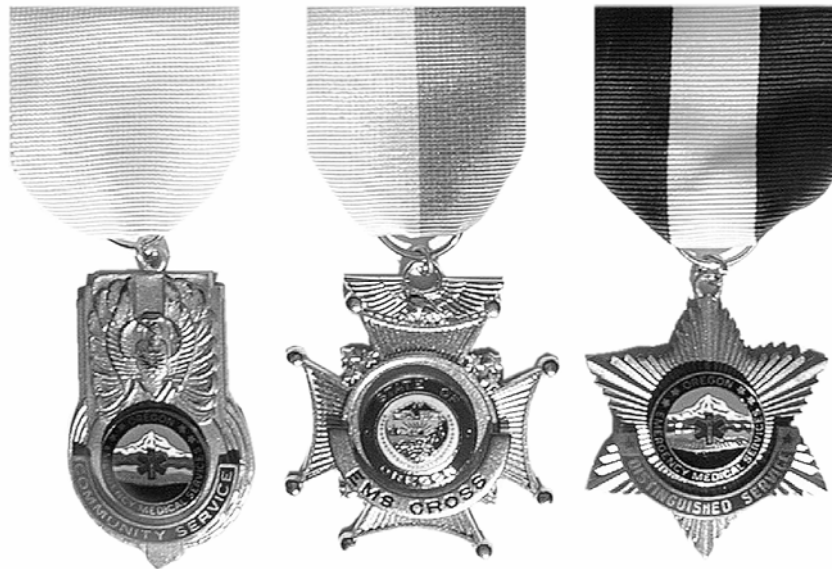




# **2009 State EMS Awards Banquet**



## **Book of Recognition**

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**If you would like this information in an alternate  
format, please contact the EMS & Trauma Systems  
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## *INTRODUCTION*

The Oregon EMS Awards Program is intended to recognize excellence, to foster achievement, and to honor those in and around EMS Systems whose acts and deeds stand out from the day-to-day excellence of that system.

The 2008 EMS Awards Program *Book of Recognition* memorializes the recipients of EMS program awards during the award cycle of June 1, 2007 through May 31, 2008. Listed in the succeeding pages are brief descriptions of the awards presented and citations upon which they are based.

There are many noteworthy acts performed every day by EMS providers across the State of Oregon. It is not possible to recognize the hundreds of providers responsible for those many good deeds. This book is dedicated not only to those whose names and deeds are included, but to any others who, unknown to this committee, also performed acts and deeds representing the best traditions of our calling and profession.

We would like to thank the following people for their participation on the awards selection committee:

- Peggy Andrews representing the College Consortium
- Tina Greiner representing the Oregon Volunteer Fire Association
- Dave Lapof representing the 2009 EMS Conference Planning Committee
- Jan Lee representing the Oregon State Ambulance Association
- Patty Petersen representing the Oregon Area Health Education Centers
- Scott Shepherd representing the Oregon Fire Medical Administrators Association

Bob Leopold  
Director

Ritu Sahni, MD  
Medical Director

Maria Campbell  
Award Coordinator

Oregon EMS & Trauma Systems



## CIVILIAN SERVICE MEDAL

*The Civilian Service Medal recognizes a civilian who provides extraordinary service during the course of an EMS emergency.*

**Names:** Paul Knox, Ted Lambert, John Leary, Thomas Miller, Mark Morford, Mike Niemeyer, Tygh Parr, and Brad Sieberling

The morning of May 17 was a beautiful day to be climbing Mt Hood and numerous teams were taking advantage of it. The weather conditions were ideal, however, as the sun began to shine on the upper slopes it melted the ice covering the mountain which began to fall off in chunks of ice and rock, pelting the climbers. Climber John Creager was descending the main route when he fell and slid approximately 500 feet. He came to rest on a relatively flat spot just west of the Hogsback Ridge. Also climbing that day were the patient's climbing partners Paul Knox and John Leary, as well as Mike Niemeyer, and members of Boy Scout Troop One including Scout Leaders Mark Morford, Thomas Miller, Ted Lambert and Scout Tygh Parr.

The first climbers to reach the patient were Mike Niemeyer, Scout Leaders Thomas Miller (also a Mazama climb leader) and Ted Lambert (Assistant Scoutmaster), and Scout Tygh Parr. Several other climbers quickly followed. Mike took charge of patient assessment and first aid, while the others helped him. They got his pack off, and rolled him onto a tarp and pad. They moved him a few feet away from the worst of the ice and rock fall.

Mark Morford was still above the patient with three Scouts on his rope. The falling climber and his gear narrowly missed them as he slid past. Mark stated "I was afraid that more stuff was coming, so I moved my team off to the west where we stopped to call 911. We then headed down to the patient, but did not reach him until 15 to 20 minutes after the fall. When we reached the patient, Mike Niemeyer was caring for him, while Thomas Miller, Ted Lambert, Tygh Parr and a couple of other climbers had formed a human wall to bat icefall away from Mike and the patient. The scene was obviously dangerous with

large ice chunks flying in; so I sent Tygh Parr and the scouts on his rope to safety on the Hogsback Ridge. Soon, Paul Knox and John Leary two of the patient's companions arrived. I identified Paul Knox as the patient's closest friend and instructed him to stay right by the patient to talk to him and maintain physical contact with him while he was coming to, he did this loyally. John Leary did various odd jobs and served in the human ice barrier."

Morford knew that they needed to move the patient to a safer area. He got recruits to dig a ledge about 75 feet south on the side of the Hogsback where there did not appear to be significant risk of icfall. He organized a team of 8, including himself, Thomas Miller, Ted Lambert, Mike Niemeyer, Paul Knox, John Leary and 2 others to carry the patient to the ledge. With 6 climbers on the sides of the rolled tarp, Mike at the head and John at the feet the patient was moved to the ledge. At this point, Morford considered the situation stable and told most of the climbers they could leave if they wanted to. Thomas Miller and Ted Lambert joined their Scouts and took them down the mountain. Paul Knox, John Leary, Mike Niemeyer and Mark Morford stayed to care for the patient.

Meanwhile the American Medical Response Reach and Treat Team and Portland Mountain Rescue members had been dispatched and were responding. A Timberline Ski Area snow cat had been secured to take the rescue team as high on the mountain as they safely go. In accordance with policy an exception was made to the federal Wilderness regulations prohibiting motorized equipment in the Wilderness Area, the snow cat was allowed to go above the tope of the Palmer ski lift. Timberline snow cat operator Brad Sieberling successfully delivered the rescuers to just below Crater Rock saving them an hour of climbing time. As the Portland Mountain Rescue report notes, his skill in getting cat that high was key to a relatively rapid response. The rescuers were then able to travel quickly to the patient with their gear and proceed with patient care. The snow cat then went down to bring a second team of Portland Mountain Rescue team up. American Medical Response Reach and Treat Team stabilized a suspected femur fracture, treated facial lacerations and took full spinal precautions with Portland Mountain Rescue's vacuum mattress, C collar and litter. Portland Mountain Rescue build a series of snow anchors and a rope system to bring the patient across a "dicey" steep side slope above the Devils Kitchen and eventually to the snow cat where he was loaded and transported via the American Medical Response ambulance at Timberline Lodge to OHSU.

Once in the hospital, the patient's x-rays showed no femur fracture however, initial reports indicated a C1 and C2 vertebrae fracture. There were no spinal cord deficits. The patient reported later that the fracture was only in C2 but the neurosurgeons told him that the fracture was extremely unstable and that his is incredibly lucky to have avoided permanent injury. He said that he considers all of the rescuers to be "Guardian Angels" and definitely worthy of any and all EMS Awards that are deemed appropriate.