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**CALIFORNIA AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION PRESENTS
STARS OF LIFE AWARDS TO OUTSTANDING EMS PERSONNEL**

Sacramento, CA – The California Ambulance Association (CAA) today presented its annual “Stars of Life” Awards recognizing private ambulance company employees whose efforts have gone above and beyond the call of duty. Forty-one paramedics and emergency medical technicians from throughout California were recognized for their lifesaving actions or exceptional professional achievements during a ceremony in Sacramento.

In her remarks to the award recipients, CAA Board Chair Helen Pierson said, “Your actions, whether from a single heroic incident or a career-long performance record, demonstrate the spirit and commitment that is required in emergency medical services. Too often the work of our paramedics, EMTs, emergency medical dispatchers, and other key support personnel goes without notice. Neither the public nor the media get the opportunity to see the contribution each of you makes to ensure that highly specialized pre-hospital medical care is delivered day in and day out to the communities you serve.”

The Star of Life Medals were presented during a ceremony at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Sacramento Tuesday morning during which each Star was honored with a legislative certificate recognizing their accomplishments. Throughout the day, the Stars met individually with members of the California State Senate and Assembly to tell their life-saving stories and deliver important first-hand information regarding the essential service provided by California’s private sector ambulance services.

The day’s festivities wrapped up with an awards dinner during which **Speaker of the State Assembly John A. Pérez** was recognized as California Ambulance Association Legislator of the Year and **Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez**, who served 29 years as an EMT in the San Gabriel Valley, addressed the award recipients and guests.

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The CAA Stars of Life for 2014 are:

- Paramedic Joshua Acker of Riggs Ambulance Service, Inc. in **Merced** was honored for saving the life of a patient in cardiac arrest.
- Hank Blair of Hall Ambulance Service, Inc. in **Bakersfield** was honored for his exceptional work ethic and dedicated service as a Lead Vehicle Service Technician.
- Gene Bounds of San Luis Ambulance Service, Inc. in **San Luis Obispo** was honored for his dedication to the safety of patients as Fleet Manager.
- EMT Jeremy Capps of Hall Ambulance Service, Inc. serving in **Tehachapi** was honored for saving the life of a patient in cardiac arrest.
- EMT Miguel DeSouza of Hall Ambulance Service, Inc. in **Bakersfield** was honored for his role in delivering babies to two moms in a single day.
- Emergency Medical Dispatcher Kim Drennan of Hall Ambulance Service, Inc. in **Bakersfield** was honored for her outstanding performance as Lead Emergency Medical Dispatcher.
- EMT Andrew Fink of Medic Ambulance Service, Inc in **Solano County** was honored for his role in saving the life of a patient in cardiac arrest.
- Advanced Paramedic Rebecca Foster of Paramedics Plus in **San Leandro** was honored for her role in saving the lives of a family trapped in a sinking vehicle.
- Paramedic Supervisor Benjamin Gammon of Medic Ambulance Service in **Solano County** was honored for his role in saving the life of a one-year old drowning victim in Vallejo.
- Paramedic Kevin Gilley of Medic Ambulance Service, Inc. was honored for his outstanding performance and ongoing excellence in service to the **Winters** community.
- Paramedic John Guthrie of Sierra Ambulance service, Inc. in **Oakhurst** was honored for his consistent professionalism throughout his 28-years of service.
- EMT Darryl Harris of McCormick Ambulance in **Monterey Park** was honored for his role in saving the life of a four-year old child in cardiac arrhythmia.
- Paramedic Cliff Henderson of Medic Ambulance Service, Inc. in **Solano County** was honored for his contributions as a Field Training Officer, preceptor, and chair of the company Quality Improvement Committee.
- Paramedic Kristen Hill of American Ambulance in **Fresno** was honored for her commitment, professionalism and outstanding contributions as a flight paramedic.
- EMT Mike Hilliard of Hall Ambulance Service, Inc. in **Bakersfield** was honored for his extraordinary efforts in saving the life of a choking victim in tachycardia.
- Paramedic J.T. Hoyle of Medic Ambulance Service, Inc in **Solano County** was honored for his role in saving the life of a one-year old drowning victim in Vallejo.

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- Critical Care EMT Les Hutchinson of Hall Ambulance Service, Inc. in **Bakersfield** was honored for his outstanding service over the course of 40 years as an EMT, Paramedic and Vehicle Operations Instructor.
- Paramedic Foxi Keane of City Ambulance of **Eureka** was honored for saving the life of a woman who was gravely injured and trapped in a crushed vehicle.
- Paramedic Nathan Kennedy of Hall Ambulance Service, Inc., in **Bakersfield** was honored for his exceptional service to his employer, his community and the field of emergency medical services.
- Paramedic David Konieczny of Hall Ambulance Service, Inc. in **Bakersfield** was honored for his contributions and leadership in quality improvement.
- EMT Markus Lincoln of Medic Ambulance Service, Inc. in **Solano County** was honored for his role in delivering twin babies in the field.
- Emergency Medical Dispatcher Ashley Mattos of Riggs Ambulance Service, Inc. in **Merced** was honored for her dedication to excellence and her role in five code saves and delivery of a baby this year.
- EMT Matthew McCarthy of Medic Ambulance Service in **Solano County** was honored for his outstanding service and his leadership among his peers.
- EMT Matthew Millwee of Hall Ambulance Service, Inc. in **Bakersfield** was honored for his quick action and exemplary performance in saving the life of a choking victim.
- Paramedic Supervisor Adam Minick of American Ambulance in **Hanford** was recognized for his excellent service to patients and his exemplary leadership.
- EMT Richard Murphy of First Responder EMS in **Chico** was honored for his excellent clinical care and courageous willingness to enter into a dangerous situation to save the life of a gunshot victim.
- Paramedic Jeremy Napier of Mercy Medical Transportation, Inc. in **Valley Center** was honored for his excellence in clinical care and service to patients in his community.
- Paramedic Brian Ogilvie of Mercy Medical Transportation, Inc. in **Long Barn** was honored for his role in saving the life of a person in cardiac arrest.
- Dr. Ron Ostrom of Hall Ambulance Service, Inc. in **Bakersfield** was honored for his leadership, his contributions to improving quality in emergency medical services, and for his extraordinary efforts to address student athlete head injuries.
- Paramedic Eric Petersen of Hall Ambulance Service, Inc. in **Bakersfield** was honored for his extraordinary efforts in saving the life of a choking victim in tachycardia.
- Paramedic Rafael Prieto of Hall Ambulance Service, Inc. serving in **Frazier Park** was honored for his quick action and exemplary performance in saving the life of a choking victim.
- Paramedic Brad Quintana of Hall Ambulance Service, Inc. serving in **Tehachapi** was honored for saving the life of a patient in cardiac arrest.
- EMT John Sagun of Medic Ambulance Service, Inc. in **Solano County** was honored for his role in saving the life of a one-year old drowning victim in Vallejo.

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- Paramedic Adalberto Salazar of Hall Ambulance Service, Inc. in **Bakersfield** was honored for his role in delivering babies to two moms in a single day.
- Joan Santelices of King-American Ambulance in **San Francisco** was honored for her leadership in the most unsung but critical role in an ambulance service - the billing office.
- Paramedic Captain Chip Schuenemeyer of First Responder EMS in **Chico** was honored for his excellent clinical care and courageous willingness to enter into a dangerous situation to save the life of a gunshot victim.
- EMT Wayne Scoles of Medic Ambulance Service, Inc. in **Sacramento** was honored for his service and his role in saving the life of a one-year old drowning victim in Vallejo.
- Paramedic Casey Vanier of Medic Ambulance Service, Inc. in **Solano County** was honored for his role in saving the life of a patient in cardiac arrest.
- EMT Candace Walker of Medic Ambulance Service, Inc. in **Solano County** was honored for her service and for saving the life of a patient in cardiac arrest.
- Paramedic Scott Wood of Medic Ambulance Service, Inc. in **Solano County** was honored for his excellent care and field delivery of a patient in premature labor with twins.
- EMT Askan Yavari of McCormick Ambulance in **Rolling Hills Estates** was honored for his role in saving the life of a four-year old child in cardiac arrhythmia.

Founded in 1948, the California Ambulance Association (CAA) represents the interests of emergency and non-emergency ambulance service providers serving nearly every county in California. As essential healthcare providers, the CAA members are dedicated to assuring the delivery of excellent pre-hospital care to the people of California by promoting recognized industry best practices.

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Photos of award recipients are available. Contact June Iljana at 916-817-0869.