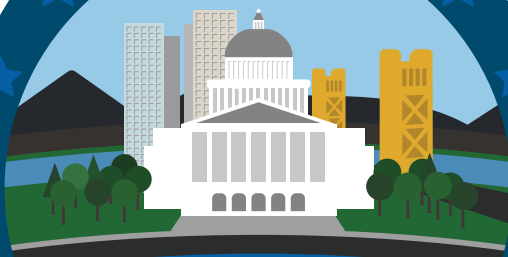


2021



STARS OF LIFE



September 1, 2021
Harrah's Lake Tahoe

CALIFORNIA AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION
2520 Venture Oaks Way, Suite 150 • SACRAMENTO, CA 95833
www.the-caa.org • 877.276.1410 (toll free) • 916.924.7323 (fax)

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CALIFORNIA AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION

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Todd Valeri
President,
Board of Directors
California
Ambulance Association

Congratulations to all our 2021 Stars of Life. Your actions, whether from a single heroic incident or a career-long performance record, demonstrate that you have shown the spirit and commitment that it takes to be the best of the best.

Too often the work of paramedics, EMTs, nurses, 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 single common thread that links you all here today is that you do not do it for the money or the glory; you do it because you love it. Let's not forget about the families and friends that support you. EMS can be very stressful from time to time and for those that support you, we thank you.

The California Ambulance Association advocates for you in the regulatory process by working to ensure that proposed changes in education, training, equipment, or other areas that impact your work environment are fair, practical, and necessary.

Tonight, we celebrate you, the private ambulance industry's Stars of Life. We thank you for your commitment to your patients, co-workers, companies and communities you serve. 



STARS OF LIFE

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Eric Cano
Dispatcher

American Ambulance

Eric Cano is our Dispatcher Star of Life Recipient for his dedication to the communities we serve and to the excellent, but difficult work he does day in and day out. He processes calls for ambulances and fire apparatus in a system that handles over 175,000 incidents annually. He is knowledgeable and precise with details, quick to respond and efficient on radios as well as on phones. Additionally, Eric has served as an exceptional Training Officer for our new Dispatchers. Eric is also a Relief Supervisor and takes every opportunity to learn and function in that capacity to improve his skills and knowledge within the organization. Eric is willing to help with overtime and is highly respected by his peers. He was selected as the Dispatcher of the Year by those peers last year.

Eric began his career in EMS with American Ambulance in 2013 as a Dispatcher. "I love that no matter whether I am leaving here happy or tired, that I leave here knowing I really helped someone." Eric plans to stay with American Ambulance as a career and looks forward to advancing to a full time Supervisor in the Communication Center.

In his free time, Eric enjoys spending time with his kids, finding new places to eat and picking up overtime. He loves that when his youngest daughter sees an American Ambulance she says, "There's dad's work, they are going to help someone!"

It is our honor to recognize Eric Cano as American Ambulance's Star of Life Dispatcher. 🌟



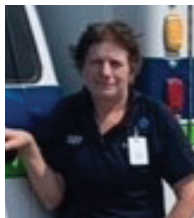
Bill Carpenter
EMT

*King-American
Ambulance*

Bill Carpenter was hired as an EMT in 2007. He went to medic school and was promoted to paramedic in 2011. Bill has worked as a Wheelchair Van Driver, EMT, Paramedic and Dispatcher. He is the first one to step up to the plate and fill in shifts. He has a great attitude and an excellent attendance record. Bill has not called out sick in years. He consistently performs above our expectations and has great customer service skills. His calm approach to taking emergency calls puts callers at ease. Bill likes to go on long walks. Sometimes over 20 miles. He likes to walk so much that he sold his car. Living in SF is always within walking distance when your name is Bill Carpenter. His bad "dad jokes" drive us crazy. 🌟

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De An Carter

EMT

*Sierra Medical
Services Alliance*

De An Carter is an EMT at Sierra Medical Services Alliance (SEMSA) in Fall River Mills. De An has a very rich history in EMS with over 30 years of providing service. She is a giver and she is a dynamic illustration of a first responder who provides not only high-quality patient care but provides service with an energetic compassion that comforts her patients, her co-workers, and her community. De An is an influential treasure in EMS and we are so proud to have her as part of our team. 🌸



**Pavel
Cherednichenko**

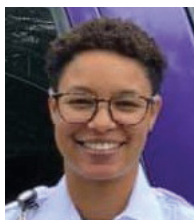
**Critical Care
Transport/
Registered Nurse**

*Medic Ambulance
Service*

Pavel Cherednichenko began his career in the medical field as an EMT working on BLS, ALS and CCT units. After working on the ambulance as a CCT EMT, he knew that this is what he wanted to do as an RN. Pavel graduated from Sacramento State in 2019 with a BSN in Nursing. He joined Medic in 2020 and quickly became an asset to their growing Sacramento Division. With Pavel's prior knowledge of EMS and his eagerness to progress his skills and knowledge as an RN, he has become an essential part of the team. Pavel is always looking for ways Medic can be the best provider for their patients and the community they serve. He is the nurse trainer for their new hire RNs in Sacramento and a very dedicated employee to the company as well as to the patients he treats. As a Sacramento CCT RN, Pavel manages all types of patients in the acute care setting and provides excellent patient care. It is our pleasure to have Pavel as the Sacramento County RN of the year for Medic Ambulance Service. 🌸

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Bronte Cintrone

**Operations
Supervisor**

Royal Ambulance, Inc.

Bronte Cintrone is a driven individual with a team first mentality that has positively benefited Royal's Operations team in all directions. In her three years she has elevated her career from an EMT to FTO to, most recently, an Operations Supervisor. She has trained 15 new team members in less than a year, demonstrating flexibility and balance as she makes time for the growth of the team and personal development. One of the many assets she brings to the team is her ability to adapt, making herself readily available to accommodate extra training, or the review of skills and documentation. She is routinely motivating her team to achieve the highest level of success. As a major patient and team advocate, Bronte ensures that every voice is heard. Her compassion and eagerness to help others shows day in and day out, inspiring those around her. Bronte's engagement and enthusiasm does not stop with her team and patients. Outside of work, she builds community and connections under the Royal banner, going above and beyond to help on numerous occasions with EMT school presentations at local training programs such as Project HeartBeat, Berkeley Adult School, and American Health. She has also assisted as a standby EMT with special events such as the Dia de los Muertos Festival in Oakland, the Oakland Night Market, and the Alameda County Fairgrounds Horse Races. Bronte proudly exhibits the character traits of this award and it is with honor that we nominate her as one of this year's recipients. 🌸



Brandon Cousins
EMT

*Patterson District
Ambulance*

Brandon Cousins exemplifies service to community. Brandon was a firefighter with the West Stanislaus Fire District when he started his part-time EMT work at Patterson District Ambulance in 2014. Brandon lives in the Patterson area and is selfless in his service to the community. In January 2017 he moved to a full-time EMT position. He reliably staffs his scheduled shifts and regularly picks up open shifts. He routinely finds projects around the station to improve response readiness, make a repair, or assist a coworker. He demonstrates pride in his EMS profession and cares for the community he serves. He is one of the first to volunteer for EMS special assignments – youth and high school football games, community activities such as the Patterson Apricot Fiesta, disaster responses, or obstacle course races like the Spartan event. Brandon further serves the community as an American Heart Association CPR Instructor and teaches at CPR Saturday events. Brandon is equally active with his family where he maximizes family time and recreation with motorcycle events, trips to Pismo Beach, or boating at an area lake. Brandon is a great EMS partner and friend to all. 🌸

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September 1, 2021 • Harrah's Lake Tahoe



Matthew Crockett
EMT/FTO/CCT EMT
Royal Ambulance, Inc.

As the winner of Royal's EMT of the Year award in 2020, **Matthew Crockett** has quickly earned the appreciation and respect of the team. Starting out on the BLS units, his reliable and responsible demeanor helped him elevate to the ranks of Royal's Critical Care Team as an EMT and CCT FTO. As he's found success at Royal, he's been conscious and dedicated to elevating his peers along with him. Matt trains CCT EMT's making inroads for newer members, while supporting the nursing team configuring technical equipment such as ventilators and medication pumps. Recently, Matt was the hero when an on-duty physician had a cardiac event at the hospital and needed to be placed on ECMO. Matt coordinated the response for the transfer and responded immediately with the ECMO team to transport the patient to UCSF. Matt jumped into action and supported multiple clinicians, while training another CCT EMT and ensuring the patient was successfully transported. Matt is being recognized for his clinical acumen, versatile skills set, and continuing to support our organization in any manner possible. 🌟



Alex Drake
EMT
*SEMSA/Riggs
Ambulance Service*

Alex Drake has been an EMT for over 17 years at Riggs Ambulance Service. He is a Star of Life due to his increased compassion and dedication to his co-workers, his patients, and his community. Alex was one of the first EMTs hired as a part-time EMT Supervisor supporting the 911 system in Merced County in the daily operational needs. He is calm, supportive, and does a great job of mentoring new EMTs as well as helping them adjust to working in a busy 911 system. He knows his crewmembers and he has been diligent about closing the gap between them and leadership. Alex's longevity in EMS is a true testament to his resilience and dedication to helping others. 🌟

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Shena Folorunso
Lead Dispatcher/EMD
Royal Ambulance, Inc.

Shena Folorunso has been part of the Royal Communications Center since 2018. Her career at Royal started as a Customer Service Representative from which she was quickly promoted to Dispatch. Shena managed resources across five geographic locations while balancing training officer duties. Additionally, she developed new training materials and led new team member training to ensure quality and consistency across the department. More recently, Shena was part of the first team to become an Emergency Medical Dispatcher and transition the communications center to an Emergency Dispatch Center. Shena developed training guides and supported her team through the IAED implementation team and accreditation process. Today, Shena is a Lead Dispatcher, overseeing the day-to-day operations of the communications center where she works closely with team members coaching, mentoring and supporting our staff. Shena epitomizes Royal's values as an engaged, driven, empathetic and adaptable leader and is being honored for her commitment to continuous improvement. ❁

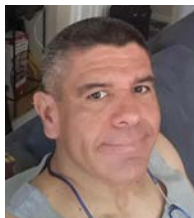


Matthew Gill
Paramedic
American Ambulance

Since he started with American Ambulance in 2012, **Matthew Gill** has become known for more than his capability as an excellent clinician. It is never a surprise to hear Gill volunteer for the after hours long-distance transfer so that another crew can stay in quarters longer. His colleagues note his ability to keep calm in every situation. Whether it's an endless back-to-back-to-back call kind of day or being first on to an expanding MCI, Gill quietly and competently leads his team effectively. Gill takes pride in keeping his work environment organized and clean for his patients while teaching his partners to do the same. Former interns credit their success to Gill's demeanor and willingness to teach what he has learned over the previous nine years. That his colleagues nominated him for this award is no surprise. American Ambulance is thankful that Gill chooses to apply and pass on his knowledge of EMS with their organization. ❁

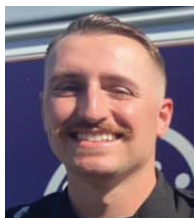
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September 1, 2021 • Harrah's Lake Tahoe



Ray Gomez
EMT
*King-American
Ambulance*

Prior to working at King-American, **Ray Gomez** served as a volunteer firefighter for Livermore-Pleasanton Fire. He was employed as a “coil winder” for a company that manufactured high voltage coils for companies all over the world including the Bart extension to Pleasanton. He also worked as a service technician repairing commercial-grade food equipment in supermarkets and restaurants. Ray was hired at King-American in 2001 as an EMT. Ray quickly assimilated into the company. He was a natural. His easy-going attitude makes it comfortable for any new employee to work with him. Ray has been a dedicated employee, always stepping up when needed. He has helped train many new EMTs and even Paramedics during his tenure. Ray is also quick to help off duty. Ray once had to stop on a freeway for a major accident. He got out of his car and assessed the situation. He quickly realized there was a man with a near amputation and Ray quickly applied a tourniquet, saving the man’s life. Ray likes to work out and stay in shape and is also interested in nutrition. He is devoted to his family. He attends church and Bible study. He enjoys fishing and sitting on his porch reading a good book. 🌟



Chazz Griffiths
EMT / Lead FTO
Royal Ambulance, Inc.

Chazz Griffiths joined the Royal team in 2019 and has demonstrated tremendous growth and personal development through his time serving on the team. His exceptional motivation and personal drive led him to a high level of achievement in general knowledge of emergency medicine as well as EMT skills. Surpassing the standards of Royal’s field training program, Chazz’s ability to work under pressure, strong work ethic, intellectual integrity, and time management skills, quickly elevated him to a leadership role amongst his peers. As a student of life and a leader of his peers, Chazz became a New Hire Academy Instructor, guiding and mentoring countless EMTs through the organization during his time as a Night Shift Lead, and Lead FTO. Chazz is currently studying to become a paramedic as he hopes to continue to enhance the medical community. 🌟

STARS OF LIFE

September 1, 2021 • Harrah's Lake Tahoe



Alan Hughry
Paramedic
Medic Ambulance
Service

Alan Hughry started his EMS career in 2003 after a heartbreaking setback that made him switch career paths from wanting to serve in the law enforcement community to where he is today. He became a Firefighter EMT with the Suisun Fire Protection District while working as a dispatcher for Medic Ambulance until he was able to promote to becoming a Field EMT in 2004. He worked with a lot of veteran paramedics who helped steer him towards eventually becoming a paramedic. After a few short years he became a paramedic in 2007 and has been working ever since. Alan served a brief stint as a Paramedic Supervisor with the company but felt he was better suited as a field employee thus returning to the field that he loves so dearly. Alan is always willing to go the extra mile, which is easily seen by his peers and supervisors. Alan is grateful to be able to serve the community he does, and states that he will do it until he physically cannot anymore. Alan is being recognized as Medic Ambulance's Solano Paramedic of the Year. 🌟



Christopher Kaster
Paramedic
Medic Ambulance
Service

Chris Kaster's path toward his EMS career started in high school working as a lifeguard. He quickly realized that it was fun, and he loved learning the basics of what to do when someone is having an emergency. While attending Vincennes University, he obtained his EMT license. In Late 2013, he started working at Seals Ambulance Service as an EMT and loved every second of it. He immediately started searching for a place where he could progress and obtain his Paramedic License. He went from EMT at Seals Ambulance to Paramedic but still wanted more. With Seals' help he quickly started to do CCT transports in Indiana. He developed a deeper love of medicine, learning things to help those who are sick.

He wanted to experience other places and see if he could learn new things or new ways of helping in the field. The opportunity to go to the Fire Service arose and with a friend's help, he was able to get a job at Kelseyville Fire which brought him to California. This gave him an opportunity yet again to learn and gain a new set of skills because trauma, cardiac, or other specialty centers are miles away. Chris then started part-time work at Medic in 2016. He went full time shortly after realizing that at Medic Ambulance he could find a good mix of the calls he loved, and the opportunity to learn more by working out in the Isleton and Rio Vista areas doing anything from water rescues to car accidents, to simply helping the elderly on a day when they are not feeling their best. Chris has lived in Sacramento ever since that day, which led him to meet his wife – the now Mrs. Thao Kaster. They recently bought their first house together. Chris' dedication and need to constantly learn new things make him a great addition to the Medic Ambulance team. Chris is being honored as Medic Ambulance's Sacramento Paramedic of the Year. 🌟

STARS OF LIFE

September 1, 2021 • Harrah's Lake Tahoe



Stephanie Klunk

**Critical Care
Transport Nurse**

Royal Ambulance, Inc.

With over a decade of clinical experience, **Stephanie Klunk** has quickly become a valued member of the Royal team. In her time at Royal, Stephanie has transported some of the sickest and critically ill patients, tactfully navigating the COVID-19 pandemic, and emerging as a leader for the nursing team. Stephanie is well versed clinically and has been the primary nurse during many difficult transports involving ECMO and other mechanical circulatory services. Through these intense scenarios, the team has come to value Stephanie's calming and knowledgeable demeanor and high level of patient care. She conducts herself with grace and is quickly able to engage with all of her patients as well as facility staff which helps to put them at ease during the difficult times they may be going through. She is eager to teach EMTs and many of those who she has worked with have gone on to become leads in their respective departments. Stephanie has performed numerous interventions while on scene and throughout transport and consistently develops positive patient outcomes. Stephanie is collaborative and brings ideas to help improve operational processes that lead to positive patient and team member experiences. She is recognized for her contributions to our Critical Care Department. ❄

STARS OF LIFE

September 1, 2021 • Harrah's Lake Tahoe



David Konieczny
Operations Manager
McCormick Ambulance

In September 2019, a representative from the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) attended the Los Angeles County Ambulance Association meeting requesting interested parties to contract for screening services at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). Subsequently, McCormick Ambulance, which is the largest ambulance company in the area with the closest accessibility to LAX was directly contacted by DHS Agent Dev D. Jani to assist US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) in this effort. EMTs would assist CBP officers with passenger screening of all arriving flights at LAX originating from mainland China. Details of the request were not immediately clear, but McCormick agreed to participate while we learned more about the operation. Initially, the request was for only nine (9) EMTs to assist on a part-time basis. At that time, Operations Manager **David Konieczny** was asked to work with DHS and CBP to lead the coordination of what was expected to be a short-term but highly visible project. David agreed and soon implemented a training program, scheduling process, and security clearances for the participating crews. Within a very short period of time, the project escalated, and the scope of screening expanded to more and more incoming flights. Requests for more and more personnel began to overwhelm the resources of McCormick Ambulance. David immediately contacted American Medical Response (AMR) Regional Director Ken Liebman for back-up. Within weeks, AMR's national disaster response team was deployed, still under the direction of Manager Konieczny. By early January 2020, he was managing a small army of EMTs and paramedics at multiple terminals throughout LAX for what we now know would become a worldwide pandemic. As of today, Manager Konieczny is still managing crews from McCormick and AMR at LAX (COVID as well as Ebola) in addition to his exceptionally busy duties as Operations Manager for McCormick Ambulance. Throughout this entire deployment, David has shown extraordinary leadership and dedication to his EMS co-workers and has represented McCormick/AMR (and our entire ambulance industry) to the United States government with impeccable class and professionalism. This is not only service affecting statewide EMS but has national and worldwide impact due to the prominence of LAX as one of the largest international airports in one of the highest COVID-impacted cities. For this we are honored to recommend David Konieczny for the Star of Life award. 🌸

STARS OF LIFE

September 1, 2021 • Harrah's Lake Tahoe



Margaret Martin
Administrative
Support Accounting
*SEMSA/Riggs
Ambulance Service*

Margaret Martin is the most polite and calm person who is highly valued as an extraordinary employee for SEMSA/ RIGGS Ambulance Service. Working in our accounting department, the leadership team relies heavily on Margaret's dependable and positive working nature; she never lets anyone down. We are recognizing her as a Star of Life because she is an outstanding individual that contributes to the success of emergency medical services from behind the scenes. She is a delightful pleasure to work with and we are so proud to have her be part of our team. 🌟



Dana McCreddie
Registered Nurse
*Medic Ambulance
Service*

Dana McCreddie graduated from Samuel Merritt with a BSN in 2018 and started working as Medic Ambulance's ALS RN position in January 2019. Over the past two years at Medic, Dana has been an integral part of the continued development of the RN position with Medic. She assists with training new hire RNs and has stepped into a precepting role when Medic assisted Solano College RNs complete their clinical hours during the COVID pandemic. Dana has proven herself to be a vital team member with her hard work and dedication, not only to her patients, but to her fellow co-workers and community as well. Dana is always eager to learn new tasks and has become the nurse champion for our medically at home program. Dana manages a wide range of patients in the acute care setting and provides excellent patient care to all she meets. It is our pleasure to have Dana as Solano County RN of the year for Medic Ambulance Service. 🌟

STARS OF LIFE

September 1, 2021 • Harrah's Lake Tahoe



Fred Motlo
Paramedic Field
Supervisor
San Luis Ambulance

Fred Motlo is being honored as our Star of Life recipient for San Luis Ambulance (SLA) for both his dedication to Emergency Medical Services and his ability to lead others. Fred's contributions to EMS and Fire have spanned an impressive 48 years. He got his start back in 1969 working with Los Angeles County Fire Department on a helicopter fire crew. Fred later went on to have a successful career in the fire service and retired in 2004 as a Fire Captain/Paramedic with Atascadero Fire Department. It wasn't long before Fred's commitment to EMS would bring him to SLA in a full-time role in 2004. Over the next several years, Fred was involved in many aspects of the company including supervision, training, internships, hiring, recruiting, communications, quality improvement and planning. One of Fred's most important traits is his natural leadership. Fred accepted a promotion to become a Field Supervisor for SLA in 2015. He led the company through many successful recruitments and hirings as well as being a mentor to all who surrounded him. Fred possesses a rare combination of vision, fairness, and understanding – crucial qualities of an effective leader. Fred's retirement from EMS marks the end of an era at SLA. We thank and congratulate him on this well-deserved achievement. Fred, you are our Star of Life. 🌟



Steve Nguyen
EMT / FTO
Royal Ambulance, Inc.

A senior member of the team, **Steve Nguyen** has been with Royal since May of 2017. Starting as an EMT, he quickly gained the trust of the team and was promoted to a Field Training Officer. His attention to detail has allowed him and his team to maintain excellent patient outcomes, comprehensive documentation, and well-maintained equipment. He is an advocate for both his patients and partners; a case study in empathy. He does not seek recognition, instead choosing to elevate those around him. Steve is being recognized for his contributions to Royal as a dedicated team member and personifying Royal values. Outside of Royal, Steve prioritizes community, and has been an active member of the California National Guard for 16 years. His selfless dedication to country and community is obvious to those who know him. The ability to balance both commitments is a testament to his dedication to service. 🌟

STARS OF LIFE

September 1, 2021 • Harrah's Lake Tahoe



Jessica Patterson
**Emergency Medical
Dispatcher**

*Medic Ambulance
Service*

Jessica Patterson has been with Medic Ambulance for seven years now as an Emergency Medical Dispatcher and continues to be just as dedicated as she was on her first day. Ms. Patterson strives to be her best every day at work and at home to be a great role model for her son Pierce. Most of her support comes from her wife, Betsy, and their blended family. Jessica is a field training officer and spends many extra hours serving as a member of the company's Dispatch Steering committee and quality assurance committee. Jessica is being honored for her outstanding service as an emergency medical dispatcher, as she has the highest rated EMD scores in Medic's dispatch center. She is also honored as Medic Ambulance's Dispatcher of the Year 2021. This is the second time that she's received this honor in three years. Great job Jessica! ✨



Amy Rebeiro
Dispatcher II
American Ambulance

Amy Rebeiro is our Dispatcher Star of Life Recipient for her dedication to the communities we serve and to the excellent but difficult work she does day in and day out. She processes calls for ambulances and fire apparatus in a system that handles over 175,000 incidents annually. She is friendly and compassionate with callers and patients, having never had a complaint in her entire career. Amy is very easy to work with, quick with a smile or encouraging word and is highly respected by her peers. She was selected as the Dispatcher of the Year by those peers last year.

Amy began her career in EMS with American Ambulance in June of 2019 as a Dispatcher. "I can wholeheartedly say I love what I do for work. We are the first voice of comfort a caller hears when they are in one of their worst or most stressful times. From delivering a baby to saving a life with CPR instructions, we are the unseen first response until field crews arrive. Knowing I can help someone in any way possible is the best part of being a dispatcher." Amy plans to continue working at American Ambulance while striving to obtain her degree in architecture.

In her spare time, she enjoys being with family and friends, spending most of her time outdoors, camping, hunting, and fishing, or taking spontaneous road trips! She is extremely close with her family, particularly her parents and grandparents. She recently lost her grandfather, who was one of the most important men in her life. He was so proud of her work here at American Ambulance.

It is our honor to recognize Amy Rebeiro as American Ambulance's Star of Life Dispatcher. ✨

STARS OF LIFE

September 1, 2021 • Harrah's Lake Tahoe



Arneil Rodriguez
EMT
San Luis Ambulance

Arneil Rodriguez has been with San Luis Ambulance (SLA) for over 8 years. From the beginning he has showed poise, quiet professionalism, patience and resolve. He hasn't wavered from those characteristics and is just as consistent and hard working today as the day he started. I have never seen or heard anyone say anything different. I have advised (as well as heard colleagues advise) new or struggling EMT's to utilize him as a mentor and a gold standard to emulate. He has always accepted that workload and compliment without ego or complaint. He enjoys seeing his colleagues succeed and helps them to do so whenever he can. He has never slowed or "relaxed" with his work ethic, attitude, or willingness to step up for this company. Yes, he is the smiling face you will see when you open the SLA web page. He manages that same charismatic smile at 0300 in the morning after a stressful call. He inspires his co-workers to remain upbeat and positive when they may want to be negative and grumpy on the third call after midnight. I have NEVER seen him lose his cool or speak negatively about anyone or anything. I acknowledge that SLA has other employees that would be good contenders for this honorable award. That said, I would argue that very few have the longevity, consistency, diverse exposure of geographics/stations/partners, or humble demeanor that he does. He is a person that other candidates look up to and respect. He is everything that SLA looks for in an employee and what most of the field personnel hope for in a partner. He deserves to be honored, promoted, and celebrated with a Stars of Life award. ✨



James Salcido
EMT
Medic Ambulance Service

James Salcido became interested in EMS after a tragic motorcycle accident. When the EMS crew arrived, he was completely impressed with how the team communicated and did their job. James fractured his C-3 and C-4 vertebrae and was bed-bound for a year. He was told two things by the physician: He was lucky to be alive, and he may never walk again. A year later he was back on his feet and looking for what to do next. With that in mind, he thought about EMS and how it could be a career. He signed up for EMT school at Bay Area Training Academy. He enjoyed every bit of schooling with the goal in mind to become the best Emergency Medical Provider he could possibly be. James started his EMS career working at WestMed running IFT and BLS calls. He then became a Field Training Officer. James enjoys teaching and helping new EMTs become the best versions of themselves and selfishly seeing EMS through their eyes. Living in Vallejo, James decided to apply for his local 911 EMS organization. Medic Ambulance allowed him to become a part of their family. With his skillset and patient care skills, he quickly became a Field Training Officer and continued to help new EMTs accomplish their own goals. James continues to learn and grow each day providing the best care he can with the training given and possibly offering someone like him the same opportunity he once had. As an EMT, James constantly shows what patient care is all about. He goes above and beyond the call of duty daily. For all this and more, we are honoring James as the Medic Ambulance Solano EMT of the Year. ✨

STARS OF LIFE

September 1, 2021 • Harrah's Lake Tahoe



Fredrick Sankus

**Operations
Supervisor**

Royal Ambulance, Inc.

Fredrick Sankus started his career with Royal Ambulance in September 2019 after transitioning into the industry following success in hospitality as a restaurant manager. His interest in working in EMS came from his desire to help others and create better experiences for his fellow co-workers, customers and patients. Within a few short months, Fredrick was selected to be a Field Training Officer and in December of 2019 he began to guide new EMT's through their introduction into EMS. In September of 2020, Frederick began working closely with the leadership team as a Lead Field Training Officer. This was a new role as he was now involved with overseeing the training of the Field Training Officers. He was responsible for keeping track of the local EMS credentialing for new applicants, training field team members and leading a group of Field Training Officers. In addition to his role as a trainer, Frederick oversaw the operations of our Santa Cruz station. Fredrick is trusted by everyone around him and demonstrates distinct leadership qualities by listening and engaging with our team members to ensure an exceptional employee experience. He is loved by many and continues to bring ideas that improve our organization. This year, Frederick was promoted to an Operations Supervisor where he supports a much larger team with the same care and dedication of our Santa Cruz operations. 🌟



Evan Schwartz

**Director of Risk
Management**

*Sierra Medical
Services Alliance*

Evan Schwartz, Director of Risk Management, became an invaluable resource for all of our crews during the COVID-19 Pandemic. With no playbook in hand, he used his collective calm to interpret and implement the statewide social distancing and mask mandate guidelines all while helping our crews navigate exposures and limiting the potential spreading of the coronavirus in a very necessary health care industry. Evan was instrumental in helping our ambulance crews, dispatchers, and administrative staff weather through an ever-changing landscape of the pandemic and we are forever grateful! 🌟

STARS OF LIFE

September 1, 2021 • Harrah's Lake Tahoe



Shawn Tearle
Paramedic
King-American
Ambulance

Shawn Tearle was hired at King-American in 2002 as an EMT. Shawn quickly learned his role and desired to continue his education, enrolling in paramedic school. Shawn became a Paramedic in 2007. Shawn has performed the roles of Supervisor and Paramedic Preceptor over the years. He has always been willing to train students and new hires. He likes to take EMT ride-along students so he can continue to train. Shawn is the person you can ask for help and he will step up to the plate and do what needs to be done. Shawn enjoys riding motorcycles, snowboarding, and traveling the world seeing new things. ❄️



Michael Tyson
Firefighter /
Engineer / EMT
Humboldt Bay
Fire Joint Powers
Authority

At 7:42 pm on August 3, 2021 Humboldt Bay Fire was dispatched to a report of a male floating in the water of the Elk River Slough near Pound Road. Engine 8112 responded with one Rescue Swimmer trailed by Truck 8181 with three Rescue Swimmers and proceeded to the foot of Pound Road at the Hikshari Trail to make access to the patient. Meanwhile, Battalion 8102 and Engine 8114 with one Rescue Swimmer deployed from the Southbound 101 bridge access point to the slough. Engine 8112 was the first to arrive on scene and Rescue Swimmer **Michael Tyson** located a passerby who was able to dictate the rough location of the patient. Scanning the waterway, Tyson spotted what looked to be a face floating about 200 yards away between the train trestle bridge and Southbound 101 bridge, although it was unclear if the patient was face up or face down in the water. Tyson ran along the shoreline until parallel with the patient. At this time, it became clear that the patient was face up in the water, but remained unresponsive to calls from Tyson. Tyson deployed from the shoreline into the water while another Rescue Swimmer from Engine 8114 deployed from the Highway 101 access point, both Swimmers approaching the patient from either end of the slough. Tyson quickly reached the patient, grabbing him by the shoulder. The patient was alive, but hypothermic and unresponsive. The Swimmers quickly swam the patient back to shore, where three awaiting Rescue Swimmers helped get the patient out of the water and his wet clothing. Once out of the water, the patient's condition improved and he was able to be walked, with assistance, to Engine 8114 staged on Southbound Highway 101 where he was wrapped in heated blankets and given a medical assessment by an HBF paramedic. From there, the patient was transported to St. Joseph Hospital by City Ambulance. The Humboldt Bay Fire Water Rescue Team Coordinator commented after the incident, calling it a "legitimate save." "We are extremely proud of the members of our Water Rescue Team, especially Rescue Swimmer Michael Tyson. Had he not taken the actions he did, the patient would not have made it given the water temperature, the length of time he had been out there, and his previous medical conditions." ❄️

STARS OF LIFE

September 1, 2021 • Harrah's Lake Tahoe



Aaron Vaughn
EMT / Logistics
Supervisor
*Medic Ambulance
Service*

Aaron Vaughn was born and raised in Sacramento. He attended Christian Brothers High School and finished his schooling at Sacramento State where he completed his EMT training. After graduating, he knew he wanted to be part of a team, and thought EMS seemed like the best team to be a part of. When March 2020 came around, COVID hit and the shutdown began. Aaron started to work at COVID sites. He was then given the opportunity to work with Medic Ambulance. Very quickly, Aaron joined the CCT unit at Medic. He was able to learn a lot about both IFT and CCT realms while polishing his skills. While excelling as an EMT, in early 2021, he was given another opportunity with the company, this time to join the Management Team as the Sacramento Logistics Supervisor. Since taking the position, he has been lucky enough to have a supportive team who has done a lot for him including giving him the confidence to take on tasks he had never attempted. Aaron constantly displays professionalism, excellent patient care, and is a kind soul to all. We are recognizing Aaron as the Medic Ambulance Sacramento EMT of the Year. 🌟



Roderick Zavala
Paramedic
American Ambulance

Rick Zavala became a part of the American Ambulance Family in October of 1995 as an EMT. Rick is happily married to his wife of 19 years, Jennifer Zavala. He has a beautiful daughter named Riley who is 14 years old. Rick has an amazing relationship with his faith and is an active participant in his church. He also enjoys a good game of golf any chance he gets. In 2000, Rick attended the Fresno County Paramedic Program and became a Licensed Paramedic in 2001. For the past 26 years Rick Zavala has served his community with respect, professionalism, and one of the most caring hearts one could ever imagine. As a clinician, Rick is second to none. Rick is an open book to his interns, partners, trainees, and ride-a-longs. Those who have the opportunity to interact with Rick on a clinical level will always learn something from him. Rick always goes above and beyond for all his patients. If a patient is in a crisis, Rick is there for them. If a patient needs someone to listen to them, Rick is the one who will listen to them. If a patient needs a hug, Rick will be there to give them that hug. You can always count on Rick Zavala to be the shining star when you are in need. Fresno County is extremely fortunate to have a Paramedic like Rick Zavala serving our community. 🌟

THE CALIFORNIA
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