

 CALIFORNIA AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL
— Stars of Life —
CELEBRATION
AND LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT



APRIL 30 – MAY 1, 2018
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Stars of Life



Alan McNany
*President,
Board of Directors
California
Ambulance Association*

Congratulations to all of our 2018 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 our 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.

Today, you had the opportunity to meet with your assembly members and/or state senators. I am hopeful you found it to be a positive and informative experience. The California Ambulance Association is working hard to secure increased reimbursement for the services we provide to California's over 10 million Medi-Cal beneficiaries. We also advocate for you in the regulatory process working to ensure that proposed changes in education, training, equipment, or other areas that impact your work environment are fair, practical and necessary. Your first-hand experience as EMS professionals is a message that will resonate with our legislators.

Let us not forget our generous sponsors of this year's Stars of Life Celebration, for without their support, this event would not have been possible. Thank you American Legion Post #108 Ambulance, Bound Tree Medical, Grant Mercantile Agency, King American Ambulance, Life-Assist, Inc., Medic Ambulance Service, Pacific Credit Services, Paramedics Plus and Stryker.

Lastly, we are honored to have Assemblymember Heath Flora and Senator Ed Hernandez, O.D. as our special guests at tonight's dinner.

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 Awards Banquet —April 30, 2018—

Welcome

Alan McNany, President

Guest Speakers

Assemblymember Heath Flora and Senator Ed Hernandez, O.D.

Presentation of Stars of Life Recognition

Closing Remarks

Stars of Life

Heath Flora Assemblymember, 12th Assembly District



Heath Flora
Assemblymember
12th Assembly District

Heath Flora is a farmer, firefighter and business owner with the kind of real world experience desperately needed in the State Assembly. He was raised on a farm and had been a small business owner and volunteer firefighter for 15 years.

A life-long farmer, Heath serves as a Director for International Sales at the Exact Corporation, a family-owned business that manufactures innovative products for both nut harvesting and forcible entry equipment for firefighting. Heath also owns Golden Valley Equipment which sells used agricultural equipment. Prior to entering the business world, Heath received training as a paramedic and worked for Cal Fire for three summers.

A volunteer firefighter for over fifteen years, Heath worked his way up the ranks – serving as firefighter, engineer, captain and now as battalion chief.

As a regional director for Sons of the Flag, Heath is working to bring together community leaders, pioneering physicians, experienced military service members, and dedicated first responders to advance care and treatment of long-term burn victims.

Through his church, Heath did extensive volunteer work in Cambodia where he helped build churches and English schools

Heath is married to Melodie Flora and together they have two little girls, Lacy and Paris. 

Stars of Life

Ed Hernandez, O.D. Senator, 22nd Senate District



Ed Hernandez, O.D.

*Senator
22nd Senate District*

Dr. Ed Hernandez had only one goal as a young man – to serve the health care needs of the community he came from. As an optometrist and local businessman, he never dreamed he would one day work in the California State Legislature. As a health care provider in predominantly low-income communities though, the need to improve access to health care is what drove him to run for office. Dr. Ed was first elected to the Assembly in November of 2006, and re-elected in November of 2008. He won his seat in the California State Senate in November of 2010 and was re-elected once again in 2014.

Senator Hernandez serves as Chair for the Senate Committee on Health and also Chair for the Senate Committee on Legislative Ethics. He is also a member of the Business, Professions, and Economic Development Committee and the Senate Insurance Committee.

Senator Hernandez is the Vice Chair of the San Gabriel Valley Legislative Caucus, made up of 12 Senators and Assemblymembers representing the greater San Gabriel Valley. This position has allowed him to work in cooperation with fellow legislators on issues critical to the San Gabriel Valley, including water and transportation.

Senator Hernandez grew up in La Puente, attended local schools and graduated from Bassett High School. He worked his way through school, attending both Rio Hondo and Mt. San Antonio Community Colleges before going on to get his B.S. degree in Biology from Cal State Fullerton. He received a scholarship to study Optometry at Indiana University, which is also where he met his wife Diane. After returning home, Dr. Ed and his wife setup their first practice in his hometown of La Puente.

Senator Hernandez proudly represents the 22nd Senate District, which encompasses the cities and communities of the San Gabriel Valley, which include: Alhambra, Monterey Park, San Gabriel, South San Gabriel, Rosemead, El Monte, South El Monte, Baldwin Park, Irwindale, Industry, Avocado Heights, La Puente, Valinda, West Covina, Vincent, Azusa, Citrus, Covina, Temple City, Arcadia and surrounding neighborhoods. 

Stars of Life



**Roesli "Roos"
Antonis**
*Paramedics Plus
San Leandro*

Roesli "Roos" Antonis **Paramedic**

Roesli "Roos" Antonis began working as an EMT in 1985. Three years later, he became a paramedic in Los Angeles County. In 1990, Roos moved to Alameda County to continue his career as a Paramedic. Roos was an integral part of the development of the Bicycle Paramedic Program that is utilized at the Oakland Coliseum and at a variety of other special events across the country.

Roos has been a long-standing member of the Honor Guard and was recognized as "Paramedic of the Year" in Alameda County in 1999. Roos's never-ending commitment to providing mentorship to new EMTs and Medics as they enter their EMS career, is what makes him so deserving of the Star of Life. His most fundamental advice includes: always carry something to write on, know where you're going before turning on the lights and sirens, and never stop learning! When Roos isn't working, he stays active by running, hiking and camping. 🌟

Stars of Life



Jose Avila
*Mercy Medical
Transportation Inc.
Escondido*

Jose Avila **EMT**

On the afternoon of June 9, 2017, Mercy Paramedic, Michael Phillely, and EMT, Jose Avila, responded to a 9-1-1 call involving a 55-year-old male in full cardiac arrest. Upon arrival on scene, Mercy's crewmembers found the patient unresponsive, accompanied by a neighbor, who had quickly acted by calling 9-1-1 and performing bystander CPR.

The Paramedic and EMT crew quickly determined the patient was pulseless, apneic, and in ventricular fibrillation. The patient's airway was secured; CPR and defibrillation were delivered along with intravenous meds. Following these interventions, the patient converted out of ventricular fibrillation and a return of spontaneous circulation was achieved. Mercy Paramedic obtained a 12-lead that showed the patient had suffered a STEM. In follow-up with the hospital staff later, the crew discovered that the patient had a seventy percent (70%) occlusion in his left coronary artery.

Due to the quick actions of the patient's neighbor and the excellent care delivered by Mercy's Paramedic and EMT crew, the patient was able to make a full recovery on a STEM that, on average, has less than a twenty percent (20%) survival rate. Mercy is pleased to recognize the extraordinary actions taken by Paramedic Michael Phillely and EMT Jose Avila, as their interventions proved to be effective in a case that more often than not, has an unsuccessful outcome.

Jose enjoys soccer and his favorite team is Real Madrid. He is currently in paramedic training and aspires to be a firefighter paramedic in the future. 🌟

Stars of Life



Jenilee Awichen
*Royal Ambulance
Milpitas*

Jenilee Awichen
Critical Care Transport Nurse

Jenilee Awichen has been part of Royal's Critical Care Team for almost two years. From the moment she joined our organization, her positivity, her ability to get along with everyone and her genuine drive to make a positive difference in the lives of our patients truly made her stand out. In addition to her patients, Jenilee cares deeply about her fellow team members and is always offering her support, her encouragement, and going the extra mile to make sure they are well-taken care of. For Valentine's Day, Jenilee even designed and ordered purple Royal M&Ms to put a smile on the faces of her team members. Jenilee is always willing to run an extra call, go out of her way to help out at Royal, and is the Nurse who all of our crew members love working with. She ensures that their time with her is educational, motivational, and an opportunity to grow and develop their clinical skills and acumen. Due to her ability to inspire others and her positive impact on our Critical Care Program, Jenilee was awarded the 2017 CCT Nurse of The Year award. Jenilee is an engaging Leader at Royal and a role model for our EMTs who are pursuing a career in nursing. ✨

Stars of Life



Benjamin Barnett
*American Ambulance
Tulare*

Benjamin Barnett
Paramedic

Paramedic Ben Barnett was selected by his peers as Paramedic of the Year in 2017 for Kings County Operations. Barnett came to American Ambulance in August of 2015. He has worked in EMS for over 18 years pursuing a career where he could help others. Barnett is described by his peers as caring and compassionate. He always treats his patients with respect and compassion. He believes in supporting his peers and routinely sets aside time to train and mentor others who want to enrich their EMS knowledge. Barnett is an inaugural member of Critical Care Transport Paramedic Team in Fresno County. The specialized CCT-P Team is a small group of paramedics who have received enhanced training and skills to work in an expanded capacity during ground transport of critically ill and high-acuity patients. He recently completed his CCT training at the University of Maryland. Barnett enjoys learning and the challenge of becoming a better EMS professional. He is also a Flight Medic with SkyLife Air Ambulance. He takes every opportunity to learn and is always willing to take on additional assignments. He reflects the core values of service, excellence, and integrity of American Ambulance. Barnett has four daughters and enjoys the outdoors. During his off-duty time, he likes to fish and golf. ✨

Stars of Life



Kristin Bayer
**Medic Ambulance
Service**
Sacramento

Kristin Bayer
Paramedic

Prior to becoming a paramedic, Kristin spent 13 years as back office, inside sales for Fortune 1000 suppliers. Tired of the corporate path, Kristin decided to pursue the medical field. She became an EMT and quickly fell in love with the job. She soon went to Paramedic school, which she successfully completed, and was soon hired. Kristin has been a Paramedic at Medic Ambulance for the last two years and her years in EMS have encouraged her to continue her education where she intends to ultimately become a registered nurse. In her spare time, she enjoys giving back to her community; most recently as President of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society and CPR instructor for the Girl Scouts of America. Kristin is being recognized for being a model employee at Medic Ambulance. Kristin is a member of the company CQI committee, and serves as a Field Training Officer and always assists when needed or asked. Kristin has received many compliments and commendations for excellent patient care and customer service. She is being recognized as the Medic Ambulance Sacramento Division 2017 Paramedic of the Year! Great job, Kristin! ✨

Stars of Life



David Bentley
**Hall Ambulance
Service, Inc.**
Bakersfield

David Bentley
Paramedic

David Bentley is being recognized after being named the recipient of the President's Award for Customer Service during Hall Ambulance's Employee Recognition Awards in February.

The President's Award is presented annually to the EMT, Paramedic or Registered Nurse that demonstrates dedication to outstanding service to the customers we serve. It is not about starting IVs, or opening airways via intubation. It's about providing service at a level that motivates a customer to complete a customer survey and offer positive marks.

For the past 10 years, Paramedic Bentley has been stationed at Post 16 in Golden Hills where he has proudly served the people of the Tehachapi Valley. ✨

Stars of Life



Nancy Brooks
San Luis Ambulance
San Luis Obispo

Nancy Brooks
Paramedic

10 years ago, Nancy Brooks began working for San Luis Ambulance, initially as an EMT, and has since become a Paramedic. During her time at the company, she has always been hardworking and dedicated. However, what sets Nancy apart from other staff members is her consistently positive and upbeat attitude. She is very well-liked by co-workers, allied agency staff, and by always avoiding negativity, sets the positive tone for others to follow.

Nancy has become a highly respected paramedic that consistently receives the highest marks on her real time field reviews. Due to her quality patient care and ability to positively interact with her co-workers, she was appointed to the San Luis Ambulance Quality Improvement Committee, where she has been a welcome addition.

It takes many people to make this company great, but Nancy is someone who has and will continue to set the standard of excellence at San Luis Ambulance. It is for this reason that she was selected as the San Luis Ambulance Staff Member of the Year for 2018. ✨

Stars of Life



Michelle Catterton
Medic Ambulance
Service
Solano

Michelle Catterton
Emergency Medical Dispatcher

Michelle Catterton has been providing excellent dispatching services to Solano County for nearly four years at Medic Ambulance. Michelle was born in Fairfield in the fall of 1980 and has lived in Solano County her whole life. She was inspired to come into EMS by the values of her late father, whom she idolized very much. He raised her to be a hardworking, dedicated, and caring woman who always strives to be a better person. When not at work, Michelle is an overachiever in everything she sets her mind to. She is a wife and mother of three beautiful children. If she's not preparing the new latest and greatest meal for her family, attending one of her children's sporting functions or rooting for the Dodgers, you can find her spending quality time with her extended family drinking a glass of wine or two. Michelle is extremely grateful to receive this great accomplishment that she's worked so hard for. Her father would be proud to see her today. Michelle is being honored for her outstanding service as an Emergency Medical Dispatcher, as she has one of the highest-rated EMD scores in Medic's dispatch. Michelle is also a great team member with a positive attitude that permeates throughout the communications center. She helps her fellow employees whenever she can and always is there for Medic when called upon. Michelle is being honored as Medic Ambulance's Dispatcher of the Year 2018, and will join management at the 2018 International Academies of Emergency Dispatch Navigator Conference in Las Vegas! Great job Michelle! ✨

Stars of Life



Kirk Chambers
*Hall Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Bakersfield*

Kirk Chambers
Emergency Medical Dispatcher

EMD Kirk Chambers carries out his job responsibilities with a calm, caring, compassionate, and respectful demeanor.

During 2017, the Communications Division had an immediate opening for a trainer. Chambers stepped up and agreed to help with whatever was asked of him. He did so while maintaining a 99% EMD compliance.

In addition, he earned recognition as Dispatcher of the Month six of the 12 months and was recognized as Emergency Medical Dispatcher of the Year at Hall Ambulance's Employee Recognition Awards in February. *

Stars of Life



Shane Courtis
*Hall Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Bakersfield*

Shane Courtis
Paramedic

Paramedic Courtis and EMT Natasha Towns responded for a man down on January 22, 2018. They arrived to find a patient complaining of chest pain.

While they worked to assess the patient, he became unresponsive and stopped breathing. CPR was initiated followed by defibrillation and more CPR. After two minutes of CPR a pulse was detected and the patient was breathing on their own.

The patient was handed off to hospital staff with a strong pulse. The patient was discharged home on January 26th. *

Stars of Life



Haley Davis
*Royal Ambulance
Hayward*

Haley Davis
EMT/Field Training Officer

Haley Davis has been with Royal for over five years and has been an ideal team member in every possible way. She is enthusiastic, dedicated, loyal and has an impeccable work ethic. Haley always goes above and beyond to ensure that our patients are taken care of in the most compassionate way possible. She genuinely knows how to put patients at ease and make them feel cared for from the start. We have had numerous customers and patient's families reach out to us and share their experience about Haley, and how the care she provided exceeded their expectations. Assuring them they were in great hands, it ultimately impacted their overall wellbeing in such a positive way. Haley treats everyone she encounters with respect and compassion, and was chosen as our first Meals on Wheels, Royal representative, delivering warm meals to seniors who are most in need and can't prepare food for themselves. Due to her selfless acts, Haley was honored by Meals on Wheels for her dedication and commitment to her community. Haley has also been integral to our Field Training Officer Program having trained more EMTs than any of our FTOs. All of her trainees have praised her as an instructor, mentor, and as having a vital role in the EMT they have become. In addition to all of her hard work and dedication here at Royal, Haley has been committed to pursuing her own career goals and recently graduated from the Ohlone Nursing Program. Haley continues to be a driving force at Royal, inspiring new EMTs to pursue their own dreams while giving back to the community, to their patients, to their team members and enjoying the journey along the way. ✨

Stars of Life



Christopher Elton
Medic Ambulance
Service
Solano

Christopher Elton Paramedic

Chris was born in the Bay Area but lived most of his formative years in Chico, CA. Like some teenagers, he was rebellious and made plenty of bad decisions which caused him to move to a new school. After graduating high school a year early, Chris had odd jobs and floundered around for a couple years until he was finally tired enough of the decisions he was making and truly wanted to change. Chris moved to Sacramento and as he says: "I did change my life. I made better decisions ... and started contributing to society as well as to myself." Chris obtained a job right here near the Capitol as a barista for a local coffee shop. The owner, a very good man drove him in ways that he didn't know were possible. Chris's employment there was contingent on continuously pursuing school. Chris decided on EMT school at American River College and went on his first ride along with Sacramento Metro Fire, Medic 24 and fell in love with the career. Chris says: "The Service to those that truly need it, the compassion for family members who may have just lost somebody, the duty and selflessness to community always stuck with me and I try to continue that work today." Chris worked as an EMT for a few years doing river rescue and inter-facility transfers. He went to paramedic school at Sacramento State and his first child was also born. Needless to say, it was one of the most pressing times in his life, but he worked hard, and was able to obtain his license as a Paramedic. Chris was hired by Medic Ambulance Service in Vallejo, CA shortly after and nearly five years later he has had the birth of two more children, bought his first home with his wife, and now teaches paramedic skills at Sacramento State's prehospital education program. Chris is a Field Training Officer for Medic and has a passion for helping those in need. Chris and his partner, Ryan Silva, are being honored for the extraordinary care to many patients in Cardiac Arrest this past year in Solano County. Chris and Ryan had a total of six Cardiac Arrest cases where they were able to achieve Return of Spontaneous Circulation (ROSC), through high quality and efficient EMS care. Three of the six patients were discharged and made full recoveries. The amazing outcomes are a testament to the hard work and dedication Chris and Ryan have for their profession! Great Job, Chris! ✨

Stars of Life

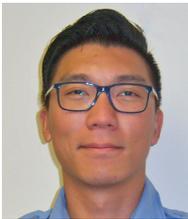


Graham Felsenthal
*City Ambulance of
Eureka, Inc.*
Arcata

Graham Felsenthal
Paramedic

Field saves from patients in full cardiac arrest are somewhat rare. In late 2017, Graham Felsenthal, Paramedic Supervisor, had two field saves in the same day. One patient had to be defibrillated, and Graham intubated both patients with IV's and administered life-saving medications. Through Graham's prompt involvement and deliberate actions, both patients reestablished a pulse before arrival at the local ER. Over the course of four years as a medic, Graham has had six field saves. Graham has a beautiful and amazingly supportive wife and two incredible kids (daughter age eight and son almost age six). Graham and his family enjoy camping and backpacking as much as they can. They also bike as much as possible; he and his wife regularly commute to school with their kids on their bikes. Graham is currently training for back to back ultra-marathons: 50 miles on August 18 and 50 miles on August 19. *

Stars of Life



Thomas Han
*Hall Ambulance
Service, Inc.*
Bakersfield

Thomas Han
Paramedic

Paramedic Thomas Han and EMT Katie Van Allen responded to a chest pain call at the truck stop near the Tejon Outlets. When the crew arrived on scene, Paramedic Han assessed the patient and determined they were having an acute heart attack.

Han requested the helicopter to transport the patient; however, the patient went into cardiac arrest prior to handing off the patient. The crew, along with Kern County Fire, started CPR and resuscitative measures. The patient was defibrillated and regained a pulse, then consciousness. The patient was flown by Medevac-1 to Memorial Hospital where he underwent a successful catheterization and was discharged home several days later. *

Stars of Life



Christopher Harper
*Royal Ambulance
San Jose*

Christopher Harper
EMT/Field Training Officer

Chris Harper has been with Royal Ambulance for two and a half years and has exemplified what it means to be an engaged and driven team member. As an EMT, Chris's clinical skills have been exceptional and his patient care has been outstanding, treating each and every patient like we would want our family members to be treated. As a Field Training Officer (FTO), Chris has turned out some of our highest performing EMTs, all of whom have credited Chris for their development, growth and support during their time at Royal. In fact, Chris was awarded the 2017 Field Training Officer of The Year award for Santa Clara County. Chris is always the first one to volunteer as an instructor for our New Hire Academy. Chris was the first FTO to proactively request additional leadership development opportunities, and his drive to continue to learn and grow as a leader has inspired his fellow FTOs to follow in his footsteps. Chris is inquisitive, driven to succeed and extremely active within the Royal community. We can always count on Chris to come in early, stay late or help out in any capacity. He is a true team player and always makes himself available to his trainees, to our Operations Team and to his fellow FTOs. ❁

Stars of Life



Michael Hilliard
*Hall Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Bakersfield*

Michael Hilliard
EMT

EMT Mike Hilliard responded with his paramedic partner to a chest pain call in Wasco. They arrived on scene and completed a 12-Lead EKG which revealed a STEMI.

EMT Hilliard provided a safe transport to the hospital. Upon arrival at the ED, the patient went into cardiac arrest. Working together as a team, the ER physician started CPR while EMT Hilliard assisted the paramedic, successfully defibrillating the patient – regaining pulses.

The patient was fully alert and oriented as she was moved to the Cath Lab where she was treated for a full occlusion of the right coronary artery. The patient was discharged home on her birthday which coincidentally was Christmas day. ❁

Stars of Life



Dallas Jordan
*Medic Ambulance
Service
Sacramento*

Dallas Jordan
EMT

Dallas Jordan is an EMT for Medic Ambulance. After graduating from college, she was trying to figure out her next step in life and decided to take an EMT certification course. She very quickly fell in love with everything EMS has to offer. She did her EMT ride along with Medic Ambulance and applied to Medic after she finished school. She has been in EMS for a little over a year and has found that she is very passionate about working in the medical field. In her off time, she likes to play with her dogs and travel. Her career goal right now is to become an RN, and maybe eventually become a PA, NP or MD. Dallas is being honored as Medic Ambulance Sacramento Division 2018 EMT of the Year. Dallas has been a model employee at Medic Ambulance. She is an excellent team member, and always offers her assistance whenever it is needed. Dallas has shown, in her short time in EMS, that she is a leader in our field and an overall excellent provider of EMS care. Great Job, Dallas! 🌸

Stars of Life



Amanda Kennedy
*City Ambulance of
Eureka, Inc.
Fortuna*

Amanda Kennedy
Dispatcher/Communications Supervisor

Amanda Kennedy is the Communications Supervisor for City Ambulance of Eureka. In Amanda's two years as a dispatcher, she has exemplified leadership and commitment to EMS. Amanda was promoted to Communications Supervisor in September of last year, and prior to her promotion, Amanda was the Communications Staff Development and Scheduling Coordinator, as well. In last year's employee survey, Amanda was voted 'best dispatcher,' 'best customer service,' and 'most helpful dispatcher' unanimously by her peers. Amanda and her husband live in Fortuna, CA with their three-year-old daughter. Her family enjoys backpacking and hiking together, and Amanda and her husband are active participants in the annual Kinetic Sculpture Race, as well. Amanda loves her career as a dispatcher, but she considers it a career she stumbled upon without really knowing the intricacies of EMS. Now that she's involved, however, she cannot see herself without it! 🌸

Stars of Life



Tyler Kahler
*Hall Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Bakersfield*

Tyler Kahler **Paramedic**

For those who have dedicated their lives to EMS, it is a calling, an innate desire to help others in a time of need. Their clock doesn't turn off at the end of their shift. On October 1, 2017, Hall Ambulance Paramedic Tyler Kahler was in Las Vegas for the Route 91 Harvest country music festival enjoying good music and good times with his friends when things changed in an instant.

Kahler's actions that evening are commendable and worthy of recognition, yet his humbleness about his efforts and hesitation to immediately share his story publicly speaks to his character. According to Kahler, "It's the same reason I show up to work every day, it's what I do." As the tragedy of that evening began to unfold, Kahler and a few of his friends quickly made their way through one of the service exits and began running amidst the chaos towards their hotel a block and a half away. With the assurance that his friends were out of harm's way and headed to their rooms, Kahler stated, "I'm going back!" With selfless bravery, Kahler returned near the festival's main entrance. Just outside, he came across a large crowd of people with injuries. At that moment, his experience as a paramedic kicked in. He set up a triage area separating those with minor, moderate, and critical injuries and those who were fatally wounded. Kahler found additional help from other off-duty EMS workers and members of the military. Complete strangers, they worked together seamlessly. Not having any medical equipment, Kahler improvised using his belt as a tourniquet for a woman who suffered a gash to her leg when pushed off a fence. He instructed someone else to take their shirt off and apply pressure to a wound. With no EMS responders on scene, they utilized several UBER drivers and taxis to send the injured off to the hospital. He estimates they triaged an estimated 50-70 people before public safety arrived at their location. One of the injured he came across was a male who had been shot in the hip. Through conversation, Kahler discovered he was an off-duty officer with the Bakersfield Police Department. Kahler quickly secured another UBER driver to take the officer to the hospital. He continued his efforts for the next several hours, before being escorted back to the hotel by an officer in tactical gear. Thinking his role had come to an end, as he walked into the lobby, he was surprised to find another 15-20 individuals with various injuries. Three had gunshot wounds while the others endured injuries during the mass exodus from the festival grounds. Kahler helped as best he could before flagging down ambulance and fire department crews that were staging outside the hotel for assistance.

Kahler returned to work that Tuesday, and the following Saturday requested to be a part of the Hall Ambulance crew that would return Bakersfield Police Officer Mundhenke home. According to Kahler, the 'reunion' at the hospital was short and simple. He was still wearing his festival wristband which Mundhenke noticed and remarked, "Oh you were there," before pausing and taking a closer look at Kahler. He then said, "You pushed me into a car, didn't you?" to which Kahler replied, "Yes, sir. I did." The officer said, "Well, thanks!" On the four-hour transport home, Kahler said, "We talked about everything but what happened that day." * ❁

Stars of Life



John Kihneman
*Royal Ambulance
Clyde*

John Kihneman
EMT/Field Training Officer

John Kihneman has been with Royal Ambulance for over 8 years and has been a tremendously versatile and valuable team member. John has been integral to our in-house Fleet Maintenance Program, overseeing our fleet with a focus on quality and safety. His attention to detail and proactive nature allows him to prevent potential issues from arising while creating and maintaining standard processes, providing a rubric for future team members to follow. John has also become the master of our equipment, allowing our EMTs to focus on safe patient care. John has also served as a Field Training Officer (FTO) and has been a role model for many of our current FTOs, setting the bar high with his experience and tenure. John still continues to pick up many shifts, despite his other commitments at Royal. Always willing to go the extra mile, lend a helping hand and be there for the Operations Team, both in the Field and at Base, John is a huge asset all around. John is a humble, empathetic and adaptable Leader at Royal, whose loyalty and desire to help others is second to none. ✨

Stars of Life



Christopher Kirkland
*Medic Ambulance
Service
Solano*

Christopher Kirkland
Paramedic

Chris Kirkland has been a member of the Medic Ambulance Family for the past 16 years. After graduating with a degree in psychology from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, Chris became a car salesman for a year, spent another 3 years as a carpenter which taught him many valuable skills, but it wasn't rewarding for him. Chris moved to Sacramento and one of his female friends who majored in pharmacology, started working in a group home with 8-12 year-old boys. Seeing her medical knowledge and the impact his friend had on the boys, really helped him decide that he wanted a path to help others. As he puts it, "Well, psychology, pharmacology, and a bunch of crazy kids drove me to EMS." Chris became an EMT for Medic Ambulance, and served in that role for 3 years. He soon went to Paramedic School and after successful completion upgraded to Paramedic. Chris has been a Paramedic for 13 Years at Medic and has always operated at the highest levels. Chris and his partner, Sean Miller, are being honored for their critical treatment of a patient in cardiac arrest. The patient suffered sudden cardiac arrest in the rural community of Rio Vista, CA. Chris and his partner provided a rapid response with immediate and critical care treatments to the patient. Chris and Sean provided CPR, defibrillation and other advance life-saving techniques. The patient regained a pulse during their care and they transported the patient to the local cardiac center. Due to their rapid and excellent care, the patient had an extremely positive outcome and is home today. Great Job Chris! ✨

Stars of Life



Rachelle Knight
*Hall Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Bakersfield*

Rachelle Knight EMT

On August 24, 2017, Paramedic Ryan Strange and EMT Rachelle Knight responded to the report of a patient in cardiac arrest at his residence. They arrived to find Kern County Fire on scene performing CPR on a man that had collapsed while mowing his lawn.

Ryan and Rachelle worked seamlessly as a crew to initiate ACLS on scene. Before transport was initiated they had achieved ROSC and eventually pulses.

The patient was transported to a Bakersfield hospital where he underwent a cardiac catheterization before being transferred to a Los Angeles area hospital. The patient would eventually be discharged home. Paramedic Strange gave EMT Knight great credit for the field save explaining that Rachelle anticipated all of his needs making his job easier and provided expedient and safe transport to the hospital. *

Stars of Life



Christopher Knopp
*Medic
Ambulance Service
Solano*

Christopher Knopp Supply Support Technician

When Chris was little he knew he always wanted to help people so when the opportunity presented itself, he started out with Suisun Fire Protection District when he was 14 years old. He moved up in rank to Engineer/Driver Operator within the 15 years he spent with the department. Chris also worked for Suisun City Parks and Recreation and spent 15 years with the city helping with events, coaching sports for kids, working alongside public department taking care of streets, landscape and marine dock maintenance as well as other various projects within the city. Eventually, while in between jobs, he applied with Medic Ambulance for a job in the Logistics Department and was hired as a Supply Support Technician. He loves his current role because, he says, "I'm still helping people out and eventually want to continue helping others." Chris is being honored as Medic Ambulance 2018 Logistics Employee of the Year. Chris has been a leader in the department and has been a great trainer to new employees over the last year setting a standard of excellence in the Logistics Department that has helped Medic field staff properly deploy high quality equipment and unit hours. Chris never hesitates when someone needs help or a task needs to be performed. He has proven to be a vital asset to the Medic Family! Great Job, Chris! *

Stars of Life



Jeffery Loyd
*American Ambulance
Selma*

Jeffery Loyd
Paramedic

Paramedic Jeff Loyd was selected by his peers as Paramedic of the Year in 2017 for Fresno County Operations. Loyd began his EMS career at American Ambulance in March 2012 and was a founding member of our Behavioral Health Support Team. The specialized BHST team is a small group of paramedics with enhanced training and skills to provide improved care to the behavioral emergency patient. His peers describe him as caring, sensitive and empathetic. He repeatedly demonstrates this particular talent in working with patients living with mental illness. Loyd enjoys the new approach when dealing with a mental health client, which may include off-duty follow-up and connecting the patient to other community resources. He was also an early member of our Peer Support Team. Loyd never hesitates to step up to offer support to his peers in distress. He recently accepted an additional assignment as co-coordinator of the Peer Support Team and serves on a Planning Committee for the Central Valley Peer Support Team Summit, an annual four-county training course. Loyd is always willing to help and take on assignments that are far beyond his regular duties as a paramedic and reflects the core values of service, excellence and integrity of American Ambulance. Loyd has been married for six years and enjoys being a father of 3 wonderful children. ✿

Stars of Life



Sean Miller
*Medic Ambulance
Service
Solano*

Sean Miller
EMT

Sean Miller has worked in the EMS/Fire field for six years, the last three and a half years as an EMT/FTO with Medic Ambulance. He is currently finishing the paramedic program at Sacramento State University, and plans to promote to paramedic after completion. Sean and his wife, Kim, have two young children, Everly and Shiloh. Sean and his partner, Chris Kirkland, are being honored for their critical treatment of a patient in cardiac arrest. The patient suffered sudden cardiac arrest in the rural community of Rio Vista. Sean and Chris provided a rapid response and immediate and critical care treatments to the patient. Sean and Chris provided CPR, defibrillation and other advance life saving techniques. The patient regained a pulse during their care and they transported the patient to the local cardiac center. Due to their rapid and excellent care, the patient had an extremely positive outcome and is home today. This is Sean's second year in a row being honored as a Star. Last year he was honored for his heroic care to a trauma patient. Great Job Sean! ✿

Stars of Life



Anthony Morris
Paramedics Plus
San Leandro

Anthony Morris
EMT/Field Training Officer

Anthony Morris recalls his first experience with EMS while he was caring for a family member that had a seizure. The compassion and great patient care that the responding paramedics showed inspired him to seek a career in EMS. In 2009, Anthony was hired in Alameda County on the same day that his son was born. As an FTO, he expects a lot from his trainees, but, in turn, he provides a learning environment that facilitates acquisition of knowledge and skills that will benefit them throughout their EMS careers.

Anthony's brilliant ability to provide mentorship and his overall positive attitude makes him well-deserving of the Star of Life Award. He says, "Our ALCO EMS family is amazing ... it is one of the biggest reasons why I look forward to coming to work." Anthony recognizes the high-stress that accompanies the job, and spends time with his family, playing sports and video games, and attending concerts to relax. ✨

Stars of Life



Carlos Navarrete
Medic Ambulance
Service
Solano

Carlos Navarrete
Paramedic

Originally from Lake Placid, Florida, Carlos moved to California with his fiancé to help her pursue her passion in service dog training – focusing on First Responder PTSD. Carlos started off his career as a firefighter to follow in the footsteps of his father and grandfather. He later became a Paramedic as a personal challenge, only to find out that he had a passion for the emergency medical field. Eventually he would like to become an emergency physician. Carlos has been with Medic Ambulance a little over a year and has been a great addition to our team. Carlos is being honored for his integral role in Medic's response during the Napa, Solano and Sonoma Fires. Carlos worked countless hours and was part of three different strike teams to the impacted areas. Carlos assisted in the evacuation of a Santa Rosa skilled nursing facility that saw 65 patients evacuated. Additionally, patients who were under the care of the Department of Healthcare Services were relocated to Dixon to live at the May Fair for two weeks until their facility could re-open safely. The state requested two Ambulance Strike Teams to be on site 24/7 for the 13-day time period. Carlos, without hesitation, offered himself to serve at the site and did not want to be relieved until the site was shut down. Carlos made a difficult time much easier by his hard work and dedication to helping others. This last year our country saw major disasters take their tolls on people, and it's selfless caregivers like Carlos, Gordon, and Dominic who make these responses possible! Great Job, Carlos! ✨

Stars of Life



Robert Ordonez, Jr.
*McCormick
Ambulance
Stevenson Ranch*

Robert Ordonez, Jr. **EMT/Field Training Officer**

Robert "Bobby" Ordonez, Jr. started his EMS career with McCormick Ambulance in October 2013. Bobby has established himself as one of the premier EMTs rising to the level of Field Training Officer. Bobby has held positions with other public service agencies, serving as an explorer for seven years with the LA City Fire Department as well as two years reserve duty with Santa Paula Fire. Bobby played baseball and golf competitively through school and can still be seen on the diamond helping the company's softball team. Bobby is currently stationed at McCormick's Station 3, which covers the Calabasas area of Los Angeles County. Bobby is recommended for this award because of his bravery and commitment to helping others while facing grave danger off duty while attending the 2017 Las Vegas Shooting at the Route 91 Harvest Festival last October. ✨

Stars of Life



Michael Philley
*Mercy Medical
Transportation Inc.
San Diego*

Michael Philley **Paramedic**

On the afternoon of June 9, 2017, Mercy Paramedic, Michael Philley, and EMT, Jose Avila, responded to a 9-1-1 call involving a 55-year-old male in full cardiac arrest. Upon arrival on scene, Mercy's crewmembers found the patient unresponsive, accompanied by a neighbor, who had quickly acted by calling 9-1-1 and performing bystander CPR.

The Paramedic and EMT crew quickly determined the patient was pulseless, apneic, and in ventricular fibrillation. The patient's airway was secured; CPR and defibrillation were delivered along with intravenous meds. Following these interventions, the patient converted out of ventricular fibrillation and a return of spontaneous circulation was achieved. Mercy Paramedic obtained a 12-lead that showed the patient had suffered a STEM. In follow-up with the hospital staff later, the crew discovered that the patient had a seventy percent (70%) occlusion in his left coronary artery.

Due to the quick actions of the patient's neighbor and the excellent care delivered by Mercy's Paramedic and EMT crew, the patient was able to make a full recovery on a STEM that, on average, has less than a twenty percent (20%) survival rate. Mercy is pleased to recognize the extraordinary actions taken by Paramedic Michael Philley and EMT Jose Avila, as their interventions proved to be effective in a case that more often than not, has an unsuccessful outcome.

Mike enjoys rock climbing and Ultimate Frisbee. He is currently assigned to the Pala Fire Department station. He and his wife are proud parents of their young son. ✨

Stars of Life



Rochon Roach
American Ambulance
Fresno

Rochon Roach **Dispatcher**

Rochon Roach is our Dispatcher Star of Life Recipient for his unwavering dedication to the pursuit of excellence. He was featured in a rescuers reunion as the dispatcher responsible for giving crucial CPR instructions to the son of a cardiac arrest patient who survived without deficits. Daily, he dispatches for ambulances and fire apparatus in a system that handles over 150,000 incidents annually.

Rochon began his career in EMS with American Ambulance in 1998, prepping ambulances for paramedic unit deployment. In less than a year, he had successfully trained and began working as an EMT. In 2000, Rochon decided to try his hand in Communications. He was a perfect fit with his quick wit and service mentality. He quickly rose to become a Communications Supervisor.

Rochon spends his free time with his four kids and two grandkids as often as possible. He has a passion for music and simply enjoys life. Rochon has been a resident of Fresno for the past 25 years. 🌸

Stars of Life



Dominic Romero
Medic Ambulance
Service
Solano

Dominic Romero **EMT**

Dominic Romero was born in San Francisco, CA and moved to Vallejo, CA when he was three years old. Dominic continues to call Vallejo his home today. Dominic's father became a firefighter in San Francisco when he was seven months old and 28 years of service later, he is still an active firefighter with the city of San Francisco. Dominic also has an aunt and two uncles who became firefighters in San Francisco and among his entire family, they have over 60 years of service. Safe to say, a career in public service was always in Dominic's future. He knew from a very young age that he wanted to get into the field. In 2007, Dominic joined the Vallejo Fire Department as an Explorer where he was able to participate firsthand in emergency aid, which further confirmed his desire to pursue a career in public safety. Only months after graduating from high school in 2008, Dominic enrolled in an EMT course, where his career began. Dominic came to Medic Ambulance nearly three years ago and has been a perfect addition to the Medic Family. Dominic is being honored as the Medic Ambulance Solano Division 2018 EMT of the Year. He has been a model employee and has provided excellent service to his patients and has also played an integral role in the company's Quality Assurance Committee and Field Training Officer program. Dominic recently became a CISD Leader within Medic's new COACHES Program (Caring for Ourselves and Others Affected by Critical Happenings and Everyday Stressors), aimed at helping employees remain mentally, physically, and emotionally healthy. COACHES is a peer support team, manned by all employees who have received specialized training in psychological first aid, traumatology, and critical incident stress debriefing. Dominic and his partner, Gordon Tsang, were integral to Medic's response during the Napa and Sonoma Fires. Dominic and Gordon worked countless hours and were part of three different strike teams to the impacted areas. Dominic and Gordon helped in the evacuation of a Santa Rosa skilled nursing facility that saw 65 patients evacuated. Dominic was also awarded Medic Ambulance's 2018 Travis Grace "Excellence in EMS" Award and will receive a full tuition scholarship for Paramedic School to Napa Valley College. Dominic has also been honored as an American Ambulance Association 2018 Star of Life and in June will travel to Washington, D.C. to be honored by the AAA and Congress. Great Job Dominic! ✨

Stars of Life



James Rosolek
*Lifeline Medical
Transport
Ventura*

James Rosolek **Clinical Director**

James Rosolek is being honored as a Star of Life recipient in 2018 for his dedication to Emergency Medical Services and commitment to Lifeline Medical Transport.

James started his EMS Career when he joined Lifeline Medical Transport in January of 2007 as a budding EMT. After gaining the requisite experience, James then applied for and attended the local Paramedic program. Upon completion, James returned to Lifeline to begin his career as a Paramedic, and over the next 11 years, James will have taken on many roles including operating as an EMT, a Paramedic, a Field Supervisor, an Administrative Supervisor, and finally Executive Director of Clinical Service & Communication. If asked, some of James's fondest memories of field work come from the time he spent working on the Air Squad as a flight Paramedic.

Since 2007, James has been involved in the education of our future, by being a skills instructor for both the local EMT and Paramedic Programs. In 2013, James took on the role of lead instructor for the Ventura College School of Prehospital and Emergency Medicine, where over the course of 3 years, he helped educate the aspiring minds of EMTs and shape them into the Paramedics we see today.

In 2014, James took a promotion with Lifeline Medical Transport to become its Executive Director of Clinical Services and Communications, where he currently oversees our Dispatch operation and clinical services. This position requires a tremendous level of dedication and expertise in order to handle things such as our: Continuous Quality Improvement Program, Electronic Patient Care Report Management, Scheduler Management and Vehicle Maintenance. James is also a representative of many various county-run sub committees including, but not limited to, STROKE, STEM, Trauma, MCI, Community Paramedicine (Hospice & Direct Observation Therapy), and Paramedic Services Committee just to name a few, all while being a husband, a full-time father to two boys, Jonathan & Luke ages 7 & 4, and a trained Community Paramedic himself.

James truly epitomizes the spirit and commitment of being part of a quality ambulance service and a quality EMS System. It takes self-sacrifice, a resounding level of commitment, a love for your craft and above all, a respect of others. I know that Lifeline Medical Transport and the community we serve, would not be what it is today, had James Rosolek not joined its ranks.

James also enjoys building awesome 1980's BMW track cars, pheasant hunting, long distance shooting, backpacking, rock climbing, cycling and most importantly, spending time with his family and friends. ✿

Stars of Life



Gabriel Salvador
*King American
Ambulance Co.
San Francisco*

Gabriel Salvador **Paramedic**

For the past 13 years, King American Ambulance has had the honor of knowing and employing one of the 'strongest' Paramedics in the field that you'll ever encounter: Gabriel Salvador.

Over the course of Gabe's career as a Paramedic, he has trained countless new employees, emphasizing the importance of following protocols and procedures for professional patient care and for the safety of not only the patients, but his fellow paramedics as well. Gabe is very passionate about teaching safe Code 3 driving techniques while navigating the streets of San Francisco. In fact, most King American Employees can share a story of their first days on the job and the lessons Gabe taught them. Gabe is a true team player, always willing to stay late and work overtime whenever needed. Gabe was promoted to a Paramedic Supervisor, and always leads by example, working alongside each Paramedic in the field equally.

Gabe is an incredibly motivated man who somehow always seems to muster up the energy, even after a long busy shift, to go to the gym. In Gabe's spare time, he enjoys the outdoors and is an avid abalone diver and spear fisherman. Gabe was recently diagnosed with stage 4 cancer and although he is facing the fight of his life, he still shows up ready to work. Gabe is an inspiration to us all at King American and for that, he is our Star of Life. ✨

Stars of Life



Jose "Andre" Sarmiento
*Royal Ambulance
San Mateo*

Jose "Andre" Sarmiento **EMT**

Jose "Andre" Sarmiento has been with Royal Ambulance since 2016. He continuously demonstrates incredible commitment to the Royal organization, to his fellow team members and to his patients. Andre's work ethic is impeccable, averaging 6 shifts a week. He is driven to provide the best possible experience for our patients, and his clinical expertise allowed him to quickly become an integral part of our Critical Care Team. He works closely with our Team of RNs and Vice President on our CCT Program and has been instrumental to further developing and innovating this program and the level of care we provide. Andre also heads our EMT to CCT training, coordinates scheduling components, and works closely with the Operations Team to streamline our service quality and service delivery. Andre does all of this with a huge smile on his face, lifting the spirits of everyone around him and offering additional help and assistance to everyone he encounters. Everyone at Royal loves working with Andre and he is seen as a true leader. Andre is pursuing a career in Nursing and is actively involved with every patient-focused initiative within our organization to further his own knowledge and professional development. In 2017, Andre was awarded the coveted EMT of The Year award, and has continued to impress us with his positivity, his drive, and his desire to go above and beyond no matter what he does. ✨

Stars of Life



Ryan Silva
*Medic Ambulance
Service
Solano*

Ryan Silva **EMT**

Ryan was born and raised in Solano County. He currently resides in Vacaville with his wife Meghan. Ryan's interest and passion for public safety comes from a long line of family members who have served in multiple capacities in the fire service and law enforcement. Ryan has always had an interest in serving his community and has committed himself to public safety in Solano County since his teenage years when he first joined his local fire department's Explorer program. The following year, he also joined his local police department cadet program. He earned his EMT certificate through Solano Community College in 2005, after which he went on to become a reserve firefighter. Ryan has worked for Medic Ambulance as an EMT for the last five years and has volunteered with the Vacaville Fire Protection District for the last six years where he currently holds the rank of Fire Captain. In his free time, Ryan enjoys spending time with family and friends and enjoys attending hockey and baseball games. Ryan and his partner Chris Elton are being honored for the extraordinary care to many patients in Cardiac Arrest this past year in Solano County. Ryan and Chris had a total of 6 Cardiac Arrest cases where they were able to achieve Return of Spontaneous Circulation (ROSC), through high quality and efficient EMS care. Three of the six patients were discharged and have made full recoveries. The amazing outcomes are a testament to the hard work and dedication Ryan and Chris have for their profession! Great Job, Ryan! *

Stars of Life



Ryan Strange
*Hall Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Bakersfield*

Ryan Strange **Paramedic**

On August 24, 2017, Paramedic Ryan Strange and EMT Rachele Knight responded to the report of a patient in cardiac arrest at his residence. They arrived to find Kern County Fire on scene performing CPR on a man that had collapsed while mowing his lawn.

Ryan and Rachele worked seamlessly as a crew to initiate ACLS on scene. Before transport was initiated they had achieved ROSC and eventually pulses.

The patient was transported to a Bakersfield hospital where he underwent a cardiac catheterization before being transferred to a Los Angeles area hospital. The patient would eventually be discharged home. Paramedic Strange gave EMT Knight great credit for the field save explaining that Rachele anticipated all of his needs making his job easier and provided expedient and safe transport to the hospital. *

Stars of Life



Kris Strommen
San Luis Ambulance
Santa Maria

Kris Strommen
Paramedic

Throughout Kris Strommen's 9 years with the San Luis Ambulance (SLA), he has demonstrated excellence in all aspects of working as a Paramedic, Division Supervisor, Reserve Field Supervisor, and Field Training Officer (FTO). Kris is an outstanding leader who leads by an impeccable example and is a remarkable communicator.

Kris recently lead a strike team deployment to the Montecito mudslides, which was SLA's first strike team deployment in the history of the company. He did an impeccable job of leading the crews of five ambulances, gathering correct information for the billing processes, and boosting morale of all of our staff while assisting in the day to day rescue efforts of the victims of the mudslides.

Additionally, he has been innovative and inspirational in our recruiting process at various colleges in California. He is the main driving force for the outstanding increased number of applicants and new hires at SLA. ❁

Stars of Life



Vena Sword-Ratliff
Paramedics Plus
San Leandro

Vena Sword-Ratliff
Paramedic/Clinical Field Supervisor

Vena Sword-Ratliff started her career in EMS in 1990. During her 28-year career she has assumed the roles of FTO, Preceptor, and Education Coordinator. Currently, she works as a Clinical Field Supervisor and CISM team leader. Vena is most passionate about opportunities to leave a patient or grieving family member with a glimmer of hope and feeling comforted and understood. She is able to influence the CISM team with that same philosophy which impacts her coworkers.

"We in EMS have the ability to leave footprints in people's lives." It is Vena's purposefully gentle, kind, loving and comforting 'footprints' that make her so deserving of the Star of Life Award. She attributes the balance in her life to her husband of 23 years. In her free time, Vena supports her family's various sporting activities, or steps in as prep-girl in her son and daughter-in-law's restaurant. ❁

Stars of Life



Natasha Towns
*Hall Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Bakersfield*

Natasha Towns
EMT

Paramedic Curtis and EMT Natasha Towns responded for a man down on January 22, 2018. They arrived to find a patient complaining of chest pain.

While they worked to assess the patient, he became unresponsive and stopped breathing. CPR was initiated followed by defibrillation and more CPR. After two minutes of CPR a pulse was detected and the patient was breathing on their own.

The patient was handed off to hospital staff with a strong pulse. The patient was discharged home on January 26th. *

Stars of Life



Gordon Tsang
*Medic Ambulance
Service
Solano*

Gordon Tsang
Paramedic

Gordon Tsang was born and raised in Hong Kong, China for the first 16 years of his life. Gordon and his family then immigrated to America for better opportunities for his brothers and himself. Gordon got his first job in America that summer at the Hercules Swim Center as a lifeguard and swim instructor. Within two years, he was promoted to a senior lifeguard. In 2004, after graduating high school, Gordon enrolled at the local community college. In 2009, Gordon's dad was diagnosed with gallbladder cancer and by October of that year, his dad passed away. Tragically, Gordon was the one who attempted to resuscitate him with CPR. Gordon states: "I felt so helpless at the time, however now I'm extremely grateful that I found direction in my career after a terrible family tragedy." In 2012, Gordon decided to take an EMT class which drew him further into the field of para-medicine. Gordon was hired at Medic Ambulance that same year, and he says, "I was blessed to have wonderful partners, and family who encouraged and supported me through my journey as an EMT and my decision to start paramedic school." In August of 2016, torn between nerves and excitement, he became a paramedic in Solano County. With the backing of his Medic family, he has been able to grow as a person and paramedic so he can continue to give back to his community. Gordon is excited to pass on his knowledge to new EMTs and paramedics. Gordon is being recognized as Medic Ambulance Solano Division 2018 Paramedic of the Year for his excellent performance as an FTO/Paramedic in Solano County. Gordon also gives his input and never hesitates when asked to perform a task. Whether it is a student or a new employee, Gordon is always there to lend a helping hand. Gordon and his partner Dominic were an integral part of Medic's response during the Napa and Sonoma Fires. Gordon and Dominic worked countless hours and were part of 3 different strike teams to the impacted areas. Gordon and Dominic helped in the evacuation of a Santa Rosa skilled nursing facility that saw 65 patients evacuated and thus Gordon will be rewarded by accompanying management on an all-expense paid trip to the California Ambulance Association Conference in Lake Tahoe! Gordon has been honored as an American Ambulance Association 2018 Star of Life and in June will travel to Washington, D.C. to be honored by the AAA and Congress. Great Job, Gordon! *

Stars of Life



Katie Van Allen
*Hall Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Bakersfield*

Katie Van Allen
EMT

Paramedic Thomas Han and EMT Katie Van Allen responded to a chest pain call at the truck stop near the Tejon Outlets. When the crew arrived on scene, Paramedic Han assessed the patient and determined they were having an acute heart attack.

Han requested the helicopter to transport the patient; however, the patient went into cardiac arrest prior to handing off the patient. The crew, along with Kern County Fire, started CPR and resuscitative measures. The patient was defibrillated and regained a pulse, then consciousness. The patient was flown by Medevac-1 to Memorial Hospital where he underwent a successful catheterization and was discharged home several days later. *

Stars of Life



Joey Williams
*Lifeline Medical
Transport
Ventura*

Joey Williams **Operations Supervisor**

Joey Williams is being honored as a Star of Life recipient in 2018 for his dedication to Emergency Medical Services and commitment to Lifeline Medical Transport.

Joey started his EMS career much like many others, as a Fire Cadet with a local Department (the Oxnard Fire department) where he was pursuing a career in Fire Suppression. Not too long after becoming a cadet, Joey joined the Lifeline Medical Transport family in March of 2004, where he worked as an EMT and honed his skills for over 5 years before attending the Ventura College School of Prehospital and Emergency Medical Services Paramedic Program.

Upon completion of the program, Joey continued to work as a field Paramedic and became one of the finest clinicians this organization has ever seen. The quality of care and level of compassion he delivers to each and every one of his patients is truly something to behold. As Joey continued to rise amongst the ranks, he took on additional responsibilities as a Field Training Officer, Preceptor to other budding paramedics, and eventually went on to become a lead instructor for the Ventura College EMT Program where he continues to teach today. In addition, Joey is a trained Community Paramedic and participates in our county's Hospice Program & Direct Observation Therapy Program and is also a representative of our county's Paramedic Services Committee.

In 2013, Joey took a promotion with Lifeline Medical Transport to become one of its Operations Supervisors where he currently oversees an entire shift of crews, dispatchers and the daily operation. Joey truly epitomizes the spirit and commitment of being a part of a quality ambulance service and a quality EMS System. Joey has a knack for getting his people to see beyond themselves, to see the bigger picture. Joey is a true leader and I know that Lifeline and the community we serve would not be what it is today, had Joey Williams not joined its ranks.

Joey is married and is the proud father of three children: Two boys, Cash & Owen, ages 10 & 8 and daughter (Mia) age 5. In his free time, Joey enjoys the art of woodworking and can often be found in his garage creating something for himself or others. He is also an avid baseball fan and golfer and general lover of all sports. *



THE CALIFORNIA
AMBULANCE
ASSOCIATION
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