

2019



STARS OF LIFE



**Annual Stars of Life Celebration
& Legislative Summit**

**April 22-23, 2019
Sheraton Grand – Sacramento, CA**

CALIFORNIA AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION
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Alan McNany
President,
Board of Directors
*California
Ambulance Association*

Congratulations to all of our 2019 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 No. 108 Ambulance, Bound Tree Medical, Collectibles Management Resources, King American Ambulance, Medic Ambulance Service, Inc. Pacific Credit Services and Stryker.

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. 

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Jeremy Adams
Paramedic
King American
Ambulance

Jeremy started his career in EMS as an EMT at a North Bay Fire Department in 2011 where he worked for five years. Due to his love of medicine, Jeremy continued his education at Santa Rosa Junior College completing the paramedic program while accepting additional responsibility as class leader. Jeremy started as a full-time paramedic with King American Ambulance in 2016 and has become increasingly involved in the training of new employees and recently accepted a position as an FTO. Since his time in San Francisco, Jeremy has been involved in saving the lives of many critical patients, treating deadly arrhythmias, stabbing and shooting victims, severely hypothermic and hyperthermic patients and critical airways. Recently, with his last student, Jeremy worked as part of the team that saved a woman's life after sudden cardiac arrest. Jeremy was able to meet her three days later in the ICU where she was awake and on her way to recovery with no neurological deficits. In addition to the medical aspect of the job, Jeremy loves the social aspect as well, often going the extra mile to make sure people get directed to resources they need to improve their quality of life. Jeremy has worked in emergency services in four different Bay Area counties, continues to volunteer assisting as an instructor at Santa Rosa Junior College, precepts new students and has volunteered for the Medical Reserve Corp and Red Cross locally. In his spare time, Jeremy enjoys playing board games with his son. He has an extensive collection of over 200 titles. *



**Luis Arechiga
De Dios**
Field Training Officer
& EMT
Royal Ambulance

Luis Arechiga De Dios has been with Royal Ambulance for three years, and has been an inspirational force to everyone in our organization from day one. He has motivated so many through his personal stories, his determination and his above and beyond positivity, empathy and support of others. Luis had to overcome a challenging upbringing, and with the support and hard work of his mother, immersed himself in music and to his goal of becoming a firefighter. As an EMT at Royal, Luis's engagement with our patients and with his fellow team members is legendary. Whether playing instruments, singing songs, cracking jokes, giving compliments, or just showing sincere support and desire to help, Luis genuinely loves making others smile and lighting up someone's life, even for just a brief moment. This desire to make a positive impact on others got Luis quickly promoted to the position of Field Training Officer. As an FTO, Luis was able to have a larger impact on role modeling what true compassionate patient care looks like. In 2018, Luis was one of only four individuals awarded a Royal Ambulance scholarship, which he used to attend the Fire Academy. Luis was also awarded the 2017 King of Royal award for being the epitome of what a true role model and leader is and should be. With the love of his wife and inspiration of his mother, Luis continues in his pursuit of his personal and professional goals with hard work, humility and a really big contagious smile. *

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Russell Banks
Paramedic
Riggs Ambulance
Service

"Every morning I thank the Heavenly Father, grateful for my family and all those who worked on me to give me a second chance at this life on Earth," explains Humberto Turcios, an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest survival patient. Humberto suffered from cardiac arrest on October 21st of 2018. Russell Banks, Paramedic from Riggs Ambulance Service, helped save his life. As part of the cardiac chain of survival, Russell was able to quickly defibrillate Humberto three times to get pulses back. The Riggs crew continued to care for Humberto as they quickly and safely transported him to Emanuel Medical Center where he would receive post-cardiac arrest care. As a Paramedic, Russell is very humble about his work and gave credit of the out-of-hospital cardiac arrest save of Humberto to his family giving early CPR and the Medical Dispatcher who gave the pre-arrival instructions. "What really saved Humberto's life is the early recognition and CPR done by his family and the dispatcher who I could hear on the phone giving instructions for CPR," states Russell. Russell's humility, professional excellence, and dedication to providing high quality patient care to the residents of Merced County are just a few reasons why he is a Star of Life. ✨



Kristin Bayer
Paramedic
Medic Ambulance
Service

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 and 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 her excellent patient care and customer service. She is being recognized as the **Medic Ambulance Sacramento Division 2019 Paramedic of the Year!** This is Kristin's second Star of Life and second Paramedic of the Year Award. Great job, Kristin! ✨

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Chuck Coelho
Paramedic
*Patterson District
Ambulance*

Chuck Coelho began his public service career in 1979 as a volunteer firefighter in Newman, CA. It wasn't long before Chuck became an EMT (1981) and started part-time work at the local ambulance company. He became a paramedic in 1986 and in 1988 came to work for Patterson District Ambulance. Over the years Chuck has continued his volunteer fire and EMS careers at both Patterson District Ambulance and Westside Community Ambulance. His commitment to his rural community is unwavering. If he doesn't arrive on the scene of an emergency in an ambulance, he arrives in a fire department vehicle, and he always arrives. He is steadfast and calm on even the most chaotic emergency scenes.

Chuck has served in fire and EMS management roles throughout much of his career. He "semi-retired" in 2012 but doesn't know what retirement means. Since then, he served on the Westside Ambulance Board of Directors from 2012 to 2016 and continues his paramedic work at Patterson District Ambulance where he still works 24-hour shifts. Chuck is an exemplary employee and a role model to all who cross his path. He is exceptionally dependable and is dedicated to community service. In his spare time, Chuck is an American Heart Association CPR instructor. Employees like Chuck are the foundation of EMS. *



Ian Collier
Paramedic/FTO
*King American
Ambulance*

Ian Collier took an unusual path into EMS. With a background in production, logistics, and project management, Ian was fortunate enough to volunteer at a fire department in Virginia while his wife started her career in the fire service. After receiving his certifications, he worked in Richmond, VA for the Richmond Ambulance Authority, along with continuing to volunteer in Caroline County, VA, a rural department.

Ian has always had a passion for training and education within the emergency services, and was able to participate in the training of new Air Force Pararescue trainees as they attained their Paramedic certifications.

Ian and his wife moved back to the Bay Area and now enjoy living in their home in Oakland with their dogs. He began work at King American Ambulance, serving the residents of San Francisco, his home town. Ian is passionate about mental health and substance abuse issues, and hopes to develop a training program that focuses more on mental health emergencies, de-escalation techniques, along with PTSD and EMS provider health and wellness.

Ian says the highlight of his career so far in EMS was being able to participate in the field delivery of five babies, including a set of twins. As a Field Training Officer with King American Ambulance, Ian hopes to make his positivity contagious and help new hires enjoy the job as much as he does. *

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Justin Costa
EMT
*Medic Ambulance
Service*

Justin began her EMS career at Medic Ambulance five years ago. During her time on the ambulance she has honed her skills and expanded her knowledge of what it means to be a quality employee and good partner. She plans on furthering her healthcare career by becoming a nurse in the future. During her free time, she is a wife, mother, and friend. You can find her at a softball or soccer field supporting her children! Justin is being honored as **Medic Ambulance Sacramento Division 2019 EMT of the Year**. Justin has been a model employee at Medic Ambulance, she is an excellent team member, and always offers her assistance whenever it is needed. Justin has shown during her time in EMS that she is a leader in our field and an overall excellent provider of EMS care. Great Job, Justin! ❁



Sarah Dreiling
Paramedic
San Luis Ambulance

Four years ago, Sarah Dreiling began working for San Luis Ambulance, initially as an EMT, and has since become a Paramedic. Those that have worked with Sarah in the past can certainly attest to her strong morals, work ethic and passion for EMS. Sarah consistently goes above and beyond what is normally expected from a staff member. Sarah is a natural leader that brings a fun spirit to work and helps inspire others to do their best. Each shift Sarah is tirelessly working to provide great patient care, help others, clean something, organize cabinets, jump a call, complete a project or even cook dinner for the entire station. She is always trying to jump calls and help the system out. At the station it's not uncommon to hear Sarah say things such as, "You guys just sat down to eat, we can take this call." This is the work ethic that makes others want to come to work and be a part of the team. Working as a first responder is not an easy job and comes with a lot of sacrifice. San Luis Ambulance recognizes how much effort Sarah has put forth, not only this past year, but for the last four years. It takes many people to make a company great, but Sarah 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 2019. ❁

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Chris Elton
Paramedic
Medic Ambulance
Service

Christopher Elton, Paramedic, Medic Ambulance Service – Solano County, CA
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 from 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 near the capital 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 during that time, his first child was 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 six years later he has two more children, bought his first home with his wife, and now teaches paramedic skills at Sacramento States’ prehospital education program. Chris is a Field Training Officer for Medic and has a passion for helping those in need. In March of this year Chris was hired by the Vallejo Fire Department as Paramedic/Firefighter. Chris is being recognized for his excellent performance as a field Paramedic in Solano County. Chris also gives his input and never hesitates when asked to perform a task. Whether it is a student or a new employee, Chris is always there to lend a helping hand. Chris’s commitment to excellence shows in everything he does, and thus he has been selected as **Medic Ambulance Solano Division 2019 Paramedic of the Year**. Great Job Chris! 🌟

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Daniela Flores
Paramedic
Medic Ambulance
Service

Daniela Flores is a 24-year-old Dreamer. She was born in Santiago, Chile in South America in 1994. In the year 2000, at the age of five, Daniela came to the United States with her family to pursue the “American Dream.” Daniela was raised in Vallejo and has lived there for the last 19 years. Arriving in the US, a new world, a different continent, speaking nothing but Spanish was the least of her problems. She learned a new language and adapted to her new life. She remembers crying every day in first grade in elementary school because she had no one to talk to, because no one talked to the new girl that doesn’t speak English. You see, Daniela has a twin sister, but they were placed in different classrooms. Eventually by the time she reached fifth grade, she had succeeded and graduated from Admiral Farragut Elementary School. She then moved on to Vallejo Middle and High School graduating class of 2012. At the age of 15, Daniela wanted to work and make her own money like her classmates were starting to do. It was then that Daniela found out she couldn’t. Looking back, it is all a blur for Daniela, but it was then that her family explained something that made Daniela different than most of her peers, she was undocumented. It wasn’t until 2012 that Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, began accepting applications and Daniela applied to obtain a work permit, while continuing her education at Napa Valley College. Unsure of what career path she wanted or could take, she knew she wanted to help people. She decided to take an emergency first responder class; it was there that she fell in love with emergency medicine. She continued to pursue her career moving onto the EMT course and graduating from Napa Valley College Paramedic Program in February 2019. Daniela is a current Paramedic for Medic. As an immigrant and minority, she has learned to flourish in an unstable environment. Yes, there is uncertainty in regards to her future and the future of many like her, however, she was never afraid of opposition. **She is a Dreamer.** Daniela is a being honored for her dedication and commitment to Medic’s Emergency Response Team. Daniela was a part of the Ambulance Strike Teams that deployed to Napa, Lake and Butte County Fires. Daniela deployed for a total of 14 days and did many tasks to assist citizens and caregivers in need. Daniela helped evacuate hospitals, residences, and skilled nursing facilities during her deployments all while receiving the highest remarks from her Strike Team leaders. Daniela was part of the first ambulance responses back into the City of Paradise as medical responders were allowed back into the city. Daniela is a leader in many ways and we are proud to have her a part of the Medic Ambulance Family. Daniela was also recognized by U.S. Congressman Mike Thompson as a Public Service Hero 2019. Daniela is a current Paramedic for Medic Ambulance and we so proud of all she has accomplished. Great Job Daniela! 🌟

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Lisa Glasgow
Critical Care
Transport Nurse
Royal Ambulance

Lisa Glasgow has been part of Royal's Critical Care Team for nearly three years. She brings many years' of critical care nursing experience to the team. Additionally, she works at Stanford Healthcare, and is an AHA Advanced Life Support instructor. She believes that you should treat your patient like they are your family. "For that patient is someone's brother, husband, or son, and they are loved by someone." Her advice to others in healthcare is "Do the Right Thing." When she joined our organization, her positivity, her ability to get along with everyone and her commitment to do the right thing was very evident. Lisa cares deeply about her fellow team members and encourages their growth as future healthcare leaders. She identifies her parents as her role models. She says the best advice they gave her was to try to get along with others, and to always do your best. It is apparent that Lisa follows this in her everyday life. Lisa is an engaging team member at Royal and a role model for our EMTs who are pursuing a career in nursing. In her free time, Lisa loves spending time with her son and significant other and is a Golden State Warriors fan. *



Brian Hannameyer
Paramedic
Patterson District
Ambulance

Brian Hannameyer started his career at Calaveras Consolidated Fire Protection District in 2007 after becoming an EMT in 2006. He was working in the grocery business but found his true interest in EMS. He began part-time work as an EMT at Patterson District Ambulance in 2015 and enrolled in Sacramento State's paramedic program in 2016. He completed paramedic training and transitioned to a full-time paramedic position in November 2016.

Brian came to EMS with a commitment to provide the very best care to his patients. He learns from each patient contact and often researches illnesses and injuries he encounters to improve his assessment skills and treatment. He routinely volunteers for extra shifts and is committed to do whatever it takes to get the job done and make a difference.

Brian seems to be a magnet for those challenging and unique incidents that can test any paramedic. He thrives on the stress of these circumstances and calmly provides the best care. Brian took a keen interest in the next generation Zoll ePCR program when the beta version deployed last year. He has devoted time to learn the software to leverage the functionality of the program and share that knowledge with his peers. He enjoys cooking and has perfected the "Hannameyer Bacon-Wrapped Three-Pound Meatloaf" which is a favorite meal at the station. *

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Brady Hartinger
EMT
*Medic Ambulance
Service*

Brady Hartinger was born in Vallejo, CA. He joined the Marine Corps right out of high school. When he finished basic training, he attended and successfully completed Solano College Fire Academy. Brady then attended the UC Davis EMT program. Brady was hired at Medic in 2016 and has been an example setter ever since! Brady is a current reserve in the Marine Corps and regularly trains with his unit. At the beginning of this year Brady was hired with the Dixon Fire Department as a Reserve Firefighter. Brady is being honored for his excellence in EMS and his selfless efforts at always improving Medic and his work environment. Brady always brings to his partners' and supervisors' attention any issues that need to be addressed and always performs his duties to the highest level. Brady always finds improvement projects and takes extra time to ensure his station and ambulance operate at the highest standard. Great Job Brady! 🌟



Shelby Hindahl
EMT
*Medic Ambulance
Service*

Shelby Kirkwood Hindahl was born in Sacramento and raised in Pollock Pines, California. In middle school, Shelby developed his passion for health care. While attending El Dorado High School, he was accepted into the Health Careers Academy for all four years, where he took college level medical classes. Ride-alongs and job shadows were added to his normal academics. Shelby originally planned to be an RN but fell in love with the ambulance during one of his ride-alongs with El Dorado County Fire. Shelby wanted to become one of the first people on scene when someone called for help, and did not want to be in a situation where someone needed help and he could not do anything except stand there and watch. Shelby's future goals are to continue in EMS by furthering his education to become a Paramedic which he is close to completing. For fun, Shelby enjoys road trips with friends, bonfires, working on project cars/motorcycles and enjoying the social life of Sacramento's midtown. Shelby was honored as Medic Ambulance Sacramento Division 2017 EMT of the Year and received a Star of Life award. Shelby is being honored as a model employee at Medic Ambulance. He is an excellent team member and always offers his expertise whenever it is needed. Shelby is a leader in our field and an overall excellent provider of EMS care. Shelby, time and time again, gives up his off time to come in when needed and assist the company in any way. Great Job Shelby!

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Erik Johansen
**Lead Field Training
Officer & EMT**
Royal Ambulance

Erik Johansen has been with Royal Ambulance for two years, and during his time here has made a significant impact on the lives of so many young EMTs. As an EMT, Erik'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. A true role model of what it means to be a healthcare professional, Erik quickly became one of our most successful Field Training Officers. He created a safe environment for others to learn and grow, with a focus on their individual strengths and career goals. Other Field Training Officers look up to Erik, and often come to him for his advice. Not surprisingly, in 2018 Erik was awarded the Field Training Officer of The Year award. As a stand out mentor, leader and coach, Erik was then promoted to Lead Field Training Officer. In his new role, he has an even larger impact on aspiring healthcare professionals, impacting and shaping the foundation of their patient care from day one. Erik works closely with Royal's Operations and Leadership Team on a variety of engagement and education initiatives, and currently oversees the FTO Program at Royal. Erik's future career goal is to become a Registered Nurse. ✨



Christopher Knopp
**Supply Support
Technician**
*Medic Ambulance
Service*

When Chris was little he knew he always want to help people; and so when the opportunity presented itself he started out with Suisun Fire Protection District when he was 14 years old, where he eventually 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 and 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: "I'm still helping people out and eventually want to continue helping others." Chris is being honored as **Medic Ambulance 2019 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 and has set 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 need help or a task needs to be performed. He has proven to be a vital asset to the Medic Family! This is Chris's second Star of Life and second Logistics Employee of the Year award! Great Job, Chris! ✨

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Ethan Krause
Paramedic
Medic Ambulance
Service

Ethan was born in Hawaii into a military family. He spent a lot of his younger years moving around until his family settled down in Solano county. Ethan excelled in music at an early age and played saxophone throughout school. After high school, he found an interest in firefighting and EMS. He immediately began volunteering and taking college courses including Fire Academy/EMT to further his knowledge. Shortly after gaining his EMT, he started working at Medic Ambulance where he was able to expand his medical knowledge, grow as an emergency provider and learn his passion for helping others and making a difference. In 2018, Ethan promoted to the position of Paramedic. Ethan enjoys being outdoors, spending time with friends, family and loved ones. In his free time, he enjoys working out, hiking and snowboarding in the winter. His dream is to one day become a career Firefighter/Paramedic. Ethan was honored as a Star of Life in 2017 for his heartwarming treatment of patient who was dying from brain cancer. Ethan is a member of Medic's Emergency Response Team which is the specialized group of employees who have completed additional training and deployments for disaster response. Ethan is being honored for his extraordinary care to many patients in cardiac arrest this past year in Solano County. Ethan has a total of seven cardiac arrest cases where they were able to achieve Return of Spontaneous Circulation (ROSC), through high quality and efficient EMS care. Four of the seven patients were discharged and made full recoveries. The amazing outcomes are a testament to the hard work and dedication Ethan shows to his profession! Great Job, Ethan! ❁



Maxwell Lawrence
Operations
Supervisor
Royal Ambulance

Maxwell Lawrence has been with Royal Ambulance for five years now and truly exemplifies our values. He is driven, empathetic, adaptable and engaging. Over his time at Royal, Max has held several positions, and continues to rise up the ranks, while further growing and developing his leadership abilities. In 2017, Max was awarded the highly coveted Field Training Officer of The Year award, and recognized for his ability to inspire and motivate others. Whether as an EMT, a Field Training Officer and now as our Santa Clara County Supervisor, Max has always been able to connect with people, provide a sense of comfort and support and serve as an advocate for those he is helping and leading. Max has received countless praises from past patients, trainees, fellow team members and from the senior leadership team. Max has also been an integral part of building and shaping our San Jose station, and the culture of pride, camaraderie and teamwork it is known for. Friendly, approachable and loyal, Max has become one of the go-to leaders at Royal, always doing his best to provide support, guidance and a helping hand. Max's future career goal is to become a Registered Nurse. ❁

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Tucson Lee
EMT
*Medic Ambulance
Service*

Tucson Lee has been an EMT for almost three years and has been a Field Training Officer for one year with Medic Ambulance. Tucson was raised with the mindset of helping others from a young age. He started volunteering with The Salvation Army at the age of 6 serving low-income families in the seasonal assistance programs. He continued to serve the community through teaching in summer camps throughout high school, and with Alpha Phi Omega, a community service organization at his college, UC Davis. While attending university, he worked for the UCD Police Department as a "Aggie Host" CSO/ Security Supervisor and Safety Escort Dispatcher. While volunteering, working, and studying for a degree, Tucson earned his EMT-B certification with the UC Davis Fire Department before coming to Medic Ambulance upon graduation, finding that the unique and challenging world of emergency medicine called to him. Tucson loves to volunteer and to travel in his off times and has recently joined Medic Ambulance's Emergency Response Team in hopes that he can combine his desire to travel and love of helping others to make an impact outside of his local community should the need arise. Tucson is also being honored for his service excellence. Tucson always put in extra hours to help out the Solano EMS system and does it with a smile on his face. Tucson was deployed to the Mendocino Complex Fire for a 48 hour Strike Team deployment. Tucson is a leader within the FTO group and continually goes above and beyond the call of duty. Great Job Tucson! 🌟



Mason McNulty
Field Training
Officer & EMT
Royal Ambulance

Mason McNulty has been with Royal Ambulance for seven years, and has been one of our most compassionate and caring EMTs. Mason is known for his exceptional patient care and medical knowledge. Treating every patient with the utmost respect, and ensuring their families feel involved and informed, we have received many calls and emails about Mason, letting us know how safe and comfortable they have felt when in his care. In addition to being an exceptional EMT, his ability to inspire and motivate others made Mason one of our most successful Field Training Officers. He is always eager to share his passion for EMS, with a focus on kindness, empathy and being there for someone during their time of need and vulnerability. In fact, in 2018, Mason was awarded Royal's Most Empathetic Team Member award. Whether with his fellow partners or his trainees, when working with Mason, everyone feels like they had the opportunity to learn something new. Mason's positive attitude and can do spirit extends beyond healthcare. Mason is always eager about new adventures and opportunities to learn and explore with his loved ones. Mason's future career goal is to become a Registered Nurse. 🌟

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Olivia Meehan
Field Training Officer
Royal Ambulance

Olivia Meehan has been an EMT with Royal Ambulance for over two years, and has been a shining star since she started. She is always positive and always goes above and beyond to help others. She is committed to doing the best job possible, no matter how big or small. Olivia is incredibly proactive about seizing opportunities that allow her to learn and grow while playing a positive and supportive role in the lives of others. Whether volunteering for community focused events or recruitment presentations, Olivia always puts on her biggest smile, and fully engages with everyone around her, looking for ways to help, teach and inspire. To have an even bigger impact, Olivia devoted her summer to teaching preventative medicine and nutrition in Ethiopia, through a program called Common River. Olivia was excited to be able to learn from the people in these small villages and to make a difference in their community. She came back to Royal as positive as ever, and continues being a stand out performer in every way. Olivia has the reputation of being one of our most caring and compassionate EMTs, and everyone loves working with her. She is also part of our Critical Care Team, as a CCT EMT. In 2017 Olivia was awarded the Queen of Royal award, for her continuous drive to make a positive impact in the lives of others, both at Royal and beyond. Olivia's career goal is to become a Physician's Assistant. 🌟



Josh Mendoza
EMT
San Luis Ambulance

Josh Mendoza began working for San Luis Ambulance as a Reserve EMT just under two years ago. He was able to promote in a very short time to a full-time EMT. In January, Josh began the Cuesta College Paramedic program while still maintaining his full-time employment status as well as managing his time with his wife and daughter. During his time at the company he has always been hardworking and dedicated.

Earlier this year, Josh was working in the north part of our county when he and his partner responded to a possible vehicle accident. When Josh and his partner arrived on scene, they found a car that had skidded off the road with the driver acting in an unusual manner. Neither of them could figure out exactly what was going on, but they knew it was odd. As Josh and his partner were attending to other potential patients in the vehicle, the gentleman was able to make access to the driver seat of a patrol car and sped toward Josh's partner. Josh's partner's back was facing the patrol car and was not aware of what was going on but could hear Josh yelling at the individual. Josh reacted quickly, grabbed his partner and pulled her out of harm's way. If it wasn't for Josh's awareness and quick action, his partner would have been seriously injured. We are very thankful for Josh Mendoza!

We are looking forward to Josh continuing his career in EMS and becoming a paramedic for San Luis Ambulance. 🌟

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Jessica Patterson
EMD
*Medic Ambulance
Service*

Jessica is going into her fifth year as a EMD – dispatcher with Medic Ambulance and continues to be just as dedicated and prompt as she has been since the day she stepped through our doors. Ms. Patterson is a hard-working mother who works to the grind to make sure she passes down her strong work ethic as well as her compassion for others to her son Pierce by being his number one supporter and encourager. Jessica is also a person of her community who goes out and volunteers as well as donates blood on a regular basis to the local blood bank. Over the last few years she has shown tremendous improvement in her dispatching skills as well as her ability to take on any task that is thrown her way, for example recently being promoted to Field Training Officer. 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, is a Field Training Officer, and spends many extra hours being a member of the company’s Dispatch Steering Committee and Quality Assurance Committee. Jessica is being honored as **Medic Ambulance’s Dispatcher of the Year 2019**. Great job Jessica! *



Kristen Pekarske
Paramedic/
New Employee
Coordinator
*City Ambulance
of Eureka*

In late 2018, Kristen saved the lives of two cardiac patients in a single shift. The first patient was placed on a cardiac pacer and the second patient had to be cardioverted. Both patients made it to the ICU for treatment. Kristen has won Employee of the Year twice in the last three years for her exemplary performance in EMS and her continued reformation of City Ambulance of Eureka’s new employee training program. Kristen oversees all new employee training and facilitates on-going training for current employees to ensure skills are current. Kristen is a mother to two awesome sons and is recently engaged. When Kristen is off duty she loves to garden and take care of the animals on her mini farm. *

STARS OF LIFE

April 22-23, 2019
Sheraton Grand - Sacramento, CA



Derek Ratzel
Paramedic
American Ambulance

Derek Ratzel is being recognized for his service as a member of the Behavioral Health Team and the Community Paramedic Pilot Program for American Ambulance.

Derek began his career in EMS in 1993 when he became an EMT. He became a paramedic in 1996 and joined American Ambulance as a paramedic in 2001. In 2015, Derek was selected for a new program at American Ambulance called the Behavioral Health Support Team. The team is specialty trained to respond to individuals experiencing a mental health crisis. Also, team members provide case management to several clients. Since the inception of the team, Paramedic Ratzel has demonstrated a high degree of duty and dedication by going above and beyond to help the individual patients assigned to him. He has completed 64% of the required case management contacts for the team. He has become adept at developing partnerships in the community and works arduously with multiple organizations to help meet all of his client's needs.

Derek's enthusiasm coupled with his passion and understanding of the complex nature of our patient's problems have made him a role model. He is someone who other members of our Behavioral Health Support Team/Case Managers seek for assistance and consultation. Paramedic Ratzel is married to a 9-1-1 EMS Dispatcher and they have one daughter. They enjoy several outdoor activities such as hiking, camping and backpacking. *



Leah Rogers
Dispatcher
American Ambulance

Leah Rogers is American Ambulance's 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 knowledgeable and precise with details, having never had an input error in her entire career. Additionally, Leah has served as an exceptional Training Officer for our new Dispatchers, the first First Responders! Leah is very easy to work with and is highly respected by her peers. Leah was selected as the Dispatcher of the Year by those peers last year.

Leah began her career in EMS with American Ambulance in 2017 as a Dispatcher. "I love so much about my job. I feel very proud of the work we do individually, and as a company. I love helping others and being able to say, at the end of a hard day, maybe I was someone's light in their darkest moments." Leah plans to stay with American Ambulance and looks forward to advancing in the Communication Center.

In her free time, she enjoys anything that will give her an adrenaline rush and hopes to obtain her Skydiving License someday. Hiking with her friends and her dog is a favorite pastime.

It is our honor to recognize Leah Rogers as American Ambulance's Star of Life Dispatcher. *

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Jonathan Schadt
Paramedic
American Ambulance

Jonathan Schadt was selected by his peers as Paramedic of the Year in 2018 for American Ambulance Kings County Operations.

Paramedic Schadt came to American Ambulance in July of 2012 after completing his EMT training at Moorpark City College. He followed his brother, who is now a fulltime firefighter, to Fresno. Jonathan became a licensed Paramedic in July of 2017 and he continues to excel. He is currently a part-time student with the hopes of becoming a nurse. For now he enjoys the ever changing environment of EMS. Many of his partners enjoy working with him because of his passion for helping his community and his ability to show kindness even in the most difficult situations. According to Paramedic Schadt, his role is to try and make the patient's worst day a little better.

Paramedic Schadt is committed to helping others, a trait he learned as an Eagle Scout which he achieved in 2005. Before going to EMT school, Jonathan was a fulltime backpacking guide at the largest boy scouts ranch in the US, located in New Mexico.

Jonathan is an avid backpacker and outdoor enthusiast. He has completed multiple long distance packing trips in New Mexico and California. *



Katherine Schneider
Paramedic
American Ambulance

Katherine Schneider was selected by her peers as American Ambulance's Paramedic of the Year in 2018 for Fresno County Operations.

Katherine Schneider completed her degree in Psychology from the University of Bridgeport, Connecticut in 2010, where she played softball for the Purple Knights under an athletic scholarship. After returning to Fresno, she attempted to go to nursing school and was placed on a waiting list. During the wait, she completed her EMT training at American Ambulance and in February 2011 joined the American Ambulance family full-time. She placed her nursing hopes on hold and became a licensed paramedic in June of 2014. According to Paramedic Schneider, her role is to be an advocate. She knows that many times the patient is afraid and unsure of what to say or expect during a medical crisis. She believes that her own experiences allow her to understand and support her patient's concerns and needs while advocating for quality care from all providers.

Katherine states that, "I didn't join EMS for the trauma or the drama; I simply want to be a helping hand." She continually demonstrates a commitment to grow as a paramedic and she routinely advocates for improved equipment and procedures.

Katherine enjoys her family and vacations, a quality she learned from her parents. If she is not working, you may find her on a hike in the Sequoias or enjoying a walk along the beach. *

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**Kimberly
Shelton-Isaacson**
Medical Dispatcher
Riggs Ambulance
Service

On October 21st of 2018, Kenneth Forgery had just finished having a nice meal with his family when all of the sudden his father in law grabbed his own face and started gasping for air. Humberto Turcios had collapsed! He quit breathing and all of the sudden had no pulse. "I'm certified in CPR and First Aid," states Kenneth. "I followed the 911 dispatch instructions and continued for approximately five minutes doing chest compressions until EMTs arrived, set up their equipment, and took over the process." Kimberly Shelton-Isaacson was that 911 Medical Dispatcher giving Kenneth the pre-arrival instructions which helped Kenneth sustain his father-in-law long enough for the Riggs Ambulance crew to show up and defibrillate Humberto. Fast CPR can help save a life. As a Medical Dispatcher, Kimberly was proven impactful on this day as she quickly gained the family's trust and confidence to help them strengthen the care they were giving Humberto. "When we showed up, I could hear the dispatcher on the phone giving the family instructions on how to help the patient," said Russell Banks, Paramedic at Riggs Ambulance Service. "What really saved Humberto's life is the early recognition and CPR done by his family!" Kimberly's pre-arrival coaching helped lead to the success of the chain of survival for out-of-hospital cardiac arrest patient Humberto and for this, she is a Star of Life! 🌟

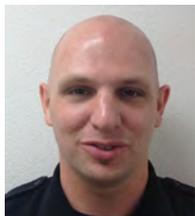


Marcus Spencer
Critical Care
Transport EMT
Royal Ambulance

Marcus Spencer has been an EMT with Royal Ambulance for almost three years. From day one he displayed a true sense of professionalism and maturity. He is passionate about helping others and driven in his pursuit to reach his ultimate career goal of becoming a fire fighter. Born and raised in Oakland, Marcus was always determined to have a positive impact on his community and to serve as a role model of success. He attended the prestigious Morehouse College, where he graduated with a degree in Kinesiology and Sports Medicine. As a Royal team member, Marcus has always been eager about volunteering for and proactively seeking out opportunities that have a large and far reaching impact. He was one of the EMTs who was selected to provide back up and support with the evacuation of so many families impacted by the devastating Clear Lake community fires. Marcus was also one of a handful of EMTs chosen to represent Royal Ambulance at Urban Shield, Alameda County's mass casualty training exercise. Marcus's commitment to being of service to others, while always taking his knowledge and experience to the next level, allowed him to quickly become an integral part of our Critical Care Team as a CCT EMT. Always smiling, always going the extra mile, and always trying his best, Marcus was awarded the 2017 Rookie of the Year Award and has continued to impress us as a true up and coming leader in EMS. 🌟

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William "Billy" White
Paramedic
Medic Ambulance
Service

Billy has grown up in Solano County and currently lives in Vacaville. He has worked for Medic Ambulance for six years and is currently working as a Paramedic Supervisor in the Solano County region. He is passionate about providing quality care to the patients entrusted to Medic Ambulance and aiding new Paramedics in their development. Billy also is a Field Training officer and an Ambulance Strike Team Leader with Medic Ambulance, overseeing deployments to both Napa and Bakersfield. He has also participated in several Urban Shield events in the East Bay and serves as a leader in Solano County. He holds a bachelor's degree in Organizational Leadership and Fire Science in addition to other specialized certificates. When he's not working, he is keeping his Salt Water Reef tank, Scuba Diving and spending time with his family and new puppy Jake. Billy is being honored for his quality care in a very stressful and emotional call. One of Medic's own employees was involved in a very traumatic event and Billy was the first Paramedic on the scene. Billy immediately took control of the scene and provided critical and lifesaving interventions that kept our employee alive and stable until arrival at the local trauma center. The employee made a full physical recovery due to Billy's quick action and commitment to his job and community. Great Job Billy! 🌟



Kyle Yager
EMT
Medic Ambulance
Service

Kyle was born and raised in Vallejo, CA. Kyle spent his summers camping and taking trips to Colorado to visit family during his childhood. Kyle attended Jesse Bethel High School in Vallejo, CA and then went to Solano Community College and Napa Valley College. Kyle transferred to UC Davis and received a Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences. After graduation he felt something was missing. He still had not figured out where he wanted to go with his career. One day on his drive home from In-shape in Vallejo it happened. He was driving and saw an elderly woman on the ground in the street trapped under her electric scooter. She drove it right off the curb on Redwood St, in Vallejo. He pulled over and lifted the scooter off of her with the help of another citizen. He called 911 and waited for help to arrive. "The feeling of helping another person was amazing," said Kyle. He decided to go back to school and got his EMT training at Solano CC. He applied to Medic Ambulance and has been an EMT for three years now. "Being an EMT over the past three years has been awesome. What I enjoy most out of it is interacting with different people. I have come to know some amazing individuals, other EMTs and Paramedics. I valued each and every one of them. They were all unique and amazing in their own way. My growth as an EMT is because of them" said Kyle. Kyle is being honored as the **Medic Ambulance Solano Division 2019 EMT of the Year**. Kyle has been a model employee at Medic Ambulance, receiving the highest marks from his supervisors and co-workers, and the excellent service he provides to his patients. Kyle was also awarded **Medic Ambulance's 2019 Travis Grace "Excellence in EMS" Award, and will receive a full tuition scholarship for Paramedic School to Napa Valley College**. Great Job Kyle! 🌟

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