

CALIFORNIA AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION

*Stars of Life*



ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT

March 17-19, 2009  
Sheraton Grand Sacramento Hotel



**DANA SOLOMON**  
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
CALIFORNIA AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION

**C**ongratulations to all of our 2009 *Stars of Life*. Your actions, whether from a single heroic incident or a career-long performance record, demonstrate that you have stood out among your peers as the best of the best.

Too often the work of our paramedics, EMTs and emergency medical dispatchers goes without notice. Neither the public nor the media get the opportunity to see the highly specialized medical care that is provided in the patient compartment while the ambulance is enroute to the ER.

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 6 million Medi-Cal beneficiaries. 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.

Lastly, we are honored to have Assemblyman Nathan Fletcher as our special guest speaker.

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

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## Join Us in Welcoming Our Special Guest Speaker **Assemblyman Nathan Fletcher**



**ASSEMBLYMAN  
NATHAN FLETCHER**  
75TH DISTRICT  
SAN DIEGO

Nathan Fletcher is the State Assemblyman representing California's 75th District, an area that includes the City of Poway, portions of Escondido, City of San Diego communities of La Jolla, University City, Mira Mesa, Scripps Ranch, Rancho Bernardo, Rancho Peñasquitos, and Carmel Valley, and the communities of Fairbanks Ranch, and Rancho Santa Fe.

Nathan Fletcher is a businessman, veteran, and dedicated public servant. His experience ranges from serving in combat zones to starting a business in San Diego, and includes work on behalf of various local charities and helping to build democracies in third world nations.

In 2007, Nathan completed his service in the United States Marine Corps Reserves where he served as a Counterintelligence/Human Intelligence Specialist. On his last deployment, Nathan worked in the Horn of Africa region traveling throughout Eastern Africa and the Near East. For his service he was awarded the Joint Service Commendation Medal and Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal.

In 2004, Nathan served eight months in the Sunni Triangle region of Iraq. Among some of his awards from this tour are the Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal with Combat "V" for valor, Combat Action Ribbon, and Iraqi Campaign Medal. Nathan is a recipient of many additional military awards including the Benton R. Montgomery Award for Excellence and the Walter Morris Honor

Graduate Award. Nathan is a graduate of many military courses including the US Army Airborne Course and Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center.

Upon his return from Iraq, Nathan received an appointment to the San Diego County Veterans Advisory Council, where he has proven a strong voice for veterans of the Global War on Terror. In addition, Nathan serves on the Board of Directors for the Marine Corps Recruit Depot Historical Society and is a life member of both the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign War.

In addition to his commitment to Veterans' causes, Nathan serves on the board of directors for Her Heart's Wish, a nonprofit that helps match terminally ill women with their final wishes. He is also a member of the Nice Guys, a San Diego charitable organization that has provided millions of dollars to worthy causes, and the Lincoln Club of San Diego County. Nathan previously served on a local YMCA Summer Camp Board of Management.

A lifelong Republican, Nathan has served in senior positions with the Republican Party, and has worked to improve the democratic process in East Timor, Cambodia and Serbia on behalf of the International Republican Institute.

Nathan is an Ironman Triathlete and avid outdoorsman who enjoys surfing, alpine mountaineering, and mountain biking. Nathan is a graduate of California Baptist University, where he was a Presidential Merit Scholar and member of the CBU baseball team.

He lives in San Diego with his wife, Mindy, who recently served as Deputy Campaign Manager and Deputy Chief of Staff for Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. Nathan and Mindy are members of Community Bible Church and proud parents of their son Zach.

***Stars of Life Awards Banquet***  
***March 18, 2009***

*Welcome*

Dana Solomon, Chairman

*Guest Speaker*

Assemblyman Nathan Fletcher (R)  
San Diego

*Dinner*

*Presentation of*

*Legislative Certificates*

Dana Solomon, Chairman

*Closing Remarks*

Dana Solomon, Chairman

# Saluting California's Stars of Life



Congratulations to this year's honorees of the California Ambulance Association's *Stars of Life* celebration.

Your achievement makes you ambassadors for the entire EMS profession.

Bayshore Ambulance is a proud member of the CAA and is pleased to underwrite the program for tonight's Awards Dinner.

*Bayshore*   
AMBULANCE



**KARLENE ALLEN**  
BAYSHORE AMBULANCE  
FOSTER CITY

**K**arlene Allen, Emergency Medical Technician for Bayshore Ambulance, is being nominated for Stars of Life for her outstanding performance and commitment/loyalty to Bayshore Ambulance and providing great customer service, which earned her the award of 2008 Employee of the Year.

Karlene Allen started her career as an EMT with Bayshore Ambulance in September 2007. Six months from her hire date, when the opportunity arose, she became a Field

Training Officer. Since then she has excelled as an FTO.

Karlene is extremely attentive to detail and executes all of her duties without negligence. Consequently her peers admire her patient care and ability to inspire and motivate novice employees.

Karlene is committed to leading a healthy lifestyle. She keeps active by engaging in activities such as running, hiking, and bike riding. She is also a marathoner.

Karlene was awarded the employee of the year in 2008 for her tremendous efforts as an EMT and FTO at Bayshore Ambulance. In general she is meticulous and thorough in her duties. This makes her a "model employee" among a highly qualified staff. Her co-workers and patients appreciate Karlene's affable nature and charismatic personality. She is an asset to our company because she provides professional, considerate, and caring patient care.

**P**iner's Napa Ambulance is proud to honor Max Baldrige as our 2009 Star of Life.

Recently, Max and his partner responded to a serious two car vehicle accident in a rural section of the county. Upon their arrival they were confronted with a very chaotic scene. The cars were extensively damaged and were on fire. There were multiple patients. The vehicle occupants that Max cared for, a husband and wife, had serious life threatening injuries and needed rapid intervention.

The most serious injured patient was a 50 year old male. He was suffering from multiple injuries to his chest. One of his lungs had been punctured and besides not working, the deflated lung was slowly causing his other remaining lung to cease to work. Max performed an advanced scope of practice skill called a "Needle Decompression" to relieve the pressure within the chest cavity to keep an exchange of air going and to allow his patient to breathe. Without such care this patient would only have minutes to live.

The patient was transported emergency



**MAX BALDRIDGE**  
PINER'S NAPA AMBULANCE  
NAPA

status to Queen of the Valley Hospital in Napa for treatment. After a lengthy recovery in the hospital's ICU he was released and is expected to make a full recovery.

A family man and a prominent local business man, the patient was very thankful to survive and publicly thanked all his caregivers.

On his days off, Max enjoys music and art.



**HEATHER BONETTI**  
MANTECA DISTRICT  
AMBULANCE SERVICE  
MANTECA

**H**eather is one the few remaining EMT's that choose to remain at EMT-I status. This can be quite a challenge as others come through the company and decide to become Paramedics. The EMT job remains a prideful thing thanks to Heather.

Heather is a hard-working employee who never shies away from her duties or responsibilities. She has been involved in our Company since a very young age.

One of Heather's strongest traits is her courage and perseverance. Regardless of the challenges she gets the job done!

Heather's interest when off duty is her family. She is married to a law enforcement officer Jason. They met through this crazy EMS, public safety world we all work in. They have 1 child, a son named Jackson. They enjoy their family time, the outdoors, dogs, birds, horses, and other critters they come across.

Heather is very deserving of this recognition. The ambulance industry is part of her family make-up. She continues in this industry and keeps a very professional demeanor. She is a third generation ambulance person! Her grandfather operated a private ambulance service in Modesto in the 1960's and early 70's. Her father followed and started the 1st Paramedic Ambulance in Tuolumne County in 1975. He is the current President of CAA, Dana Solomon! Heather continues the family tradition and maybe someday her children may follow in the long history of helping others and the satisfaction that brings.

**O**n 06/11/08, then Paramedic Jim Clark and his partner, EMT Tina Fantozzi, were dispatched to evacuate an injured Fire Fighter during the Humboldt Fire in Butte County. When the engine company was unable to evacuate the injured Fire Fighter to a staging area due to fire activity, Paramedic Clark and EMT Fantozzi drove down a dozer line, with fire on each side, to complete the evacuation. Although the Fire Fighter's injuries were not life threatening, Paramedic Clark and EMT Fantozzi voluntarily entered an extremely dangerous scene in order to prevent unnecessary pain and delay in treatment of a fellow public safety member.



**JIM CLARK**  
FIRST RESPONDER EMS, INC.  
CHICO



**JASON COMER**  
MEDIC AMBULANCE  
VALLEJO

Jason has grown up with a parent in the fire service and was exposed to emergency services at a young age. After going to EMT school Jason attended Solano Colleges Fire Academy and joined Oakland Fire Departments ride along program. Jason Started working for Medic Ambulance in 2002 and became a Paramedic in 2003.

Jason has done great things in Solano County as a Paramedic. He has had multiple field saves, and been part of some of the biggest medical events in Solano County's History. In, 2007 he was promoted to a field paramedic supervisor and says it "has been the most rewarding time of my life and I take great pride in not only being able to help individual people, but being able to manage an EMS system as a whole." Jason is being commended for his excellence in service during a recent Fire at an Elderly-Assisted Living Facility in Vallejo, California that displaced over 100 residents and sent 36 people to the hospital. Jason was one of the first employees to come in during the recall, and helped the on duty supervisor with transporting destinations and unit deployment. Jason was an asset to the MCI and to Medic Ambulance.

Pedro H. Contreras Torres, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Supervisor for Bayshore Ambulance, is being nominated for Stars of Life for his commitment and dedication to outstanding patient care and exemplary leadership skills at Bayshore Ambulance.

Pedro began his tenure with Bayshore Ambulance in September of 2004 and became a Field Training Officer in January of 2005. As of May 2008, he was promoted to EMT Supervisor. In this capacity Pedro has excelled in maintaining a cohesive staff and participated in EMT training.

Pedro has distinguished himself by being personable and attentive to the needs of our staff. He believes in promoting a family atmosphere in which our employees may operate as autonomous and independent EMTs.

While there are various achievements that clearly exhibit Pedro's exemplary commitment to the ambulance industry and Bayshore Ambulance, his most distinguished accomplishment is his case-based philosophy



**PEDRO CONTRERAS**  
BAYSHORE AMBULANCE  
FOSTER CITY

to training EMTs. This approach to adult learning/training is based on retrieving, reusing, revising, and retaining knowledge that EMTs will apply while working on an ambulance. Pedro believes in constant skill and knowledge evaluation through non-traditional measures such as the ability to synthesize and apply theoretical concepts while working on an ambulance. Most importantly is the energy and enthusiasm that Pedro provides while teaching.



**ANSON DAINE**  
VERIHEALTH, INC.  
PETALUMA

Anson is being recognized for his exceptional performance and natural training ability. Anson was selected by his peers to receive the prestigious veriHealth Leadership Award.

Anson began his career on a BLS ambulance and swiftly advanced as a FTO. Most recently, Anson plays a dual role on the Critical Care Ambulance and as a Field Training Officer. Anson is actively involved in the interview selection.

Anson's most outstanding characteristic is his passion to teach and train. Anson has

a natural trait to teach quality patient care while helping patients.

Anson is a Cal Poly Mustang alumni and an active Eagle Scout enjoying backpacking, hiking, and sailing. Furthermore, Anson is happily married to his wife Jennifer and takes pleasure watching movies and musicals together.

Anson leads by example and his peers are privileged to work with professionals of his caliber. One particular event was responding as a team member to a CCT call. Upon arrival the team found a very critical patient that was in need of immediate transport to a facility with the means to care for her unstable condition. As recognized by his peer, Anson did an exceptional job in performing his duties and assisting in the overall care and transport of this very ill patient. It is employees like Anson that demonstrate this level of care and commitment that have made veriHealth the company that it is today.



**BEN DAVIS**  
MEDIC AMBULANCE  
VALLEJO

Ben has been in public safety since 1992. Ben first started out as a non-sworn officer of the San Jose State University Police Dept while receiving his Bachelors Degree. Ben then became a Deputy Sheriff of the County of Marin in 1997. During his four years on the force, Ben became very intrigued with the EMS first responders. In 2001, Ben left the force for a career in EMS. He first worked for Medic Ambulance as an EMT, and

after he received the experience needed he went on to Paramedic School. In 2006, Ben became a Certified Paramedic in Solano and Sacramento Counties for Medic Ambulance Service. Ben has taken off since then; he is a Field Training Officer, an accredited county preceptor, and has been very active with Medic's CQI Program. Ben helped develop a policy to increase the EMT's interaction and assessment with minor patients. The policy was named BEN'S LAW, in honor of Ben's hard work and dedication to his fellow employees and his company. Ben also has received many letters of thanks and appreciation from patients, and Hospital staff. In just three years Ben has become a highly respected team member of the Solano County EMS team. Ben is married to his wife Catherine, a UC Davis OR Charge Nurse, they reside in Davis, California with their two children James (5) and Rachel (3).



**JOSEPH DRAGO**  
RIGGS AMBULANCE SERVICE  
MERCED

Riggs Ambulance has selected Joseph Drago to be an honored as a Stars of Life recipient, because of his dedication to our community, Company and the patients he serves.

Joseph joined RAS in March 2006 as an EMT, and then became a Paramedic. He is always willing to put his patients, fellow employees and company first while he is on duty.

Joe goes to the gym on a regular basis, works

full-time and is finishing his Fire Science degree.

Joe has shown that his dedication to this field is one not to be taken lightly. He has an outstanding work ethic, communicative with patients and their families, a team player with his co-workers and approachable by management. The continuing compassion and emotional support he displays for his patients is admirable.

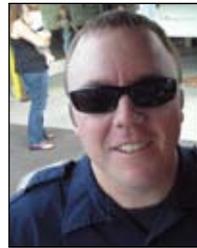
He provides exceptional professionalism in all situations, a trait desired by all EMS professionals. He is driven for a successful career in the pre-hospital field which will continue as he becomes a fire-fighter paramedic and a flight medic.

Brandon displayed courage and performed with a level head during an emergency call.

Brandon Edwards works full time as an EMT for our company and has two years of experience.

On July 29<sup>th</sup> 2008, while returning to the station after a cancelled call, a city bus driver flagged Brandon and his partner down. The driver stated that a male passenger was having a seizure. They boarded the bus to assess the passenger; he was in cardiac arrest. Brandon returned to his ambulance to grab an AED and gear. They requested an ALS unit and began CPR. The AED was applied and when it was determined that a shock was necessary, the crew shocked the patient. They resumed CPR until an ALS crew arrived on scene to take over care of the patient.

Brandon definitely boosts morale, and keeps his peers in high spirits. He manages to keep everyone laughing in spite of the often stressful line of work.



**BRANDON EDWARDS**  
PROTRANSPORT-1  
COTATI

In his off time he serves as a volunteer firefighter, enjoys winter sports and plays on a local rugby team.



**TINA FANTOZZI**  
FIRST RESPONDER EMS, INC.  
CHICO

On 06/11/08, then Paramedic Jim Clark and his partner, EMT Tina Fantozzi, were dispatched to evacuate an injured Fire Fighter during the Humboldt Fire in Butte County. When the engine company was unable to evacuate the injured Fire Fighter to a staging area due to fire activity, Paramedic Clark and EMT Fantozzi drove down a dozer line, with fire on each side, to complete the evacuation. Although the Fire Fighter's injuries were not life threatening, Paramedic Clark and EMT Fantozzi voluntarily entered an extremely dangerous scene in order to prevent unnecessary pain and delay in treatment of a fellow public safety member.

Darrell Frost started his career in EMS in 1979 as an EMT. He worked for "Siskiyou Ambulance," now known as "Northern Siskiyou Ambulance. He also volunteered for Montague Volunteer Fire Department. He received additional training and became an EMT II and then later, a Mobile Intensive Care Paramedic (MICP).



**DARRELL FROST**  
NORTHERN SISKIYOU  
AMBULANCE  
YREKA

In 1985 he purchased Northern Siskiyou Ambulance and has continued ownership since then. He continues to work at least two shifts per week when he's not on duty as a Deputy with the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Dept. He is a member of the county Special Response Team, (SRT SWAT) as a tactical medic. He teaches first aid/CPR, wilderness medicine, First Responder classes and EMT/EMT II classes. He also continues to volunteer with South Yreka Fire Department.

On September 30, 2008 Northern Siskiyou Ambulance was dispatched and responded to an "unresponsive male" at an address just north of Yreka, CA on Hwy 263. NSAS unit, Medic 68, responded with EMT II, Doreen Mitchell, and EMT, Mike Raffaini.

As they responded to the call they were advised by dispatch that CPR was in progress by family. As they arrived at scene they found an unconscious, unresponsive man on the roof of a garage. Dispatch forgot to tell them about that!!! Without skipping a beat, they climbed the roof and assessed the patient.

Shortly after their arrival, MICP Darrell Frost also arrived at scene and climbed onto the roof.

The patient had a "shockable rhythm." The crew administered the first "shock," continued CPR, intubated the patient, started an IV and checked for a rhythm again. The patient had a bradycardic rate and a pulse was found. MICP Frost administered 1mg of Atropine and the crew continued packaging the patient in order to move him from the roof down to the ambulance. He was placed in a stokes litter and was extricated from the roof using ropes and the ladder. After being placed on the gurney the patient's heart rhythm went back to V-Fib and was shocked immediately, at which point it went to a bradycardic rhythm again. The patient received additional Atropine and then Lidocaine while enroute to the hospital.



**JEREMY GLASS**  
FIRST RESPONDER EMS, INC.  
CHICO

placed himself between the staff and the patient and was able to talk the patient into surrendering the knife. Paramedic Glass then spent nearly an hour with the patient calming her.

**O**n 12/23/08, Oroville Police Department brought an emotionally disturbed female into Oroville Hospital for a psychiatric evaluation. After several minutes in a room, the female patient emerged armed with a knife, threatening to commit suicide or kill staff members. Several of the nurses attempted to calm the patient without success. Paramedic Glass heard the commotion and ran to the scene. Without regard for his own safety, Paramedic Glass



**OWEN GOODRUM**  
MEDIC AMBULANCE  
VALLEJO

Living Facility in Vallejo, California that displaced over 100 residents and sent 36 people to the hospital. Owen was one of the first arriving units, and his rapid extrication and quick treatment saved further lives and prevented further people from injury. Owen just finished his Paramedic school and will soon be using his great skills and knowledge as a Paramedic.

**O**wen started out in EMS at the age of 13 by joining the Vallejo Fire Department Explorer program. As an explorer, Owen was able to learn the skills and knowledge needed in EMS at an early age. Owen is being commended for his excellence in service during a recent Fire at an Elderly-Assisted



**ERIK HAHN**  
MEDIC AMBULANCE  
VALLEJO

**E**rik came to Medic Ambulance in 2006 after working for years in the retail industry. Erik became one of the first dispatchers at Medic to become a certified Emergency Medical Dispatcher. Erik was the lead dispatcher during the Elderly-Assisted living Facility Fire in Vallejo, California that

displaced over 100 residents and sent 36 people to the hospital. Erik managed the event, did emergency call back for personnel and management, and helped with the addition of 10 ambulances to our fleet. Medic did not have a response failure to any calls outside of the MCI, and this was due to Erik's gifted abilities. Erik hopes to have many years to come continuing to serve his local community.

**A**aron Hamilton began working for Care Ambulance in 2000 as an EMT, and later as a part-time dispatcher. While working as an EMT and Dispatcher, Aaron was attending UC Irvine working on a BS in Computer Engineering.

During this time, Aaron began working on simple IT projects at Care, like customizing crystal reports for the Billing Department. Upon graduation Aaron was offered the position of Systems Engineer where he currently works full-time developing more efficient dispatch systems (911 interfaces, vehicle tracking, etc).

Aaron is being awarded the 2009 Star of Life for his outstanding contributions to Care Ambulance Service. His ability to quickly provide software and programming solutions for every department has led to numerous enhancements and efficiencies in dispatching, scheduling, and billing practices. His can-do attitude along with his expert knowledge has earned him the nickname of "boy genius" amongst his peers.



**AARON HAMILTON**  
CARE AMBULANCE  
ORANGE

On his off time Aaron enjoys snowboarding and flying helicopters. His future goals include getting a Master's in Software or Electrical engineering.



**JARROD HOLLINGER**  
BAYSHORE AMBULANCE  
FOSTER CITY

Jarrod has been with our company for 5 years, he has shown great dedication in the field and as newly appointed supervisor. His efforts, along with the other EMT supervisor, in assisting the goal of restructuring Bayshore Ambulance have been of great value to the company and patients. It is with these qualities that Jarrod is being nominated with the Star of Life, in order to show our appreciation for a job well done.

Jarrod is being honored for his work as an EMT supervisor and his shared vision of restructuring and developing a TEAM atmosphere at Bayshore Ambulance. Jarrod has served as an EMT for the past 5 years and most recently as EMT Supervisor. Jarrod's dedication to the company and patients make him a valuable asset to Bayshore and the community. Jarrod is a loving husband and father of two girls. He continues to advance his education in the medical field with the goal of providing services to the younger generation.

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**D**avid was born and raised in Santa Rosa, California. David has always been interested in EMS; his sister is a Paramedic in Santa Rosa, California, and has helped David get through the early years in his EMS career.

David came to Medic Ambulance as a new Paramedic, and in just a little over a year's time, David has shown a passion and commitment to EMS that few others in the industry show. David is being commended for his excellence in service during a recent Fire at an Elderly-Assisted Living Facility in Vallejo, California that displaced over 100 residents and sent 36 people to the hospital. David was one of the first arriving units, and his rapid extrication and quick treatment saved further lives and prevented further people from injury.



**DAVID HOYTT**  
MEDIC AMBULANCE  
VALLEJO



**ALEXA KRONSCHNABEL**  
MEDIC AMBULANCE  
VALLEJO

Alexa came to Medic with not a lot of EMS experience, but has blossomed into an all-around dispatcher. Alexa is now EMD-Advanced certified, and been with Medic now for over a year. Alexa was only two months off training when she was part of the biggest MCI in Solano County's history. Alexa was the dispatcher during the Elderly-Assisted living Facility Fire in Vallejo, California that

displaced over 100 residents and sent 36 people to the hospital. Alexa assisted Erik in managing the event, helped with emergency call back for personnel and management, and helped with the addition of 10 ambulances to our fleet. Medic did not have a response failure to any calls outside of the MCI.

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Jeremy Lambright has been an EMT with Schaefer Ambulance Service since October 2000. He was promoted to Field-Training Officer in April 2006. His conduct exemplifies the qualities that we strive for at Schaefer Ambulance Service.

Lambright is one of our most reliable people. He is always on time for his shifts and rarely misses work. He has trained many of our field employees and is very thorough and professional with his training methods.

Jeremy is very calm under pressure, thorough and very knowledgeable about his job.

Jeremy enjoys spending quality time with his wife, son and daughter. They enjoy going to the park and playing together on his days off.

A few years ago Jeremy remembered going on a call where a young woman was sexually assaulted and stabbed in the neck by her attacker. He and his partner transported the woman successfully to the hospital. Later on they were subpoenaed to court to identify the woman's attacker. She was there in court and



**JEREMY LAMBRIGHT**  
SCHAEFER AMBULANCE  
SERVICE, INC.  
LOS ANGELES

thanked them for saving her life. Her attacker was prosecuted for the crime.

Jeremy has delivered three babies in his career here at Schaefer Ambulance.



**HASEIB LEMAR**  
ROYAL AMBULANCE  
SAN LEANDRO

**H**aseib Lemar is being honored as a Star of Life because of his outstanding service to the community, his co-worker and Royal Ambulance.

Initially aiming for a career in Criminal Justice, like many, Haseib began that journey in EMS where he developed a passion for the work, and leadership skills among his peers and in the community.

Haseib is personally interested in delivering exceptional customer service to the community and his co-workers. They describe him as being not only a leader but a friend.

Alaina Trocano, his co-worker explains, “We were dispatched to what would normally be a routine 5150 transport, but instead it was a call that showed me how lucky I am to work with Lemar. The patient was extremely combative and was reported to be making desperate attempts to infect others with HIV. It was my turn to tech, but Lemar offered to take the call. Being a new EMT, I was eager to be competent so I declined his offer. By the time we reached our destination, my patient had gotten the best of me. Lemar immediately saw my fear and took control over the situation. I was impressed by his courage and loyalty during that call. He offered to take my place in a dangerous situation. During my first week at Royal Ambulance, Lemar approached me and said, “Stick by me, I’ll take care of you.” Even after that comment, I never expected that level of loyalty or courage.”

**P**aul Lopez has been dispatching at Care Ambulance for 3 years. He started his career back in 1991 as an EMT for Adams Ambulance. In 2000, he became a dispatcher for AMR. He came to Care Ambulance in 2006 during the transition when Care Ambulance was awarded their LA County EOA.

Paul is receiving the Star of Life for his unheralded ability to deliver outstanding service to the LA County EOA. His personal knowledge of the area, along with his ability to assign proper resources and assist in guiding units to the scene, made the transition into the LA Area extremely smooth. He has set the standard and maintains this same level of efficiency, each and every shift he works. His quiet demeanor and calm personal presence during stressful times are in keeping with the highest standards of professionalism here at Care Ambulance.

Paul earned his Associates Degree at Cerritos



**PAUL LOPEZ**  
CARE AMBULANCE  
ORANGE

College and enjoys golfing. One day he hopes to be a PGA teaching professional.



**BOBBIE MILLER**  
MANTECA DISTRICT  
AMBULANCE SERVICE  
MANTECA

**B**obbie Miller is being honored for her 11 years of service. She is one of Manteca District Ambulance's best EMTs to ever come along. She learned by "doing".

Throughout her employment she has worked as an EMT on an ALS unit in a rural environment. She has been the paramedic's "right hand" and can orchestrate success for all.

Bobbie became acquainted with EMS during a senior project in high school and fell in love

with the job. She is friendly and outgoing. Patients and co-workers all agree she is professional.

Bobbie grew-up in Tuolumne County, where she was one of the town's first female fire-fighters as a volunteer. She was introduced to EMS and became a career oriented EMT. She is married to her husband Grant, who is an engineer with Sonora City Fire. They have 2 children, a boy Trenton and a daughter Rehgan.

Bobbie has had several episodes over her career where her personal experiences on ALS unit have made for great success. She has helped others become very good paramedics by helping them remember good BLS, bed side manners, common sense, and experience are traits earned by time served. With these traits she has helped students who come to our company to Intern that have little previous experience and rely mainly on book knowledge. Bobbie runs a tight ship and keeps the patients needs ahead of the students regardless.

**D**oreen Mitchell has been an active member of Happy Camp Ambulance for at least 25 years. She became an EMT in 1985 and continued on to receive EMT II status in 1995. She constantly provides excellent patient care in the Community of Happy Camp as the ambulance director, and is also employed at Northern Siskiyou Ambulance.

While responding to the "Stanza Incident" a few years ago, she was instrumental in saving a firefighter's life after his engine rolled down a cliff. After he was enroute to the trauma center we discovered that Doreen was having an MI. She never complained nor did she discontinue patient care. She was AWESOME!!! We are truly fortunate to have her on our team.

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As they responded to the call they were advised by dispatch that CPR was in progress



**DOREEN MITCHELL**  
NORTHERN SISKIYOU  
AMBULANCE  
YREKA

by family. As they arrived at scene they found an unconscious, unresponsive man on the roof of a garage. Dispatch forgot to tell them about that!!! Without skipping a beat, they climbed the roof and assessed the patient. Shortly after their arrival, MICP Darrell Frost also arrived at scene and climbed onto the roof.

The crew worked together to provide advanced life support care, defibrillating, intubating and administering atropine and later an additional round of atropine and lidocaine while enroute to the hospital. They then packaged the patient placing him in a stokes litter to extricate him from the roof using ropes and a ladder.



**JESSE PERLA**  
MEDIC AMBULANCE  
VALLEJO

displaced over 100 residents and sent 36 people to the hospital. Jesse was one of the first arriving units, and his rapid extrication and quick treatment saved further lives and prevented further people from injury. Jesse has been an EMT with Medic Ambulance for over a year. He plans to further his education by becoming a Paramedic. Jesse eventually wants to be a Nurse, so he can be a Flight Nurse.

Jesse and his family have had a long tradition in public safety. He has uncles who work for CHP, and cousins who are fire-fighters. Ever since he was young he wanted to be in public safety. Jesse is being commended for his excellence in service during a recent Fire at an Elderly-Assisted Living Facility in Vallejo, California that

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Captain Chris Pickett has served the citizens of Butte County as an Emergency Responder for over 20 years. Captain Pickett is active in the community, serving as a foster parent to needy children, and as a community educator, teaching First Aid and CPR. Captain Pickett is active in his church, enjoys motorcycle riding and spending time with his family.



**CHRIS PICKETT**  
FIRST RESPONDER EMS, INC.  
CHICO



**GERRY PUGEDA**  
CARE AMBULANCE  
ORANGE

**G**erry Pugeda has worked at Care Ambulance for 20 years. He is currently a Field Training Officer. He continually works with and trains the never ending stream of new EMT's entering the field. His commitment to teaching them the way to do

it right has helped keep Care's reputation rock solid.

Gerry is being awarded the 2009 Star of Life for his long time loyalty and commitment to shaping the workforce of today. His personable style and work ethic provides both knowledge and leadership to the new hires he mentors.

Gerry has been happily married for 21 years. He loves to travel up and down the coast of California and taking the jet skis out to the river. He is also a mobile DJ, and loves to play poker.

He currently attends Riverside Community College and his goal is to eventually teach first responders through the Regional Occupational Program.

**M**ike Raffaini began his career last summer. He is a fast learner, uses excellent critical skills and is a good example to the NSAS employees and to the EMS profession. He fills extra shifts if needed, and keeps employee moral positive. He is currently working full time at Northern Siskiyou Ambulance and is taking an EMT II class. He plans on getting his Paramedic License in two years. He is a great example to all up and coming EMT's.



**MIKE RAFFAINI**  
NORTHERN SISKIYOU  
AMBULANCE  
YREKA

On September 30, 2008 Northern Siskiyou Ambulance was dispatched and responded to an "unresponsive male" at an address just north of Yreka, CA on Hwy 263. NSAS unit, Medic 68, responded with EMT II, Doreen Mitchell, and EMT, Mike Raffaini.

As they responded to the call they were advised by dispatch that CPR was in progress by family. As they arrived at scene they found an unconscious, unresponsive man on the roof of a garage. Dispatch forgot to tell them about that!!! Without skipping a beat, they

climbed the roof and assessed the patient. Shortly after their arrival, MICP Darrell Frost also arrived at scene and climbed onto the roof.

The crew worked together to provide advanced life support care, defibrillating, intubating and administering atropine and later an additional round of atropine and lidocaine while enroute to the hospital. They then packaged the patient placing him in a stokes litter to extricate him from the roof using ropes and a ladder.



**CHRISTOPHER REGALDO**  
MEDIC AMBULANCE  
VALLEJO

**C**hristopher Regalado has proudly served in EMS since 2001. A transporting paramedic for Medic Ambulance Service since 2007, Chris promoted to Paramedic Supervisor for the company in November of 2008. Chris is being commended for his excellence in service during a recent Fire at an Elderly-Assisted Living Facility in Vallejo, California that displaced over 100 residents and sent 36 people to the hospital. Chris was one of the first arriving units, and his rapid extrication and quick treatment saved further lives and prevented further people

from injury. When Chris was asked what his plans are for the future his response was "There was a time when I thought working as Firefighter/ Paramedic was the only career I would be satisfied having. I realize now that working in an EMS system that provides a good fit for me is what motivates me to be the best I can be. Being a Paramedic and working for Medic Ambulance in Solano and Sacramento Counties has been my perfect fit. I plan on staying in Solano with Medic Ambulance where the community is diverse and people I work with are great."

**D**ennis has shown dedication to the citizens of Southern Humboldt County and has had multiple field saves over the past year.

Dennis has been involved in EMS for over 16 years including service in the U.S. Coast Guard and private ambulance as an EMT and paramedic.

Dennis enjoys spending time with his family.

Dennis recently received a call for an unresponsive male. He arrived to find the patient in the care of the fire department supporting respirations after the initial AED shock established a pulse. The patient had several pulseless episodes during transport. Through Dennis' rapid interventions and aggressive actions he reestablished a pulse and blood pressure prior to arrival at the local ER. One week post resuscitation the patient was transferred for further cardiac care. During the transfer, the patient borrowed the transferring paramedic's cell phone to call Dennis and thank him for his actions on that day.



**DENNIS STEVENS**  
CITY AMBULANCE OF EUREKA  
EUREKA



**KARL VENRICK**  
SCHAEFER AMBULANCE  
SERVICE, INC.  
LOS ANGELES

**K**arl Venrick has been an EMT with Schaefer Ambulance Service since July 1992. He was promoted to Field-Supervisor in January 2008. His conduct exemplifies the qualities that we strive for at Schaefer Ambulance Service.

Venrick is one of our most reliable people. He is always on time for his shifts and rarely misses work. He has trained many of our field employees. He works the ambulances along with picking up shifts as Field

Supervisor. He is always ready to help in anyway possible. Venrick has helped many new employees talk through difficult calls and has helped them deal with their feelings especially when children are involved.

Venrick is very knowledgeable about his job and the company. He is calm under pressure and always the consummate professional. Venrick likes to surf and bike ride with his son on his time off from work.

A few years ago Venrick remembers going on a call where there were multiple shooting victims in a home. One of the only persons still alive was grandfather of the family who was badly wounded. Venrick and his partner's quick and effective actions got him transported to the hospital in time. The man survived and Venrick felt he played an important part in saving his life.

**J**oseph Viergutz was born and raised in Vacaville, California. He has always had a dedication to public safety. Joe became an EMT at 19, and worked on BLS transfer cars to gain experience.

Joe took so much pride at what he did, he was eventually promoted to work on a Critical Care Transfer Unit. Joe came to Medic with a lot of experience and above average EMT skills.

Joseph is being commended for his excellence in service during a recent Fire at an Elderly-Assisted Living Facility in Vallejo, California that displaced over 100 residents and sent 36 people to the hospital. Joe was one of the first arriving units, and his rapid extrication and quick treatment saved further lives and prevented further people from injury. Joe wants to possibly pursue a career in law enforcement in the near future.



**JOSEPH VIERGUTZ**  
MEDIC AMBULANCE  
VALLEJO



**MICHAEL WALLACE**  
BLYTHE AMBULANCE SERVICE  
BLYTHE

Starting as an EMT in 1993, Mike is now responsible for the entire Operations division of our company. Mike serves our community in a variety of roles – Paramedic, CPR Instructor, Volunteer Fireman and Reserve Police Officer.

As an ultimate patient care advocate, Mike goes beyond the call of duty for his patients to insure they are well cared for at all levels.

While enjoying family activities the most, Mike also pursues golf and boating and contributes to many volunteer organizations in our community.

Mike was called to an injured person on a roof and found his patient trapped with a semi-detached arm. The patient was under an air conditioning unit which was attached to a crane that had tipped over, dropping the air conditioning unit onto the patient. Mike's professionalism and actions in aggressively coordinating his patient's successful evacuation from the rooftop while working with his fellow volunteer fireman, assuring prompt air ambulance resources were appropriated and assuring trauma center orthopedic stand-by services were activated contributed to his patient's arm being saved.

Blythe Ambulance Service is proud to have Mike as an excellent Paramedic for our patients and as a leader in our community.

We are honored to have him represent us as a CAA Star of Life 2009.

Dennis displayed professionalism and courage during an unusual emergency call.

Dennis has several years experience. He has served as a Field Training Officer II, and currently works on our ALS medic unit.

Dennis' strong work ethic sets him apart and makes him a great example and trainer.

Dennis enjoys horseback riding, trap shooting, hiking and camping, enjoys the outdoors, and loves country music.

On July 29<sup>th</sup> 2008, while enroute to the station, a city bus driver flagged down Dennis' ambulance. Dennis was informed a passenger on the bus was having a seizure. Dennis and his partner boarded the bus to assess the passenger. Seeing the passenger in severe distress, Dennis sent his partner back to the ambulance to get their equipment. Meanwhile, Dennis evaluated the patient and moved him into the aisle. They applied



**DENNIS WEBB**  
PROTRANSPORT-1  
COTATI

an AED, followed the prompts, shocked the patient, and then continued CPR until an ALS crew arrived to take over patient care.



**DAVID WHITE**  
CARE AMBULANCE  
ORANGE

**D**avid White has worked at Care Ambulance for 8 years. He is currently a Field Training Officer working in the city of Fullerton. While most EMT's in David's age group are solely interested in gaining ambulance experience in order to move on to the fire service, David has shown remarkable

maturity and leadership by taking on the role of training new employees.

David is being awarded the 2009 Star of Life for his commitment to his fellow employees and his willingness to share his knowledge while setting a positive example for others. His efforts as an FTO have helped make Care Ambulance remain one of the premier ambulance services in Southern California.

David's personal goal is to become a firefighter and eventually continue on to medic school. His hobbies include camping, backpacking, body surfing and snorkeling.

**B**en Windle currently serves as the Field Operations Supervisor for SEMSA Lassen County operations. Ben has 12 years of EMS experience and has worked for REMSA / SEMSA for the past seven years. Ben has played a key role in developing important relationships and educating those around him in the Lassen county EMS system, which has resulted in value added services to the community.

Ben also serves as a volunteer firefighter for the Quincy Fire Dept. and works part-time at the Plumas District Hospital. Ben goes above and beyond the call of duty in helping his community prepare for and respond to emergency situations which occur on a regular basis.



**BEN WINDLE**  
SEMSA  
SUSANVILLE

# ★ SALUTE TO THE STARS OF EMS ★ 61ST ANNUAL CONVENTION

July 8-10, 2009

Hilton Los Angeles Universal City



With all the fanfare of a movie-premiere, the CAA marks its triumphant return to southern California for its 61st Annual Convention. With its close proximity to Universal Studios, this year's event makes it the ideal family get-a-way. Of course there will be the regular convention attractions you have come to expect, such as golf, bunco, and seminars, commencing with the Chairman's Ball.

Join us as we pay special tribute to David and Cathy Nevins for their over twenty years of dedication to the CAA and the private ambulance industry.

#### *Convention Highlights:*

- \* Gordon Graham, Keynote
- \* Cathy Montoya, Palmetto Update
- \* Doug Wolfsberg on the California EMS Act
- \* Janet Smith on Business Development
- \* Vendors display showcasing the latest EMS products



#### ***Reservation Information:***

Hilton Los Angeles  
Universal City  
(818) 506-2500

#### ***Room Rate:***

\$179 Single/Double  
\$35/add'l person per night

**Hotel Cutoff: June 15, 2009**

