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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
April 16, 2010

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### **Twenty-two EMS Professionals to Be Honored as *Stars of Life* for their Life Saving Efforts at the State Capitol**

*Sacramento, CA* --- Twenty-two paramedics, emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and emergency medical dispatchers from across the State of California will be recognized as *Stars of Life* at the State Capitol on **April 20, 2010**. Their actions, whether from a single life-saving event or a career-long exemplary performance record, demonstrate they have stood out among their peers as the best of the best among California's ambulance providers.

Their stories demonstrate the courage, discipline and skill needed to remain calm under pressure while delivering basic and advanced life support care in the field. Among those being honored are: Paramedic Ryan Redd of First Responder EMS, Chico, for going above and beyond while responding to a call involving a child in cardiac arrest. Following ambulance transport to the hospital, Redd worked with hospital staff for over an hour to revive the infant. Miraculously, their efforts paid off and the infant was then transferred to UC Davis Medical Center for follow-up care.

Rene Steinhauer, a paramedic/critical care nurse with Bayshore Ambulance in Foster City, is being recognized for his role as advanced life support (ALS) coordinator in the start-up of the Company's new ALS program in San Francisco. Steinhauer's passion for emergency medical services has taken him to all seven continents and as far as the South Pole. He has responded to such disasters as the Asian Tsunami, Hurricane Katrina and, most recently, the earthquake in Haiti. In addition, he has served multiple tours of duty as a combat medic.

Aside from their core responsibilities of caring for those who fall victim to sudden illness or injury, some of this year's *Stars of Life* recipients are being honored for their community service.

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Nakia Garrett, an emergency medical dispatcher with Riggs Ambulance Service of Merced, volunteered to coordinate the Company's Operation Give Hope, which raises money and provides gifts for underprivileged children at Christmas time in Merced. Ten families were treated to a Christmas dinner and gifts thanks to Garrett's generous gift of her time, talent and energy.

During this event, the *Stars* will be presented with a Star of Life medal, and will be honored with a legislative resolution from the State Senate. The *Stars* will attend a luncheon with guest legislative speaker Senator Tony Strickland, Vice Chair of the Senate Health & Human Services Committee. Afterwards, they will meet individually with members of the State Senate and Assembly to tell their life-saving stories and deliver important first-hand information regarding the essential service provided by California's ambulance providers. The day's festivities will wrap up with an awards dinner at the Sheraton Grand Hotel featuring guest speakers Assembly Member Bill Monning, Chair of the Assembly Health Committee, and Dr. Steven Tharratt, Director of California's Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA). The evening concludes with the *Stars* receiving their lapel pin and legislative certificates honoring their service.

Founded in 1948, the California Ambulance Association assures the delivery of excellent pre-hospital care to the people of California by promoting recognized industry best practices. The mission of the CAA is to: serve as the voice and resource on behalf of private enterprise emergency and non-emergency ambulance services; promote high quality, efficient and medically appropriate patient care; advocate the value that pre-hospital care provides in achieving positive patient outcomes; and promote effective and fiscally responsible EMS systems and establish standards for system design.

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**Interview & Photo Opportunities:**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
Stars are presented with their Stars of Life medals	8:30 a.m.	Sheraton Grand Hotel Sacramento
Group photo of Stars on West Steps of Capitol	10:00-10:15 a.m.	Capitol grounds Center Lawn on West steps
Stars Awards Dinner	6:00 – 8:00p.m.	Sheraton Grand Hotel Sacramento

**To arrange for interviews with the Stars, contact Mark Corum, Media Relations Director at 661-364-4540 or email him at: [mark@corum-communications.com](mailto:mark@corum-communications.com)**