



CALIFORNIA AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL
— Stars of Life —
CELEBRATION
AND LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT



APRIL 1, 2014
EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL – SACRAMENTO, CA

HEALTH CARE'S ESSENTIAL FIRST RESPONDERS

Stars of Life



Helen Pierson
Chair, Board of Directors
California Ambulance
Association

Congratulations to all of our 2014 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, 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.

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 *Abaris Group, American Legion Post #108 Ambulance, Beyond Lucid Technologies, Inc., Bound Tree Medical, Cindy Elbert Insurance Services, City Ambulance of Eureka, Inc., DerManouel Insurance Group, King American Ambulance, Medic Ambulance Service, Stryker Medical and Wittman Enterprises, LLC.*

Lastly, we are honored to have Speaker of the Assembly, John A. Pérez and Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez as our special guests at this event.

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

Stars of Life Awards Banquet — April 1, 2014 —

Welcome

Helen Pierson, Chair of the Board

Legislator of the Year

Speaker of the Assembly, John A. Pérez

Guest Speaker

Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez

Presentation of Stars of Life Recognition

Closing Remarks

Thank You Sponsors!



Making Precious Minutes Count...™



KING-AMERICAN



John A. Pérez Speaker of the Assembly



First elected to the Assembly in 2008, John A. Pérez was sworn in as the 68th Speaker of the California State Assembly in March 2010.

Speaker Pérez believes his job is to find

ways to improve the lives of Californians and strengthen the economic prosperity of our state.

In the Assembly, Speaker Pérez has focused on California's economic recovery, working on creating jobs, improving the state's business climate, increasing funding for schools, reducing costs for college, and expanding Californians' access to affordable health care.

Speaker Pérez authored the legislation that created GoBiz, the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development, a one-stop shop to help businesses start and succeed in California. Speaker Pérez also created the landmark Middle Class Scholarship, which will effectively cut fees at the University of California and California State University by up to 40% for middle class families. And bills by Speaker Pérez established Covered California, the nation's first health care exchange created under the federal Affordable Care Act, and expanded Medi-Cal coverage to over one million low-income and uninsured Californians.


When John A. Pérez became Speaker, California faced a \$60 billion budget deficit. Under Speaker Pérez the Assembly passed balanced, on-time budgets three years in a row –the first time that has happened in 30 years. The state's structural budget deficit has been eliminated,

there is a strong reserve and California's credit rating has been raised. Speaker Pérez is now working to craft a real Rainy Day Fund that will protect the state budget from the volatility of boom and bust cycles.

John A. Pérez grew up in the working class neighborhoods of East Los Angeles. He learned the value of hard work and community service from his parents. After attending UC Berkeley, Speaker Pérez worked in the private sector labor movement prior to being elected to the Assembly, and has served on several boards and commissions helping shape public policy at the city, state and national level.

The first openly gay person to be elected to the position of Assembly Speaker in the country, Speaker Pérez has been a longtime leader in fighting for social justice and full equality. Speaker Pérez has been honored for his work helping the state's Veterans find jobs and housing and for his efforts to support child care and early childhood education.

Speaker Pérez recently concluded his term as President of the National Speakers Conference.

We are honoring Speaker Pérez this evening as he concludes his successful tenure as Speaker of the Assembly this summer. The CAA has enjoyed a successful working relationship with Speaker Pérez as he has sought to protect the health care safety net in our state and promote the EMS industry. We are particularly pleased that he appointed our own Jaison Chand of City Ambulance of Eureka to fill the CAA's seat on the EMS Commission. 

Freddie Rodriguez **Assemblymember, 52nd Assembly District**



Born and raised in the City of Pomona, Freddie Rodriguez has dedicated his life to serving his community. He has worked as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) in the San Gabriel Valley


for over 29 years.

As an EMT, Freddie was awarded the California Star of Life award, for his outstanding community volunteer contributions and lifesaving rescues. In 2005, Freddie journeyed to Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas to help the victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Freddie was elected twice to the Pomona City Council. On the City Council, Freddie helped improve public safety, expanded Neighborhood Watch programs, created new jobs as a result

of the economic development projects he championed, and delivered balanced budgets while protecting city services during tough economic times. He led the effort to restore firefighting positions in Pomona, ensuring that each shift was fully staffed and that firefighters were properly equipped to respond to fire and emergency calls.

A leader in helping jumpstart the local economy, Freddie brought together community and business leaders to help revitalize downtown Pomona, generate new economic investment, and create new jobs.

Freddie lives in Pomona with his wife Michelle. They have four children, Desirae, Freddie Jr., Vincent, and Selena, and two grandchildren, Jayden and Jacob. Their son, Vincent, currently serves as a Deputy Sheriff for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. 

Stars of Life



Joshua Acker
*Riggs Ambulance
Service, Inc.*
Merced

Joshua Acker
Paramedic

For the past four years, Joshua Acker has committed himself to setting the standard in exemplary patient care, proficient clinical skills and an overwhelming enthusiasm for his profession in emergency medical services. Joshua has consistently demonstrated outstanding clinical judgment with some of the most challenging patient calls. In November of this year, Joshua attended to a critical chest pain patient who was involved in a minor motor vehicle accident. Joshua immediately initiated transport to the nearest chest pain center approximately 40 minutes away. While en-route, the patient went into cardiac arrest. The patient was defibrillated multiple times resulting in a conversion to a Sinus Bradycardia rhythm. Joshua externally paced the patient, managed the patient's airway and supported ROSC for an additional 20 minutes en-route to the receiving facility. Upon arrival, the patient was taken directly to the Cardiac Cath Lab where the patient was treated for multiple occlusions to their coronary arteries. This patient was released from the hospital four days later. Joshua's calm clinical excellence in this call and many others as a Paramedic has contributed to his recognition as a Star at Riggs Ambulance Service. *

Stars of Life



Hank Blair
*Hall Ambulance
Service, Inc.*
Bakersfield

Hank Blair
Mechanic

Hank Blair is a Lead Vehicle Service Technician with Hall Commercial Vehicle Service. He started his career at Hall Ambulance in 2002, as a young, inexperienced man looking to start a career with a stable employer. Hank started at the bottom, sweeping floors and running errands. After 12 years on the job, he has succeeded in becoming a vital part of the Hall Ambulance team helping maintain a fleet of more than 100 emergency response and support vehicles. Along with his daily vehicle repair assignments, Hank is also a certified Ferno Washington Repair Technician and oversees repair and refurbishment of gurneys, a task that previously required broken gurneys to be shipped to a repair facility. Over his 12 years of employment, Hank has distinguished himself by taking on any assignment, anytime, day or night in support of the overall mission of Hall Ambulance. Hank has been an active supporter of youth sports in our community. Hank Blair was nominated for a Star of Life in recognition of his 12 years of dedicated service to Hall Ambulance. His 12 years include perfect attendance. *

Stars of Life



Gene Bounds

*San Luis
Ambulance
Service*

San Luis Obispo

Gene Bounds
Fleet Manager

Gene Bounds, San Luis Ambulance's Fleet Manager, was recently awarded Employee of the Year for 2013. It was 9 years ago that Gene began working for the company as a mechanic. In this time, he has displayed an incredible work ethic and ability to fix anything. His hard work, knowledge and dedication resulted in him being promoted to the difficult task of managing our fleet of 28 ambulances and support vehicles. He is well known for his long hours in the shop and being available at a moment's notice to take care of any issues that come his way with the minimum amount of interruption to the operators.

Gene is truly one of the unsung heroes of the company. He works quietly and efficiently to keep our vehicles in the best condition possible. He truly deserves recognition for his dedication to the safety of our staff and patients. *✿

Stars of Life



Jeremy Capps

*Hall Ambulance
Service, Inc.*

Bakersfield

Jeremy Capps
EMT

Jeremy is an EMT, employed by Hall Ambulance since April 2011. Jeremy and his partner are assigned to the Hall Ambulance station in Tehachapi, California. On the evening of August 15, 2013, they were dispatched to a restaurant in Tehachapi for a man not breathing. They arrived to find an unresponsive male on the floor with CPR started by a family member. A BLS airway was secured, defibrillations delivered, an intraosseous infusion established and advanced life support medications administered. By the time the crew arrived at the hospital the patient had regained pulses. The patient was later transferred to a cardiac unit in Bakersfield and a few days later discharged home to family. Jeremy was nominated for the Star of Life for his continued efforts to provide outstanding advanced life support care to the residents of Kern County. *✿

Stars of Life



Miguel DeSouza

*Hall Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Bakersfield*

Miguel DeSouza
EMT

EMT Miguel DeSouza, came to Hall Ambulance in February 2013. He is currently assigned to the Lamont station.

On November 22, 2013, Miguel and his partner responded to a residence in Lamont for a woman in labor. They arrived just in time to assist mom in delivering her baby. The crew then loaded mom and baby and transported them to the hospital in Bakersfield. As they cleared the hospital and started the 30-minute trip back to Lamont, they were dispatched to another residence for a woman in labor. The crew again assisted another mom with delivering her baby. Mom and baby were loaded and transported to the hospital. Miguel was nominated for the Star of Life in recognition of his efforts to help bring two new lives into the world. *

Stars of Life



Kim Drennan

*Hall Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Bakersfield*

Kim Drennan
EMD

Kim is a lead emergency medical dispatcher assigned to the Communications Division at Hall Ambulance. Kim started her career in EMS in May 2004. She has obtained certification from the National Academies of Emergency Medical Dispatch as an Advanced Emergency Medical Dispatcher. She is also certified by the County of Kern as an Emergency Medical Dispatcher. The Hall Ambulance Communications Division operates one of only two Accredited Center for Excellence (ACE) recognized facilities in Kern County. It is the only private ACE facility in the county. Each year the center processes over 80,000 requests for transports from Hall Ambulance and other ambulance companies that purchase dispatch services from Hall. The dispatchers monitor and dispatch as many as 50 ambulances at a time. As the lead dispatcher, Kim is responsible for overseeing the daily operations of the Communications Center during her shift. She must monitor other dispatchers to make sure they maintain their performance to the standards consistent with ACE accreditation. She oversees mass casualty incidents and assists with routing of crews to hospitals. She processes calls and provides pre-arrival instructions to callers as needed. She assists with operational performance reports. In 2012, she had a 100% EMD Quality Assurance rating and received the Kern County EMS Dispatcher of the Year. Kim was nominated for a Star of Life in recognition of her continued outstanding performance, which helped Hall Ambulance gain ACE accreditation. *

Stars of Life



Andrew Fink

*Medic Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Solano*

Andrew Fink
EMT

Andrew Fink was raised in Vacaville and lives there today. At the age of 16, he became an explorer with the Fairfield Fire Department. This aided in his path and career choice. Shortly after high school, he received his EMT and Firefighter 1 certificates. He has worked in both Contra Costa and Solano Counties as an EMT over the last 3 years. This year he started his position as a reserve firefighter with the city of Fairfield and started paramedic school. When he's not at work he enjoys working out, jet skiing, and spending time with his friends and family.

Andrew and his partner are being recognized for their rapid and immediate care of 31 year old male who went into cardiac arrest while playing golf. Andrew and his partner arrived on scene as BLS first responders, immediately started CPR, applied the AED and delivered early defibrillation. The patient regained pulses, and Andrew and his partner maintained care until the responding ALS ambulance and engine arrived. Their excellent care led to this patient's positive outcome.



Stars of Life



Rebecca Foster

*Paramedics Plus
San Leandro*

Rebecca Foster
Advanced Paramedic

Rebecca Foster has served in EMS for almost 17 years. Since becoming a Paramedic in 2001, she has worked as a Field Paramedic, Field Supervisor, FTO and EMS Instructor. She currently works as an Advanced Field Paramedic and Paramedic Preceptor. She enjoys her job and working with the interns and when she's not at work she enjoys spending time outdoors with her husband who is also a paramedic and their two young sons.

On June 16, 2013, Father's Day, Rebecca and EMT, Nichole Spencer, were waved over near the Oakland Estuary where they saw a four-door vehicle quickly sinking. Rebecca jumped out of the ambulance and entered the water along with three civilians. Together they broke the vehicles glass and pulled out a father, mother and their two children. From the shore, Nicole stood waist-deep in water, managing the crowd and keeping her eye on her partner while coordinating for emergency back-up. Rebecca struggled to rescue the last of the family members- the father. He could not swim and grew panicky as she pulled him toward the shore. Rebecca, Nicole and the three civilian rescuers got everyone to shore as additional emergency units arrived. This crew wanted to thank the heroic civilian rescuers, Erik Shorken, Andrew Goodwin and Tracey McCormich for their assistance in the rescue. This dramatic rescue was recognized during 2013 California EMS Agency Awards Ceremony. *

Stars of Life



**Benjamin
Gammon**

**Medic Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Solano**

**Benjamin Gammon
Paramedic Supervisor**

Ben was born and raised in Solano County and has always wanted to work in the county he grew up in. He started working for Medic Ambulance over 6 years ago as an EMT. From the first day back in 2008 Ben fell in love with EMS. Within a few months he started attending EMSTI Paramedic School in Sacramento and worked his way up from EMT to Paramedic within 3 years. Ben became a Field Training Officer (FTO) and helped train new employees. As an EMT Ben was recognized as the 2010 EMT of the Year and honored as a Star of Life. After becoming a Paramedic, Ben truly enjoyed everything about it. He always wanted to challenge himself and get better in any way possible. When the opportunity arose for Ben to become a Supervisor he went for it. Ben is being honored for his rapid and excellent care of 1 year old drowning victim in Vallejo. Ben and his team delivered CPR, IV cardiac medications and rapid care to the 1 year old. Due to their heroic care the 1 year old is alive and well and will enjoy a happy and healthy life. Benjamin resides in Vacaville California where he and his wife are raising their three beautiful girls, Megan, Lauren and Audrey and of course their dog (also a girl) Luna. Benjamin enjoys spending his time off with his family outdoors such as, boating, Camping, hiking, or Disneyland. *

Stars of Life



Kevin Gilley

**Medic Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Sacramento**

**Kevin Gilley
Paramedic**

Paramedic, Kevin Gilley has been employed with Medic Ambulance Service, Inc. for 3 years. He served as an EMT for a year prior to becoming a paramedic. Kevin has been a great team player and is always willing to help when asked. He served as a Field Training Officer and was a key team member in the deployment of Medic Ambulance Service's Winters operating area. Kevin is being honored as the 2014 Paramedic of the Year, Sacramento Division. *

Stars of Life



John Guthrie
*Sierra Ambulance
Service, Inc.*
Oakhurst

John Guthrie **Paramedic**

John Guthrie is our longest serving paramedic, having worked for Sierra Ambulance for 28 years. He started as an EMT back when Sierra Ambulance was an all volunteer organization. He became a paramedic in 1988 and has served as an EMT, a paramedic, and a field supervisor. Like all EMS caregivers, he makes a difference daily in the lives he touches.

What makes John stand out is his 28 years of consistent professionalism - day or night, rain or shine; whether the patient is clean or not so clean. John treats all of his patients with respect, dignity and compassion, even when it is hard. He IS the consummate professional and he does the right thing, day by day every day.

John is an expert in his field. He is respected by his peers, by his patients, by the medical community and the community at large. There is no one in our organization more deserving of this recognition than John Guthrie. ✨

Stars of Life



Darryl Harris
*McCormick
Ambulance*
Monterey Park

Darryl Harris **EMT**

In 2013, EMT Darryl Harris, Jr. and his partner were dispatched to a pre-school for a 4 year old child with chest pain. They were first on scene and found faculty performing CPR on the boy in the parking lot. They immediately interrupted the CPR, checked pulses and confirmed the child was apneic and pulseless. They took over CPR and applied the AED to the child. The AED advised to shock the patient. They administered the shock and achieved a return of spontaneous circulation. They confirmed pulses and continued to assist with ventilation until the fire department paramedics arrived. After giving a brief rundown, they went with a Sheriff escort to Torrance Memorial where the hospital took over care of the child. The child was transferred to Children's Hospital Los Angeles and the physician informed McCormick Ambulance that without the efforts of Darryl and his partner, he surely would not have survived the arrhythmia.

Darryl Harris, Jr. is a Los Angeles native. At the age of 25, he enrolled in the Pasadena City College EMT class. In October 2012, Darryl successfully completed the Daniel Freeman UCLA Paramedic School Preparation course. He aspires to continue his education in EMS by attending the Los Angeles County Paramedic Training Institute. Darryl is currently enrolled in the Verdugo Fire Academy. His wife, Sara Harris is a constant support for him. Darryl is a 2 ½ year veteran of McCormick Ambulance, and is a valued member of the McCormick Team. After he completes Paramedic School, he looks forward to serving the community as a McCormick Paramedic, while he pursues his career in the fire service. ✨

Stars of Life



Cliff Henderson
*Medic Ambulance
Service, Inc.*
Solano

Cliff Henderson **Paramedic**

Cliff is a model of a home grown, made in Solano County success story. Cliff was born and raised in Benicia, which he still calls home. EMS has always caught Cliff's interest. He went to EMT school at Solano College, and applied at Medic Ambulance, where he quickly became part of the family. Cliff put his time and effort into becoming the best EMT he could be and when it was time, he knew he was ready to take the challenge of becoming a paramedic. Cliff not only passed that challenge but led the way for others. Cliff is now finishing his sixth year at Medic. He is a Field Training Officer, county preceptor, and the Chair of Medic Ambulance's Internal Quality Improvement Committee. Cliff always takes the time to instruct, improve and create a better environment for others. Whether it is a paramedic student or a new employee, Cliff is always there to lend a helping hand. Cliff's commitment to excellence shows in everything he does. He has been selected as Medic Ambulance's 2014 Paramedic of the Year. Cliff will be rewarded by management with an all-expenses paid trip to one of the National EMS conferences of his choice in either San Diego, Las Vegas, or Denver. In Cliff's free time he loves spending time outdoors and with his son CJ. ✨

Stars of Life



Kristen Hill
*American
Ambulance*
Fresno

Kristen Hill **Paramedic**

Kristen Hill is Paramedic of the Year for Fresno County Operations. Kristen came to American Ambulance in 2003 to complete her paramedic internship. She recalls being fascinated by the high call volume and good system management which kept her on her feet and taught her to be resourceful. Kristen returned to the Bay Area to work but soon began to feel that the skills she developed while at American Ambulance were not being used to their full potential. In February 2004, Kristen returned to American Ambulance as a Paramedic. She was promoted to a Flight Paramedic in 2012. Kristen is a noble employee worthy of the Stars of Life recognition. She is committed to providing excellent patient care with a smile. A people person and good listener, Kristen is a hard worker. She is selfless, always putting her patients first and trying to make each transport enjoyable. Despite working in EMS for over a decade, Kristen remains intrigued by EMS and appreciates the variety it can offer.

Kristen believes in a simple philosophy of "have faith bigger than your fears," and applies it to her personal and professional life. This has aided her in navigating through the ups and downs in life and EMS. Kristen's tenacity and overwhelming desire to provide excellent patient care sets her apart as a highly regarded member of the American Ambulance family. ✨

Stars of Life



Mike Hilliard

**Hall Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Bakersfield**

Mike Hilliard
EMT

EMT Mike Hilliard, a 20-year veteran at Hall Ambulance is partnered with paramedic Eric Petersen who came to hall in December 2012. They are assigned to the Metro Bakersfield 911 system. Mike also received a Star of Life in 2012. On January 20, 2014, Eric and Mike were dispatched to a woman choking. They arrived to find a woman sitting on the ground, cyanotic, choking and unable to speak. Basic Life Support efforts were made to clear the airway without success. The patient lost consciousness, pulses and spontaneous respirations. Chest compressions were started and an ECG was obtained showing pulseless sinus tachycardia. Eric used a laryngoscope to visualize the airway and magill forceps to remove food. They were still unable to ventilate the patient. Eric prepared an endotracheal tube for placement and again visualized the airway. He used the magill forceps to again remove food that was blocking the airway. The patient immediately started to breathe on her own and spontaneous circulation followed. During transport to the hospital the patient began to regain consciousness. The time of call to delivery at the emergency department was 24 minutes. Eric and Mike are recognized with a Star of Life for their precision teamwork that led to a saved life. ✨

Stars of Life



J.T. Hoyle

**Medic Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Solano**

J.T. Hoyle
Paramedic

John was born in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, and moved to Danville at the age of 8. He has been a 'California Boy' ever since. Prior to his career in EMS, John had a career as a Realtor/Mortgage Broker. He enjoyed the money and freedom of that career but always felt like he was supposed to be doing something more rewarding and meaningful. When the real estate market crashed, he decided to pursue a career that he would love. He was introduced to EMS through friends that worked at the San Ramon Valley FD. He did a ride along with them and was immediately hooked. John has been in the EMS field since 2009. He went to Fast Response School of Health Care in Berkeley to obtain his EMT training. John then worked for 2 BLS companies while going to paramedic school. He has been working as a full time paramedic with Medic Ambulance since October 2011. John says his time at Medic has given him the opportunity to sharpen his skills and gain the valuable experience that one needs to become a confident and successful paramedic. John says, "The management team along with the other crews that I encounter daily within the company are some of the best people I've ever met and I'm proud to be an employee of Medic Ambulance." John is being honored for his rapid and excellent care of a 1 year old drowning victim in Vallejo. John and his team delivered CPR, IV cardiac medications and rapid care to the 1 year old. Due to their heroic care the 1 year old is alive and well and will enjoy a happy and healthy life. ✨

Stars of Life



Les Hutchison
*Hall Ambulance
Service, Inc.*
Bakersfield

Les Hutchison
CCT EMT

Les is an emergency medical technician assigned to Hall Critical Care Transport. His primary duty is the safe transport of the most critically ill customers. Les is only the second employee under Mr. Hall to reach the 40-year milestone. Les has served in many capacities over the years. He started in 1973, with a first aid card, became an EMT and later a paramedic. As he entered the twilight of his career, he decided to return to EMT status. Les has assisted with various levels of employee training over the years. He currently serves as the lead instructor for Coaching the Emergency Vehicle Operator III and the Emergency Vehicle Operations Course. Les was the first reserve sergeant to retire from the Bakersfield Police Department. He is a previous recipient of the Hall Ambulance Star of Life and the American Ambulance Association's Star of Life program. Les is awarded his California Ambulance Association Star of Life for his lifetime of dedicated service to his community and Hall Ambulance Service, Inc. ✨

Stars of Life



Foxi Keane
*City Ambulance
of Eureka, Inc.*
Eureka

Foxi Keane
Paramedic

Foxi Keane arrived on the scene of a traffic accident and looked over a guard rail to see a full sized U-haul truck on its passenger side 75 feet down an embankment. The driver had just reached the top of the embankment, and was uninjured; however, his wife was gravely injured and trapped in the passenger seat.

Due to the lack of space in the vehicle's crushed driver compartment and extreme angle of the vehicle, there was only room for one relatively-small-in-stature rescuer. Keane performed a rapid trauma assessment, controlled the bleeding from the right arm and placed the patient on high flow oxygen. The patient's legs were trapped by a large thick plastic milk crate and she was beginning to feel numbness. The patient's left arm was mostly severed and the patient was hypotensive.

Since there was no room for additional rescuers, first responders gave a handsaw to Keane and she cut the crate into pieces freeing the patient while continued to render care. The patient was then extricated and care was assumed by another ambulance crew waiting at the top of the embankment. ✨

Stars of Life



Nathan Kennedy

*Hall Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Bakersfield*

Nathan Kennedy
CCT Paramedic

Nathan Kennedy is a Paramedic assigned to Hall Critical Care Transport. Nathan started his career in EMS as an Explorer in the Hall Ambulance Explorer post in 1999. In 2004, Nathan was hired as an EMT and assigned to the medical supply unit in the Operations Division. Nathan later transferred to the field as an EMT where he distinguished himself as a dedicated employee. He was selected for full sponsorship in the Bakersfield College Paramedic Training Program where he graduated at the top of his class. He was licensed as a paramedic in July 2007. Nathan became a paramedic preceptor and assisted with training new employees and new paramedics. In addition to his regular work schedule Nathan remained a vital part of the Hall Explorer Post as an advisor, logging hundreds of hours each year in support of mentoring the Explorers. In addition, Nathan remained very active in his church community. In May of 2011, Nathan joined the Hall Critical Care Transport team. Working at Hall CCT required more knowledge and expertise and therefore more training. Nathan earned certificates in Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Pediatric Advanced Life Support, Pre-hospital Trauma Life Support, Advanced Medical Life Support and the Neonatal Resuscitation Program. Nathan also completed instructor training for Advanced Cardiac Life Support and Advanced Medical Life Support. Nathan's dedication to our community, his employer and EMS are without question unmatched and for that reason he is awarded a Star of Life. This is Nathan's second Star of Life. ✨

Stars of Life



David Konieczny

*Hall Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Bakersfield*

David Konieczny
Assistant Manager, Ambulance Division, EMT-P

David is a paramedic and currently serves as the Assistant Operations Manager for Quality Service. David came to Hall Ambulance in March of 2007. He quickly distinguished himself as a superior performer and was promoted to Paramedic Field Supervisor the next year. In 2012, he was promoted to Assistant Operations Manager for Quality Service. His duties include overseeing Continuing Quality Improvement activities. In mid-spring several deficiencies were regularly being discovered on patient care records. David was responsible for reviewing the issues and preparing a training program in an effort to redirect EMT and paramedic efforts on PCRs. In the end, more than 250 EMTs and paramedics attended the training program over a 30 day period. This was one of the biggest training programs ever undertaken at Hall Ambulance and David's dedication to identifying the opportunities for improvement and creating a detailed training plan led to a better process and a higher level of accountability and has earned him a Star of Life. ✨

Stars of Life



Markus Lincoln
*Medic Ambulance
Service, Inc.*
Solano

Markus Lincoln
EMT

Markus has been serving in EMS for the last 11 years. He started his career right out of high school with the Vacaville Fire Protection District, aspiring to achieve a full time job in EMS. In 2005, Markus was hired at Medic Ambulance as an EMT, and still enjoys working on an ambulance and responding to the variety of calls. Markus likes the constant change in EMS and how he always has to be on his toes. Markus says, "What really makes it all worth it is actually seeing the results of a job well done!"

Markus lives with his girlfriend of 4 years, Jessie, and their dog. In his free time, Markus is always with friends either BBQ'ing, enjoying the outdoors at the lake, or taking Jeeps through the Rubicon jeep trail.

Markus is being recognized for his rapid and excellent treatment of a 31 year old pregnant female. The patient went into active labor 9 weeks premature with twins and Markus and his partner administered immediate life-saving actions, delivering the first baby in the house and the second baby inside the ambulance on their way to the hospital. Mom and her two beautiful baby girls are home and doing well today because of Markus' quick and life-saving treatment. ✨

Stars of Life



Ashley Mattos
*Riggs Ambulance
Service, Inc.*
Merced

Ashley Mattos
Medical Dispatcher

For the last three years, Ashley Mattos, has been an Emergency Medical Dispatcher for Riggs Ambulance Service. Ashley has established herself as a calm person who confidently and consistently reassures 911 callers and instructs them with high quality pre-arrival instructions. She has emerged this year as a Star with her exemplary role in five code saves and the delivery of a baby.

In the stressful environment of emergency services, Ashley sustains a professional and positive attitude with every call, her patients and her coworkers. Her dedication and commitment to the Communications Center at Riggs contributes to the extraordinary services she provides to the communities of Merced County. ✨

Stars of Life



**Matthew
McCarthy**

**Medic Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Solano**

Matthew McCarthy
EMT

Matt McCarthy started working at Medic Ambulance as an EMT in February 2002 after serving 6 years in the Army. EMS has always been a part of Matt's life because both of his parents were in EMS. During his time at Medic Ambulance, Matt has served as an EMT Training Officer and is an active participant in the CQI committee. This is Matt's second Star of Life award. He was honored as Medic's EMT of the Year in 2010. Matt is a leader in the Medic Ambulance community. He is excellent team member and always offers his expertise whenever it is needed. In his off time, Matt enjoys church and spending time with his wife and son. Together, they enjoy traveling (especially to Disneyland). Matt is being honored as Medic Ambulance's 2014 EMT of the Year. Matt has been a model employee at Medic Ambulance, as he has served in many helpful roles throughout the year for us. Matt also was awarded Medic Ambulance's 2014 Travis Grace "Excellence in EMS" Award, and will receive a full tuition scholarship for Paramedic School to Napa Valley College. *

Stars of Life



**Matthew
Millwee**

**Hall Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Bakersfield**

Matthew Millwee
EMT

Matt, an Emergency Medical Technician, has been employed at Hall Ambulance since July 2009. Matt and his partner, Rafael Prieto are assigned to the Hall Ambulance station in Frazier Park. While completing their daily station duties, someone from a neighboring business approached them and asked for help, as a customer in a sandwich shop was not breathing. The EMS system was activated, and Matt made his way into the business where he found a man on the floor not breathing after choking on food. Rafael went to the ambulance and grabbed their equipment. The Heimlich Maneuver and manual suction were used to clear the airway. The patient was loaded for transport to a landing zone to meet with the flight crew from Hall Critical Care Transport's Medevac 1. During transport, Rafael assisted with supportive care. Spontaneous respirations had returned by the time the patient was loaded into the helicopter for the trip to Bakersfield. Matt and Rafael were nominated for Stars of Life in recognition of their quick response to this call and their continued outstanding care and exemplary customer service provided to the residents of the mountain community of Frazier Park. *

Stars of Life



Adam Minick

*American
Ambulance
Hanford*

Adam Minick
Paramedic

Adam Minick is Paramedic of the Year for Kings County Operations. Adam began working at American Ambulance as an EMT in April 2007. Adam found American Ambulance to be a great place that treats employees with respect. He continued to pursue his interest in the medical field and completed Paramedic training in April of 2009; he was promoted to Paramedic Supervisor in 2012. Adam is an outstanding employee worthy of the Stars of Life recognition. He is empathetic towards others and takes pride in his ability to treat others with respect. He truly does his utmost to give attention to those in need. He is kind, patient, and willing to take the time to solve a problem the correct way rather than taking shortcuts. Most of all, Adam makes a conscious effort to treat everyone, coworkers and patients, as if they were family. This selfless nature and easygoing personality sets Adam apart from others. Adam's mantra is, "Help me help you." He tells this to his coworkers when they're having an overwhelming day and to patients when he needs clarification. He feels this allows him the opportunity to assist others as well as promotes clear communication which is an important and defining quality. Adam truly embodies a genuine desire to serve the community, a value of American Ambulance and the backbone of Emergency Medical Services. ✨

Stars of Life



Richard Murphy

*First Responder
EMS, Inc.
Chico*

Richard Murphy
EMT

In November of 2013 Paramedic Captain Schuenemeyer and EMT Murphy were dispatched to an active shooter situation in Magalia and were advised the scene was not secure and were assigned to the staging area upon arrival. The county deputies informed this crew that the victim had been shot and other sheriff officers were working to isolate the shooter in this heavily wooded area of the town. At this point the Sheriff's Department asked if the ambulance personnel would be willing to be escorted by the armed officers to go into the unsafe scene to initiate patient care. Without hesitation Chip and Richard agreed.

Chip and Richard extricated a 46 year old patient with a gunshot wound to his right upper abdomen, and the left upper thigh. This crew loaded the patient onto the ambulance, dressed the wounds, initiated oxygen and fluid replacement via IV and quickly transported to the waiting helicopter for transport to the nearest level II trauma center. Per the crew of the air ambulance that received the patient, if treatment had been delayed until after the scene was secured, the patient's wounds would have most likely been fatal.

Chip and Richard's willingness to enter an unsecure scene in order to begin treatment of a critically injured patient demonstrated their higher commitment to this great profession and reflects their willingness to sacrifice their safety so that others may survive. ✨

Stars of Life



Jeremy Napier

**Mercy Medical
Transportation,
Inc.
Valley Center**

Jeremy Napier
Paramedic

Jeremy has been nominated for the Star of Life award because he is an absolutely outstanding individual that exudes customer service and quality patient care by fearlessly and aggressively treating those in need; potentially changing paramedic protocols, and ultimately improving positive patient care outcomes.

Jeremy came to Mercy Medical Transportation as a brand new and very green EMT. Over the past few years, Jeremy has endured a tremendous amount of training, in both a fire academy and paramedicine, transforming himself into a well-respected and confident paramedic.

Jeremy is cut from the same cloth as his dad, Josef Napier, a Battalion Chief, a Paramedic, and a well-respected Chief Officer in the Fire Service. ✨

Stars of Life



Brian Ogilvie

**Mercy Medical
Transportation,
Inc.
Long Barn**

Brian Ogilvie
Paramedic

Brian Ogilvie started out with Mercy Medical Transportation as an emergency medical technician in 2008 and finished his paramedic program in 2012. Since becoming a paramedic, Brian has shown his ability to lead and coordinate on scene in some of the most challenging conditions in our extremely rural county of Mariposa. Brian constantly strives to gain more knowledge in medicine. His competence and efficiency in treating his patients was recently instrumental in helping to save the life of a 50-year-old cardiac arrest patient. Prior to his arrival, the wife of the patient had started CPR at the instruction of EMD. A Mariposa County Sheriff officer arrived and took over with CPR. Brian and his partner then arrived on scene to work a full code. The patient was resuscitated then coded several times before arriving at the hospital. Upon arrival, the patient was with pulses and blood pressure. He was flown to the central valley for further care and rehab. The patient was able to walk out of rehab and come back to the ambulance quarters to thank the men that helped save his life. He lives today because of early CPR, and an outstanding performance by Paramedic Brian Ogilvie. ✨

Stars of Life



**Ron Ostrom,
M.D.**

**Hall Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Bakersfield**

Ron Ostrom, M.D.
Medical Director

Dr. Ron Ostrom serves as the medical director for Hall Ambulance and Hall Critical Care Transport. While his regular duties include advising Mr. Hall and the management staff on various issues and participating in quality assurance activities, he has given his own time to make Hall Ambulance a stronger company. Since coming to Hall Ambulance in 2006, Dr. Ostrom has been actively engaged in daily operations as well as helping direct the future. He participates on the Continuing Quality Improvement committee. He has overseen the creation of many critical care transport protocols and reviews records for proper use of protocols and for proper use of air resources. He is certified as an instructor in Advanced Cardiac Life Support and Pre-hospital Trauma Life Support. He regularly teaches segments in both courses. Dr. Ostrom provides ongoing education on brain injuries to coaches and athletic directors for the Kern High School District, California's largest high school district. He serves as the primary instructor for the District's annual Head Injuries in Students Athletes Symposium, presented in cooperation with Hall Ambulance Service. He has volunteered his time every weekend during the football season to serve as the team doctor for Centennial High School for three years and is now the team doctor for Liberty High School. Dr. Ostrom has continually distinguished himself as an integral part of the Hall Ambulance team and is a credit to himself, Hall Ambulance and EMS. ✨

Stars of Life



Eric Petersen

**Hall Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Bakersfield**

Eric Petersen
Paramedic

Eric is a paramedic assigned to the Metro Bakersfield 911 system. He came to Hall Ambulance in December of 2012. On January 20, 2014 Eric and his partner, Mike Hilliard, were dispatched to a woman choking. They arrived to find a woman sitting on the ground, cyanotic, choking and unable to speak. Basic life support efforts were made to clear the airway without success. The patient lost consciousness, pulses and spontaneous respirations. Chest compressions were started and an ECG showed pulseless sinus tachycardia. Eric used a laryngoscope to visualize the airway and magill forceps to remove food. They were still unable to ventilate the patient. Eric prepared an endotracheal tube for placement and again visualized the airway. He used the forceps again to remove food that was blocking the airway. The patient immediately started to breathe on her own and spontaneous circulation followed. During transport to the hospital the patient began to regain consciousness. The time of the call to delivery at the emergency department was 24 minutes. Eric and Mike are recognized with a Star of Life for their precise teamwork that led to a saved life. ✨

Stars of Life



Rafael Prieto
*Hall Ambulance
Service, Inc.*
Bakersfield

Rafael Prieto
Paramedic

Rafael, a paramedic, has been employed at Hall Ambulance since 2003. Rafael and his partner, Matt Millwee are assigned to the Hall Ambulance station in Frazier Park, California. While completing their daily station duties, someone from a neighboring business approached them and asked for help, as a customer in a sandwich shop was not breathing. The EMS system was activated, and Matt made his way into the business where he found a man on the floor not breathing after choking on food. Rafael went to the ambulance and grabbed their equipment. The Heimlich Maneuver and manual suction were used to clear the airway. The patient was loaded for transport to a landing zone to meet with the flight crew from Hall Critical Care Transport's Medevac 1. During transport, Rafael assisted with supportive care. Spontaneous respirations had returned by the time the patient was loaded into the helicopter for the trip to Bakersfield. Matt and Rafael were nominated for the California Ambulance Association's Star of Life award in recognition of their quick response to this call and their continued outstanding care and exemplary customer service provided to the residents of the mountain community of Frazier Park. ✨

Stars of Life



Brad Quintana
*Hall Ambulance
Service, Inc.*
Bakersfield

Brad Quintana
Paramedic

Brad is a paramedic and has been employed by Hall Ambulance since January 2011. He is assigned to the Hall Ambulance station in Tehachapi, California. On the evening of August 15, 2013, Brian and his partner were dispatched to a restaurant in Tehachapi for a man not breathing. They arrived to find an unresponsive male on the floor with CPR started by a family member. A BLS airway was secured, defibrillations were delivered, an IO established and advanced life support medications administered. By the time the crew arrived at the hospital, the patient had regained pulses. The patient was later transferred to a cardiac unit in Bakersfield and a few days later discharged home to family. Brad was nominated for the Star of Life award for his continued efforts to provide outstanding advanced life support care to the residents of Kern County. ✨

Stars of Life



John Sagun

**Medic Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Solano**

John Sagun
EMT

As a kid, John always admired police, fire, and EMS personnel. Shortly after graduating college in 2010, John decided to pursue a career in EMS and enrolled in EMT school. Upon graduation, he immediately began working for a non-emergency transport ambulance company in Alameda County, where he worked for about a year. Born and raised in Benicia, John had always wanted to work in Solano County.

In 2011 he applied to Medic Ambulance and was hired. Ever since, John says "I have enjoyed every day I get to come to work and serve the community I call home." John is being honored for his rapid and excellent care of a 1 year old drowning victim in Vallejo. John and his team delivered CPR, IV cardiac medications and rapid care to the 1 year old. Due to their heroic care the 1 year old is alive and well and will enjoy a happy and healthy life. *

Stars of Life



**Adalberto
Salazar**

**Hall Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Bakersfield**

Adalberto Salazar
Paramedic

Paramedic Adalberto Salazar started his career at Hall Ambulance in December 2012. He is currently assigned to the Lamont station.

On November 22, 2013, Adalberto and his partner responded to a residence in Lamont for a woman in labor. They arrived just in time for Adalberto to assist mom in delivering her baby. The crew then loaded mom and baby and transported to the hospital in Bakersfield.

As they cleared the hospital and started the 30-minute trip back to Lamont, they were dispatched to another residence for a woman in labor. The crew again assisted another mom with delivering her baby. Mom and baby were loaded and transported to the hospital. Adalberto was nominated for the Star of Life award in recognition of his efforts to help bring two new lives into the world. *

Stars of Life



Joan Santelices

*King-American
Ambulance
Service
San Francisco*

Joan Santelices
Team Leader

On March 21, 2005, Joan Santelices was hired to the not-so-glorious position in the back office as a billing assistant. As she began to learn the complex billing system, she quickly advanced herself. Joan's ability to learn quickly, her dedication to the job, the accuracy of her work and her polite phone manner while discussing billings with patients was quickly recognized by her supervisor. These traits soon earned her two "employee-of-the-month" awards and she was quickly promoted to Team Leader. We want to clone her!

Long term, Joan wants to become an accountant. Her vast knowledge of the Rescue Net billing system and the knowledge of how King-American Ambulance Service operates, makes her an asset to the company and a valued employee. Recently, Joan returned to college to earn her accounting degree. We are sure that she will excel in this endeavor. During her spare time, Joan enjoys spending quality time with family and friends which include movies, shopping, parties, and watching the San Francisco Giants and Forty-niners. ✨

Stars of Life



**Chip
Schuenemeyer**

*First Responder
EMS, Inc.
Chico*

Chip Schuenemeyer
Paramedic Captain

In November of 2013 Paramedic Captain Schuenemeyer and EMT Murphy were dispatched to an active shooter situation in Magalia and were advised the scene was not secure and were assigned to the staging area upon arrival. The county deputies informed this crew that the victim had been shot and other sheriff officers were working to isolate the shooter in this heavily wooded area of the town. At this point the Sheriff's Department asked if the ambulance personnel would be willing to be escorted by the armed officers to go into the unsafe scene to initiate patient care. Without hesitation Chip and Richard agreed.

Chip and Richard extricated a 46 year old patient with a gunshot wound to his right upper abdomen, and the left upper thigh. This crew loaded the patient onto the ambulance, dressed the wounds, initiated oxygen and fluid replacement via IV and quickly transported to the waiting helicopter for transport to the nearest level II trauma center. Per the crew of the air ambulance that received the patient, if treatment had been delayed until after the scene was secured, the patient's wounds would have most likely been fatal.

Chip and Richard's willingness to enter an unsecure scene in order to begin treatment of a critically injured patient demonstrated their higher commitment to this great profession and reflects their willingness to sacrifice their safety so that others may survive. ✨

Stars of Life



Wayne Scoles
*Medic Ambulance
Service, Inc.*
Solano

Wayne Scoles **EMT**

Wayne Scoles grew up in Laguna Beach and moved to Grass Valley when he was 13. Wayne started volunteering for the Ophir Hill Fire Department and soon was hired as a seasonal firefighter. After 2 years, he applied at Medic Ambulance, Sacramento and was hired in 2003. He was very interested in working in EMS, and was curious if this would be a good career path for him. After about a year, he was hooked on EMS. He transferred to the Solano Division in 2004, and is still working there today. Wayne states, "I have enjoyed working at Medic Ambulance and am proud and grateful of the people I work with." Wayne is being honored for his excellent care of a 1 year old drowning victim in Vallejo. Wayne and his team delivered CPR, IV cardiac medications and rapid care to the 1 year old. Due to their heroic care, the 1 year old is alive and well and will enjoy a happy and healthy life. Wayne currently resides in Vacaville with his wife Jamie, 3 year old daughter Ashley, and 10 month old son Tyler. He enjoys many outdoor activities and spending time with family. *

Stars of Life



Casey Vanier
*Medic Ambulance
Service, Inc.*
Solano

Casey Vanier **Paramedic**

As a young kid, Casey remembers riding in the backseat of his mom's car and seeing ambulances and fire trucks with firefighters. He would imagine where they were heading, what kind of danger and chaos may be waiting for them, and how they might help. Casey had a friend in EMS and after hearing stories for years, he decided this could be a good fit. He went through EMT and then Paramedic school. Casey has now been in this profession for almost nine years. Casey says, "I am truly grateful to be happy and healthy enough to help people when they need it the most. I am thankful for great co-workers, friends and family who have helped make my life what it is today." Casey is being honored for his care of 56 year old male who went into sudden cardiac arrest. What makes this call special is that their patient was a treating physician at the local medical clinic. The patient became unresponsive, lost pulses and went into a lethal cardiac rhythm. Casey and his partner rendered immediate aid with CPR, defibrillation, and IV therapy and medications. The patient was defibrillated three times en route to the hospital and was found to be having a major cardiac event. In the ambulance the patient regained his pulses and upon his arrival at the hospital went for immediate cardiac surgery. Because of Casey's rapid and excellent care this physician is home and well and will soon be back treating patients. *

Stars of Life



Candace Walker

**Medic Ambulance
Service, Inc.**

Solano

Candace Walker

EMT

Candace Walker is a native Californian and resides in Dixon. In 2008, Candace began her EMS career and has served in the 911 systems of both Solano and Contra Costa counties. She owes her interest in EMS to her father who served as a Fire Captain. Her background in ministry and focus on community outreach has lead her to a number volunteer opportunities including medical missionary work in Panama and Trinidad. She is currently a full time student and plans on getting her degree this year to become a Physician's Assistant. When Candace isn't in the back of the ambulance she enjoys camping, 49ers football, traveling and staying active. Candace and her partner are being recognized for their rapid care of a 31 year old male who went into cardiac arrest while playing golf. Candace and her partner arrived on scene as BLS first responders, immediately started CPR, applied the AED and delivered early defibrillation. The patient regained pulses, and Candace and her partner maintained care until the responding ALS ambulance and engine arrived. Their excellent care led to this patient's positive outcome. ✨

Stars of Life



Scott Wood

**Medic Ambulance
Service, Inc.**

Solano

Scott Wood

Paramedic

Scott has been serving in EMS for over 25 years. Scott was born and raised in Napa and currently resides in Fairfield. Scott has had many roles throughout his career in EMS, including serving as a Paramedic Preceptor and EMT School Instructor for the College of Marin. Prior to teaching at the College of Marin, he taught EMT school at Napa Community College. Scott has been with Medic Ambulance for 17 years. In 2011, he was selected for the third time, as Medic Ambulance's Paramedic of the Year. Scott recently graduated from Sonoma State University with his Bachelors of Science in Nursing and is a certified RN. Scott has been selected as one of 6 Solano County paramedics to be part of the Community Paramedic Pilot Program in Solano County. Scott is a valuable asset to Medic Ambulance and the citizens and visitors of Solano County. Scott is being recognized for his rapid and excellent treatment of a 31 year old pregnant female. The patient went into active labor 9 weeks premature with twins. Scott and his partner administered immediate life-saving actions, delivering the first baby in the house and the second baby in the back of the ambulance on the way to the hospital. Mom and her two beautiful baby girls are home and doing well because of Scott's quick and life-saving treatment. ✨



Askan Yavari

**McCormick
Ambulance**

**Rolling Hills
Estates**

Askan Yavari

EMT

In 2013, Askan Yavari and his partner were dispatched to a pre-school for a 4 year old with chest pain. They were first on scene and found faculty performing CPR on the boy in the parking lot. They interrupted the CPR, checked pulses and confirmed the child was apneic and pulseless. They took over CPR and applied the AED to the child. The AED advised to shock the patient. They administered the shock and achieved a return of spontaneous circulation. They confirmed pulses and continued to assist with ventilation until the fire department paramedics arrived. After giving a brief rundown, they went with a Sheriff escort to Torrance Memorial where the hospital took over care of the child. The child was transferred to Children's Hospital Los Angeles and the physician informed McCormick Ambulance that without the efforts of Askan and his partner, he surely would not have survived the arrhythmia.

Askan was born and raised in Torrance. He became interested in the fire service in 8th grade when he joined the Fire Explore program. In 2008, he attended the fire academy and received the Silver Nozzle award. He attended the El Camino EMT program and at the age of 18, he began his career with McCormick. He is now working out of Station 7. This year, he started a paramedic program. He is an outstanding employee and has received personal cards from patient's families thanking him for his professionalism and outstanding beside manner. *

THE CALIFORNIA
AMBULANCE
ASSOCIATION
CONGRATULATES
THE 2014
Stars of Life!



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