



CALIFORNIA AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL
— Stars of Life —
CELEBRATION
AND LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT



APRIL 3-4, 2017
EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL – SACRAMENTO, CA

HEALTH CARE'S ESSENTIAL FIRST RESPONDERS

Stars of Life



Eb Muncy
Chair, Board of Directors
California Ambulance
Association

Congratulations to all of our 2017 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 Bound Tree Medical, Credit Bureau Associates, Grant Mercantile Agency, Hall Ambulance Service, Inc., Heffernan Insurance Brokers, King American Ambulance, Medic Ambulance Service, Paramedics Plus and Schaefer Ambulance.

Lastly, we are honored to have Assemblymember Vince Fong as our special guest 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. [CAA](#)

Stars of Life Awards Banquet —April 3-4, 2017—

Welcome

Eb Muncy, Chair of the Board

Guest Speaker

Assemblymember Vince Fong

Presentation of Stars of Life Recognition

Closing Remarks

Stars of Life

Thank You Sponsors!



Making Precious Minutes Count...™



Because You're Different



KING-AMERICAN



SCHAEFER AMBULANCE

Vince Fong
Assemblymember, 34th Assembly District



From a young age, Vince knew that he wanted to positively affect the region that he has always called home, and he recognized that policy provided him with the opportunity to achieve this goal.

Vince began his career with Congressman Bill Thomas, Chair of the Ways and Means Committee, working on international trade policy to open up markets for our nation's farmers and small businesses. He then returned home to serve the residents of Kern County.

For nearly a decade, he served as the district director to House Majority Leader and Congressman Kevin McCarthy, where he managed public policy issues for the region, worked to create jobs, made commonsense reforms, and fought to improve the quality of life for our neighbors and families.

Vince has helped to lead the conversation on energy independence in California and worked to develop policies that permit business expansion and enhance job opportunities

for local residents. He has worked with local small business owners to create a climate for small business growth. He helped organize the Valley Fever Symposium, bringing the issue into the national spotlight and convincing leaders in healthcare to conduct research and find solutions to a growing problem.

Each day, Vince works with local leaders and organizations to put California's job climate back on track. He has seen first-hand the burdens of bureaucracy and red tape. His efforts to lower taxes, reduce burdensome regulations and limit government overreach, remind elected leaders that free-markets and competition are the keys to a successful economy and good-paying jobs.

Vince is a lifelong resident of Kern County. He earned a bachelor's degree from UCLA and master's from Princeton University. He serves on the boards of the Jim Burke Education Foundation and Honor Flight Kern County where he works to send WWII, Korean War and Vietnam Veterans to Washington, DC to see their memorials. Vince is also a lifetime member of the NRA. 

Stars of Life



Marsha Aase

*Hall Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Bakersfield*

Marsha Aase
Paramedic

William Cassidy
EMT

Paramedic Marsha Aase and EMT William Cassidy were part of an amazing field save. One of our supervisors was at the grocery store and was approached by a woman who wanted to make sure Marsha and William got credit for their good work saving her mother's life. Moreover, she wanted management to know that Marsha had returned to the hospital multiple times to check on her mother. The call occurred more than a year before the contact at the grocery store.

Marsha, with Hall Ambulance since 1997, and William Cassidy who has worked for the company since 2009, were dispatched to a cardiac arrest on July 29, 2015. They found Bakersfield Firefighters performing CPR after one defibrillation. Marsha took over scene management and continued with treatment. The patient was handed off to the Emergency Department staff with pulses. The fire department reported that CPR had been started by Irene Sample's grandchildren prior to any EMS personnel arriving on the scene. Irene was a former foster parent and had trained her grandchildren to perform CPR. Marsha, William and the rest of the first responders were reunited with Irene and her family.



William Cassidy

*Hall Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Bakersfield*

News coverage of the story captured the interest of the American Heart Association, resulting in Irene, Eunique, and Darian being invited to ride on their float in this year's Pasadena Festival of Roses Parade with other teenagers who used CPR to save the life of a loved one. ❁

Stars of Life



Gary Antunano
**Medic Ambulance
Service, Inc.**
Solano

Gary Antunano **Paramedic**

Gary Antunano has lived in Solano County since the age of 3. Gary is now 29 years old and married to his wife, Amy. They have two beautiful children, Olivia (3) and Grayson (1). Gary was 24 years old when his brother asked him "Gary, you love the medical field and helping people so why don't you try EMS and save lives?" That simple statement made complete sense to Gary. He signed up for the local EMT program at Solano College in 2011 and immediately fell in love with EMS. After finishing the program, Gary applied to Medic Ambulance for the position of EMT-B. After a year and a half, Gary wanted to do more and further his education, so he went on to Paramedic school at Sacramento State University. After finishing the program successfully, he upgraded to the position of Paramedic. For the last two years, he has been working as a full-time Paramedic in Solano County for Medic Ambulance Inc. Gary says "I look forward to coming to work every day and have a real sense of pride in the work I do. I have now been in EMS for 5 years and I look forward to the years to come." Gary is being recognized for his excellent performance as a field Paramedic in Solano County. Gary also gives his input and never hesitates when asked to perform a task. Whether it is a student or a new employee Gary is always there to lend a helping hand. Gary's commitment to excellence shows in everything he does. He has been selected as Medic Ambulance Solano Division 2017 Paramedic of the Year. Gary will be rewarded by accompanying management on an all-expenses paid trip to one of the National EMS Conferences of his choice in either San Diego, Las Vegas, or Denver. Great Job Gary! ❁

Stars of Life



Tabitha Baker
**Hall Ambulance
Service, Inc.**
Bakersfield

Tabitha Baker **Emergency Dispatcher**

Tabitha Baker was awarded the 2016 Hall Ambulance Emergency Dispatcher of the Year. Tabitha began her employment with Hall Ambulance as a wheelchair van driver in June 2000. She moved to the Communications Division in 2001. In 2016, Tabitha's hard work landed her a promotion to a Lead Dispatcher position.

Tabitha was able to secure the title of Dispatcher of the Year due to her strong work ethic, dispatching skills, and her outstanding skills as an EMD. Tabitha was able to provide calm compassionate care to her customers while maintaining a 99% EMD score.

Tabitha routinely receives compliments from field crews remarking on her patience and going above and beyond to help them with whatever it may be. ❁

Stars of Life



Rachelle Bethea
ParamedicsPlus
San Leandro

Rachelle Bethea
Paramedic

Paramedic, Rachelle Bethea is celebrating her 10 year anniversary in EMS. She began her career in 2007 working on a BLS ambulance. Within three years, she had completed her Paramedic education and obtained her license. At the very young age of 20, she was hired into Alameda County EMS where she has become a well-respected provider. Rachelle has served as an FTO and Preceptor. She holds instructor status in various AHA and NAEMT courses. In December of 2015, Rachelle was promoted to Clinical Field Supervisor for Paramedics Plus. She believes that her, "Focus and goal in this role is supportive - our field is a challenging and often unrewarding job. I strongly believe that the best way to impact the community we serve is to first support and help the people on the streets making a difference every day." When Rachelle is off duty, she enjoys time with her husband and daughter and is anxiously awaiting the birth of her new son. 🌸

Stars of Life



Jeffrey Burns
Royal Ambulance
Campbell

Jeffrey Burns
Operations Supervisor

Jeff Burns has been with Royal Ambulance since 2013. He started as an EMT and quickly demonstrated his superior clinical skills and exceptional customer service. In addition, what truly stood out was his empathetic nature and commitment to always treat his patients like they are family members. Jeff's impressive professionalism, ability to lead others and dedication to truly making a positive impact, made him an ideal fit for the coveted position of Field Training Officer, and he was soon promoted. As an FTO, he not only focused on training new EMTs, he also continued to proactively drive organizational performance. Jeff stood out and his ability to inspire others combined with his strategic thinking mindset propelled him to further career advancement at Royal Ambulance. Jeff is now a highly respected and admired Operations Supervisor and makes a powerful impact on the lives of our team members and our patients. 🌸

Stars of Life



Holli Carano

**Medic Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Solano**

Holli Carano **EMT**

After the birth of her son, Holli joined EMS to be a positive role model. She wanted him to be proud of her and to know how rewarding hard work, perseverance, community service, and being present in someone's most urgent time of need by helping them through their crisis can be. Holli's son, Declan, is her magnum opus. Whether they are reading, going on walks or hikes, they are attached at the hip, making each other laugh and always making new memories. Holli spends her spare time reading, writing, and as she says: "dropping new hobbies I attempt faster than buttered toast slipping from my hands and hitting the floor." These activities relax Holli as well as let her express herself mentally and physically. Holli is being honored as Medic Ambulance Solano Division 2017 EMT of the Year. Holli has been a model employee at Medic Ambulance, has provided excellent service to her patients, and also has played an integral role in the company's Quality Assurance Committee and Field Training Officer program. Holli also was awarded Medic Ambulance's 2016 Travis Grace "Excellence in EMS" Award and will receive a full tuition scholarship for Paramedic School to Napa Valley College. Great Job Holli! 🌟

Stars of Life



Brooke Carmona

**Hall Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Bakersfield**

Brooke Carmona **EMT**

Josh Edwards **Paramedic**

Paramedic Josh Edwards and EMT Brooke Carmona were part of a community response that resulted in a 19-year-old surviving sudden cardiac arrest. Brooke has been an EMT with Hall Ambulance since 1999. Josh has been employed as a Paramedic since 2008.

On May 30, 2016, Josh and Brooke were dispatched to a basketball court at an apartment complex. They arrived with an engine company from the Kern County Fire Department to find CPR being performed by the patient's friend. Josh established scene control and led the team of responders through CPR, multiple defibrillations, advanced airway management and pharmacological treatment.

Josh, Brooke and the other members of the team were able to be reunited with the patient and his family after discharge from the hospital. 🌟



Josh Edwards

**Hall Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Bakersfield**

Stars of Life



Alyssa Cassol

**SEMSA Air
Greenville**

Alyssa Cassol
Flight RN

Alyssa Cassol started her career at SEMSA AIR as a flight nurse in September of 2015. With more than 20 years of nursing experience in rural CA, Alyssa is a wealth of knowledge when it comes to taking care of patients in a rural setting.

Alyssa is being recognized for her dedication to patients, their families, her co-workers, and the community she serves.

Alyssa was called for the transport of a critically ill patient during a snowstorm. What would normally be a thirty-five-minute flight ended up being a two and a half hour ground transport. Alyssa had grabbed extra medications that were imperative to the patient's survival. Alyssa's forethought saved this man's life.

Alyssa's quick thinking coupled with her extensive nursing experience makes her an exceptional flight nurse. Alyssa goes above and beyond on a regular basis.

Alyssa is a proud wife, and mother of two children who she enjoys going camping with. ❁

Stars of Life



Rod Castillo

**Hall Ambulance
Service, Inc.**

Bakersfield

Rod Castillo
Paramedic Relief Supervisor

Rod received the President's Award for Customer Service, and Relief Paramedic Supervisor of the Year, for 2016. The President's Award is given to the EMT, paramedic or Registered Nurse that best demonstrates empathy, compassion and a caring attitude towards our customers.

Rod is a paramedic relief supervisor assigned to the Metro Bakersfield 911 system. During 2016, Rod completed more than 1,000 transports, worked more than 100 shifts as a supervisor and earned more commendations from customers than any other provider. Customers comment repeatedly that he treated them with great care and made sure they were comfortable during transport and upon arrival at the hospital.

The role of a relief paramedic supervisor is one of the toughest jobs in EMS. One day you are working as a paramedic then the next you are a supervisor then back to paramedic. Rod has a unique gift in his ability to communicate with peers, subordinates, supervisors, and patients. ❁

Stars of Life



Vera Chinn
*Hall Ambulance
Service, Inc.*
Bakersfield

Vera Chinn
EMT

Vera Chinn was awarded the 2016 Hall Ambulance EMT of the Year. Vera started with Hall Ambulance as a wheelchair van driver in October 2000. She moved to the Ambulance Division in 2010 and works on an advanced life support ambulance in the Metro Bakersfield 911 system. Vera is known for her positive and very caring attitude.

Vera continually makes herself available for special events and is one of a handful of employees allowed to operate the Happy Daze bus, which is offered to local charities for special events at no cost. Vera also committed several evenings Christmas shopping for those in need.

Vera's customer service skills are documented very well in comments received on surveys. Time and again they write in about her compassion and her empathy. Vera's customer service stories are used in training of new employees. ❁

Stars of Life



Travis Cioffi
*Schaefer
Ambulance
Service*
Lancaster

Travis Cioffi
EMT

Mr. Cioffi is being recognized for his consistent service record. He is assigned to a 911 ambulance in the La Crescenta / La Canada area of Zone 3 with Los Angeles County Fire Department. This area is rather unique, they respond to calls in a densely populated area as well as venturing up Hwy 2 into Angeles Forrest. This stretch of highway has extreme cliffs ranging from 100's to 1000's of feet in descents. All too often, commuters make a simple mistake which often leads to serious injury and or death. Mr. Cioffi routinely demonstrates his skills and level of commitment to the community, commuters and the company. We thank him for all he does.

He enjoys spending quality time with his amazing girlfriend Lindsay, family and their dog Kopi. He also enjoys camping and fishing at the Kern river. He's a big fan of the Los Angeles Kings and enjoys taking in country music concerts. ❁

Stars of Life



Michael Cipolla

**American
Ambulance
Fresno**

Michael Cipolla **Dispatcher III**

Michael has been employed with American Ambulance as an EMS/ Fire Dispatcher since August 2007. He learned very quickly and before long was teaching new dispatchers how to do the job right. Michael always has the best interest of the patient and community in mind when making a decision. He has worked as a Call Taker, Radio Operator, and for a time led a crew as a Communications Supervisor. Michael has excelled in every position and is constantly helping out in the center when there is a project above and beyond the scope. He has a passion for the EMS system and Fire Service that shows in his dedication to the work he does as well as his willingness to learn new things.

Michael has demonstrated his skill and talent in other ways as well. He is great with 9-1-1 callers and has a way of calming every situation with his confidence and clear-headedness. He is a strict policy follower and has always been easy to train. Michael offers the callers, as well as the agencies we dispatch for, the utmost in customer service and professionalism. He has served as a Preceptor for newly hired Call Takers and Radio Operators and is a patient and reassuring trainer.

We are so grateful to have Michael Cipolla as part of our team and are proud to honor him as our CAA Star of Life. ✨

Stars of Life



Will Coehlo

**Medic Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Solano**

Will Coehlo **Paramedic**

Will's path to Emergency Medicine began in high school when a guidance counselor had him take a career test. The results revealed that EMS would be an ideal choice. Will's mother fulfilled her dream by becoming a Registered Nurse and her stories inspired him to become an EMT. In the beginning, he worked as a skills instructor for EMTs at Los Medanos College. He also volunteered his time as an EMT doing medical standby events with Rock Medicine. It was there he learned and practiced the motto "Healthcare is a right, not a privilege". After working around the Bay Area and at Medic Ambulance as an EMT for 4 years, he upgraded to the position of Paramedic which he has held for two years. Recently, Will became a Reserve Firefighter / Paramedic with the Rio Vista Fire Department. In his my spare time, he enjoys hunting, fishing, and diving. In February, Will and his lovely wife became Solano County residents and purchased their first home in Fairfield. Will and his partner are being honored for their critical treatment of a patient in a head-on motor vehicle accident. The patient had major head trauma and was rapidly decompensating. Will and his partner provided immediate and critical care treatments to the patient while getting the patient to the local trauma center. Due to their rapid and excellent care, the patient had an extremely positive outcome and is home today. Great Job Will! ✨

Stars of Life



Tamara Contier
Royal Ambulance
San Lorenzo

Tammy Contier
EMT

Tammy Contier has been an EMT with Royal Ambulance for over 2 years. Tammy is one of those rare individuals whose positivity just radiates and touches the hearts of those around her. She is committed to her patients and to her fellow team members and truly goes above and beyond to help others. For one of our beloved patient's 60th birthdays, Tammy organized a special birthday outing. Tammy went above and beyond, recognizing this patient's love of baseball, and brought the group to attend an Oakland A's game. During her time at Royal, Tammy was promoted to the coveted role of Field Training Officer. This allowed her to train and engage new EMTs with a focus on motivation and the importance of hard work!! Her own work ethic is beyond stellar, and in addition to working as an EMT, Tammy has been working hard towards achieving her dream of becoming a Firefighter Paramedic. ✨

Stars of Life



Mark Corum
Hall Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Bakersfield

Mark Corum
Director of Media Services

Mark received the Hall Ambulance Founders Award for Management Excellence for his commitment to promoting and protecting the Hall Ambulance brand. He serves as Hall Ambulance's Director of Media Services and has been affiliated with the Company since 1996.

He is responsible for producing the Company's newsletter, The HallMark, maintaining the company website: hallamb.com, and its social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. He designs all collateral materials in-house, including brochures, advertising, banners, event backdrops and displays.

Mark leads Hall Ambulance's media relations efforts, which included generating more than 30 positive news stories in 2016.

Mark created a number of materials in celebration of Hall Ambulance's 45th Anniversary, which occurred on February 10, 2016, including the commemorative logo, a 24-page tabloid insert that was published in The Bakersfield Californian and designed the new unit branding for the anniversary ambulances.

Mark developed the stage backdrop and brochure for Harvey L. Hall's presentation at the Californian Ambulance Association's Annual Convention in Lake Tahoe, entitled "How to Achieve Inspiring Leadership Results with Experience and Passion".

As part of Mayor Hall's legacy project, Mark served as author of the 304-page coffee table book entitled, Bakersfield: It's The People, And A Whole Lot More. ✨

Stars of Life



Rick Davis

*Hall Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Bakersfield*

Rick Davis
Paramedic

On Christmas Eve 2016 at 4:27 p.m., Paramedic Rick Davis responded to a local grocery store for a cardiac arrest. Upon arrival, the crew located the patient inside the store. An off-duty firefighter was performing CPR.

Rick took control of the scene and continued CPR while deploying See Through CPR. The cardiac monitor showed V-Fib. The first shock was delivered within two minutes of patient contact. Rick started an IV and administered Epinephrine and Amiodarone followed by a second shock.

The patient was loaded and transport started just 11 minutes after patient contact. Another round of medications was administered followed by a third shock. CPR was continued while Rick set up his airway equipment. Before intubation was attempted the patient regained a pulse and started to breathe on her own.

Care was handed over to hospital staff. When Rick returned to the emergency room he was able to speak with his patient as she signed the PCR. Rick's leadership on the scene and his dedication to providing rapid, quality advanced life support care resulted in a woman surviving to spend another Christmas with her family.

Rick started his career at Hall Ambulance in November 2006. ❁

Stars of Life



**Isabel Diaz
Martinez**

*Royal Ambulance
San Jose*

Isabel Diaz Martinez
EMT

Isabel Diaz Martinez has been an EMT with Royal Ambulance for over 2 years. Throughout her time here, she has been an exemplary team member and has demonstrated a true commitment to community service. She regularly volunteers at non-profits benefiting children at risk, soup kitchens, shelters and most recently she headed a commendable effort to help the victims of the San Jose floods. Isabel is known for her generous acts of kindness, including paying for the groceries of those who can't afford to. We have had so many EMTs commend Isabel for her kindness and empathy. Isabel is selfless, has a kind heart and puts the needs of others ahead of her own. She is the epitome of patient advocate and a genuine role model in healthcare. ❁

Stars of Life



Tim Feerick
*King-American
Ambulance*

Tim Feerick
EMT

Tim started at King-American in 2011 as an EMT. He continued his education and graduated from paramedic school in 2013. Tim has become a leader in our organization. He is involved with training and mentoring new employees. He has a positive reinforcement motto while conducting training sessions and field evaluations. He became a paramedic preceptor in 2016 and took on his first student successfully. Tim is heavily involved in the community and regularly attends career days at Mission High in San Francisco, where Tim graduated from himself. He also presents in other schools for their career days from grades as early as pre-school and up to 12th grade. The schools continue to invite him back and emphasize how wonderful Tim is with the kids and his positive attitude.

Tim is an alumni of and volunteer instructor at San Francisco City College's Paramedic Program. In Tim's personal life, he enjoys surfing. Tim is involved with City Surf Project, which is a local community program aimed at underserved urban youth to develop life skills such as self-confidence and other skills aimed at overcoming personal boundaries through surfing. Tim is an excellent member of our team and would be impossible to replace. ✿

Stars of Life



Aaron Flores
*Cole-Schaefer
Ambulance
Service
Los Angeles*

Aaron Flores
EMT/Dispatcher

Aaron Flores is being recognized for his consistent service record. During his tenure with Cole-Schaefer Ambulance, Mr. Flores has worked on 911 ambulances assigned to the City of Pomona and special events. Currently, he is working in our communication center which handles 911 and intra-facility requests. Needless to say, this responsibility is extremely important to the company's operation. Mr. Flores is routinely requested to work special events, his professional conduct and ability to work under pressure are second to none. We are fortunate to have someone like Mr. Flores to be working with our EMS family.

Mr. Flores is a devoted father to his son and enjoys spending time with his family. He has a passion for classic cars and working on construction projects.

He volunteers with various church activities as well as working with special kids programs and events. ✿

Stars of Life



Katie Garrison
*Riggs Ambulance
Service
Merced*

Katie Garrison
Emergency Medical Dispatcher

After many years of service to the community of Merced County, Katie still shines as a leader and dedicated Emergency Medical Dispatcher at Riggs Ambulance Service. She always has a positive attitude and has an entertaining way of motivating her coworkers, especially during stressful situations. Katie is a true representative of Star Care for her dutiful responsibility of being an EMD-Q. Katie works a full-time schedule in the Communications Center and will generously lend herself to evaluating dispatch calls as an EMD-Q. Being an EMD-Q takes much time and commitment to ensure the communications staff is providing the very best patient care. Katie has on a few occasions come to work as an EMD-Q and as a result of overhearing the Communications Center getting busy, has offered to assist the Dispatchers during this time. Katie's co-workers praise her character and professionalism as an Emergency Medical Dispatcher. She is a Riggs Ambulance Service Star of Life. ❁

Stars of Life



Wanda Gentry
*Medic Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Solano*

Wanda Gentry
Emergency Medical Dispatcher

Wanda Gentry was born in Houston, Texas. She was two years of age when her family moved to California. Growing up, Wanda always had a passion for helping people, and when the opportunity to apply at Medic as Supply Support Technician arose, she jumped at the chance. Wanda was hired in 2003 and has been an integral part of Medic Ambulance's Logistics Department. Wanda is being honored as Medic Ambulance Logistics Employee of the Year, and for her 14 years of Service Excellence. Wanda has trained many employees over the years and has set a standard of excellence in the Logistics Department that has helped Medic field staff properly deploy high-quality equipment and unit hours. Wanda says, "Medic is not just a job, its family and I am happy to be part of it." Wanda is also the mother of Medic's Dispatcher of the Year Greg Trevillion, as greatness runs in the bloodlines! Great Job Wanda! ❁

Stars of Life



**Joshua
Goodreau**

**Medic Ambulance
Service, Inc.**

Solano

Joshua Goodreau **EMT**

Josh has dreamed of being in EMS of since he was a young child. It all started when, as a child, Josh had made a makeshift staircase out of kitchen drawers in his attempt to get licorice. Josh fell backward and knocked himself out cold. It wasn't until he heard the sound of sirens did he wake up and run to the window to watch EMS arrive and little did he know they were coming for him. After high school, he attended the Yuba college fire academy where he obtained his EMT certification. Josh worked as an EMT on BLS, CCT AND ALS units for five years in the Bay Area. Josh decided to further his career and attended the NCTI paramedic program while still being a full-time EMT, as well as an active member of the Suisun City Fire Department. Josh started as a 911 paramedic in San Francisco working for King-American ambulance company before the opportunity arose to return to his home county of Solano with Medic Ambulance. Josh has been a Paramedic for the last three years. Josh enjoys staying active with hiking, camping, boating on the lake and trying to help his fiancé plan for their upcoming October wedding. Josh and his partner are being honored for their care to a 2-year-old victim of a gunshot wound. They provided immediate care, CPR, and many other life-saving procedures while transporting the patient to our local trauma center. Because of the quality care provided by Joshua and Justin, the 2-year-old was fully resuscitated and made a full recovery and is now how with his family. On January 9th of this year, Josh and his partner were able to meet their patient and his family at NorthBay Medical Center. Great Job Josh! ❁

Stars of Life



Thomas Henson

**Gold Cross
Ambulance
Service**

Los Angeles

Thomas Henson **Paramedic**

Mr. Henson is being recognized for his consistent service record. While working with Gold Cross, Mr. Henson has provided exceptional emergency care to the citizens of Imperial County. He continuously demonstrates his passion for helping those in need and his attention to detail. Patients, hospital staff, fire department and co-workers all think very highly of Mr. Henson and his contributions to the EMS community. Imperial Valley is predominately a farming community that also happens to be home to one of California's hottest OHV recreation areas "Glamis Dunes." The amount of activity brought in by OHV visitors has caused locals to name a season after them "Glamis Season". Mr. Henson has seen his fair share of critical calls. His approach, ability to critically think, and take action during times where tensions are high is commendable.

Kite surfing and climbing are some of the activities he enjoys. Mr. Henson speaks English, Spanish and Portuguese fluently. He is learning French and Japanese. ❁

Stars of Life



Shelby Hindahl
*Medic Ambulance
Service, Inc.*
Sacramento

Shelby Hindahl **EMT**

Shelby Kirkwood Hindahl was born in Sacramento and raised in Pollock Pines, California. In middle school, Shelby developed his passion for health care. While attending, El Dorado High School, he was accepted into the Health Careers Academy for all 4 years. He took college level medical classes, ridealongs and job shadows, which were added to his normal academics. Shelby originally planned to be an RN but fell in love with the ambulance during one of his ridealongs with El Dorado County Fire. Shelby wanted to become one of the first people on the scene when someone called for help and did not want to be helpless in an emergency situation. Shelby's future goals are to continue in EMS by furthering his education to become a Paramedic. For fun, Shelby enjoys road trips with friends, bonfires, working on project cars/motorcycles and enjoying the social life of Sacramento's midtown. Shelby is being honored as Medic Ambulance Sacramento Division 2017 EMT of the Year. Shelby has been a model employee at Medic Ambulance, He is an excellent team member, and always offers his expertise whenever it is needed. Shelby is a leader in our field and an overall excellent provider of EMS care. Great Job Shelby! 🌟

Stars of Life



Jacob Joyner
*San Luis
Ambulance*
Solvang

Jacob Joyner **Paramedic**

Jacob, a 3-year paramedic for San Luis Ambulance, was in Carpinteria surfing when he saw another surfer catch a large wave then quickly fall off his surfboard and go under the water. Shortly thereafter he saw the surfer floating face down in the water. He quickly swam to the surfer, rolled him over to find him unresponsive, cyanotic with a large full-thickness laceration to his head. Jake quickly began swimming the surfer to the shore as other surfers came to assist. Once Jake was able to touch the bottom he began performing compressions which resulted in the patient starting to breathe and vomit large amounts of water. Once on the shore, the ambulance was called and arrived shortly thereafter. Jake estimated that the patient was face down in the water for approximately 90 seconds so it is unlikely that without his heroic efforts the surfer would have been successfully rescued. 🌟

Stars of Life



**David
Konieczny**

**McCormick
Ambulance**

Hawthorne

David Konieczny
Paramedic Coordinator

David Konieczny began his EMS career as an EMT for McCormick Ambulance in 2002. Subsequently, he moved to Baltimore, Maryland where he became a paramedic through Johns Hopkins and worked as a paramedic/firefighter. In 2012, he returned to California and where he has worked for several companies.

In July 2013, he came full circle taking on the position of QA/QI and Paramedic Coordinator for McCormick Ambulance where he has been instrumental in raising the level of policy compliance and delivery of quality care for McCormick. He serves as the liaison between the LA County EMS Agency and the company regarding many aspects of ALS employees, rescue ambulances, and services provided by paramedics. He is skilled at developing trending reports based on both ALS and BLS data and report reviews and coordinates all QA/QI meetings in the company.

David is the kind of employee who is willing to accept any assignment and do an outstanding job. He is well liked by both McCormick management and field staff. It is an honor McCormick to recognize David as our Star of Life for 2017. 🌸

Stars of Life



Ethan Krause

**Medic Ambulance
Service, Inc.**

Solano

Ethan Krause
EMT

Ethan was born in Hawaii into a military family. He spent a lot of his younger years moving around until his family settled down in Solano county. Ethan excelled in music at an early age and played saxophone throughout school. After high school, he developed an interest in firefighting and EMS. He immediately began volunteering and taking college courses including fire academy/EMT to further his knowledge. Shortly after becoming an EMT, he started working at Medic Ambulance where he was able to expand his medical knowledge, grow as an emergency provider, and his passion for helping others and making a difference. Ethan enjoys being outdoor and spending time with friends, family and loved ones. In his free time, he enjoys working out, hiking and snowboarding in the winter. He is currently in Sacramento State's Paramedic program and hopes to be working as a paramedic by this time next year. His dream is to one day become a career Firefighter/Paramedic. Ethan and his partner are being honored for the heartwarming treatment of a patient who was dying from brain cancer. Because of their out-of-the-box approach and putting the patient first they were able to keep the patient at home with her family. They assisted in getting the patient placed in a chair, under the tree the patient's mother had planted for her at birth. The patient was able to pass with her family around her, telling the fun and heartfelt stories of her amazing life and family. Impacting patients in their time of need is what we do and there are many ways to do it. 🌸

Stars of Life



Eddie Licon

*American
Ambulance*

Fresno

Eddie Licon Paramedic

Eddie came to American Ambulance in September of 1997 after completing EMT training at CTI in Clovis. He furthered his education by attending Abrams College in Modesto and completed his paramedic training in December 1999. Paramedic Licon has continued to excel. He was a Paramedic Preceptor from 2003 to 2013, as well as being promoted to Field Supervisor in 2013 and provides leadership to the Kings County Operations during day to day shifts. Paramedic Licon is a team player and his goal is to be a role model with everyone he comes into contact with. Eddie Licon was selected by his peers as Paramedic of the Year in 2016 for Kings County Operations. ✨

Stars of Life



**Eddie
Maldonado**

*Hall Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Bakersfield*

Eddie Maldonado Paramedic

Adam Moreno EMT

The longer you work as an EMT, paramedic or nurse the higher the chances you will be asked to respond and care for someone you know; perhaps, a teacher or mentor, maybe a neighbor, a cousin, or maybe even your mother or father. You arrive on scene to find these friends and family in need and in many cases, scared. They are counting on you to make their world better.

At 7:39 p.m. on September 27, 2016, Paramedic Eddie Maldonado and EMT Adam Moreno were dispatched to a residence for chest pain. They arrived at 7:45 p.m. to find Paramedic Supervisor Marlin Coffa complaining of chest pain. Marlin was the textbook chest pain patient with crushing pain rated at 10 over 10 and radiating to his jaw. Eddie initiated a 12 lead EKG that showed an acute MI.

Aspirin was administered and transport started at 7:54 p.m. The signs and symptoms were significant enough that Eddie placed D-Fib pads on Marlin as a precaution. Two IVs were started, pain medication and Zofran were given and a STEMI Alert was initiated.

Eddie and Adam handed Marlin over to Emergency Room staff at 8:20 p.m. Although a lengthy recovery ensued, Marlin was able to return to work on January 23 on light-duty. Eddie Maldonado started his career at Hall Ambulance in June 2010; and, Adam Moreno joined the company in April 2015. ✨



Adam Moreno

*Hall Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Bakersfield*

Stars of Life



Robby McCain

*San Luis
Ambulance*

San Luis Obispo

Robby McCain
Paramedic

Robby is a great example of a staff member who has demonstrated excellence in all aspects of his job as a paramedic as well as being involved in activities that improve San Luis Ambulance and the community. In addition to his daily duties, he has taken on the role of 4x4 training officer, Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Team member, and ad hoc member of the company Quality Improvement Committee. He tackles all of the duties associated with these positions with a positive attitude, attention to detail and a solid work ethic.

He has the ability to get along with most anyone and is someone whom everyone enjoys working with. His easy going demeanor makes him well liked by peers, management, office staff, allied agencies, and patients alike.

Robby is a true asset to the company and was recently recognized for his contributions by being selected as the San Luis Ambulance Employee of the Year for 2016. 🌟

Stars of Life



**Jake
Mendenhall**

*Medic Ambulance
Service, Inc.*

Sacramento

Jake Mendenhall
Paramedic

Jacob Mendenhall is 26 years old and has served the community of Sacramento for the past six years. Jacob started his career as an EMT and eventually became a paramedic and worked his way up to a paramedic supervisor. Jacob has worked for Medic Ambulance for the last four years and his time working in the EMS field has awarded him much opportunity to both grow as a paramedic and to further his career. Jacob says, "I am fortunate enough to have a loving wife that supports me in all my endeavors." In his free time, Jacob enjoys the outdoors much of which consists of hiking with his wife and two dogs or off-roading in his jeep. Jacob looks forward to continuing and progressing his EMS career and serving the Sacramento community. Jacob is being recognized for being a model employee at Medic Ambulance. Jacob is a member of the company CQI committee, Field Training Officer and always assists when needed or asked. He is being recognized as the Medic Ambulance Sacramento Division 2017 Paramedic of the Year! Great job Jacob! 🌟

Stars of Life



Sean Miller

**Medic Ambulance
Service, Inc.**

Solano

Sean Miller
EMT

Sean Miller has worked in the EMS/Fire field for five years and the last 2.5 years as an EMT/FTO with Medic Ambulance. He is currently finishing the paramedic program at Sacramento State University and plans to promote to paramedic after graduation. Sean and his wife Kim have two young children, Everly (2 years) and Shiloh (8 months). Sean and his partner are being honored for their critical treatment of a patient in a head-on motor vehicle accident. The patient had major head trauma and was rapidly decompensating. Sean and his partner provided immediate and critical care treatments to the patient while getting the patient to the local trauma center. Due to their rapid and excellent care, the patient had an extremely positive outcome and is home today. Great Job Sean! 🌟

Stars of Life



Ryan Murphy

**Medic Ambulance
Service, Inc.**

Solano

Ryan Murphy
Paramedic

Ryan was born and raised in Martinez, California. From the young age of ten, he knew that he wanted a career in Emergency Services after personally receiving EMS Care. Ryan says, "I am driven by the lasting impact I can have on my patients in such a short time period and it is one of the driving forces in making my wife and family proud." Ryan has been with Medic Ambulance for four years now as a Paramedic. Ryan and his partner are being honored for the heartwarming treatment of the patient who was dying from brain cancer. Because of their out-of-the-box approach and putting the patient first they were able to keep the patient at home with her family. They assisted in getting the patient placed in a chair, under the tree the patient's mother had planted for her at birth. The patient was able to pass with all her family around her, telling the fun and heartfelt stories of her amazing life and family. Impacting patient in their time of need is what we do and there are many ways to do it. Ryan and his partner recognized the right way, and they implemented it with class. Great Job Ryan! 🌟

Stars of Life



Justin Niemi

**Medic Ambulance
Service, Inc.**

Solano

Justin Niemi
Paramedic

Justin decided to pursue a career in EMS after taking a job at a local hospital. Justin now works in the field as well as in the ER and has turned it into his career. Justin has been working in and around emergency medicine for 5 years now and looks forward to further advancing his career in the near future. Justin says, "At times when I'm tired, beat down, I know it is all for a purpose. That purpose is what drives me each and every day." Justin enjoys drifting, working on his race car, and skateboarding. Justin and his partner are being honored for their care to a 2-year-old victim of a gunshot wound. They provided immediate care, CPR, and many other life-saving procedures while transporting the patient to our local trauma center. Because of the quality care provided by Justin and Josh, the 2-year-old was fully resuscitated and made a full recovery and is now how with his family. On January 9th of this year, Justin and his partner were able to meet their patient and his family at NorthBay Medical Center. Great Job Justin! ❁

Stars of Life



Richard Ori

**Schaefer
Ambulance
Service**

Los Angeles

Richard Ori
EMT

Mr. Ori is being recognized for his consistent service record. He is assigned to a 911 ambulance in the La Crescenta / La Canada area of Zone 3 with Los Angeles County Fire Department. This area is rather unique, as they respond to calls in a densely populated area as well as venturing up Hwy 2 into Angeles Forrest. This stretch of highway has extreme cliffs ranging from 100's to 1000's of feet in descents. All too often commuters make a simple mistake and it often leads to serious injury and/or death. Mr. Ori routinely demonstrates his skills and level of commitment to the community, commuters, and the company. We thank him for all he does.

He likes to participate in football games, airsofting, and video games.

He assists with EMT skills labs at a community college near his service area. ❁

Stars of Life



Alex Plasencia

*West Side
Ambulance*

Newman

Alex Plasencia
EMT

Alex is one of our newest Stars at West Side Ambulance; he joined our team in October 2015 and has been a valuable asset to our organization ever since. When a shift needs to be filled, something repaired, or an ambulance needs washing, Alex is our guy. He is the employee that comes in on his own time to see if the off going crew needs a hand so they can leave on time.

Alex was nominated by his peers for his outstanding dedication and commitment to our organization and the community we serve. He is the type of person who will drop whatever he is doing to put the needs of others first.

An example of Alex's commitment is that our organization had a call where two of our Paramedics responded to a full arrest at a large multigenerational family gathering. Alex happened to also be on the scene as a volunteer for our local fire department. The family was primarily Latino and Alex was helpful in conveying Spanish information to the Paramedics. After the call, Alex went back to the station to help the crew restock, clean and get the unit in proper working order. With Alex's help, the crew was able to get back into service in a reasonable time.

Alex is currently enrolled in Paramedic School and he also is a volunteer fireman with the local Fire Department where he resides. ❁

Stars of Life



Danny Provost

*Riggs Ambulance
Service*

Merced

Danny Provost
Paramedic

Danny Provost, a Paramedic for Riggs Ambulance Service over the last seven years, has many times shown a very humble, exceptional, and overwhelming dedication to patient care. Danny expresses a genuine concern for his patients, his coworkers, and the community he serves. His calm demeanor is soothing to patients in distress and his work ethic displays the utmost standards of Star Care at Riggs. He impresses those who serve alongside him professionally according to our local TEMSA representative and he sets a strong example of what a Paramedic should be for others to follow. Danny shows compassion for his patients through small gestures of care. He most recently assisted a diabetic patient who declined to be transported for low sugar levels by offering to buy the patient tacos from a nearby taco truck to ensure the patient had food to sustain his blood sugar levels. Danny is a champion of human kindness and a Star of Life. ❁

Stars of Life



Tom Rady

**Sierra Medical
Services Alliance**

Reno, NV

Tom Rady
Paramedic

Tom Rady has been a paramedic for 30 years. He is currently a flight paramedic and educator. Tom teaches ACLS, PALS, and ITLS. He is a preceptor and has been involved with CQI programs throughout his career. Off-duty Tom enjoys boating with friends and family.

Tom was selected for numerous instances of exceptional patient care. One incident that stands out was when Tom and his partner responded to a stroke victim in a rural area. The assessment revealed that the patient was in critical condition. Tom quickly requested a helicopter for immediate transport to the designated landing zone and started treatment. The nearest stroke treatment center was over ninety minutes away by ground transport. With coordination and utilization of appropriate resources, the patient was receiving treatment at the stroke center within sixty minutes of responder's first contact. The patient benefited because all responders and multiple agencies worked together to coordinate and execute with great skill and precision. ❁

Stars of Life



Michael Rhyne

**Mercy Medical
Transportation**

Mariposa

Michael Rhyne
Paramedic

Michael Rhyne started his EMS career as a reserve for North County Fire Department in San Diego. He attended EMSTA College in San Diego to obtain his paramedic education and joined Mercy Medical Transportation in San Diego nearly three years ago. He is assigned to the Pala Fire Station and has served Mercy as an outstanding paramedic.

There is no "one call" to highlight Michael's career because he treats EVERY call as the most important one of the day or night and he gives every patient the highest respect and quality of care. He always works above and beyond what is expected of him and becomes involved in many innovative ideas to improve patient care. Michael is well liked by both Mercy managers and field peers.

It is an honor for Mercy Medical Transportation to recognize Michael as our Star of Life for 2017. ❁

Stars of Life



Masato Seki
*Hall Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Bakersfield*

Masato Seki
EMT

Mas was named the 2016 Hall Ambulance Paramedic of the Year. Mas is assigned to the Metro Bakersfield 911 system.

He was hired as an EMT in October 2013. He earned his paramedic license in 2015 after being sponsored by the Bakersfield College Paramedic Program.

He completed more calls in 2016 than any other EMT or paramedic. While his 1,300 transports were impressive, Mas had the fastest average offload time of any paramedic in the Metro Bakersfield system. Offload delays of three hours are not uncommon in Bakersfield. Only four employees averaged less than 30 minutes. ❁

Stars of Life



Carolina Snypes
*Paramedics Plus
San Leandro*

Carolina Snypes
EMT

EMT, Carolina Snypes, knew at the young age of 18 that she wanted to be involved in a career that focused on community service. She completed the EMT program and worked as a volunteer for local organizations until she was old enough to be hired as a BLS ambulance clinician. With her strong and innate leadership skills, she was quickly promoted to an FTO. Wanting to expand her skills, she obtained a position with Paramedics Plus – Alameda County EMS, where she currently works. Once again, her dedication and professionalism gained her a Field Training Officer position. Carolina currently serves as an EMT Captain and Academy Facilitator for Paramedics Plus. In the past year, she has provided direction and support to 110 new field paramedics and EMT's. Outside of her busy work schedule, she enjoys traveling, camping and playing with her two dogs, Ludo and Kaya. ❁



Ryan Strange

**Hall Ambulance
Service, Inc.
Bakersfield**

Ryan Strange **Paramedic**

On August 25, Hall Ambulance Unit 432 staffed by Paramedic Ryan Strange responded to a local junior high school for a patient with anxiety type symptoms. Upon making contact, Teacher Caryn Herren told Paramedic Strange that she has a history of panic attacks, but that this was worse than she had ever experienced. She initially refused transport; asking the paramedic to 'make her feel better' so she could just stay at work.

Relying on his training and experience, Paramedic Strange encouraged her to be seen at the ER. The patient agreed and was loaded into the ambulance, where Ryan provided basic life support care.

While en route to the hospital, the patient advised Strange that she was feeling faint. She suddenly became unconscious and unresponsive, followed by a seizure. Her condition continued to deteriorate—her breathing slowing to agonal respirations and no pulse.

Immediately, Ryan elevated his treatment to advanced life support care, initiating CPR and rescue breaths with high flow oxygen. The monitor revealed that her heart was in V-fib, a deadly, unstable heart rhythm. Ryan placed defib pads onto the patient's chest and shocked her heart once, continuing CPR and rescue breaths. As they were arriving at the ER, the patient regained an organized rhythm with a good pulse. The paramedic continued to assist her breathing with ventilations as she was moved into the ER, at which point, she began breathing on her own. The airway was removed and the patient started regaining consciousness.

On October 5, 2016, Ryan was reunited with Caryn. With tears of joy, she expressed her gratitude to the paramedic for saving her life, and presenting Ryan with a placard that reads, "You have never really lived until you have done something for someone who can never repay you."

Ryan Strange joined Hall Ambulance in February 2014. ❁

Stars of Life



**Gregory
Trevillion**

**Medic Ambulance
Service, Inc.**
Solano

Gregory Trevillion **Emergency Medical Dispatcher**

Gregory Trevillion is a lead emergency medical dispatcher with Medic Ambulance, having graduated from Armijo High School, in Fairfield, California. He began his dispatching career in spring 2005 at Medic Ambulance. Gregory has taken his knowledge throughout his 11 years as a dispatcher to help mold new dispatchers entering the field of EMS. Over the years, it has been shown that this young man has earned the respect and trust from his peers as well as management. In regards to his future, Gregory would like to continue dispatching and hopes to one day become an EMD instructor. Gregory has never thought of or treated his role as just another job. He is proud to say they help save the lives of hundreds of people every day and that itself is a blessing and an honor. Greg is being honored for his outstanding service as an Emergency Medical Dispatcher, as he has one the highest rated EMD scores in Medic's dispatch center. He is a Field Training Officer and spends many extra hours being a member of the company's Dispatch Steering Committee and Quality Assurance Committee. Greg is being honored as Medic Ambulance's Dispatcher of the Year 2017. Great job Greg! ✨

Stars of Life



**Richard
Varela III**

**Cole-Schaefer
Ambulance
Service**

Richard Varela III **EMT**

Richard Varela is being recognized for his involvement in a lifesaving rescue. Late September 2016, Mr. Varela was working at the Los Angeles County Fair. A call came out for a 2-year-old choking, Mr. Varela responded on his medical cart with his partner. Once on scene both he and his partner knew this was a critical situation. The crew quickly loaded the patient and began transporting the patient to the medical compound. Mr. Varela took it upon himself to reroute the patient to the closest access point for Los Angeles County Fire Department Paramedics. Once they reached the nearest access point, paramedics attempted to remove the object from the 2-year-old's throat without success. The patient was quickly loaded into the ambulance and rushed off to Pomona Valley Hospital, where ER staff had already been alerted to the situation. The patient was treated with medication that allowed the patient's throat to relax enough for the physician to remove the object. The total elapsed time it took to access the patient until the object was removed was 12 minutes!!! We are happy to report the 2-year-old suffered no complications as result of this incident. This was nothing short of a miracle.

Richard's hobbies are camping, hiking, going to the beach, kayaking, BBQing, bike riding, playing baseball, basketball, football and soccer with his children. He has been a Volunteer Fire Fighter for the past 3 years with Alhambra Fire Department and volunteers during Thanksgiving and Christmas feeding the homeless. ✨

Stars of Life



**Christopher
Zaczek**

**American
Ambulance**

Fresno

Christopher Zaczek **Paramedic**

Chris Zaczek is Paramedic of the Year for Fresno County Operations.

Chris has been employed at American Ambulance for 19 years. He is one of our Field Supervisors and has been a great leader to our employees. He is very passionate about his job has great respect and compassion for his patients. He is always able to put his patients first and he is always committed to providing excellent patient care.

Having worked in EMS for almost two decades, Chris's professionalism, kindness, and experience are well noticed amongst our staff. He has been a mentor to many employees here at American Ambulance, and many have had an opportunity to receive support and encouragement from him. Chris is also part of our peer support group, in which he gets to offer his support to employees in need. This group allows Chris to make a difference amongst his peers. Because of such qualities and dedication, Chris is set apart as a highly regarded member of the American Ambulance. We are honored to have him as a representative of our EMS family. ❁

THE CALIFORNIA
AMBULANCE
ASSOCIATION
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