**Star** **of Life**

**Region I**

It is a balmy evening on August 8th, 2016 in Greene County. Opening day of

the Greene County Fair **and** it’s Student Night . . . every child and teenager in

town is here. The smell of hot dogs, popcorn, fried chicken and barbecue is

thick in the air. The flashing, multi-colored lights, kaleidoscope music and the

rattle of roller coaster cars on metal rails blenders with the shouts of

excitement and glee. The merriment of the evening is shattered in an instant

when screams of terror roar through all those out from a night of fun with

friends, classmates and family.

Greene County 911 Dispatcher Cheryl Johnson begins to receive multiple calls

from individuals and several EMS and fire personnel who were on

stand-by at the fairgrounds tonight. There’s been a mechanical failure on the

Ferris wheel and there are reports that multiple children have fallen from the

ride. She dispatches county EMS , Fire and Police to the scene and the

regional hospitals are put on alert. An incident command post must be set in

place. Within four minutes by the clock multiple ambulances and medical

helicopters are requested and additional apparatus and personnel from

Greeneville Fire Department are called into play to retrieve victims who are

still stranded on the ride. This is the scene of a pediatric mass casualty.

For Greene County EMS Unit 39 with driver Matthew Rolen and

Paramedics Bill Campbell and Daniel Rodgers it takes 5 minutes to work its

way 0.1 mile through the frightened and confused crowd at the fairgrounds.

Three pediatric patients are found lying on the ground, having fallen more

than 40 feet. According to one eye witness, “It was like watching water

pouring from a glass . . . they bounced off the metal bridging of the ride and

eventually hit the ground.” The EMS personnel on stand-by at the event that

night set up a triage assessment on each patient and initiate treatment.

Campbell and Rodgers come to the aid of Paramedic Clay Dunaway, who was

one of those on stand-by. Their patient is six year old Briley Reynolds who is

unresponsive, having just had two seizures 30-45 seconds each and is now

with decerebrate posturing. GCS is 5. There is bruising and swelling across

her forehead and right temple, around her mouth and nose. Her breathing is

slow and obstructive; there is blood in her mouth. Suctioning and a modified

jaw thrust help, but are inadequate in the long term. She becomes combative.

A C-collar is placed; the team begins bag-valve-mask ventilations with

100% O₂; monitors go on; an IV pops in her right antecubital vein; blood

glucose is 190. Pupils are reactive, but unequal. She is immobilized on a long

spine board and transferred to the ambulance and prepared for a rapid

sequence intubation.

Simultaneously, Wings Air Rescue Flight Ops dispatch with Paramedic Jeff

Turner, and Advanced EMTS Brandon Hicks and Julie Rice have been in

continuous communication with the incident command and preparing an

aircraft and crew. Pilot Keith Bowery has completed his weather check, safety

walk around, and stop check list. He joins flight nurse and Paramedic John

Smith and Critical Care Paramedic Adam Williams in the cabin and they

depart their base for a landing zone that has been secured in a back parking

lot at the fairgrounds. On landing, Smith and Williams are picked up on a

Polaris ATV and taken through the crowd, up the mid-way, and to the triage

area. John and Adam enter the ambulance and are apprised of the situation

while completing their assessment. The flight and ground crews agree that

RSI is needed to secure and protect Briley’s airway. Smith gives the drugs.

Williams takes the glidescope and on two attempts **it** malfunctions . . . but,

manual intubation equipment and back up airways have been set up just for

this occurrence and are ready to use now. The 6 mm tube goes in on the first

attempt. The ambulance now transports the ground and flight teams to the

landing zone and Kayla is hot loaded into Wings 2 and airlifted to Johnson City

Medical Center where the trauma team is waiting.

Greene County EMS Unit 38 with Advanced EMT/driver Jordy Clark and

paramedic Dakota Steele on board have made their way through the crowd to

Briley’s ten year old sister, Kayla. This time a little bit faster: 4/10 of a mile in

10 minutes. EMT Wesley Miller, off-duty EMT Jeremy McKibbins and

paramedic Clay Dunaway (Man, he’s everywhere tonight!) are at her side. She

is fully immobilized on a long spine board and one IV is in already. Kayla is

found to be alert and oriented and with full memory of the events, but on her

head-to-toe assessment she does have two broken teeth, an obvious closed

fracture to the left wrist, and abrasions, bruising and tenderness of her left

and right chest and the right upper quadrant of her abdomen. She is

hemodynamically stable. Miller has splinted her left forearm fracture. Due to

the distance to the Level One trauma center Kayla is also airlifted to Johnson

City Medical Center.

All the while there are all those other riders, stranded on the Ferris wheel,

swinging in the breeze and watching what is happening below them.

Advanced EMTs/FFs Ryan Holt, Seth Reed and Daniel Chandler are busily

preparing for and rescuing them. The police are clearing the triage area,

performing crowd control, securing the landing zone and providing care

wherever they can assist. It’s a mass casualty scene and individuals and

service agencies are performing as brothers and sisters for the members of

their community.

Later that night at Johnson City Medical Center, Briley is diagnosed with a

traumatic brain injury. She is treated in the intensive care unit and extubated

later that week. She is discharged home nine days after her misfortune began.

Kayla is discharged home on the third day after the accident.

This night put to the test all of the emergency medical resources in this area.

All of the responders on this evening handled this pediatric mass casualty at a

public venue with the nation watching with courage, compassion, and

strength that comes from many, many hours of preparation. Each responder

worked as an integrated team member to provide exceptional triage, patient

care, and expedited transport in a very challenging emergency situation.

Through their exemplary work for the injured and those that were assisted on

the scene, these responders were able to embody the mission of

Tennessee Emergency Medical Services.

And, it is for these reasons that Greene County 911, Greene County EMS,

Greeneville Fire Department, and Wings Air Rescue receive the 2017 Star of

Life Award for Region 1.

Director Tidwell will now present to Briley and Kayla Reynolds their

“Certificate**s** of Life” that read: “It is hereby certified and solemnly attested

that Briley Reynolds survived a life-threatening event on August 9th, 2016.

This certificate commemorates the first day of the rest of your life.”

**AND**

“It is hereby certified and solemnly attested that Kayla Reynolds survived a

life-threatening event on August 9th, 2016. This certificate commemorates the

 first day of the rest of your life.”