**Region V**

It was a warm evening on July 2, 2015 in Murfreesboro and 18 year old Samuel Ray was home alone and decided to do a little work on his half-ton Chevy truck in his family’s garage. He had jacked it up in order to get underneath it and had taken the tires off for better access. While getting a bolt lose underneath, all of a sudden the jacks gave way and the vehicle collapses on him . . . one arm is now pinned above his head and the weight of the vehicle is crushing down on his chest and abdomen. He is trapped! . . . and no one else is home! He tries to shout for help, but the weight of the truck steals his breath and prevents him from yelling very loudly. He struggles for 30 minutes, yelling when he has the breath and praying when he no longer does.

He knows that no one else will be home for hours. It seems that there is no hope, when he hears a muffled voice coming from the hip pocket of his jeans. IT WAS SIRI coming through on his cell phone. He can’t reach his phone but after several attempts of wiggling his butt, SIRI finally calls 911. Struggling under the weight of the vehicle he can scarcely speak loud enough for the dispatcher, Christina Lee, to hear his words. When she puts together the whispered pieces of his desperate call, she immediately notifies Rutherford County EMS dispatchers, Kenny Moffit, Carrie Fitzgerald, and Todd Riddle, who send out a page. This sets off a cascade of pagers for Rutherford County EMS, Walter Hill Volunteer Fire Department and the Rutherford County Sheriff’s department.

Scottie Gamble, a volunteer captain for Walter Hill Fire, was talking with a neighbor when he receives the page and realizes that the address for the rescue is in his neighborhood. He races to the address, but it takes a few moments to find Sam. He eventually hears a quiet, weak voice saying, “Help me,” and he jumps a fence to find Sam pinned under the truck with a blue face and eyes rolling back in his head, clinging to life. He quickly assesses the situation and surveys the site. He spots the bottle jack nearby and is able to lift the vehicle just enough for Sam to breath.

Meanwhile, Sheriff’s Deputy Brad Lynn and many responding neighbors arrive with more car jacks, and together they all are able to free Sam and slide him from beneath the truck.

As Rutherford County EMS Medic 11 arrives with Paramedics Philip Nichols and Dustin Graves, and AEMT Beau Williams, Sam has just been pulled from beneath the truck on a creeper. Paramedic Graves stabilizes the cervical spine while Nichols establishes IV access.

Their assessment reveals Sam Ray severely short of breath; there is pain with respirations and crepitus to the left chest wall; abrasions of the anterior chest and left arm and leg and both thighs and legs; superficial burns of the left forearm and hand; lacerations of his scalp and face; and most significantly abrasions of the upper and lower abdomen with swelling over the left anterior superior iliac spine and he is in excruciating pain. Let’s say he looks pretty rough.

The crew is concerned about respiratory collapse, internal injuries and fractured ribs.

Well, the EMS system is still working. Early in the response emergency communicator Brian McCandless with Vanderbilt Life Flight had been placed on stand-by and, as the extrication has progressed, Life Flight 5 with critical care flight nurses Kirk Krokosky and Tim Hurst, and pilot Bill Berner, has been launched. Nichols and Graves load Sam into Medic 11 and transport him to the landing zone a short distance away at Murfreesboro Airport. Minutes before their arrival, Life Flight 5 has landed.

Care is transferred to the Life Flight crew in the back of the ambulance and Sam is hot-loaded into the helicopter and transported to the Vanderbilt University Medical Center Emergency Department.

This is a community of neighbors, volunteer firemen, a deputy sheriff and EMS ground and air personnel all working together to rescue Mr. Ray from under his vehicle and to recognize the seriousness of his injuries, and to plan a coordinated extrication and transport to a regional trauma center.

Samuel Ray is able to be here with us this evening, because of these men and women working together to help a fellow human being who, in his moment of crisis, had exhausted all possibilities and could not help himself. It is for these reasons that Rutherford County EMS,

Walter Hill Fire Department, Rutherford County Sheriff’s Department &

Vanderbilt LifeFlight receives the 2016 Star of Life Award for Region 5.

Director Tidwell will now present to Samuel his “Certificate of Life” that reads: “It is hereby certified and solemnly attested that Samuel Ray survived a life-threatening event on July 2, 2015. This certificate commemorates the first day of the rest of your life.”