**2017 Star of Life**

**Region II**

On October 8th, 2016 at 9:35 PM, Claiborne County Medic 9 with a crew

consisting of Paramedics Danny Ramsey and Tyler King is dispatched to

respond to a 26 year old female with reported seizure activity. While

en route to the call, Dispatch notifies the crew that the female patient is

9 months pregnant and had recently been diagnosed with pre-eclampsia.

Wesley Minton, the patient’s husband, meets them at the door and as he leads

them quickly to the back of the house explains that she has been hypertensive

and her doctors are planning to deliver the baby this coming Thursday. She

was taking a bath tonight when he heard her having a seizure. He held her

close and called her name repeatedly, but instead of responding she had

another seizure that was even worse. He drained the tub, turned her on her

left side and called 911.

Upon entering the bathroom they find, Emily Minton, lying in the tub. She is

Unresponsive, following a seizure and her blood pressure is 215/110. As

Danny and Tyler maintain her airway, place a face mask with oxygen, and

apply monitors, Emily begins to arouse and in a few minutes she is able to

stand and with assistance step from the tub. She is secured on the stretcher

and transported to the ambulance, but before they can leave the driveway

Emily suffers a third tonic-clonic seizure. Danny places an IV and intravenous

diazepam is administered. She is turned onto her left side and

bag-valve-mask assisted ventilations are begun. Now they are pulling out of

the drive and on their way. An infusion of Magnesium sulfate is started and

the decision is made that she must get to her obstetrician at Fort Sander’s

Regional Medical Center ASAP. By ground it’s 45 minutes to an hour, by air

it’s 15 minutes. The decision is made to call for Aeromedical Services from UT

LIFESTAR. With lights and sirens the ambulance heads for the South

Claiborne Fire Department Landing Zone.

At the rendezvous, Emily becomes delirious and combative and attempts to

pull off her medical monitors and IVs. Additional diazepam is given without

effect. LIFESTAR Flight Nurse Kay Kirkland enters the ambulance and finds

that three EMS providers are attempting to hold down a very combative and

uncontrollable patient. Another dose of diazepam is ineffective. They cannot

place her into the aircraft until they gain control. Kay calls for her Flight

Paramedic Drew Slemp to join her and they communicate with their medical

control, Dr. Chris Brooks. The risks and benefits of rapid sequence intubation

meds to secure Emily’s airway and to protect her and her unborn child from

harm related to her clinical condition and combativeness are weighed. The

decision is made. Using a glidescope, Slemp easily intubates Emily after Kay

has given the RSI medications. Emily is now loaded onto the helicopter and

prepared for transport. Pilot Kirk Knox lifts off and turns southeast toward

Fort Sander’s. Additional Magnesium sulfate is given in transit.

After a cold off-load at Fort Sander’s Regional Medical Center, Emily is taken

to the Labor and Delivery unit as a direct admit. After several tests, it’s

confirmed that the baby is still alive, though Emily is in critical condition and

has to be stabilized before an emergency Cesarean delivery can be done. As

Wes sits in the waiting area with extended family, he wonders if he will go

home as part of a new family, as a single parent, or all alone. “I knew the

severity of the situation,” Wesley says. “I was just praying that one or both of

them would make it.” Early the next morning, Emily delivered Amelia, a

healthy baby girl, though post-partum Emily continued to require life support

interventions. Ultimately, she responded to her therapies and recovered

without further incident.

Rick Slaven, the training officer with Claiborne Emergency Medical

Services, who submitted this nomination wrote, “This call for help was

certainly not an average EMS response. Field encounters of true eclampsia

are rare. In this case, the providers acted swiftly and with the necessary

clinical acumen to insure an excellent outcome for the mother and her baby.

Their correct pharmacological treatment of Emily’s seizure presentation was

reported to have been life-saving by the attending physicians who assumed

her care. One physician credited their swift and appropriate actions as being

the difference between life and death. The rapid response and treatment by

all responders lead to a successful emergency Cesarean section. Mother,

father and little Amelia are home and doing well.”

Wow! It is for this expert care that Emily, Wesley and Amelia Minton are with

us this evening and that Claiborne County EMS and UT LIFESTAR are being

honored with the 2017 Star of Life Award for Region 2.

Director Tidwell will now present to Emily and Amelia their “Certificate of

Life” that reads: “It is hereby certified and solemnly attested that Emily and

Amelia Minton survived a life-threatening event on October 8th, 2016. This

certificate commemorates the first day of the rest of your lives.”