**Dr. Michael Carr TN EMSC State Star of Life Award**

**2017**

Our story begins on July 31st, 2016, a day unlike any other . . . it is the first day.

Kellie Henrikson,

an insulin-dependent diabetic, is expecting a beautiful baby

boy. But, his arrival is not expected for 11 more weeks. Blood sugar spikes

and drops are not so uncommon for diabetics, especially while pregnant, and

all through the previous night Kellie has struggled to maintain her glucose

levels. By this evening she was feeling better and decided to treat herself to a

bath. Cody has taken the opportunity to run to the store for some much

needed necessities. When he returns home, Cody finds their world turned

upside down.

Kellie was standing in the bathroom in a daze, holding a lifeless infant in her

arms. You see, while in the bath, Kellie’s blood sugar had plummeted to 37.

She delivered their baby just before Cody had returned home. Kellie’s low

blood sugar had prevented her from being able to process what has just

happened and to make appropriate decisions. Specifically, she had been

unable to call for help. Cody sprang into action and called 911.

Hamblen County 911 Emergency Telecommunicator Shawn Lindsay receives

the call that every emergency medical provider dreads: Pediatric Cardiac

Arrest.

As the dispatch information comes in over the radio Morristown-Hamblen

EMS Medic 1 crew Critical Care Paramedics Captain Joseph Cate and

Lieutenant Jason Fox quickly realize that this wasn’t just any pediatric code.

It’s a call for a premature infant that was just born at home. It’s a call for one

of the smallest and most fragile patients in the pediatric world. To further

complicate the call, the mother on scene is also in need of medical attention.

They’re going to need back-up and immediately request a second unit.

Fox and Cate arrive on scene just 3 minutes after being dispatched. They find

the mother still holding the lifeless newborn in her arms, wrapped in a towel.

Fox gently takes the baby from his mother’s arms while inquiring

as to the infant’s name. “His name is Tanner,” Kellie tells them. Knowing the

uncertainty of the outcome, Captain Cate reassures Tanner’s parents that they

are going to do everything in their power to save his life.

The crew’s initial assessment reveals an APGAR score of 0. That means: No

Sign of Life. No heart beat. No pulse. No breathing. No movements. No

response. The father had tied off Tanner’s umbilical cord with a piece of

string as he had been instructed by Lindsay prior to their arrival. And, the

placenta had not yet delivered. Cate clamps and cuts the cord. As a team, they

begin compressions and provide tiny breaths, filling Tanner’s premature

lungs using a bag and mask. They rapidly move Tanner to the waiting

ambulance just as Medic 3 with Paramedic Danny Ramsey and Advanced EMT

Sam Mason arrive on scene. Ramsey takes over the care of Tanner’s mother

while Mason assumes the role of driver and transports Tanner with Fox and

Cate, continuing two-rescuer CPR, to Morristown-Hamblen Healthcare System

ED. A third unit, Medic 2 with Paramedic Brad McKinney and Advanced EMT

Brian Stephenson simultaneously arrives to assist Mason and to transport

Kellie. All in all, Medic Crew 1 has spent only 4 minutes on scene before they

are en route to the hospital.

In the back of Medic 1 the crew is able to connect little Tanner to the cardiac

monitor. Nothing. His heart wasn’t even trying to beat. Using a

suction catheter, the crew clears Tanner’s little airways of birth canal

fluids. An attempt is made to pass a 2.5 breathing tube, but Tanner’s tiny

airway won’t allow it. Fox and Cate resume compressions and ventilations

using an oral airway and bag-valve-mask with 100% oxygen to ensure oxygen

is able to reach Tanner’s lungs. There is good rise and fall of the chest wall.

As they continue resuscitating him, they now detect that Tanner’s cyanosis is

beginning to resolve. His skin was turning pink. A quick APGAR review puts

him at a 5 out of 10. A rhythm check now shows a heart rate less than 60

beats per minute, **but** it’s present **and** there’s a normal heart rhythm. **AND**

incredibly, Tanner has a brachial pulse to match. He’s even trying to breathe

on his own. He’s improving, but is not in the clear.

Jason and Joe know their American Heart Association guidelines for

newborn CPR and recognize that they need to continue to support Tanner’s

cardiac output. They resume CPR. During transport the baby’s heart rate

remains less than 60 and his efforts at breathing are only ineffective gasps, but

he has two well-trained medics giving him their all to fight for his life. Finally,

as they arrive in the ambulance bay outside the Emergency Department,

Tanner is beginning to make weak noises in an effort to cry and is moving his

arms and legs, but his condition is still critical.

Recognizing that the situation is still dire, the Medic 1 crew stays and

assists the Emergency Department staff in their efforts to stabilize Tanner.

Stepping back as the ED team assumes the resuscitation, Fox and Cate are

exhausted, but buoyant knowing they have done their part in making sure the

first day of Tanner’s life was not his last.

Kellie, Tanner and Cody are here tonight because of the skills, practice,

compassion and coordinated care provided on a moment’s notice in a rarely

encountered scenario to a family in great distress. It is for these reasons that

Morristown-Hamblen EMS and Hamblen County 911 receive the

Dr. Michael Carr Tennessee EMSC State Star of Life Award for 2017.

Director Tidwell will now present Kellie and Cody Tanner’s “Certificate of

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

survived a life-threatening event on July 31st, 2016. This certificate

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