

“Press Release FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE”

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**WellmontOne Flight Service & Hawkins County EMS Win State
Star of Life Award**

Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2009 6pm: Reception, 7 pm: Dinner, 7:30pm: Awards presentation
Location: Sheraton Nashville Downtown Hotel, 623 Union Street, Nashville, TN 37219

Nashville, TN---In 2008, ambulance services in Tennessee responded to over one million 911 calls. The first annual EMS Star of Life Awards Dinner & Ceremony honored the dedication of those who provide day-to-day lifesaving services on the medical “front line” in Tennessee. The ceremony presented actual patient scenarios and reunited the EMS caregivers with the individuals they treated from the eight EMS regions across the state.

Region 1 Award Winners - WellmontOne Flight Service & Hawkins County EMS
Earl Morpew, NREMT-P, CCEMT-P, FP-C WellmontOne Flight Service
Kathleen M. Templeton, RN, EMT WellmontOne Flight Service
Jim Whitman, Pilot WellmontOne Flight Service
Kevin Anderson Hawkins County EMS
Jamie Miller, NREMT-P Hawkins County EMS
Amy Elam, EMT-IV Hawkins County EMS
Gay Murrell, EMD Hawkins County EMS

Northeast Tennessee was represented by the exemplary care given by Hawkins County EMS and WellmontOne Flight Service in rescuing Jamie Lawson of Bulls Gap, TN. Mr. Lawson was critically injured on August 15, 2008 after being ejected from his tractor. He had a loss of consciousness at the scene for an undetermined amount of time and then walked to a home nearby for help. Hawkins County EMS responded and subsequently called WellmontOne Flight Service. Mr. Lawson suffered a closed head injury and multiple fractures. He spent five days in intensive care, but fully recovered after four months with no long term affects.

Unfortunately, Mr. Lawson can not join us this evening but we spoke with by telephone and he expressed his sincere “appreciation and thankfulness that the rescue crew knew what to do because he doesn’t remember anything.”

Special recognition and remembrance was given of Earl Morpew, the flight paramedic on duty with WellmontOne that day. Mr. Morpew was a strong advocate for early launch, which turned out to make a difference in Mr. Lawson’s outcome by expediting early trauma care. In early January, Mr. Morpew achieved certified flight paramedic status.

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He was one of only a thousand or so paramedics to have achieved this level of certification worldwide. The education and experience required to receive this certification insured his patients received exceptional care, which was always his goal. Mr. Morpew tragically died in an auto accident on his way to work on January 28, 2009. He was struck by a drunk driver

The EMS Star of Life is sponsored by HCA/TriStar, Methodist Healthcare/Methodist University Hospital, Air Evac Lifeteam, Erlanger Health System/T. C. Thompson Children's Hospital, AAA Clubs of Tennessee, Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center, Tennessee EMS Education Association, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Adams and Reese LLP, East Tennessee Children's Hospital, TeamHealth Midsouth, and Tennessee College of Emergency Physicians.

The mission of Tennessee Emergency Medical Services for Children Foundation, the host of the EMS Star of Life, is to reduce child and youth disability and death due to severe illness and injury.

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