

“Press Release FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE”

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Putnam County EMS wins 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 4 Award Winners - Putnam County EMS
Sam Greenwood, EMT-P
Travis Morgan, EMT-P
Carmen Burnette, EMT-P, FTO
Bill Kummer, EMT-P
Penny Foister, EMT-P, EMD, CTO
Susan Allen, EMD

In EMS region four, the morning of August 27th, 2008, Mr. Edgar Bowman awoke at home with non-specific chest pressure. His wife called 911 at 0647 to dispatchers Penny Foister and Susan Allen at the Putnum County EMS which arrived on the scene within 6 minutes of the call.

Upon arrival of Paramedics Sam Greenwood and Travis Morgan, Mr. Bowman reported chest pressure without radiation or shortness of breath. Initially, Mr. Bowman was resistant to EMS transportation. Paramedics Greenwood and Morgan, along with Mr. Bowman’s wife, convinced him to be “checked” in the back of the ambulance. There the initial 12 lead EKG showed signs of a heart attack.

At this point in the call, two additional paramedics, Carmen Burnette and William Kummer, arrived to take over for the crew of Greenwood and Morgan, who were scheduled to go home at 0700.

After evaluating the EKG, paramedics Burnette and Kummer began the standard treatment for heart attacks by administering oxygen, aspirin, nitroglycerin, and morphine while in route to Cookeville Regional Hospital’s Emergency Department. When the ambulance arrived in Cookeville Regional’s ambulance bay, Mr. Bowman began to complain of feeling “faint”. Mr. Bowman went into cardiac arrest before they could get him out of the ambulance and into the

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emergency department and advanced life support began. Mr. Bowman would briefly respond to the defibrillations with the return of a pulse, however, he was defibrillated more than 50 times during the course of his cardiac arrest and heart attack. He was taken for emergency cardiac bypass surgery and subsequently recovered to return to his pre-arrest level of activity and functioning. Mr. Bowman was reluctant to be examined but due to persistence by the EMS crew he was in the right place at the right time. It is also recognized team spirit that one EMS crew came to relieve their colleagues at the end of the shift.

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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