

“Press Release FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE”

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**Maury Regional EMS & Vanderbilt LifeFlight
Win Award for Lifesaving care of Sgt. Brian Owens**

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 6 Award Winners - Maury Regional EMS & Vanderbilt LifeFlight
Jennifer Murks, EMT-IV
George Whitwell, EMT-IV
Joshua McClarren, EMT-P
Michael Bridges, EMT-P
Patrick Hall, EMT/RN
Daniel T. Horne, RN, CFRN, CEN, NREMT-P
Danny Cupples, EMT-P "C" Shift Supervisor
Amanda Watson Schatz, EMT-P
Garry McPeak, EMT-IV

On December 10, 2008, a 911 call was received by dispatcher Jennifer Murks, EMT-IV of the Maury Regional Emergency Medical Services (MREMS) about a male assaulting his wife and also threatening suicide. An ambulance was dispatched with the Maury County Sheriff’s

Initially the ambulance crew thought the wife had been shot. On the scene it was discovered that the shooting victim was Maury County Sheriff’s Office Sgt. Brian Owens. Sgt. Owens was shot in the jaw with a .38 special at close range. Paramedics Joshua McClarren and Michael Bridges immediately determined that Sgt. Owens needed to be taken to Vanderbilt’s Level One trauma center. Sgt. Owens was bleeding profusely and unable to talk.

Inclement weather precluded flying by Vanderbilt Lifeflight. Arrangements were made for the Lifeflight 4 crew to accompany Maury Regional’s crew of EMT/RNs Patrick Hall and Daniel Horne. Dispatcher George Whitwell, EMT-IV helped coordinate the transfer to Vanderbilt. Captain Nathan Johns from the Sheriff’s office rode in the ambulance with Sgt. Owens and

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coordinated traffic control with Williamson County and Nashville Metro police, insuring timely and safe delivery of the patient.

Additional team members include Danny Cupples, EMT-P, Amanda Watson-Schatz EMT-P, and Garry McPeak, EMT-IV. Cooperation and teamwork between multiple skilled agencies led to a positive outcome. The bullet narrowly missed Sgt. Owens' carotid artery. His jaw was shattered and his esophagus torn. Sgt. Owens' jaw was wired shut and a tracheostomy placed to help heal his esophagus. Bullet fragments remain, but he knows he is lucky to be alive.

The support of his wife and children, along with an outpouring of community love and prayers, has helped this 20 year law enforcement veteran heal both spiritually and physically.

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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