

“Press Release FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE”

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City of Memphis, TN - Division of Fire/EMS Win Star of Life Award for Lifesaving Care of Four year old JoJo Tubbs

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 8 Award Winners - City of Memphis, TN - Division of Fire/EMS
Eric Sacharczyk, FF/Paramedic
Ryan Jones, FF/EMT
Richard Patterson, FF/Paramedic
Lt. Daniel Harris, FF/EMT
Greg Waymon, Driver/Paramedic
Clay Short, FF/EMT
William Stacks, FF/EMT-IV
Lt. Brandon Allen, FF/EMT
Patrick McDevitt, FF/Paramedic
Steve Strickland, FF/EMT-IV
Brian Simmons, FF/EMT-IV
Lt. Michael Stallings

On December 9, 2008, Memphis Fire Department Rescue & EMS companies located in EMS region eight responded to a house fire with possible entrapped victims. Mom, Kim Bateman, had been asleep when she woke up and realized the house was on fire. Ms. Bateman was able to grab her two youngest children and got them outside, when she ran back into the house looking for her 3rd child, 4 year old JoJo she could not find him. The house was heavily involved with fire and smoke when rescue vehicles arrived. Engine 27 personnel, including Lt. Brandon Allen, Private Steve Strickland and Private Brian Simmons began the fire attack. Rescue 3 personnel, including Driver Greg Waymon and Private William Stacks were led by Lt. Dan Harris and Private Clay Short and began searching each room.

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Lifesaving Care of Four year old fire victim, JoJo Tubbs**

In heavy black smoke, Private Short located Leonard “JoJo” Tubbs under a pile of blankets in one of the bedrooms. JoJo was quickly rescued and handed off to Lt. Dan Harris, a trained EMT. JoJo was not breathing. Lt. Harris immediately began CPR, exited the house and continued basic life support. An Advanced Life Support EMS crew arrived and care of JoJo was assumed by FF/Paramedics Eric Sacharczyk, Richard Patterson, and Patrick McDevitt. JoJo was lucky that he had no burns on his body, but was immediately transported to LeBonheur Children’s Medical Center where he was hospitalized for 2 weeks.

The personnel of Fire Station 27/C are trained as a Special Operations Rescue Team (SORT). Their fast response time, successful search and rescue, recognition of the need for and implementation of BLS and ALS procedures, the less than 4 minute scene time and the less than 10 minute transport time all led to the delivery of a viable patient to the emergency department at LeBonheur.

An ironic note in all of this is that the members of Fire Station 27 had adopted this same family for Christmas just two weeks prior to the fire. Their relationship began two months previous when the firefighters responded to reports of a gas leak near the home. Two of the lieutenants were actually Christmas shopping for the family the morning of the fire when their pagers began beeping and news of the fire broke. Station 27 again stepped up to the plate and involved the community in helping this family.

Video footage of the fire was played at the event that was graciously provided by WMC Action News 5 of Memphis.

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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