

Congratulations to the 2013 Governor's EMS Award Winners!

By the virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:

The Governor's EMS Award for Excellence in EMS

L.V. Pokey Harris

For more than 24 years, Pokey Harris has exemplified outstanding dedication and service to the EMS system through her active involvement in all facets of EMS at the regional and state level. As a provider, Pokey served as a member of her local volunteer rescue squad for many years and currently serves as a member of the Black Diamond Search and Rescue, Smyth County Unit. Regionally, Harris served on the Southwest Virginia EMS Council board of directors for the last 12 years and previously served as the executive director of the Southwest Virginia EMS Council. At the state level, she served on the State EMS Advisory Board from 2009 - 2011 as acting chair, first vice chair and second vice chair. She's integrally involved in the telecommunications and emergency management public safety fields, and serves on various committees at the local and state level. In her current position as Director of Emergency Management, Pokey is responsible for the administrative duties of the newly created department of emergency management in Washington County and emergency medical and fire services. She continues to maintain a high level of dedication and commitment to the improvement of patient care and the advancement of EMS services in Virginia. Pokey's contributions to Virginia's local, regional and state EMS system are exceptional and greatly valued by the Commonwealth of Virginia.



The Governor's EMS Award for Outstanding EMS Administrator

The Kent J. Weber Trophy

Curtis Sheets

As an EMS administrator, Curtis has worked tirelessly to improve EMS services within his own agency, Wintergreen Fire and Rescue, as well as within Nelson County. As Chief of Fire and Rescue, he became an advocate for employee training, health initiatives and the strengthening of the agency, which increased staffing numbers and qualification levels. Curtis also strongly supported efforts in cross-training fire and rescue providers and volunteers, which resulted in a paid staff of 17 firefighters and paramedics, and a wealth of volunteers who provided 24-hour, weekly patient care to the community. His leadership and communication skills assured his continuous support from the community, management and elected officials. In addition to contributing to the Nelson and Augusta County EMS system, he served at the regional level as chair of the Nelson County Emergency Services Council and president of the Thomas Jefferson EMS Council. Curtis' significant contributions to Virginia's local, regional and state EMS system are exceptional and greatly valued in the Commonwealth of Virginia.



The Governor's EMS Award for Physician with Outstanding Contribution to EMS

The Frank M. Yeiser Trophy

Dr. David Justis

Dr. David Justis' contributions to emergency medicine are highlighted by his numerous public research studies, work as an agency Operational Medical Director (OMD) and his passion for the EMS system. Dr. Justis currently serves on the Peninsulas EMS Council Medical Advisory Committee, where he provides expertise and leadership to the community of OMDs. He also serves on the Protocols, Policies and Procedures Committee, where he assists in the development and implementation of new procedures and protocols within the Peninsulas EMS region and seeks to improve the care of patients within the EMS system. Dr. Justis has been involved in medical research for more than 40 years and has participated in fundamental and groundbreaking studies pertaining to cardiac markers, acute trauma management and the stabilization for air transport of sick or injured patients. Dr. Justis' significant contributions to Virginia's local, regional and state EMS system are exceptional and greatly valued by the Commonwealth of Virginia.



The Governor's EMS Award for Nurse with Outstanding Contribution to EMS

Camela Crittenden, R.N.

Camela Crittenden has been a part of the EMS system for many years, working her way up through the ranks as a nurse at various hospitals. She served as the EMS coordinator at Bon Secours Richmond Health System and became the driving force to enhance emergency room and EMS relations. Currently, she serves as the director of Emergency Operations and EMS Outreach. Camela's passion to provide excellent education to EMS and has been instrumental in the execution of programs such as the Central Virginia EMS Education Expo, which provided continuing education to hundreds of EMS providers over the last few years. In addition, Camela created the Bon Secours EMS Quality Forum, which invites representatives from metro area agencies to discuss opportunities that will improve patient care in the field and in the emergency department. Camela's significant contributions to Virginia's local, regional and state EMS system are exceptional and greatly valued in the Commonwealth of Virginia.



The Governor's EMS Award for Outstanding Prehospital Educator

Melissa Doak

As a prehospital educator, Melissa Doak has shown great dedication and commitment to improving the training process and providing an innovative approach to EMS education. Since 1985, Melissa has been involved in the EMS system and developed an acute sense of how people learn and what teaching approach works best. She uses various formats that don't just permit, but encourage exploration and engagement among students. Melissa is regularly asked to present at training programs such as the annual Tidewater EMS Education Expo, the Peninsulas EMS Education Expo and the Virginia EMS Symposium. In addition, she served on the EMS Symposium Program Committee for 13 years, where she planned curriculum tracks and recommended nationally renowned lecturers. Melissa's significant contributions to Virginia's local, regional and state EMS system are exceptional and greatly valued by the Commonwealth of Virginia.



The Governor's EMS Award for Outstanding Prehospital Provider

William "Berk" Jones

William's career in public service spans more than 40 years and includes military, police, fire and EMS services. He actively served with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and later with the Virginia National Guard. William worked in law enforcement and later served as a public safety officer for the Capital Regional Airport Commission, retiring in 2004. Currently, William serves as the Advanced Life Support Coordinator for Ashland Volunteer Rescue Squad, and he has recently completed studies at the J. Sergeant Reynolds Community College Paramedic Program. His current squad captain refers to him as, "his most valuable mentor and one of the wisest and most respected members of the Ashland Rescue Squad." William's significant contributions to Virginia's local, regional and state EMS system are exceptional and greatly valued by the Commonwealth of Virginia.



The Governor's EMS Award for Outstanding Contribution to EMS Health & Safety ***James City County Fire Department***

In 2006, the James City County Fire Department initiated a wellness effort that would assist their firefighters and EMS professionals in being as healthy and fit as possible in order to deliver the best services. In April 2007, a Fitness and Wellness Standard Operating Guideline was signed into effect. Instead of targeting one specific area of wellness, the department took a holistic approach and included the medical, fitness and nutritional aspects of wellness in their plan. Since last year, the James City County Fire Department has a record of 100 percent participation and pass rate in work performance evaluation testing. Additionally, all applicants hired since 2008 have met consistent physical fitness standards. The department also reduced their Occupational Safety and Health Administration reportable incidents to a rate that is about one-half of the state average for a fire department, resulting in significant cost savings to the county. The James City County Fire Department's significant contributions to Virginia's local, regional and state EMS system are exceptional and greatly valued in the Commonwealth of Virginia.



The Governor's EMS Award for Outstanding Contribution to EMS for Children ***Dr. Jon Mason***

Throughout his career, Dr. Jon Mason has demonstrated a tremendous level of dedication and commitment to improve patient care and work as an advocate for pediatrics. While serving as an attending emergency physician at the Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters and working as a professor for the Eastern Virginia Medical School's Department of Pediatrics and the Department of Emergency Medicine, Dr. Mason finds time to remain involved in the field as an instructor and pediatric subject matter expert for EMS agencies. His mission is to ensure that every EMS provider in the Tidewater area possesses the confidence needed to provide quality and competent pediatric care. Dr. Mason is triple board certified in pediatrics, emergency medicine and pediatric emergency medicine; making him one of the few triple board certified physicians in the Tidewater region. Dr. Jon Mason's significant contributions to Virginia's local, regional and state EMS system are exceptional and greatly appreciated by the Commonwealth of Virginia.



The Governor's EMS Award for Outstanding EMS Agency ***Galax-Grayson Emergency Medical Services***

Over the past five years, Galax-Grayson has earned a reputation for excellence through community involvement, progressive staff development and support, patient care advancement and improved operational efficiency. The agency always strives to provide the highest level of patient care while building a strong and positive relationship with the community. Galax-Grayson works extensively with the education of children and the encouragement of youth in healthcare careers. In addition, Galax-Grayson has supported its members by improving the administration within the agency and by establishing new professional staff requirements. The agency has collaborated closely with their medical director, local healthcare facilities and dispatch centers to improve patient care. They have also been integrally involved in STEMI programs, and they serve as a leader and community educator in stroke care. Galax-Grayson Emergency Medical Service's significant contributions to Virginia's local, regional and state EMS system are exceptional and greatly valued by the Commonwealth of Virginia.



The Governor's EMS Award for Outstanding Contribution to EMS Telecommunications ***Zachary Beckner***

Over the last three years, Zachary Beckner has demonstrated a great level of dedication and commitment to EMS telecommunications while working at Roanoke 911 Communications Center. As a telecommunications dispatcher, he has assisted with system maintenance and established new procedures to make dispatching more efficient. He has also successfully implemented programs that decrease call-processing times. Prior to coming to Roanoke city, Zachary attended Radford University where he became involved with the campus EMS response team and worked to build that system into a viable responding agency for the college community. In his spare time, he has taken a very active role in teaching CPR and first aid, as well as being an active volunteer as the deputy chief of the Troutville Volunteer Fire Department. Zachary's dedication and significant contributions to Virginia's local, regional and state EMS system are exceptional and greatly appreciated by the Commonwealth of Virginia.



The Governor's EMS Award for Outstanding Contribution to EMS by a High School Senior

The Dr. Carol Gilbert \$5,000 Scholarship

Colby Rountree

In July 2012, Colby Rountree became a certified Emergency Medical Technician and his passion for helping others and giving back to the community has been evident in the level of dedication and commitment he's demonstrated as a volunteer provider to two different agencies. Colby maintained a 4.8 GPA while averaging 40 hours a week as a volunteer, participating in extracurricular activities and working toward an associate degree from a local community college. Colby hopes to become an emergency medicine doctor and then an Operational Medical Director, which will provide him the opportunity to actively educate and train EMS providers. Colby's contributions to Virginia's local, regional and state EMS system are exceptional and greatly valued by the Commonwealth of Virginia.

