

2011 Governor's EMS Awards

By 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

Jennie Collins

Battalion Chief Jennie Collins exemplifies outstanding dedication and service to the Virginia EMS system with more than 25 years of experience. Jennie has been instrumental in furthering education and resources for the health and safety of EMS providers and firefighters and has helped turn a tragic situation with the loss of a Prince William County firefighter/EMS provider into one of education to help agencies across the nation prevent line of duty deaths. She has managed various fire and EMS programs consisting of over 1,200 firefighters and EMS providers, and has supervised captains, lieutenants and numerous personnel engaged in basic and advanced life support programs. Jennie served as chair of the State EMS Advisory Board and has been involved with many EMS committees and programs regionally and statewide. Her 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

Lonny Gay

For more than 10 years Lonny Gay has served as Captain for Bland County Rescue Squad and has implemented revenue and recovery efforts that enabled his agency to hire much needed staff for assistance with call volume. Additionally, he saw the need for convalescent transport in his community and added this valuable service to his agency's job duties. Under his leadership his agency purchased an 8,000 square foot facility, which was paid for and renovated with their funds. They host a variety of free community events, including glucose testing, blood pressure and vital checks, which is a valuable resource for the community and can help identify a possible health issue before it becomes serious. They also host a monthly breakfast for the general public and participate in local fairs and fundraising efforts like Toys for Tots. Lonny'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 EMS Physician

Dr. Joseph P. Ornato

Dr. Ornato is the operational medical director for the Richmond Ambulance Authority and Richmond Fire and Emergency Services Department. He's the professor and chairman of the Virginia Commonwealth University Department of Emergency Medicine and co-author of the seminal "Chain of Survival". He's shaped the way pre-hospital life saving has occurred across the globe and his most notable achievement was the promotion, development and enhancement of pre-hospital emergency health care delivery of therapeutic hypothermia treatments by EMS providers. Pre-hospital therapeutic hypothermia treatments enabled the Richmond Ambulance Authority's cooling program, followed by sophisticated post-resuscitation care, to allow discharge of more than 40 percent of these aggressively cooled, out-of-hospital cardiac arrest patients that are neurologically intact from the hospital compared to the national survival of approximately six percent. Dr. Ornato was at the heart of this life saving program and his 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 EMS Agency

Colonial Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad

Colonial Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad operates seven EMS apparatus, which include five advanced life support units and two response vehicles. In addition, they operate two boats and a jet ski. With 45 active member and 30 junior members, they stand committed to delivering quality emergency medical care 24-hours a day, seven days a week. They also promote child safety and injury prevention to the community and have an interactive website that allows members of their community to learn about important health topics. In a time when call volumes are increasing, Colonial Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad is working to provide education and resources that can help prevent injuries and illnesses. Colonial Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad'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 Pre-Hospital Educator

Holly Frost

She's the faculty coordinator/liaison and service learning coordinator for the Health Careers Opportunity Program, a grant-based program serving a culturally-diverse and at-risk student population. She's a life member of the Sterling Volunteer Rescue Squad and provides regional paramedic response, advanced life support training and is recognized as a Loudoun County preceptor and training mentor for all EMS levels. She's also the assistant dean at Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC) and has worked to ensure quality EMS training within the region and state. She holds a Master of Science degree in physiology and her extensive experience in course development lead to the implementation of Advanced Cardiac Life Support, International Trauma Life Support, Pediatric Advanced Life Support and Pediatric Basic Trauma Life Support courses at NVCC. Under Holly's direction, NVCC served as the first pilot site in Virginia for the RN to paramedic bridge course. She also created an extension of NVCC's intermediate to paramedic upgrade program at the Rappahannock Community College in addition to authoring several publications. Holly'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 Pre-Hospital Provider

James B. Laing

James has more than 20 years of experience as a paramedic and firefighter for York County Department of Fire and Life Safety. Previously, James was a flight paramedic for Nightingale Air Ambulance and a captain with Newport News Fire Department, where he developed and implemented hazardous materials medical protocols, standardized the current equipment and inventory for city medic units, participated in the review and revision of the EMS treatment protocols and served as a technical advisor. He's known for his proficient patient care skills and has used his experience to train and precept new medics. James' 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

Donna Hurst, R.N.

For more than 25 years Donna has been a member of Staunton-Augusta First Aid and Rescue Squad, Inc. (SARS) and has held the offices of captain, first lieutenant, secretary, and currently president. During her term as President for SARS, her innovation and executive management skills helped to promote the agency and develop a program that assisted with the squad's revenue recovery. She's served on numerous committees and is a registered nurse in Augusta Health's emergency department, a clinical educator, an EMT instructor and an Advanced Life Support provider. Donna coordinates clinical rotations and works to ensure that her students have a consequential experience in the emergency department. Her approach is focused on patient care and she's improved pre-hospital services through her outstanding teaching skills and educational mentorship. Donna'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 Health and Safety

Marty L. Tomasek

Marty's forward-thinking lead toward the development of a cost effective health, wellness and safety program focused on functional circuit training equipment that only requires on-hand items, like tires, ropes, rubber mats, fire hoses, sledge hammers, etc. His commitment to health and fitness has instilled the same dedication in his program participants and they are now training for triathlons, participating in local health-related programs and helping their fellow EMS providers accomplish their health and safety goals. He has helped change the culture in York County Fire and Life Safety to one of health and safety which will help the providers better serve their community and have long careers in fire and EMS. Marty'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

Catherine Fox, R.N.

Catherine served as president of Drive Safe Hampton Roads and continues to remain an active volunteer member. One of her greatest accomplishments is the "Get It Together" campaign, which improves the health and safety of children by providing information about the dangers of distracted driving. Additionally, she assisted with passage of the texting while driving bill by providing real stories of students who injured their friends and family while texting and driving. She also teaches courses that help nurses and EMS providers feel more comfortable caring for the pediatric patient. Cathy has made it her mission to increase awareness about the dangers of the choking game (a game young children and adolescents play in an attempt to get high by choking each other) by teaching various groups about the dangers of this deadly game. Catherine Fox'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 Contribution to EMS Telecommunications

Nicola Tidey

Over the past eight years Nicola has been dedicated to the telecommunications field, originally starting as a dispatcher and later being promoted to shift supervisor and training coordinator for Culpeper County Public Safety Communications Center. She was responsible for the implementation of their accredited EMD program in addition to securing a federal grant to be used for essential training. She's taken the initiative to complete a new software program that will improve emergency response times. This year she became the emergency 911 communications manager for Orange County and has brought her vast experience and training to this new position. Nicola'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

Michaela Fleming

For Michaela, becoming involved in EMS was "in her blood", as generations of her family beginning with her great grandfather, volunteered at their local EMS agency. Michaela is a dedicated and talented high school senior who has divided her time between AP coursework (to maintain her 3.71 GPA), extracurricular activities and volunteering on the Woodstock Junior Rescue Squad. Her goals are set on continuing education in the nursing field and bridging those skills to the paramedic level with her squad. She values the importance of volunteering in the community and hopes that one day she'll pass on the dedication and passion she has for EMS to her children. Michaela's contributions to Virginia's local, regional and state EMS system are exceptional and greatly valued by the Commonwealth of Virginia.