Congratulations to the 2019 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
Byron Andrews, III

For the past 40 years, Byron Andrews has demonstrated a high level of commitment to EMS in his community of Loudoun County, the northern Virginia region and the Commonwealth of Virginia, as well as nationally and internationally. In all of his roles and capacities, he has consistently demonstrated excellence in organization, conduct, management and furthering the performance of the EMS system.

Byron joined the Sterling Volunteer Rescue Squad in 1978 while still in high school. He obtained his EMT certification in 1979. Even today, Byron is still an active member of the rescue squad; recently stepping down from a nearly 30-year tenure as Chief of the department.

Aside from his career with Sterling Volunteer Rescue Squad, Byron has also been employed by the Alexandria Fire Department for over 36 years. In addition, he is an instructor on topics ranging from EMT to firefighting, and he educates hundreds of system providers. His willingness to train others is a real passion of his.

Byron has served on numerous committees including, serving as a board member of the Northern Virginia EMS Council for more than 30 years. In 1999, he was appointed to the Financial Assistance Review Committee, where he served for six years. In 2002, he was appointed to serve on the State EMS Advisory Board, where he served a total of 12 years. Byron also is actively involved with several national organizations and stakeholder groups.

Byron Andrews’ 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*

Anne Marsh

Anne Marsh has been instrumental in the daily operations of the Arlington County Fire Department and is invested in the success and quality of care provided to those in her community.

Since 1998, Anne has worked to improve the EMS System in Arlington by building community trust with open and transparent leadership, along with a commitment to public service. A few of her responsibilities include providing technical and medical guidance to Advanced Life Support certified personnel, identifying medical training needs for the agency and actively contributing to the Regional EMS Council.

In addition, Anne provides EMS representation on several intradepartmental committees, including the Arlington County Sheriff’s Office, police department and county fire department’s monthly workgroup. She also provides community support by participating on the Community Board.

Anne Marsh’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 Physician with Outstanding Contribution to EMS  
*The Frank M. Yeiser Trophy*

Dan Avstreih, MD, FACEP

Dr. Dan Avstreih has made significant contributions to EMS at the local, state and national level. As a part of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, he is a tireless advocate for high-quality patient care. He contributes to provider education, development of educational content as well as EMS policy and protocol.

Dr. Avstreih supports and leads the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine Inova Campus’ fourth-year medical student Foundational Elective in EMS, and the EMS Introduction course during third-year medical school orientation.

Nationally, Dr. Avstreih is an active member of the National Association of EMS Physicians and is among the pioneer physicians achieving board certification in EMS.

Dr. Avstreih’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 Nurse with Outstanding Contribution to EMS
Janet McCoig, BSN, RN

For more than 40 years, Janet McCoig has worked tirelessly to improve EMS and patient care as both an educator and a nurse. Early on in her career, she recognized the impact nurses have on the patient’s experience, so she actively collaborates with physicians, staff and external partners to assure smooth and safe operations.

Janet joined the Sentara Williamsburg Regional Medical Center in 1999. She has served as an emergency department nurse, supervisor, disaster preparedness coordinator and clinical nurse manager. Janet is also active in precepting EMS students in clinical rotations.

In addition, Janet participates on numerous committees and works closely with providers and crews that are transporting to her facility.

Janet McCoig’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 EMS Prehospital Educator
Brian McIntosh

Brian McIntosh is a dedicated instructor and provider, with a career in EMS that has spanned over 24 years. From his military service in the United States Navy to his career with Chesapeake Fire Department, Tidewater Community College and Portsmouth Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services, Brian continues to strive towards excellence in patient care and the delivery of continuing education for every student and provider he encounters.

Brian serves as an adjunct instructor at Tidewater Community College, instructing initial and continuing education programs at the EMT, AEMT and paramedic level. He also founded the Hampton Roads Regional EMS Academy, which provides greater access to EMT and AEMT certification courses in the Tidewater area.

Brian displays great passion for education in EMS through his innovative teaching techniques and participation on numerous committees.

Brian McIntosh’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 EMS Prehospital Provider
Christopher Adams

Christopher Adams has been a Nationally Registered Paramedic for over 20 years with more than 35 years of experience in fire and EMS. He began his career at the age of 16, following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather. He served in Amherst County for many years before becoming part of the second group to complete the Paramedic Program at the University of Virginia.

Chris joined the Lynchburg Fire Department in 1994 and was hired in 2004 as a Flight Paramedic for Med Flight III, now known as Centra One. In 2009, Chris was one of the developers of the first Blue Ridge EMS Advanced Practice Paramedic Program, which he continues to serve on as an educator and mentor.

In addition, Chris is currently the EMS Captain with Lynchburg Fire Department and provides leadership, fire suppression and advanced level skills throughout the city of Lynchburg and surrounding areas.

Christopher Adams’ 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 and Safety
Rappahannock EMS Council’s Critical Incident Stress Management Team - Therapy Dogs and Clergy Volunteers

The Rappahannock EMS (REMS) Council’s Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Team prides itself on the work and support of its Clergy Volunteers and Therapy Dogs. They serve as a listening ear for first responders who need to talk, whether about an incident or normal day-to-day stressors. Many times, they are the team’s first line of defense before seeking mental health care and they greatly contribute to the overall health and welfare of the EMS providers.

The REMS CISM team consists of four therapy dogs that have the ability to react and respond to people in emotional distress, along with six chaplains from different denominations who are willing to assist with any incident at any time. Both the Chaplains and the Therapy Dog handlers are trained just like every other team member and have helped to reduce the number of providers seeking mental health assistance.

The REMS Critical Incident Stress Management Team’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
Samuel Bartle, M.D.

For much of his career, Dr. Samuel Bartle has advocated for pediatric emergency care as an educator, physician and as a member of many state and local committees. Dr. Bartle practices pediatric emergency medicine at VCU Health and is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Emergency Medicine, with a joint faculty appointment in the Department of Pediatrics for Virginia Commonwealth University.

With over 20 years of practice in the field of pediatric emergency medicine, Dr. Bartle truly exhibits a passion for serving the needs of children. He is often seen teaching continuing education classes at local rescue squads in addition to serving as the Chairperson of the Virginia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and as the Chairperson for the EMS for Children Committee, a sub-committee of the State EMS Advisory Board.

Dr. Samuel Bartle’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 EMS Agency
York County Department of Fire and Life Safety

The York County Department of Fire and Life Safety is a 65-year old combination career and volunteer department with over 180 members. The department consists of fire and life safety administration, fire and rescue operations, prevention and community safety and emergency management.

The department was the first Paramedic level EMS agency in the Peninsulas EMS Council region, and one of only a few in Virginia in the early 1980s. As a function of the quality of their leadership, department representatives have and continue to serve in leadership roles on professional and governmental public safety committees, as well as organizations locally, statewide and nationally.

The department’s mission is to preserve and enhance the quality of lives, the health and property of those in the community through outreach programs and safety training programs for youth.

York County Department of Fire and Life Safety’s significant contributions to Virginia’s local, regional and state EMS system are exceptional and greatly valued by the Commonwealth of Virginia.
Virgil Powell, commonly referred to as “JR,” is a long time public servant to Virginia and our country. Powell began his career with Martinsville-Henry County 911 Center in June 1995, following a six-year tour of duty in the United States Marine Corps as a Communication Specialist. He was involved in both Desert Shield and Desert Storm operations.

JR’s work ethic, determination and strong leadership skills have allowed him to climb the ranks from Dispatcher and now the Director of Martinsville-Henry County 911 Center. Upon becoming Director of the center, JR worked hard to secure funds, recommend changes and implement innovative programs such as emergency medical dispatch, P25 radios, NextGen 911 and texting to 911.

While leading one of the busiest 911 centers in the Commonwealth, JR is often seen working at the console, taking 911 calls and dispatching police, fire and EMS. He truly cares about his job, the employees and most importantly his community.

Virgil Powell’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 Hampton Roads Metropolitan Medical Response System (HRMMRS) was developed under the direction of the Hampton Roads Planning District in 1999. The emergency response team consists of over 200 members, and has provided a much-needed capability for response to large-scale and complex events, involving mass gathering and mass casualties, hazardous and radiological events.

The HRMMRS system has served as a vital regional partner in preparing the city of Hampton to respond to large emergencies and disasters. The system currently manages over $7.5 million in assets in the region. These assets include 11 disaster medical response units, 10 mass casualty, evacuation transport units and 13 shelter support units, which were donated to Hampton Roads jurisdictions to improve local response capabilities. The HRMMRS is a model system that has proven its value over the past 20 years.

The Hampton Roads Metropolitan Medical Response System’s significant contributions to Virginia’s local, regional and state EMS system are exceptional and greatly valued in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
An additional award is presented at the ceremony to recognize the outstanding contributions to EMS by a high school senior. This is a scholarship award provided by the Virginia Office of EMS in conjunction with the State EMS Advisory Board. This year, two extraordinary high school seniors were selected:

**The Governor’s EMS Award for Outstanding Contribution to EMS by a High School Senior**  
*The Dr. Carol Gilbert $5,000 Scholarship*

**Colton Allison**

Colton Allison is currently a member of the Harrisonburg Rescue Squad and is pursuing a career in medicine at Bridgewater College. As an EMS provider, Colton has learned to provide a calming presence in chaotic situations. He’s also learned how to advocate for those that cannot do so for themselves, and how important it is to serve the community in which he lives.

While in high school, Colton was enrolled in Governor’s School, maintained first class ranking academically, was a member of the Scholastic Bowl team and worked as a disaster relief volunteer in West Virginia after the devastating 2016 floods.

Colton hopes to one day become a physician and continue helping those in need of medical care.

Colton Allison’s contributions to Virginia’s local, regional and state EMS system are exceptional and greatly valued by the Commonwealth of Virginia.

**Zoie Sadler**

For Zoie Sadler, providing good patient care is of utmost importance in EMS, especially in rural communities like her hometown of Heathsville, Virginia. Zoie served as a member of the Mid-County Volunteer Rescue Squad and received her National Registry EMT certification through Northumberland High School.

While in high school, Zoie maintained a standard of excellence in her academic and athletic endeavors. She even graduated as Valedictorian of her class, maintaining an outstanding GPA between high school and Governor’s School courses. Zoie currently attends the University of Virginia and hopes to become an Emergency Room doctor.

Zoie Sadler’s contributions to Virginia’s local, regional and state EMS system are exceptional and greatly valued by the Commonwealth of Virginia.