

Congratulations to the 2016 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

Gary A. Dalton



Gary has been a pioneer in the Virginia EMS System for 47 years, and has served as a leader, advocate and motivator within all areas of the field. He began his EMS career soon after graduating from high school and since then has served as a volunteer, paid professional, instructor and mentor to several generations of EMS providers. Gary has been an active member of the Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads (VAVRS) since 1971 and has served in every officer category. While serving as president, he moved VAVRS to a top organization through the development of leadership opportunities within smaller agencies that didn't have the resources. He currently serves as editor of the "VAVRS Lifeline," a magazine that is published and distributed throughout Virginia, and highlights volunteer EMS organizations and enhanced communications to all agencies. Gary is also one of the Emergency Vehicle Operators Course (EVOC) coordinators and has been teaching the EVOC program for more than 25 years and is a true leader in the program. Throughout his career, Gary has served on numerous committees, including the State EMS Advisory Board for six years. Gary has been a provider for Valley Medical Transport for more than 25 years and has been a critical member of the organization. His years of service, excellence in performance of duties and charisma has earned him the respect of his peers and those he leads. He is truly dedicated to the frontline of EMS and has worked tirelessly to serve the needs of his peers and providers to make it easier for

them to serve their patients. He is an outstanding example for any aspiring EMS leader because he has demonstrated an exemplary path as a field provider, instructor and local leader, who has shaped services and policies in his community and across the Commonwealth. Gary Dalton'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

Kevin T. Stiles



Throughout his career, Kevin Stiles has been a true advocate for EMS, with his involvement extending back to 2002. As Battalion Chief of EMS for Loudoun County Fire and Rescue, Kevin has worked diligently and relentlessly to improve and enhance the county's EMS system. One of his greatest accomplishments has been the development, delivery and implementation of Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) training for the county. Realizing that the system was weak in its ability to respond to MCI events, Kevin took the lead on the development of MCI training that provided all system members a review of response, triage and treatment. In August 2015, he planned and led a two-week multiagency Active Shooter Response Drill. During this drill, more than 700 law enforcement, fire and EMS personnel were trained. Through his exemplary leadership and administrative skills, Kevin has greatly improved EMS in Loudoun County. He has lobbied for more staffed EMS resources, additional pay for paramedics and preceptors, and also implemented recognition programs for providers. Additionally, he participates with several committees and EMS initiatives. Kevin Stiles' 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

Paul A. Phillips, D.O.



Dr. Paul Phillips has been an active member of the EMS system for nearly 35 years, serving as a volunteer and career paramedic for more than 25 years. He also served as an EMS agency officer and captain for numerous years before completing medical school and returning to the EMS system as one of the Southwest region's most active Operational Medical Directors. Dr. Phillips oversees 13 licensed EMS agencies and also serves as Regional Medical Director for the Southwest Virginia EMS Council and as the Physician Course Director for the Southwest Virginia EMS Council EMT-Intermediate Program. A majority of his career has focused on meeting the unique needs of the agencies he oversees. His contributions include implementing the regional King Airway program and STEMI protocols. Dr. Phillips also understands the importance of EMS education and takes on an active role to ensure that the region's EMS training needs are met. Since 2009, he has supervised 219 EMS courses and has conducted more than 200 hours of EMS training, free of charge, each year, for providers in his agency and in adjacent counties where EMT instructors are limited. His commitment has earned him the respect of his peers and the EMS community. Dr. Paul Phillips' 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

Robin Manke, R.N.



Robin Manke began her career as an ER nurse and quickly knew that she wanted to do more to help expand the health care system in her region and statewide. She currently works as the Director of Emergency Management for VCU Health and is recognized as a leading expert of unique pathogens and infectious diseases. She has served as a lead on numerous projects, including the 2015 UCI World Cycle Championships in Richmond, where she was a medical center lead. During that project, she developed and implemented crisis and continuity plans that were successful in protecting critical infrastructure, quality and patient safety. Robin also served as VCU Health's administration lead on the development and implementation of a unique pathogen unit, becoming one of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's original 35 Ebola treatment centers within the U.S. during the outbreak in West Africa. She even traveled to West Africa four times during the epidemic to assist with training for personal protective equipment for public safety and EMS. Robin has made it her mission to ensure that those who respond to emergent situations are equipped, educated and prepared. Robin Manke'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 Prehospital Educator

Josh Wilkinson



Over the past five years, Josh Wilkinson has made great strides as a prehospital educator, not only for his local EMS agency, but also for the southwest Virginia region. Understanding that distance creates distinct educational barriers for students in that region, Josh has identified critical training needs and has taken numerous instructor courses that have ensured the availability of programs. He encourages his students to not only provide patient care, but to understand the importance of quality patient care. His vast knowledge and selflessness draw in students from nearly two hours away to enroll in his courses. Some of his notable accomplishments include coordinating a driver safety program for the City of Bristol, where he personally taught countless hours of driver safety for all city employees and in turn saved the city on their insurance premium. Josh has also worked to develop an EMS continuing education training program for the Bristol Fire Department, which consists of monthly online training and also includes quarterly in-class training sessions for all three work shifts. Josh's passion for high quality prehospital education has not only benefitted the EMS providers he trains, but has also affected the citizens who receive care from his students. Josh Wilkinson'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

Joshua D. Phillips



As an advanced paramedic, firefighter and instructor, Joshua Phillips has dedicated much of his career to public service and giving back to his community. Josh began his career in 2006 with Kerrs Creek Volunteer Fire Department & Rescue in Rockbridge County, Va. He went on to obtain his EMT certification and then became nationally registered as a paramedic in 2010. He currently works with the Lynchburg Fire Department and also as an adjunct instructor for the Paramedic Program at Central Virginia Community College. He serves on several organizational committees where he helps to improve different areas within the department. As a provider, Josh embodies the true characteristics of a healthcare professional. He is sensitive to the needs of his patients, remains calm during the most horrific emergency calls and continues to seek knowledge to advance his skills. Even as a mentor, preceptor and instructor, Josh continues to cultivate his skills and problem-solving abilities. He shares his passion and love of prehospital care with the next generation of providers who desire to better themselves and improve the care they provide. Joshua Phillips' 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

Katherine West



Since 1975, Katherine West has been involved with Infection Control and is highly sought after for instruction, advice and guidance for training and policy at agencies throughout the Peninsulas region and the Commonwealth. Through Katherine's training program and advocacy, all agencies within the Peninsulas region have qualified Designated Officers who meet state and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) guidelines for the management of an effective infection and exposure control program. Katherine is on the faculty at the George Washington University's School of Medicine and Health Sciences and has served as an adjunct faculty member for the National Fire Academy. In addition, she has served as a consultant to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. Her educational programs and guidance have helped prepare hundreds of EMS providers with the confidence and knowledge needed to face potential exposures to life-threatening hazards and emotional circumstances. Katherine West'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

Wanda Willis



For more than 20 years, Wanda Willis has dedicated much of her time and heart to the children of Virginia, and has proven to be an exceptional champion for childhood injury prevention. Wanda has been the Safe Kids Central Shenandoah Valley Coalition Coordinator since 2003 and has worked tirelessly to protect children by developing and supporting a strong network of injury prevention advocates. She has leveraged resources to expand the Safe Kids program to include additional staff members who coordinate various child passenger safety activities and other community programs. Wanda was appointed by former Governor Mark Warner and former Governor Tim Kaine to be a member of the State Child Fatality Review Team from 2004-2010. Wanda is well respected across Virginia and is utilized as a resource by many other child safety advocates. She is enthusiastic in everything that she does and is able to connect with people of all ages and backgrounds. Wanda Willis' 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 Richmond Ambulance Authority



This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Richmond Ambulance Authority (RAA), an organization that has seen much success over the years through its agency's initiatives and community programs. In 2015, RAA was selected as the National EMS Agency of the Year, as identified by the National Association of EMTs. Many of its members have also received national recognition for excellence. Operationally, RAA has had its busiest year to date, with more than 65,000 calls for service, an increase of five percent over last year with no loss in operational performance and response time reliability. Over the years, RAA has created a number of signature programs to contribute to wellness, injury prevention and health. The motorcycle safety

program, Rider Alert, has expanded to a global collaboration, which places identity cards inside rider's helmets to help first responders provide rapid and accurate medical assistance to motorcyclists involved in serious accidents. RAA has also partnered with the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority (RRHA) to deliver CPR to every tenant that enters RRHA housing. Since January 1, 2016, more than 1,000 citizens have received training. The Richmond Ambulance Authority'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 Jennifer A. Bowman

Over the last 16 years, Jennifer Bowman has demonstrated her dedication as a telecommunications dispatcher for Shenandoah County. She currently works there as a shift supervisor and is the resource person for all personnel within the center. One of her most unique contributions as a dispatcher is her recognition and ongoing support of the "EMS as a team" concept. Her emphasis on team practice has resulted in a professional, cordial and efficient work environment. In 1997, Jennifer began her EMS career as a volunteer EMT with the New Market Rescue Squad. She also served as the interim director at the Shenandoah County Emergency Communications Center (ECC), where she encouraged the implementation of procedures and practices that have improved operations at the ECC. As a telecommunications dispatcher, Jennifer's comprehensive knowledge, skills and abilities enable her to be the calm voice of assurance to callers and coworkers in challenging situations. Jennifer Bowman's dedication and significant contributions to Virginia's local, regional and state EMS system are exceptional and greatly appreciated by the Commonwealth of Virginia.

New award this year - The Governor's EMS Award for Outstanding Contribution to EMS Emergency Preparedness and Response (The James A. Nogle, Jr. Trophy)

The James A. Nogle, Jr. Trophy

Stephen P. Kopczynski



Chief Stephen Kopczynski has been involved in EMS and emergency management for more than 25 years and currently works as Fire Chief and Coordinator of Emergency Management for the York County Department of Fire and Life Safety. Throughout his career, Stephen has distinguished himself in the field of fire, EMS and emergency services management through outstanding service to York County, the Greater Hampton Roads region, the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Virginia Emergency Management Association. He has facilitated and chaired several pivotal policy committees and task forces. One of his notable accomplishments was to help develop the Hampton Roads Metropolitan Medical Response System and to assist with its oversight for more than a decade. He is also one of the founders of the Virginia-1 Disaster Medical Assistance Team and has served as a director for more than eight years. As a result of his efforts and exceptionally high standards of leadership and professionalism; York County, the region and Commonwealth is better prepared, trained and equipped to respond to the medical consequences of a natural or man-made disaster. Chief Stephen Kopczynski'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 State EMS Advisory Board.

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

The Dr. Carol Gilbert \$5,000 Scholarship

Nathan S. Welch



Nathan Welch takes great pride in the service he is able to provide to the community of Stephens City, Va. His compassionate spirit and love of volunteering is what led him to become a member of the Stephens City Fire and Rescue Company, where he served as a registered EMT and a ProBoard Accredited Firefighter. While volunteering at the station and completing his senior year of high school, Nathan worked as an emergency transporter for Winchester Medical Center and as a registration specialist for Front Royal Urgent Care. He was able to manage that workload along with his schoolwork and graduated high school with a 4.0 GPA. Nathan believes that a proper education is essential in life because it allows one to become a contributing member of society. When he was asked, how would you improve the EMS system in Virginia? Nathan said that he would work to increase the staffing of all agencies and find ways to provide easier access to advanced EMS training. For Nathan, the most important aspect of EMS is being there for his community in their time of need. Nathan currently attends the Virginia Commonwealth University and hopes to become an emergency department physician. Nathan Welch's contributions to Virginia's local, regional and state EMS system are exceptional and greatly valued by the Commonwealth of Virginia.