

Congratulations to the 2014 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

Matthew Lawler



Matthew Lawler has been involved in Emergency Medical Services for more than 30 years, and his drive and commitment to bettering the EMS system has demonstrated his excellence in the field. Matthew is an active life member of the Staunton-Augusta Rescue Squad and he holds a current certification as a nationally registered paramedic. He is also a Virginia certified education coordinator and plays an integral role in the region as an educator, mentor and administrator. He established and currently oversees the region's only accredited ALS training program, which has enabled the region to increase the number of ALS providers while ensuring that they are receiving the most up-to-date and progressive training available. Matthew is also working on bringing paramedic education to the region in 2015. He takes pride in making every minute count as a learning experience for his students and fellow providers, and he shares his knowledge willingly and enthusiastically. Currently, Matthew serves as the program director and assistant director of the Central Shenandoah

EMS Council, and he works with a number committees and work groups on both the regional and state level. He also served as an accreditation site reviewer for state accreditation visits conducted by the Office of EMS. Matthew Lawler'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

Ronald Passmore



For more than 25 years, Ron Passmore's career in EMS and health care has been committed to the advancement of professionalism in EMS. Ron took over as Chief of Galax-Grayson EMS in 2008, and since that time he has built a solid reputation for excellence in agency administration. Under his leadership, he has transformed Galax-Grayson EMS into a high quality, professional and Governor's EMS Award-winning agency, through the implementation of innovative programs that enhance the quality of care provided. He has also strengthened the agency's workforce by establishing high expectations and standards, in addition to transitioning all of the staff to paramedic level through the implementation of a comprehensive staff education program. In addition to greatly strengthening Galax-Grayson EMS, Ron has also served actively as a member of the Southwest Virginia EMS Council Board of Directors and is a member of the State EMS Advisory Board. Ron'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 Physician with Outstanding Contribution to EMS

The Frank M. Yeiser Trophy

Michael Moran, M.D.



Dr. Michael Moran's medical career has spanned the course of 21 years, and has involved his work in emergency medicine as a physician, medical director and an Operational Medical Director (OMD) for eight EMS agencies in Alleghany County. He also remains a volunteer member of Falling Spring Rescue Squad. Dr. Moran is committed to his involvement in EMS education and the delivery of quality EMS services in Alleghany County. He is a teacher, mentor and supporter of EMS providers, ER nurses and staff. His passion and enthusiasm for emergency medicine is demonstrated when he teaches college students and providers. His knowledge is communicated in a way that encourages his students to reach for higher goals and strive to be the best. Dr. Moran is very engaged with, and accessible to, the EMS agencies under his direction and he is constantly looking for ways to support emergency medical services and bridge the gap between prehospital and hospital care. Dr. Moran'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

Jane LaVerne, R.N.



For 35 years, Jane LaVerne has worked as a registered nurse for Virginia Commonwealth University Health Systems, where she currently coordinates training rotations for advanced level EMT students. She is also a life member of the Powhatan Volunteer Rescue Squad and a member of Middlesex Volunteer Rescue Squad. In addition to teaching and facilitating training sessions, Jane has played an important role in the Special Operations Combat Medic Program, which the military has awarded her for her contribution. She also serves as chair of the EMS Exchange Program for the Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads, Inc., where she is responsible for German paramedics who visit Virginia and operate with our EMS agencies, and in turn alternate with Virginia paramedics visiting Germany to do the same. Jane is selfless in her dedication to EMS and has used her skills and efforts to assure that the citizens in her community obtain the best medical care, regardless of sex, race or income. Jane LaVerne'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
William Akers, Jr.**



William Akers has made tremendous contributions to the advancement of EMS education throughout the Commonwealth in his nearly 40 years of experience as an EMT. As an educator, he has coordinated and instructed more than 142 approved EMS courses and implemented the region's only paramedic program, the Southwest Virginia Paramedic Program, a nationally accredited consortium that is uniquely structured to allow a large geographic area to be efficiently served. The program has pass rates on the National Registry exams that exceed the national average, and its graduates have experienced a 100 percent job placement rate. In addition, William has worked to obtain grant funding to implement several high school-based EMT programs throughout the region. His expertise and reputation have earned him recognition throughout the state and he has served on various prestigious state committees focused on EMS education. William Akers' 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
Amy Ward**



For more than 18 years, Amy Ward has provided outstanding and dedicated service to the system through her involvement in all facets of EMS at the local and regional level. Ward has worked tirelessly to improve EMS services in her agency, Portsmouth Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services, as well as in the Tidewater region. As a paramedic, she is an advocate for employee training, clinical initiatives and the strengthening of the EMS division within Portsmouth Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services. As a clinical coordinator for the department, Amy has introduced an inaugural EMS academy along with the Field Training Evaluation Program, which has greatly aided in the success of newly hired paramedics within the agency. Amy Ward'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 and Safety
David Jones



David Jones lives and breathes physical fitness and wellness, which is evident through his enthusiasm serving as Roanoke County's Medical and Fitness Coordinator for the past 10 years. In 2004, the initial goals of the department were to develop a fitness program modeled after the International Association of Fire Chiefs and International Association of Fire Fighters' Wellness Fitness Initiative. Under David's leadership and dedication, Roanoke County's wellness and fitness program has met this goal and is regularly called upon by other agencies to demonstrate its progress. The program requires all Roanoke County fire and rescue personnel to have an individual fitness profile, which is designed to help achieve personal goals. David has shown great commitment to helping all of Roanoke County Fire and Rescue to be as healthy and physically fit as possible, so that they can provide high quality service to their patients. David Jones' 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
Steven Dove



Steven Dove has been instrumental in shaping a future for kids and their involvement with Emergency Medical Services. He makes strides in educating the younger generation about the importance of public safety in the community by focusing on teaching children valuable life-saving skills. He has worked diligently with many organizations and various public safety agencies to coordinate well-rounded programs on topics such as "hands-only" CPR; child, bike and pedestrian safety, and the roles of public safety officials. As Junior Advisor to the Virginia Association of Junior Volunteer Rescue Squad, Inc., Steven has worked to restructure their involvement on the district level. Not only has he dedicated countless hours to working with kids throughout the Commonwealth, but he has financially supported many projects that continue to ensure future generations will make outstanding contributions to the public safety system. Steven Dove'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 Bland County Volunteer Rescue Squad



Over the past decade, Bland County Volunteer Rescue Squad has transformed from a small volunteer agency to a professional-grade agency that serves as a model to others. It is the only licensed EMS agency that serves the 359-square mile of mountainous area in Bland County, and it provides both emergency and convalescent transports. They provide a host of community services aimed at improving the health and safety of their community through health screenings, CPR and first aid training at community events, which are provided free of charge to all public school teachers and employees. In addition, the agency supports its own members by emphasizing ongoing education and professional development. Bland County Volunteer Rescue Squad operates under one mission, to provide the services that are needed by their community. This agency has proven that tough economic conditions and a rural location is not an obstacle for providing quality patient care. Bland County 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 Contribution to EMS Telecommunications Susan Fulcher



For the last 31 years, Susan Fulcher has shown her passion to serve her community as a volunteer EMS provider, by training providers and helping callers with pre-arrival instructions. She is a 25-year veteran of the Martinsville-Henry County 911 Center. Early in her career she was instrumental in the development and implementation of 911 in Henry County. Due to technology and conditions in the community at that time, there was no 911 or Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD). Currently, Susan provides internal training to 24 full-time Emergency Medical Dispatchers on all levels, in addition to helping to maintain the Martinsville-Henry County's state of readiness to serve the citizens, visitors and agencies in that region. She is often called upon by other agencies and peers to assist with training, and to provide advice and input on key topics related to EMS, EMD and 911 services. Susan Fulcher'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

Michael A. Hoffman, II



Michael Hoffman takes great pride in being able to serve his community in Appomattox, Va. He was inspired by both of his parents to become involved in EMS and he realized very early on all of the great things that EMS has to offer. Michael joined the Appomattox County Rescue Squad in the spring 2013, and has proven through his level of commitment and dedication that EMS truly is his passion. While in high school, Michael earned his associate's degree in general studies from Central Virginia Community College, and he's currently attending the University of Virginia. The most important aspect of EMS for him is helping people during a tough time in their life and making a difference. In efforts to help improve the EMS system in Virginia, Michael wishes to encourage more people to become volunteers. For Michael, continuing his education is essential to achieving his goals in life and he hopes one day to become an emergency physician. Michael's contributions to Virginia's local, regional and state EMS system are exceptional

and greatly valued by the Commonwealth of Virginia.