

Congratulations to the 2020 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

Allen Yee, M.D.



For almost 20 years, Dr. Allen Yee has energetically worked to improve and advance EMS within the Commonwealth. He has served on various regional, state and national committees and has shown excellence as an educator and a leader within the community.

Dr. Yee is board certified in Emergency Medicine and Emergency Medical Services, and serves as an Assistant Professor with Virginia Commonwealth University Health Systems, specifically working with EMS fellows. In addition, he serves as the Operational Medical Director for Chesterfield Fire and EMS and Regional Medical Director for the ODEMSA region. Dr. Yee is committed to educating EMS personnel and provides guidance on regional EMS protocol and policies.

Most recently, in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Yee worked tirelessly to research, develop and help implement enhanced infection control procedures, guidance for employees handling potentially exposed patients, and most importantly procedures for maintaining the health and wellness of EMS personnel.

At the state level, Dr. Yee works to implement innovative EMS solutions by serving on the State EMS Advisory Board as chair of the Medical Direction Committee, Patient Care Coordinator and chair of the state's Mobile Integrated Healthcare Workgroup.

Dr. Yee continuously works to bring all EMS providers, career and volunteer, into a collaborative pursuit of self-improvement and service to the citizens.

Dr. Allen Yee'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 Contribution to Leadership in EMS

The Kent J. Weber Trophy

Theresa Kingsley-Varble



Theresa Kingsley-Varble has provided more than 30 years of active service to the local, regional and state EMS system. She has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the advancement of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) as a provider, educator and leader at all levels of EMS care. She currently serves as the coordinator of Emergency Management for Washington County. In that capacity, she leads the public safety system and oversees the provision of EMS across the county.

At the regional level, Theresa has demonstrated unwavering commitment. She has served active roles in EMS testing and training, and also served as a member of the Southwest Virginia EMS Council. She currently serves on the EMS Council Board of Directors and on numerous regional workgroups and committees. Theresa has also worked as a state certification examiner, served on several state workgroups and was a rural EMS representative on the state Rules and Regulations Committee. Theresa's leadership has had a profound impact on Virginia's EMS System.

Theresa Kingsley-Varble'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

Joseph Ornato, M.D.



Dr. Joseph Ornato is the Operational Medical Director for the Richmond Ambulance Authority. He has served as chairman of the American Heart Association's National Emergency Cardiovascular Care Committee and its Advanced Cardiac Life Support Subcommittee.

Dr. Ornato participates in cutting edge research aimed at improving the EMS profession. This includes the development of a program that would allow dispatchers to be trained as FAA-certified commercial drone pilots and deliver FDA-approved, naloxone intranasal spray to bystander 911 callers at the scene of an opioid overdose while first responders are responding to the victim.

In addition, Dr. Ornato served as a principal investigator of the Public Access Defibrillation Trial. The results of this study were instrumental in Congress's passage of the Cardiac Arrest Survival Act of 2006, which requires all federal buildings to have automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in public places. Dr. Ornato continues to develop programs and research that impact the EMS community.

Dr. Joseph Ornato'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

Daniel Freeman, R.N.



Dan Freeman has been instrumental in helping to maintain a standard of excellence for trauma patients and families for over 15 years. He is currently the Director of Trauma Services at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital, the only Level 1 Trauma Center in Southwest Virginia. In this role, as well as his previous role as Trauma Quality and Performance Manager, he works closely with the EMS community in identifying areas for growth and improvement in communication and knowledge among many levels of providers.

Dan's previous experience as a flight nurse and Emergency Department (ED) nurse provides him with an opportunity to understand how vital it is to share and combine the unique knowledge and needs that both EMS providers and ED staff require to render consistent, high quality care to some of the most vulnerable patients encountered.

Dan prides himself on his ability to build relationships with caregivers across the region and state, which allows for productive conversations, policy work, and more importantly, the improvement of the trauma care system.

Daniel Freeman'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

Daryl Clements



Daryl Clements has been involved in Emergency Medical Services (EMS) education for more than 20 years and has remained dedicated to student achievement and improving the overall quality of EMS. His vast experience and high standards have enabled Navy Region Mid-Atlantic Fire and Emergency Services to consistently produce highly qualified EMTs and Paramedics.

Daryl is currently the lead instructor and field internship/clinical coordinator for Navy Region's state-accredited Basic Life Support training program, and is the owner and program director for Red Line Training Group, LLC. Daryl has also used his background as a U.S. Navy Corpsman to assist in developing a unique joint initiative with the Naval Medical Center Portsmouth to enable active-duty Corpsman to obtain National Registered EMT certification under Navy Region's accredited training program.

Daryl uses progressive teaching methods to ensure that students receive cutting-edge education in order to prepare them to be highly capable EMS professionals upon graduation.

Daryl Clements' 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 Sam Neglia



Sam Neglia is a retired federal law enforcement special agent who has continued his public life in the service of others by volunteering with the Sterling Volunteer Rescue Squad. In the 10 years that Sam has been with the company, he has transitioned from a Basic Life Support (BLS) provider to a Nationally Registered EMT-Paramedic, and has completed courses and certification for Critical Care Flight Medic and Tactical Medic.

Sam's dedication to prehospital care knows no boundaries and he involves himself tirelessly in any effort that enhances service delivery with the Sterling Volunteer Rescue Squad and the Loudoun County Combined Fire and Rescue System.

In his role as president with Sterling Rescue, Sam has made outreach to the community a priority. He has also been instrumental in serving on committees that have enhanced the knowledge and skills of EMS providers.

Sam Neglia'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 Jonathan Smith



Jonathan Smith is the founder of "Putting a Dent in Mental Health," a nonprofit organization geared toward saving the lives of first responders and their families from mental health crises. Jonathan created the program in memory of his best friend and fellow firefighter who lost his life to suicide. Since his death, Jonathan has made it a personal mission to get programs started so that others are able to identify possible red flags and triggers that could potentially prevent someone's death.

Jonathan's goal is to stop the negative stigma associated with mental health issues and encourage people to speak out about their feelings and tell their story.

To combat the problem, Jonathan's organization sponsors a class in Mental Health First Aid for Fire and EMS. The class focuses on the unique experiences and needs of firefighters and EMS personnel and

is a resource designed to make a difference in their lives, their families' lives and the communities in which they live.

Jonathan Smith'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 for Children Chesapeake Fire Department



The Chesapeake Fire Department is an organization that continually goes above and beyond to improve the lives of future generations with programs dedicated to injury and illness prevention, and enhanced prehospital care.

The agency hosts numerous programs geared toward teaching children fundamental lifesaving skills. Programs such as Camp Fury Chesapeake, which is a partnership between the agency and a variety of public safety organizations as well as the Girl Scouts of the Colonial Coast. Through Camp Fury, the Chesapeake Fire Department teaches children and families hands only CPR, First Aid, how to treat bleeding emergencies and stroke recognition. The program also encourages illness and injury prevention through a focus on fitness, healthy eating and teamwork.

Additional programs include the Juvenile FireSetters Program, the Adventure Intervention Mentor Program and the partnership with the Chesapeake Career Center, which encourages and supports high school students in pursuit of their EMT certification.

The Chesapeake Fire Department'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 Navy Region Mid-Atlantic Fire and Emergency Services



Navy Region Mid-Atlantic Fire and Emergency Services exemplifies outstanding professionalism and service to both the Navy community as well as the surrounding partner jurisdictions. The agency provides emergency service to an expansive military infrastructure, including the largest naval installation in the world and the Navy's East Coast Master Jet Base. During the past year, the agency responded to over 7,000 emergencies, including structural, medical, hazardous materials and aircraft emergencies across the Hampton Roads area.

The Navy Region Mid-Atlantic Fire and Emergency Services provides support for numerous recreation events across Hampton Roads and routinely provides public services to Navy families, including station tours for local children, fire safety education and holiday parades for base housing communities. The agency's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers are patient advocates in the strongest sense with concern for patients' continuity of care, emotional well-being, privacy and the protection of their personal property.

Navy Region Mid-Atlantic Fire and Emergency Services' 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 Telecommunication

John Korman



John Korman has served with Fairfax County's Department of Public Safety Communications since 1999. In that time, he has been a Communication Operations Supervisor for 12 years and Operations Manager since 2016. John is the primary point of contact with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department to coordinate Fire, EMS and EMD related issues. He leads the Fire Department liaison group, which serves a collaborative group of call takers, dispatchers, and fire department personnel to streamline the process between agencies.

John is also a contributor at the state level, serving his second term on the State EMS Advisory Board and as the chairman of the board's Communications Committee. On the national stage, he is an active member of the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials' Emergency Medical Dispatch Instructor Committee.

John diligently works to improve telecommunications and advocates for local and regional policy changes regarding the collaboration between Fire/EMS operations and telecommunicators.

John Korman'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 Emergency Preparedness and Response

The James A. Nogle, Jr. Trophy

Stafford County Fire and Rescue Department



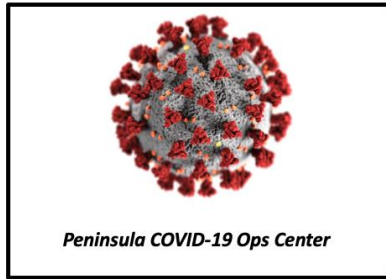
The Stafford County Fire and Rescue Department, established September 20, 2005, is an all-hazards response agency, which includes an Emergency Management Division. This sector of the agency is the coordination and support function charged with creating the framework within which Stafford County reduces vulnerability to hazards and copes with disasters. They protect the community by coordinating and integrating all activities necessary to build, sustain and improve the capability to mitigate against, prepare for, respond to, and recover from threatened or actual natural disasters, acts of terrorism, or other man-made disasters.

The Stafford County Fire and Rescue Department has been recognized for their effective Emergency Management and Preparedness efforts. Including their active CERT Team, PulsePoint Program and for being the first in their region to not only obtain HeartSafe Community designation, but also develop the program to assist other localities across the Commonwealth to do the same.



The Stafford County Fire and Rescue Department'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 Innovation Excellence in EMS Peninsula COVID-19 Operations Center



The Peninsula COVID-19 Operations Center (PCOC) was formed on March 16, 2020, and served as an Incident Management Team encompassing all six fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) governmental agencies located on the Virginia Peninsula. The PCOC evolved early in the COVID-19 pandemic and its genesis was rooted to improve coordination and communication between all localities on the Peninsula. It allowed the Health Department to have a singular point of contact with all Peninsula agencies, which improved the consistency of messages.

As the PCOC formed, it served as a collection point for COVID-19 related concerns, a data gathering hub and provided daily operational updates in a unified format. It helped maintain and support a common operating picture of the Peninsula's response and management of the COVID-19 pandemic. This was critically important when understanding the number of public safety personnel exposed, tested and quarantined; as well as emerging and creative best practices that agencies were developing and implementing.

The Peninsula COVID-19 Operations Center's significant contributions to Virginia's local, regional and state EMS system are exceptional and greatly valued by 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

Emma Skeen



Emma Skeen joined Cleveland Junior Lifesaving Crew as soon as she could with the intention of following in her parents and grandparents footsteps and continuing the inspiring work that they were (and still are) doing. In the three years since, she has had the opportunity to further her education, serve in a leadership role and inspire others to volunteer just as her family has inspired her.

Through her involvement in Emergency Medical Services (EMS), she gained her certification as a Virginia Emergency Medical Technician, served as First Lieutenant of the Junior Crew and has inspired and encouraged many of her peers to become volunteers.

If given the opportunity to improve the EMS System in Virginia, Emma said that she would implement measures to improve mental health awareness amongst EMS providers.

Emma believes that her continued education is essential to not only furthering her knowledge and opportunities, but to serving others and pursuing a future career in law.

Emma Skeen's contributions to Virginia's local, regional and state EMS system are exceptional and greatly valued by the Commonwealth of Virginia.

William Andrews



William Andrews discovered his passion for emergency medicine early on in his Emergency Medical Services (EMS) career and credits his family for sparking that interest. He served as Jr. Captain for Bensley-Bermuda Volunteer Rescue Squad and Vice President of the state association of Junior Rescue Squads. William also serves as a member of the Carson Volunteer Fire Department. His favorite part about volunteering is the ability to take care of patients and make a difference in a stranger's life.

If given the opportunity to improve the EMS system in Virginia, William shared that he would work to improve ambulance overuse and would incorporate the use of Community Paramedicine and social work to best assist those seeking care.

William takes pride in his dedication to expanding his medical knowledge and feels he is making a difference in his patient's life, his community and the EMS field.

William Andrews' contributions to Virginia's local, regional and state EMS system are exceptional and greatly valued by the Commonwealth of Virginia.