

Congratulations to the 2021 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 Craig DeAtley



For almost 40 years, Craig DeAtley, has been on the leading edge of advancing prehospital patient care. Craig is a Physician's Assistant by profession and a prehospital EMS provider by passion. In his very early days, Craig was a founding member of the Hampton Sydney College Fire Department and went on to serve his community as a local fire department member, educator and leader in EMS.

Craig has been a United States Presidential Appointee, an integral medical leader in the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department's Urban Search and Rescue Team and an innovator in the region's emergency preparedness and disaster management.

He also served as a highly influential principal in the development of EMS education with George Washington University and its regional EMS education center in Northern Virginia. He is a model for compassionate patient care in every role that he has filled.

One of Craig's most notable achievements includes his more than 30 year commitment as a medical director for the Fairfax County Police Department. He has been instrumental in developing a tactical medical program and safety officer program. He is a critical leader and advisor in the department's responses to a myriad of medical and health-related challenges, including Ebola, Avian Flu, and most recently, the COVID-19 pandemic. He has demonstrated great passion, integrity and the highest degree of skill to, not only those he instructs and oversees, but also to the field of EMS.

Craig DeAtley'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

Gregory Woods



Greg Woods has served nearly 20 years in EMS leadership at the local, regional and state level. He began his EMS career as a volunteer with Saltville Rescue Squad and was hired as a Field Coordinator by the Southwest Virginia EMS Council in 2004. In that role, he led the Council's training and testing programs until being promoted to Executive Director.

As a Regional EMS Council Director, he has overseen a complete corporate reorganization. He also managed the implementation of numerous programs and initiatives necessary to support EMS. Among these, Greg oversaw the establishment of an AHA Training Center, accreditation of an ALS certification training program, and the establishment of a regional training center to support EMS education.

Greg has been highly involved in EMS at the state level by serving on numerous state committees, including chair of Virginia's Regional EMS Councils. Currently, Greg is the longest-tenured regional EMS council director in Virginia.

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

– *This year, two extraordinary physicians were selected.* –

The Governor's EMS Award for Physician with Outstanding Contribution to EMS

The Frank M. Yeiser Trophy

John Morgan, M.D.



Dr. John Morgan has served as the Operational Medical Director (OMD) for the Loudoun County Combined Fire and Rescue System since late 2003. He has been instrumental in continually elevating the organization to the next level to benefit the communities in Loudoun County while overseeing nearly 1,000 certified EMS providers.

In addition to serving on multiple committees in the Loudoun County System, he is very active with the Northern Virginia EMS Council, serving on the Regional Board of Directors and the Regional OMD Committee.

Dr. Morgan is closely involved with, and dedicated to, all aspects of EMS, including training, dispatch, quality assurance and operations. One of the most outstanding attributes of his leadership as an OMD is his commitment to providing the highest quality prehospital emergency care.

Dr. John Morgan'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

Norman Rexrode, M.D.



Dr. Norman Rexrode has served nearly 40 years of continuous active service to the local and regional EMS system in Southwest Virginia. He currently serves as the Operational Medical Director (OMD) for nine licensed EMS agencies on a strictly volunteer basis.

Dr. Rexrode has built a positive reputation for being highly involved with the agencies he serves. He is recognized for his accessibility while maintaining high expectations for quality improvement.

Dr. Rexrode's long career has also involved an extraordinary commitment to EMS education. He is credited with bringing the very first advanced life support training to Russell County and was directly responsible for the advancement of prehospital care in the county.

Today, he continues to mentor, precept and train prehospital students. His investment in the lives and careers of countless EMS providers has been profound and serves as an example of service and dedication to many.

Dr. Norman Rexrode'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

Greta Morrison



Greta Morrison provides outstanding contributions to the local and regional emergency medical services system in both nursing and the direct provision of EMS care. Her leadership roles in nursing administration over two decades has created valuable partnerships between Russell County Hospital and the EMS agencies serving Russell County. She has implemented programs to support EMS agencies and to improve the quality of care.

Greta is a life member of Lebanon Life Saving Crew and held numerous leadership positions over the years. She previously served as a flight nurse with Wings Air Rescue, and is currently active with New Garden Rescue Squad.

Over the years, Greta has served on numerous local, regional and state committees and has demonstrated uncommon commitment to improve the delivery of EMS.

Greta Morrison'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 Kelsey Rideout



As a firefighter and paramedic for the past nine years, Kelsey Rideout has discovered that her true passion within EMS is training and teaching other providers. As an instructor, she demonstrates patience, empathy, drive for self-improvement and adaptability.

Whether teaching EMS Continuing Education classes for Fredericksburg Fire Department, providing a lecture at hospital EMS events, coordinating large-scale regional disaster exercises, educating EMS and hospital providers in ACLS/PALS or serving her community with CPR class opportunities, Kelsey Rideout exemplifies outstanding teaching and leadership qualities at the local, regional and statewide level.

She is a member of the Rappahannock EMS Council CISM Team and has served on the Regional Guidelines and Training Committee. Kelsey is an educator that is willing to not only teach quality education but also learn as well.

Kelsey Rideout'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 Candace Brown



Candace Brown has been a member of the Lynchburg Fire Department since 2007. She has progressed to the level of Advanced Practice Paramedic and currently serves as Fire Captain and EMS Supervisor for the agency. Candace also holds multiple certifications in both EMS and fire.

In addition to being a full time Paramedic/Firefighter, Candace is also active in the community. She is a guest speaker routinely for special conferences in the City of Lynchburg and is an adjunct professor for Randolph College, where she teaches health, safety and CPR.

She is also a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician, which she performs both in her official capacity at Lynchburg Fire Department and during her personal time for the community. Candace is currently completing her master's degree in Public Health and has plans to pursue her Doctorate.

Candace Brown'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
Kelley Rumsey



Kelley Rumsey is an asset to the EMS community through her continued work in mental health first-aid. She is currently the Trauma Program Manager for Children's Hospital of Richmond at VCU and has been a long time member of the Old Dominion EMS Alliance (ODEMSA) PeerSupport Team (PST).

In 2018, Kelley initiated a new stress control model developed by the U.S. Navy called the Stress First Aid (SFA) model that uses a peer-to-peer approach to help team members better understand and confront their trauma versus having them relive the ordeal.

Her passion for provider well-being created an opportunity to assist the ODEMSA Regional PST with sound evidence and a keen eye for system improvements. Kelley has worked tirelessly to help shape the ODEMSA PST into a group of individuals that is sought after by other regional agencies in a time of need.

Kelley Rumsey'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
Jill Lucas Drakeford



Jill Lucas Drakeford has made it her mission to reverse the statistic that preventable injuries are the leading cause of death for children in the United States. As a Community Health Educator for the past 18 years and Carilion Clinic's Safe Kids Southwest Virginia Coordinator, Jill goes above and beyond to protect the health and safety of children. She is dedicated to educating parents, caregivers and children throughout Southwest Virginia on injury prevention.

Since 2008, Jill has participated in 873 child safety events, serving more than 26,671 people. Whether giving a safety demonstration for hundreds of people at a health fair or performing one-on-one car seatsafety checks, her work has made a real and significant impact on the families in her region. Jill has dedicated her life to serving others and her passion to ensure the safety of the children in her community is remarkable.

Jill Lucas Drakeford'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 Botetourt County Department of Fire and EMS



The Botetourt County Department of Fire and EMS began in 2001, and has experienced immense growth and development within its complex combination fire and EMS system. The agency provides superb care and excellent community engagement, while ensuring personnel are well trained, equipped and safe to perform their extremely difficult jobs.

Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the department accomplished numerous achievements that strongly supported the community and response efforts. The department established its own in-house processes for COVID-19 testing and improved patient care initiatives.

Throughout the pandemic, the Department was also a source of hope and inspiration. They recorded community outreach videos to bring the community up to speed, and developed a bi-weekly conference call with local officials to maintain situational awareness. The Botetourt County Department of Fire & EMS strives to be an exemplary organization for the betterment of the community they serve.

Botetourt County Department of Fire and EMS' 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 Daniel Hartsock



Daniel Hartsock has served more than 23 years as an EMS provider in the regional EMS system and 18 years as a professional telecommunicator for Washington County 911.

In his capacity with Washington County, Daniel has demonstrated a willingness to go beyond what is expected in his job, and serve as a leader who strives to improve the effectiveness of the dispatch system.

Daniel has demonstrated a commitment to take on new projects and responsibilities, including undertaking significant roles in training as a Public Safety Answering Points Training Officer since 2008.

He also staffs the Sheriff's Office Command Post when activated for mass casualty, severe weather events and any situations that may warrant deployment. Daniel is an advocate for EMS and provides exceptional support and service to the public.

Daniel Hartsock'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

Cindy Williams



Cindy Williams currently serves as the Vice President and Chief Pharmacy Officer for Riverside Health System in Newport News. She has also worked to become a reliable and accessible resource for EMS Emergency Preparedness and Response in the region, community and the Commonwealth.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Cindy has worked tirelessly in coordinating vaccination efforts, participating in daily and weekly COVID-19 related conference calls, meetings and planning sessions. She was a member of the Virginia Department of Health's COVID-19 Pharmacy Committee, COVID-19 Vaccine Committee, COVID-19 Vaccine Safety and Efficacy Sub-Committee and COVID-19 Vaccine Community Partnerships Sub-Committee.

She has been a true advocate for EMS Emergency Preparedness and Response, using all of her knowledge and abilities to leverage vaccines for the community's vaccination efforts.

Cindy Williams' 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

James Huffman



Jim Huffman has been assisting Virginia's EMS System for 25 years, beginning with an offer to donate web hosting services to Western Virginia EMS Council in 1996. In 2014, the council was pleased to extend an employment offer to Jim on behalf of the 11 Regional EMS Councils.

Since hired as the Director of Technology Services, he has established Regional Council Technology Support, a program supported by the Office of EMS and regional council office contributions for continuing his efforts to advance technology.

Jim's commitment to innovation and modernization have kept the regional council offices safe and allowed them to operate in a more effective and efficient manner. His work has allowed for increased collaboration capabilities across regions while reducing costs for services. Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, Jim anticipated, built and activated services that were invaluable to the Regional EMS Council offices' response efforts.

Jim Huffman'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.

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

The Dr. Carol Gilbert \$5,000 Scholarship

Madyson Wilkerson



Madyson Wilkerson joined Halifax County Rescue Squad as soon as she turned sixteen, with a desire to serve her community. Her colleagues have expressed that from her first day at the squad, as soon as her boots touched the ambulance bay floors, her eagerness to learn and willingness to help others has echoed the halls of the squad building.

If given the opportunity to improve the EMS system in Virginia, Madyson shared that she would find ways to encourage more people to become EMS volunteers, through recruitment campaigns, community outreach and collaboration with the high schools.

Madyson believes that her continued education is essential to providing the best possible care to her patients, and that it is important to work as a team to provide care that is delivered efficiently, effectively and compassionately.

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