

## **Congratulations to the 2022 Governor's EMS Award Recipients!**

*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 Samuels, Bon Secours, Rappahannock General and Mary Immaculate Hospitals**



Gary Samuel's focus has always been on helping others and making EMS the best it can be for the citizens of the Commonwealth. He has more than 42 years of experience in fire, EMS and emergency services that includes volunteer, career, private and military organizations.

Gary worked for 28 years through all areas within the County of Henrico's Division of Fire, retiring as EMS and Fire Operations Battalion Chief. He began his career as a volunteer firefighter at the Doswell Volunteer Fire Department in 1980. He joined the United States Air Force in 1985 and transferred into the Virginia Air National Guard's Fire Department where he was a crash fire rescue firefighter and Staff Sergeant until 1994. He has over 28 years of hospital experience working at Bon Secours, Henrico Doctors and VCU Medical Center, using his advanced skills in the emergency department, cardiac progressive care units and administrative settings.

He is certified as a Nationally Registered Paramedic, Virginia Paramedic, Virginia Education Coordinator, Fire Officer 111, Fire Instructor 111, Fire Officer I and II Trainer and Fire Inspector. He is an Outreach Coordinator at Bon Secours Mercy Health and manages two facilities within the Peninsulas EMS Council region.

He has made remarkable contributions to the local, regional and statewide EMS systems, including his service on Virginia's State EMS Advisory Board since 2018, where he is the Chairman of the Legislative and Planning Committee. Gary's personal commitment, dedication and professionalism has been a hallmark of his ongoing involvement in EMS. He works tirelessly to advocate for, and promote excellence in, EMS care at all levels.

Gary Samuels' 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  
**Jon Henschel, Winchester Fire and Rescue Department**



Jon Henschel's demonstrated commitment and service to public safety spans over 30 years. He began his distinguished career as a volunteer firefighter and paramedic. He remains an active member of the Winchester Fire and Rescue Department and Frederick County Fire and Rescue. He has "risen through the ranks" from volunteer to Sergeant, to Lieutenant, to Battalion Chief, and to his current position of Chief of Winchester Fire and Rescue.

Jon's work and education history demonstrates his commitment to a comprehensive, integrated EMS system in the Commonwealth, as well as the high honor of his appointment to Virginia's State EMS Advisory Board.

Jon believes in, and practices the importance of, ongoing professional development and education. He has earned undergraduate degrees in Fire Science and Fire Administration, as well as master's degrees in Emergency Services Management and Organizational Leadership. Jon has committed much of his life to participating, teaching, enhancing and providing EMS services.

Jon Henschel'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  
**Michel Aboutanos, M.D., VCU Health**



Dr. Michel Aboutanos is the chief of the Division of Acute Care Surgical Services at VCU, the Medical Director of the VCU Trauma Center and the Director of the VCU Injury and Violence Prevention Program. He is a passionate advocate for EMS.

Previously, Dr. Aboutanos was the Medical Director for the VCU Paramedic Program from 2013-2018. During that time, he oversaw the education of hundreds of paramedics that are actively working and volunteering in the region today. He was committed to the EMS community by assuring that providers received the highest level of education and clinical experience by advocating for the availability of clinical rotations throughout the hospital.

As the Medical Director of the Center for Trauma and Critical Care Education from 2013-2020, Dr. Aboutanos served as the Physician Course Director for Prehospital Trauma Life Support courses, helping to bring this standard trauma education to hundreds of EMS agencies and training countless EMS providers. Dr. Aboutanos is an active member of Virginia's State EMS Advisory Board, and his leadership role has helped shape and support prehospital care of

trauma patients.

Dr. Michel Aboutanos' 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  
Lou Ann Miller, R.N., Riverside Regional Medical Center**



Commonwealth of Virginia.

As a Trauma Certified Registered Nurse, Lou Ann Miller has been providing patients with outstanding care since 1980, and is recognized for a lifetime of advocating for trauma care, not only in the Peninsulas EMS region, but throughout the Commonwealth.

Until she retired from full-time service in April, 2022, Lou Ann Miller was the Trauma Program Manager for Riverside Regional Medical Center in Newport News. She was instrumental at Riverside Regional, attaining and maintaining certification as a Level II Trauma Center.

Lou Ann also led the way for trauma treatment training at every level of patient care; from training countless emergency room nurses who specialize in trauma, to bringing the Rural Trauma Course to many non-trauma centers across the Commonwealth. Lou Ann also served on numerous regional and statewide committees and has remained committed to improving the care of injured patients.

Lou Ann Miller’s significant contributions to Virginia’s local, regional and state EMS system are exceptional and greatly valued by the

**The Governor’s EMS Award for Outstanding EMS Prehospital Educator  
Penny Kelly, Fairfax County Schools**



Penny Kelly began her career in the medical field in 1978 as a registered nurse. She went on to pursue becoming an EMT and enrolled in Fire 1 and 2 classes in Fauquier County, where she was one of the first females to complete and pass the program.

In the early 1990s, while serving as an EMT for Fauquier, the chief asked Penny to teach EMT at both Liberty High School and Fauquier High School, beginning one of the first high school EMT programs in Virginia. The high school programs were revolutionary and exceptionally effective in recruiting and retaining new members for the volunteer departments in the county, as well as molding first responders to serve the region's career fire and EMS departments. Penny started her course with no gear or supplies to teach 17 eager and ethnically diverse individuals, and 28 years later she still finds a way to connect with each and every student she teaches.

Penny Kelly’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  
Tyler Reid, York County Department of Fire and Life Safety**



Commonwealth of Virginia.

Tyler Reid is a Nationally Registered Paramedic, a Virginia Paramedic and serves as an EMS Field Supervisor and Captain with York County Department of Fire and Life Safety. He has been a career provider within the organization since August 24, 2009.

As an instructor, Tyler has taught numerous Stop the Bleed classes and eagerly shares his knowledge to help educate future EMS leaders. Tyler also serves as the most senior SWAT Medic of the York-Poquoson Sheriff's Office Emergency Response Team, which requires tactical EMS skills that are honed through on-going training, drills and actual operations.

He also actively participates in the York County Department of Fire and Life Safety EMS Equipment Committee, providing ideas for new technology product review and implementation. Tyler is a mentor to EMS providers in the field that are within his direct oversight, and he provides guidance and leadership to other EMS providers.

Tyler Reid’s significant contributions to Virginia’s local, regional and state EMS system are exceptional and greatly valued by the

**The Governor’s EMS Award for Outstanding Contribution to EMS Health and Safety  
Jennifer Collins, Lynchburg Fire Department**



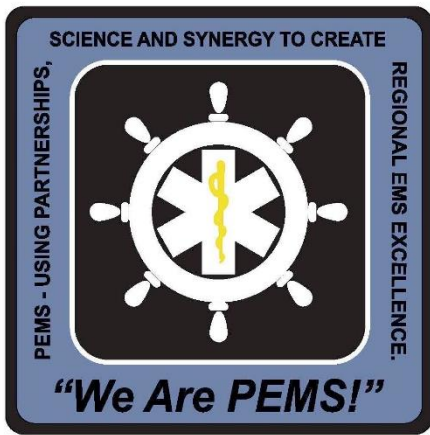
Jennifer Collins has distinguished herself in the area of provider health and safety by developing and managing initiatives that address both the physical and mental health of 185 fire and EMS providers in the Lynchburg Fire Department. She developed a sustainable fitness program called the Firefighter Occupational Risk Management Athletic Training Program.

Jennifer acquired a FEMA grant that allowed the agency to purchase workout equipment for every station. She also worked to strengthen the Employee Assistance Program and improved yearly mental health screenings.

Additionally, Jennifer has expanded the department's Peer Support Team by coordinating Critical Incident Stress Debriefings after all emergencies that have the potential to cause negative stress on the responders. She expanded the Volunteer Chaplains program, which allowed the Chaplains to be involved in special events, the Peer Support Team, and respond to calls when necessary for firefighter or citizen support.

Jennifer Collins’ 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 Peninsulas EMS Council Pediatric Care Committee



The Peninsulas EMS (PEMS) Council Pediatric Care Committee established an effective model of leadership in advocacy for EMS care for children. It was formed at the request of the PEMS Medical Advisory Committee to rewrite the entire pediatrics section of the PEMS Regional Patient Treatment Protocols.

The multidisciplinary team included representatives from the Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters, VCU Children's Hospital of Richmond, Sentara Williamsburg Regional Medical Center and Riverside Health System.

The committee contributed countless hours in their effort to create an evidence-based set of pediatric protocols that reflect the highest standards of pediatric care. The members of the PEMS Pediatric Care Committee have volunteered to help raise the bar for pediatric care in the region and shine a light on often

overlooked aspects of caring for children in the prehospital environment.

The Peninsulas EMS Council Pediatric Care Committee'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 Nightingale Regional Air Ambulance



Nightingale Regional Air Ambulance was the second hospital-based program in Virginia and the 38th air medical program in the U.S. Celebrating 40 years, and more than 24,000 patient flights, the agency continues to serve all of Hampton Roads and northeast North Carolina.

Nightingale works with EMS agencies to rapidly transport a wide variety of patients for care and intervention. They act as a bridge between EMS and hospitals by beginning advanced treatments, rapidly transporting the patient and preparing appropriate hospital teams at the tertiary care centers to ensure a streamline in-patient care and improving patient outcomes. The agency also provides outreach and training to the Fire and EMS agencies they serve.

Nightingale gives back to the community by participating in multiple EMS and Hospital community events, to include gun violence prevention, the "Every 15 Minutes" drinking and driving programs, and the distracted driving programs. Nightingale remains a model for flight safety and compassionate ICU-level patient care, and is an integral part of the Sentara Healthcare's mission to improve health every day.

Nightingale Regional Air Ambulance'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 Telecommunication  
Adriane Heiden, Loudoun County Fire and Rescue**



Adriane Heiden began her employment with Loudoun County Fire and Rescue in 2018. During that time, she has excelled as a call taker and dispatcher, and has become a certified Emergency Dispatch Quality Assurance Reviewer.

Adriane has a passion for education, and as a certified instructor for the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials, she teaches new telecommunicators and delivers public education to her community.

In addition, Adriane has developed a training program to assist other personnel in processing calls from individuals experiencing medical emergencies while on the trails in Loudoun County. This training covers location determination programs and trail identification systems, and has been presented to all Loudoun County Fire and Rescue employees and new hire personnel within the center.

Adriane also serves on the Loudoun County Fire and Rescue Quality Assurance Unit committee, assisting the agency by reviewing trends and developing standards for the EMD program.

Adriane Heiden’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  
Kenneth Smith, CJW Medical Center**



For over 20 years, Ken Smith has worked as the emergency management coordinator for HCA CJW Medical Center. He ensures that the safety and well-being of hospital staff, visitors and first responders is taken into consideration when developing and implementing standard operation procedures, meeting accreditation guidelines, during training events and conducting emergency response exercises.

Ken is also an active member of the Old Dominion EMS Alliance MCI committee and the Hospital Diversion Committee, where his experience and expertise has helped push forward the mission for both groups.

In addition, Ken participates in the Old Dominion EMS Alliance’s Peer Support Team, where he responds to activations, assists with training and provides support to team members. He is also an active member of the Forest View Volunteer Rescue Squad.

Kenneth 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 Innovation Excellence in EMS Old Dominion EMS Alliance**



The Old Dominion EMS Alliance’s (ODEMSA) Regional Hospital Diversion Plan has been in place since 2001. Its purpose is to maintain an orderly, systematic and appropriate distribution of emergency patients transported by ambulances during a single or multiple hospital diversion situation within the ODEMSA region.

When stakeholders within the region conceived the plan, it was never anticipated that any one specific event would last for more than a few days to a week. However, in August of 2021 the longest period of diversion began, due to the increase in EMS volume, staff shortages and supply chain disruptions. The extended Patient Distribution Center activation lasted from August 10, 2021 through February 28, 2022.

Through ODEMSA’s innovation and with the collaboration of their stakeholders, the plan achieved its initial goal. The ODEMSA Region was able to pull off the longest diversion plan activation to date, and maintained a cohesive EMS and hospital system while mitigating EMS crew wait times and reducing hospital surge.

The Old Dominion EMS Alliance’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 Michael Lansing, Tuckahoe Volunteer Rescue Squad**



For Michael Lansing, volunteering provides him a sense of purpose that has impacted other areas of his life. After becoming a lifeguard and taking a Basic Life Support course through the Red Cross, Michael saw an opportunity to enroll in Tuckahoe Rescue Squad’s EMT class and soon knew EMS was for him. Michael enjoys doing what he can to help those in need and is passionate to learn about the different health conditions that people experience.

If given the opportunity to improve the EMS system in Virginia, Michael would increase the promotion of EMT courses to potential students in the school systems and increase advertisement for volunteer opportunities. Michael intends to further his academic education at the University of Richmond and plans to apply to the VCU Paramedic Program. His goal is to one day become a physician. Michael believes that EMS is more than responding to 911 calls and saving lives, it’s having the opportunity to better the life of another person.

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