

California
 **EMS**
Awards

2013



Brave - Dedicated - Willing - Reliable

These words describe the 78,000 licensed or certified EMS providers in California. They demonstrate these qualities every day by coming to the aid of others when they are most in need and working to ensure that the EMS system operates well. However, each year, due to circumstance or extraordinary effort, certain individuals among us shine. The Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMS Authority) seeks to recognize these individuals through the California Emergency Medical Services Awards Ceremony held annually in December at the Marines' Memorial Hotel in San Francisco.

The EMS Authority initiated the statewide EMS Awards in 2007 to honor the special accomplishments, meritorious and heroic acts, innovations or fresh ideas to improve EMS in the state, or other unique and/or significant contributions by EMS personnel, physicians, nurses, EMTs, other medical providers, local officials, members of the law enforcement community, citizens, and first responders.

In addition, the California EMS Awards allow us to shine a light on our coordinated EMS system as a whole and recognize the value of EMS to all of our communities.

The California Emergency Medical Services Awards were created to honor exceptional acts and services by EMS certified or licensed personnel, administrators, trainers, or volunteers.

The 2013 California Emergency Medical Services Awards were presented on December 4, 2013 at the Marines' Memorial Club and Hotel in San Francisco (right).



Presenters:
Howard Backer, MD, MPH, FACEP, Director of the Emergency Medical Services Authority (far left).

Jane Smith, MA, NREMT-P, Chair of the Commission on Emergency Medical Services (middle).

Thank you to our Emcee:
Daniel R. Smiley, Chief Deputy Director of the Emergency Medical Services Authority (left).

Award recipients are nominated by their colleagues and are selected by a committee representing EMS system stakeholders:

- Dan Burch, President, Emergency Medical Services Administrators' Association of California
- Dr. Greg Gilbert, President, Emergency Medical Directors Association of California
- Chief Demetrious Shaffer, President of the California Fire Chiefs Association
- June Iljana, Executive Director, California Ambulance Association
- Art Hsieh, California Rescue Paramedic Association
- Daniel R. Smiley, Chief Deputy Director, Emergency Medical Services Authority

Robin R Robinson, EMS Awards Coordinator

Special thanks to American Medical Response, BoundTree Medical, Paramedics Plus, California Ambulance Association, California Fire Chiefs Association and San Francisco Paramedics Association for making the 2013 EMS Awards Ceremony luncheon possible.



2013 California EMS Award Heroes



Top (left to right): Erik Schorken, Jim Morrissey, Ennis Jackson, Christopher Van Gorder, Les Hugie, Karl Sporer, Ross Elliott, Rebecca Foster, Albert Alvarez, William 'Bill' Caldera

Bottom (left to right): Tracey McCormick, Andrew Goodwin, Michael Jacobs, Walter Parton, Sean Diemert, Chana Alexander, Cynthia Frankel, Dr. Marc Eckstein, Cathy Chidester, Dave Austin, Rich Porcelli, Jeremiah Glass

LIFE SAVING AWARD

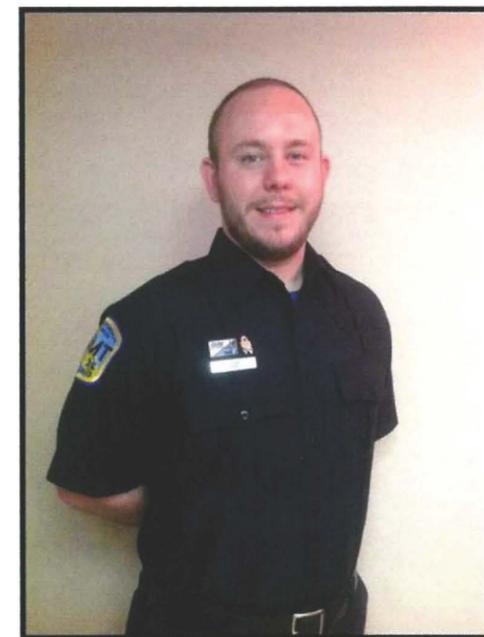
Recognizes an EMS provider who, while in an off-duty or volunteer capacity, makes an extremely noteworthy contribution to efforts which result in the saving of a life.



Sean Diemert

Martinez, ProTransport-1, EMT

While off duty on November 12, 2012, EMT Diemert witnessed an auto collision that resulted in the vehicle catching fire and rendering the driver unresponsive and injured. Diemert, with the assistance of two bystanders, sprang into action, pulling the driver from the burning vehicle. Diemert stabilized the patient until Contra Costa Fire responders arrived and the patient was resuscitated.



Dr. Howard Backer, Sean Diemert, Jane Smith



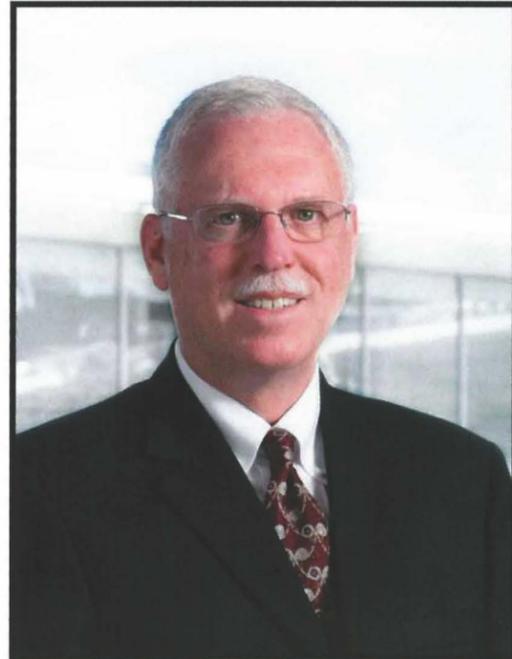
CIVILIAN AWARD

The Civilian Award recognizes a civilian (non-certified, non-health care provider) who provides extraordinary service during the course of an EMS emergency. Awards are relatively based upon the degree of patient outcome, extreme conditions, or extraordinary circumstances.

Albert Alvarez

Seaside, CA

Honored for saving a victim's life on April 10, 2013. Albert was on the scene when a 76 year-old man collapsed and was not breathing. He quickly administered CPR until paramedics arrived. Albert's quick thinking and responsiveness played a tremendous part in saving the life of the patient.



Dr. Howard Backer, Albert Alvarez, Jane Smith



CIVILIAN AWARD

Erik Schorken

San Leandro, CA

Honored for his heroic actions as part of a group of civilians who assisted in life-saving efforts to rescue a family on June 16, 2013. Erik made his way towards the drowning victims, used a knife to break the window open, and freed the family from the water-logged car. He assisted multiple members of the family swim back to shore.



Schorken and family



CIVILIAN AWARD

Andrew Goodwin

San Leandro, CA

Goodwin is being honored for his heroic actions as part of a group of civilians who assisted in life-saving efforts to rescue a family on June 16, 2013. He stood alongside the paramedic, helping pull the victims out of the water as they started coming to shore. Andrew also escorted them to the ambulance.



Andrew Goodwin, Tracey McCormick, Erik Schorcken



CIVILIAN AWARD

Tracey McCormick

Alameda, CA

McCormick is being honored for her heroic actions as part of a group of civilians who assisted in life-saving efforts to rescue a family on June 16, 2013. As a car was slowly submerging into the water with a family of four inside, Tracey was the first to jump into the water and swim towards the family to help them escape. With the assistance of other members of this heroic team, Tracey helped bring the family to shore.



Tracey McCormick with friends and family



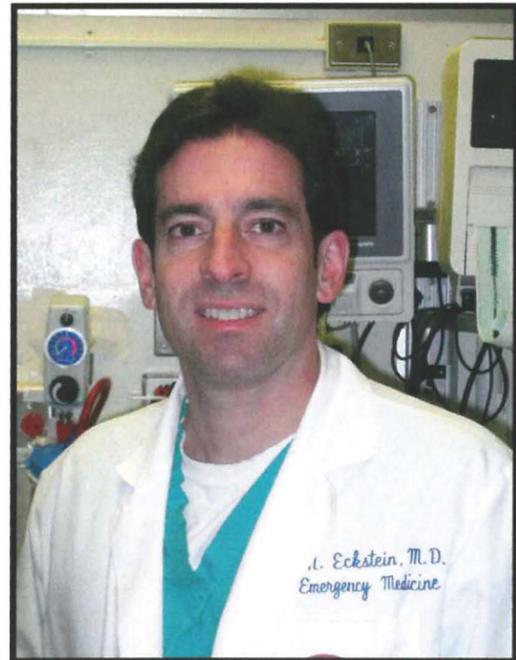
MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

Recognizes an individual for a meritorious act or service within EMS. This award also recognizes an EMT for an act that is above and beyond the call of duty in the course of a particular EMS emergency or event.



Dr. Marc Eckstein

Los Angeles, Los Angeles Fire Department, Medical Director
Dr. Eckstein is being recognized for providing exceptional leadership and service to the Los Angeles medical community. Dr. Eckstein was influential in coordinating and providing medical oversight for implementation of the Los Angeles AED Public Access Program and continues to contribute to state and national pre-hospital policy formulation.



Dr. Howard Backer, Dr. Marc Eckstein, Jane Smith



MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL



William "Bill" Caldera

Sonora, Tuolumne County LEMSA, Operations Manager
Bill Caldera is being recognized for outstanding service and leadership during the Rim Fire on August 17, 2013. Recognizing the danger of the fire, Caldera instinctively directed his medics to evacuate Groveland residents, provide firefighter rehabilitation and verify credentials of responding volunteer personnel.



Dr. Howard Backer, William Caldera, Jane Smith

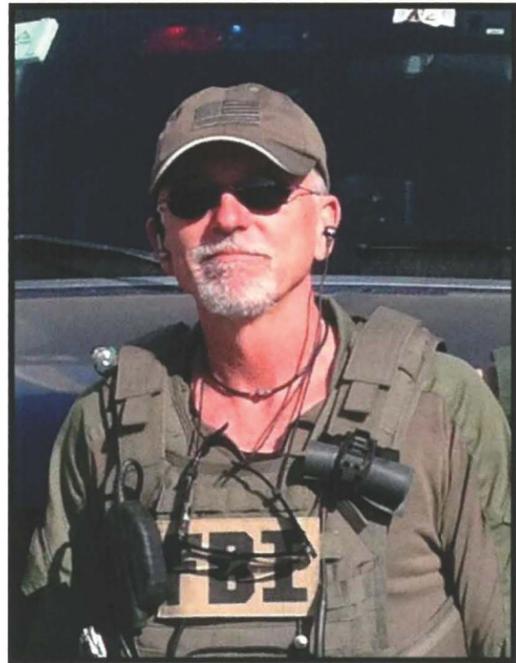


MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL



Jim Morrissey

San Leandro, Alameda County LEMSA, Supervising Prehospital Care Coordinator
Jim Morrissey is being recognized for 30 years of sustained, dedicated EMS service in the San Francisco area. Morrissey has taught classes in emergency medicine, tactical medicine, wilderness rescue and technical rope rescue in over 25 countries. A recognized subject matter expert, Morrissey advises the FBI Hostage Rescue Team and deploys with FBI SWAT Team members, providing medical care when necessary.



Dr. Howard Backer, Jim Morrissey, Jane Smith

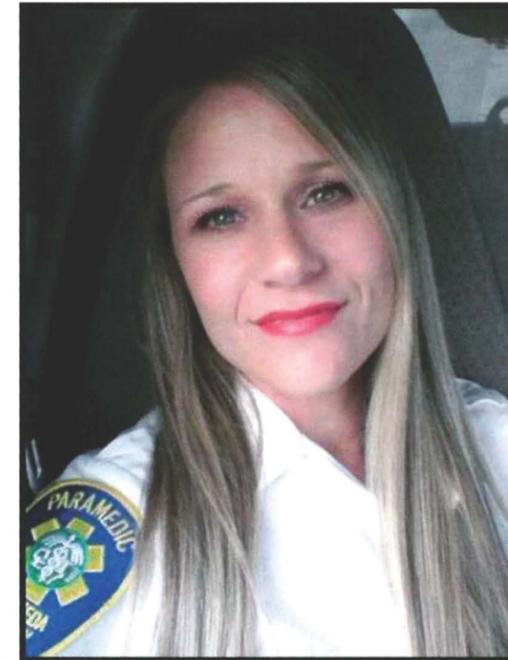


MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL



Rebecca Foster

San Leandro, Paramedics Plus, Paramedic
Rebecca Foster is being recognized for heroic action while participating in the rescue of a family trapped in their sinking automobile on June 16, 2013. Placing herself in danger, Foster negotiated the rocky shore, entered water containing broken glass and gasoline, and pulled passengers from their sinking vehicle just before it submerged.



Rebecca Foster and family

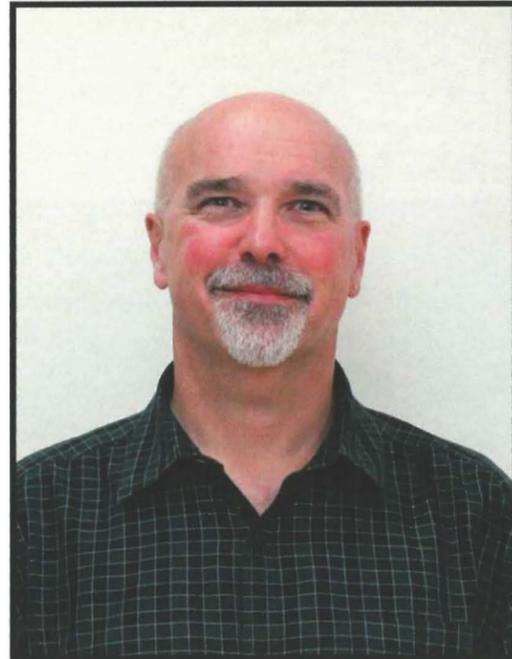


MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL



Michael Jacobs

San Leandro, Alameda County LEMSA, Cardiovascular Program Manager
Michael Jacobs is being recognized for outstanding efforts involving the improvement of cardiac arrest survivability in the hospital and pre-hospital setting. Jacobs worked with 13 ED Receiving Centers, over 1,000 EMS providers and the American Heart Association to develop cardiac arrest protocols which have dramatically increased patient survivability rates in Alameda County.



Dr. Howard Backer, Michael Jacobs, Jane Smith



COMMUNITY SERVICE

Recognizes an EMT who has made an outstanding commitment to non-patient care aspects of a community's EMS system. Special emphasis is on EMS Public Information, Education, and Relations. A maximum of ten Community Service Awards will be conferred in any one year.



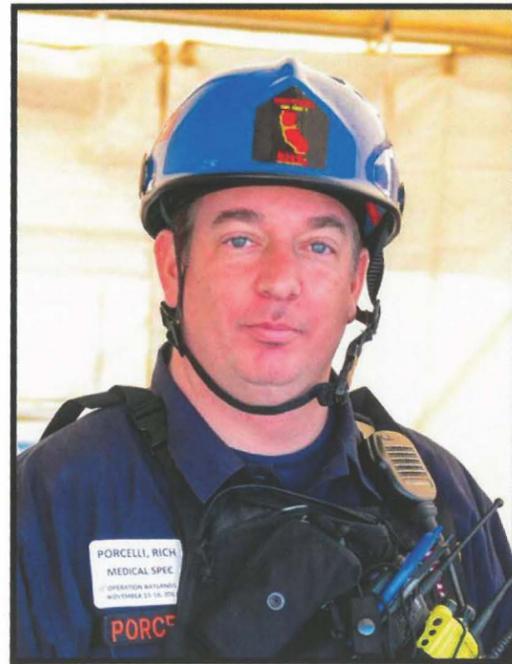
Jym Bridger

El Cajon, Heartland Fire Rescue, Firefighter/Paramedic
With over 15 years of experience in EMS as a firefighter/paramedic with Heartland Fire Rescue and as a paramedic for AMR San Diego, Bridger was a consummate professional who embodied what a paramedic should be: committed and passionate. In his community, Bridger initiated a program that provided bicycle helmets to local children. He also participated in instruction and preceptorship for interns. Additionally, he was the Chairman for the annual October Stash charity drive which helps undeserved local children and he managed the AED program for San Diego.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Rich Porcelli

San Francisco, South San Francisco Fire Department, EMS Division Captain
Each year, 795,000 strokes occur and approximately half of these victims do not call 9-1-1, resulting in poor rehabilitation outcomes. In order to change these results, Rich Porcelli, an active member of the Pacific Stroke Association's Annual Stroke Day, assisted in coordinating efforts with firefighters, EMTs, paramedics, doctors, nurses and other clinicians to distribute 11,000 stroke information cards at 20 BART and Cal Train stations in five counties on the morning of May 7, 2013. This successful endeavor resulted in heightened public education and increased awareness and surpassed 2012's outreach campaign.



Dr. Howard Backer, Rich Porcelli, Jane Smith



COMMUNITY SERVICE

Ennis Jackson

Carlsbad, AMR San Diego, Paramedic
Ennis Jackson has not let a personal tragedy prevent him from becoming a staunch advocate to teenagers by bringing his heartfelt and powerful message about how the perils of drugs, alcohol and distracted driving can result in disastrous outcomes. After a terrible situation that resulted in the death of his 14 year old daughter, Jackson created "Call Me Before You Need 9-1-1." In 2012, Jackson spoke to more than 6,000 students and in the past 20 years he has shared his story with more than 400,000 students and he performs these duties gratis. Jackson has been an EMT-P for more than 21 years and has served as a Field Training Officer.



Dr. Howard Backer, Ennis Jackson, Jane Smith



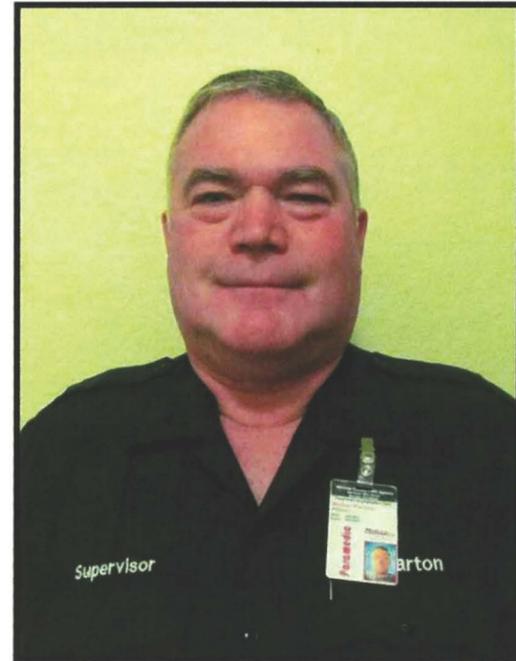
COMMUNITY SERVICE



Walter Parton

Merced, Riggs Ambulance Service, EMT-P

Walter Parton has been with Riggs Ambulance for over 28 years and is one of the most recognized EMS professionals in his home town of Dos Palos. His career began in 1978 as an ambulance attendant volunteer while working for the Dos Palos Police Department and he quickly realized that residents preferred seeing him as an ambulance attendant at their door. Parton is currently a field paramedic and the Community Liaison of West Merced County. He attends all Dos Palos HS football games, fairs, parades and special events in his community as a stand-by medic. Parton was a recipient of the California Ambulance Association's Star of Life Award in 2011.



Dr. Howard Backer, Walter Parton, Jane Smith



COMMUNITY SERVICE



Chana Alexander

Lancaster, American Medical Response, Paramedic

Hands-Only CPR which requires no mouth-to-mouth contact as standard resuscitation efforts has gained popularity in recent years. In four months, Alexander trained over 1,000 residents of the Antelope Valley in this vital life-saving procedure. Once a week she volunteers at Poncitlan Square in Palmdale to teach this technique. Alexander's goal is to share this important information with every resident (well over 155,000 people) in the Antelope Valley.



Dr. Howard Backer, Chana Alexander, Jane Smith



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

Recognizes an individual for distinguished service or achievement affecting statewide EMS over an extended period of time.



Cathy Chidester

Santa Fe Springs, Los Angeles County EMS Agency, Director
Cathy Chidester is being honored for more than 30 years of dedicated and sustained EMS service demonstrating a strong passion for training, teamwork, patient advocacy, and statewide leadership. Since 2006, she has served as the Director, LA County EMS Agency and oversees the daily operations of the largest multi-jurisdictional EMS system in the nation.



Dr. Howard Backer, Cathy Chidester, Jane Smith



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE



Cynthia Frankel

San Leandro, Alameda County EMS Agency, Disaster & EMSC Coordinator
Cynthia Frankel is being honored for her superior sustained statewide leadership, advocacy, and education in improving EMS for Children. With over 23 years in the EMSC community, Frankel has facilitated annual EMSC state conferences and regional conferences for pediatric disaster preparedness and response. She is co-chair of the California Neonatal Pediatric Disaster Coalition and has supported multidisciplinary grass roots coalition building to support local preparedness of neonatal and pediatric disaster and medical surge linking novice to expert.



Dr. Howard Backer, Cynthia Frankel, Jane Smith



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

Dave Austin

Irwindale, AMR West, Director of Administration

Dave Austin is being honored for his superior sustained statewide EMS service. With more than 37 years of prehospital experience, Austin's institutional knowledge and personal experience have proven invaluable during his service on numerous boards and commissions addressing local and state EMS public policy. Austin's extensive committee and policy work have permitted him to quickly and effectively address complicated issues and generate consensus amongst stakeholders all while keeping the best interest of the patient in mind.



Dr. Howard Backer, Dave Austin, Jane Smith



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

Christopher Van Gorder, FACHE

San Diego, Scripps Health, President & CEO

Christopher Van Gorder is being honored for his superior sustained statewide leadership as a member of the California Commission on EMS and for exceptional achievement and exemplary leadership in disaster medical response. Van Gorder and the Scripps team developed the premier specialized California Medical Assistance Team (CAL-MAT) and Hospital Administrative Support Unit (HASU) that serves as the model for health systems in California and the nation and provides the cornerstone for the State's Mobile Medical Assets Program. Van Gorder was also on the original development team of the Hospital Incident Command System (HICS), which is used nationally and internationally.



Dr. Howard Backer, Christopher Van Gorder, Jane Smith



EMS EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Honors an EMS educator who excels as a teacher or who has made a significant contribution to the EMS education program in the state. Active EMS educators or EMS training officers are eligible.



Les Hugie

Buellton, AMR Santa Barbara, Clinical Manager

Les Hugie is being honored for his tireless advocacy of EMS education, training and professionalism in California. Hugie is committed to facilitating and participating in cooperative relationships amongst all prehospital agencies to provide education that fosters quality patient care for all of our communities. With his unique "Kudos Bar" motivational style and over 23 years of experience, Hugie was instrumental in educating and training Santa Barbara County paramedics on their new STEMI system and Hands-Only CPR program.



Dr. Howard Backer, Les Hugie, Jane Smith



EMT OF THE YEAR

Honors an EMT-I, EMT-II and EMT-Paramedic, each of whom is exemplary in his/her quality of patient care and/or dedication to their community. Any statewide certified EMT-I or EMT-II, and any licensed EMT-Paramedic is eligible.



Jeremiah Glass

Chico, Enloe Hospital/West Side Ambulance, Paramedic

Jeremiah Glass is being honored for his dedication to excellent patient care, compassion, public and professional service. Stemming from his devotion to public service, Glass has volunteered thousands of off-hours to underserved communities across the globe, declined pay raises and promotions out of concern for the state's flagging economy, and has not had a sick day in over five years. Glass travelled to Honduras in 2011, serving as the team's sole paramedic on a project converting a school into a health clinic.



Dr. Howard Backer, Jeremiah Glass, Jane Smith



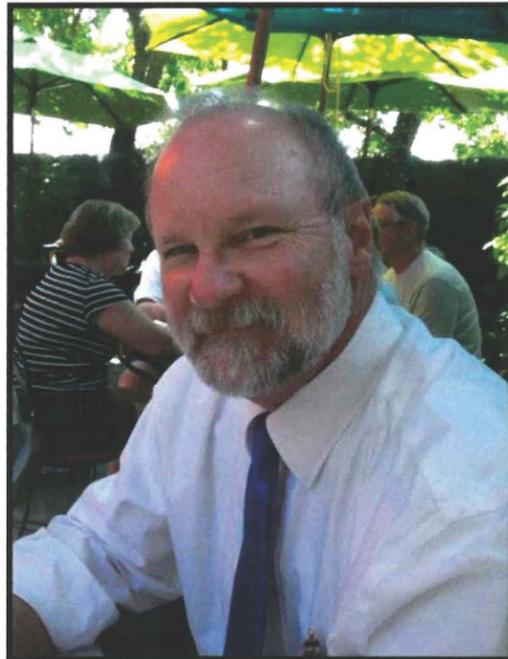
ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR

Honors an EMS system administrator who has distinguished him or her self through noteworthy contribution to a local, regional, or to the statewide EMS system. Local EMS administrators (supervisory operations, planning, or management personnel) in California are eligible.

Ross Elliott

Kern County EMS Agency, Director (Retired)
Ross Elliott is being honored for his efforts in leveraging technology to allow more EMS Administrators to participate in statewide meetings when travel budgets were being slashed and for his experience in emergency management, preparedness and strategic planning. A respected member of EMSAAC, Elliott has over 10 years of experience as an EMS Administrator as well as experience as a seasonal firefighter, city planner, senior deputy county administrator and director of information technology.

Dr. Howard Backer, Ross Elliott, Jane Smith



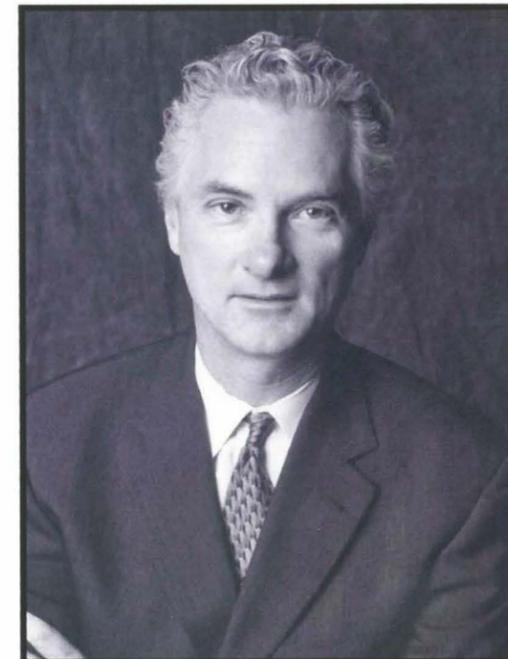
MEDICAL DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

Honors a physician who serves or has served the EMS system by providing medical direction, on-line or off-line, and who has served with distinction. A physician licensed in California who serves or has served meritoriously as an EMS physician supervisor or as an on-line medical control physician and who has made a special contribution through such activities as systems development, continuing education, quality assurance, medical community liaison, etc.

Dr. Karl Sporer

Alameda County EMS Agency, Medical Director
Dr. Sporer is honored for his passion, leadership and knowledge exemplified in his current role as Medical Director of Alameda County EMS Agency. Using his near three decades of experience, Dr. Sporer has effectively implemented cutting edge technology and current QA/QI best practices in Alameda County, to include the addition of a Medical Priority Dispatch System, Electronic Patient Care Record System and Chest Compression Systems. Most recently he has worked to develop cervical spine restriction guidelines with the goal of decreasing the use of the traditional cervical collar and hard board.

Dr. Howard Backer, Dr. Karl Sporer, Jane Smith



CLINICAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Presented at the recipients' home stations

Conrad Arenas (San Francisco)	Cody Haney (Newport Beach)	Kyle Ramirez (Milpitas)
Marcos Barros (Santa Rosa)	William Hiller (Milpitas)	Eduardo Salazar (Sacramento)
Bull Bullard (Forestville)	Michael Hunt (Rohnert Park)	Mike Satariano (Riverbank)
Doug Butler (Santa Rosa)	Jeremy Janes (Santa Rosa)	Shepley Schroth-Cary (Sebastopol)
Shawn Crocker (Bakersfield)	Jonathan Knauf (Escondido)	Jacob Sheffer (Santa Rosa)
Scot Daniels (San Rafael)	Christopher Kopitzke (Berkeley)	Robert Shelp (Oakdale)
Terry Davis (Forestville)	Anthony Lawrence (San Francisco)	Jesus Sigala (Modesto)
Jared Eckle (Oakdale)	Markus Lincoln (Vallejo)	Jeremy Smith (Riverbank)
Sadie Eirich (Merced)	Brian McChristian (Bakersfield)	Michael Spath (Sunnyvale)
Doug Falle (Riverbank)	Josh Menzies (Santa Rosa)	Chiyon Speakman (Vallejo)
Paul Fleckenstein (Guerneville)	Diane Mibach (Corte Madera)	Nichole Spencer (San Leandro)
Kent Frazier (Bakersfield)	Elias Nasser (San Bruno)	Brian Trotter (Vacaville)
Sam Fyles (San Francisco)	Vinh Nguyen (Merced)	Kyler Walker (Graton)
Nolan Hamblen (Berkeley)	Romeo Pardia (Stockton)	Brian White (Bakersfield)

Members Appointed by the Governor

Member	Representing
Linda Broyles, RN, MSN	California Emergency Nurses Association
Dan Burch	EMS Administrators Association of California
Steven Drowniany, Deputy Chief, EMT-P	California Peace Officers Association
Aaron F. Hamilton	Public Member
Mark Hartwig, EMT-P	California Fire Chiefs Association
Richard O. Johnson, MD, MPH	California Conference of Local Health Officers
David Rose, Captain, EMT-P	City/County of Special District Fire Protection/California Professional Firefighters
Eric Rudnick, MD, FACEP, FAAEM	EMS Medical Directors Association of California
Kathleen Stevenson, RN, BSN	California Healthcare Association
Lewis Stone	California State Firemen's Association
Joy Stovell, Fire Engineer, EMT-P	Public Member - Rural
Dave Teter, Assistant Chief, EMT-P	Department of Forestry and Fire Protection/California Professional Firefighters

Members Appointed by the Senate Rules Committee

Member	Representing
Ruth Haskins, MD	California Medical Association
Alexis F. Lieser, MD	California Chapter, American College of Emergency Physicians
Jane Smith, MA, NREMT-P	California Rescue and Paramedic Association

Members Appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly

Member	Representing
Jaison Chand, EMT-P, RN, BSN	California Ambulance Association
Kristi L. Koenig, MD, FACEP, FIFEM	Emergency Department Physician
Daniel Margulies, MD	California Chapter, American College of Surgeons

Emergency Medical Services Authority

The mission of the California Emergency Medical Services Authority is to ensure quality patient care by administering an effective, statewide system of coordinated emergency medical care, injury prevention, and disaster medical response.

