

California 2  
 EMS 01  
Awards 4

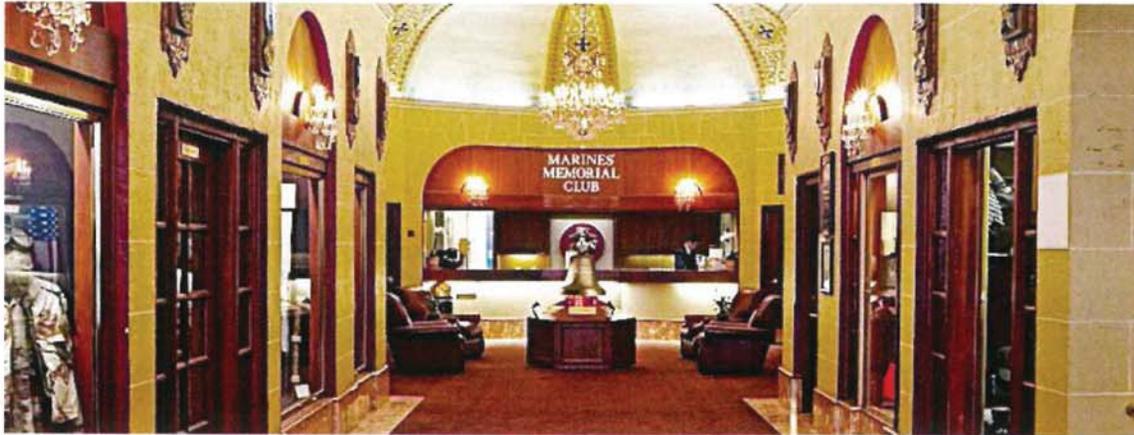
Marines' Memorial Club & Hotel  
San Francisco, CA

## **Brave - Dedicated - Willing - Responsible**

These words describe the 80,000 licensed or certified Emergency Medical Service (EMS) providers in California. Dedicated EMS providers demonstrate these qualities every day by coming to the aid of others when they are most in need and are committed to ensuring that the EMS system operates well. However, each year, due to circumstance or extraordinary effort, certain individuals among us shine. The EMS Authority seeks to recognize these individuals through the California EMS Awards Program held annually in December at the Marines' Memorial Hotel in San Francisco.

The EMS Authority initiated the statewide awards program 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 2014 California EMS Awards were presented on December 3, 2014 at the Marines' Memorial Club & Hotel in San Francisco (above).

"I am pleased to announce a select group of EMS professionals who are being honored for their exhibited professional excellence and exceptional service. These men and women epitomize the spirit and commitment to quality that embody these awards and deserve official recognition for their contributions in making California's EMS system one of the best in the world."

-Dr. Howard Backer



**Presenters (from left to right):**

Lew Stone  
Chairperson,  
California Commission on EMS

Howard Backer, MD, MPH, FACEP  
Director,  
California EMS Authority

Dan Smiley  
Chief Deputy Director,  
California EMS Authority

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

**Steve Drewniany**, Deputy Chief  
City of Sunnyvale, Dept. of Public Safety  
California Police Chiefs Association

**Dr. Greg Gilbert**, Medical Director  
San Mateo County EMS  
Emergency Medical Directors Association of California

**Tracey Hansen**, Fire Chief  
Cosumnes CSD Fire Department  
California Fire Chiefs Association

**Art Hsieh**, EMS Faculty  
California Rescue Paramedic Association

**June Iljana**, Former Executive Director  
California Ambulance Association

**Jennifer Lim**, Deputy Director  
California EMS Authority

**Michael Petrie**, EMS Administrator  
Santa Clara County  
EMS Administrators' Association of California

{special}  
**THANKS**  
to our sponsors



# 2014 California EMS Award Heroes



**Back Row (left to right):** Gabe Robinson, Carlos Rodriguez, Chip Schuenemeyer, Daniel Martinez, Brad Silvestro, Matt Hayes, Michael Pitassi, Dan Burch, Kris Strommen, Lew Stone, Eric Lewis, Pete Martinez

**Front Row (left to right):** Freddie Rodriguez, Travis Hoberecht, Richard Murphy, Ginger Ochs, Lauri McFadden, Jessica Otter, Susan Campbell, Tracy Eby, David Martinez, Howard Backer

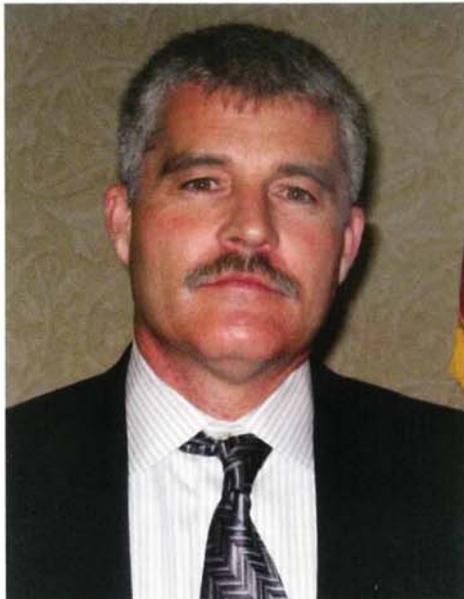


# EMS Administrator of the Year

Honors an EMS system administrator who has distinguished him or her self through noteworthy contribution to a local, regional, or statewide EMS system.

**Dan Burch**, French Camp, San Joaquin County EMS Agency

Dan Burch is recognized for his service to EMS as an EMT since 1983, an EMS Administrator since 1997, and for his leadership as the president of the EMS Administrators' Association of California (EMSAAC) from July 2013 to June 2014. In addition, Dan has served in leadership capacities as the EMS Administrator of Tuolumne and San Joaquin counties. He has embraced complex and difficult situations, resulting in organized and patient-focused solutions. In his position as EMS Administrator of San Joaquin County, Dan challenged the status quo to create a clinically-centered organized system of EMS in Stockton and throughout San Joaquin County. As the Regional Disaster Medical Health Coordinator for the Office of Emergency Services (OES) Region IV since 2005, Dan has advanced and coordinated the care of large multi-casualty incidents and infectious disease emergencies. Dan is well known for his tireless advocacy in state EMS legislation and regulation. He has served as the Chair of EMSAAC's legislative committee since 1999, and in that capacity, works closely with his colleagues from EMSA, CHEAC and CSAC to advance the agenda of EMS and to protect patients throughout California. As EMSAAC's representative on the California EMS Commission since 2012, Dan advocates for EMS regulations that emphasize EMS system integrity, advance clinical quality and care, and encourage cost containment.



Howard Backer, Dan Burch, Lew Stone



# 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.

**Eric Lewis** Modesto, PHI Air Medical

With his 20 year career as a Critical Care RN and a Certified Flight RN, Eric shares his expertise in developing and providing critical care and EMS education to both his colleagues at PHI Air Medical, and to the EMS and hospital staff. Eric is the primary resource for ensuring that PHI Air Medical's flight RNs and flight paramedics not only have the educational resources they need, but that they meet the clinical standards. He meets this charge through innovative use of clinical podcasts, online education resources, coordination of clinician educators, and through first-hand instruction on difficult airways, advanced pathophysiology and treatment modalities, and International Trauma Life Support. He is instrumental in the development and implementation of EMS and critical care patient care protocols for all of PHI Air Medical's bases in Modesto, Sonora, and Redding. Eric has been the driving force in taking simulation from the fixed lab and putting it on the road for EMS providers and hospital staff in the San Joaquin Valley, the foothills of Mother Lode country, and in the far northern counties of Siskiyou, Shasta, and Modoc counties. Using the PHI Intensive Learning simulator, Eric is able to set up high-fidelity simulation in transport ambulances. Eric works closely with hospital education staff to use PHI to set up critical care education scenarios in their hospital rooms. Furthermore, Eric works diligently to identify training needs of providers.



Howard Backer, Eric Lewis, Lew Stone



# EMS Medical Director of the Year

Honors 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. Ken Miller**, Irvine, Orange County Fire Authority

Dr. Ken Miller serves on national and state committees, provides leadership to local EMS agencies, and works collaboratively with provider agencies. Board-certified in Emergency Medicine with sub-specialty in EMS, Dr. Miller holds a Ph.D. in pharmacology and serves as the medical director of the Orange County Fire Authority and assistant medical director of the Orange County Healthcare EMS Agency. He is a volunteer clinical professor of Emergency Medicine, Department Emergency Medicine, and EMS Fellowship at the University of CA Irvine School of Medicine. In addition, he is the medical team manager of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Urban Search and Rescue CA Task Force 5, medical officer for FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Incident Support Team, regional deputy chief medical officer for US Department of Health & Human Services/National Disaster Medical System Region IX, and a member of the US Department of Transportation/National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's National EMS Advisory Council. He serves on the Inter-Agency Board Health and Medical Responder Safety Subgroup and numerous committees on chemical, biological, radiological and multi-casualty emergencies. Dr. Miller is the chair of the Orange County Emergency Medical Services Drug & Equipment Advisory Group, a member of the CA Fire Chiefs Association EMS Section, a member of the EMS Medical Directors Association of CA (EMDAC) and chair of the Scope of Practice Committee.



# 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.

**Freddie Rodriguez**, Pomona, California State Assembly

During his first legislative session in January 2014, Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez highlighted EMS issues at the highest level of government in the State of California. He authored a number of bills on EMS issues and requested funding from the Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1 on Health & Human Services for the State's Mobile Field Hospital program. Assemblymember Rodriguez also conducted a hearing on the November 2013 LAX active shooter incident, which resulted in the drafting and chaptering of AB 1598, which encourages local fire, law enforcement, and EMS agencies to coordinate and establish standard operating procedures to provide prompt medical care to victims. He promoted CPR during EMS Week by hosting compression-only demonstrations throughout the state and still maintains his EMT certification and runs calls part-time with AMR in his home community. Assemblymember Rodriguez has demonstrated exceptional dedication to the EMS community by advancing the profession and its associated public policy issues in the California State Legislature.



Howard Backer, Freddie Rodriguez, Lew Stone



# Civilian Award

Recognizes a civilian who provides extraordinary service during the course of an EMS emergency. Based upon the degree of patient outcome, extreme conditions, or extraordinary circumstances.

## **David Martinez**, Del Mar, Del Mar Races

On an early August morning, David observed flames coming from a trailer residing on the fair grounds. Initially startled, David knew that people regularly slept in the trailers. After repeatedly honking his car horn, David opened the trailer door to billowing smoke and flames. Hearing a small voice inside the trailer but unable to see through the smoke, David crawled on the floor toward the voice of the small boy who was sitting near the back of the trailer with flames near his head. David secured the boy and quickly exited the trailer, which soon after became fully engulfed in flames.



Howard Backer, David Martinez, Lew Stone



## Community Service Award

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.



**Kris Strommen**



**Tracy Eby**



**Jessica Otter**

These individuals are being recognized for their sustained, extraordinary commitment to training residents, business owners and visitors in San Luis Obispo County in CPR. In addition to the regular scope of employment responsibilities, their dedication to train people in CPR is helping to strengthen the local EMS system and is empowering individuals to help one another, resulting in a healthier and stronger San Luis Obispo County.



Dr. Howard Backer, Jessica Otter, Tracy Eby, Kris Strommen, Lew Stone



**Travis Hoberecht**

Travis Hoberecht has been an integral part of AMR's community and public education efforts in San Diego County for the past six years. Travis volunteers his time to help train San Diego residents in compression-only CPR and performing public car seat safety checks and installations. In 2013 alone, Travis was able to personally train over 5,000 citizens in CPR and assist in the coordination of 37 public education events throughout San Diego County, resulting in 3,300 attendees receiving CPR education in a single day.



Howard Backer, Travis Hoberecht, Lew Stone



**Pete Martinez**

Leveraging knowledge and experience accumulated over 25 years in the EMS field, Pete is responsible for the training of 3,000 EMTs in Los Angeles County. With his "can do" attitude, Pete has assumed additional community-based educational outreach activities such as providing disaster preparedness instruction, CPR and First Aid instruction to hundreds of individuals in Los Angeles County.



Howard Backer, Pete Martinez, Lew Stone



**Lauri McFadden**

As chair of Save Lives Sonoma, Lauri orchestrated the training of over 5,000 local 7th grade students in CPR during the 2013-14 school year. As a volunteer law enforcement chaplain, Lauri is regularly on call to provide support to community members who have suffered tragedy. In Santa Rosa, Lauri helps to raise funds, address important community issues, and develop community leaders. Her volunteer efforts with the Sonoma County Task Force for the Homeless resulted in securing a grant for 19 respite beds that provide recuperative care to individuals recently released from hospitals.



Howard Backer, Lauri McFadden, Lew Stone

**Jack Walsh** (not pictured)

Jack Walsh has been a child safety and injury prevention advocate for over 20 years in California. Jack is responsible for spearheading the movement to improve standards for baby cribs and other juvenile products. As founder of Keeping Babies Safe and executive director of the Danny Foundation, Jack was responsible for passing crib safety legislation in seven states: California, Arizona, Colorado, Minnesota, Oregon, Pennsylvania and Washington State. For his sustained efforts to encourage baby and child safety standards, Walsh is nationally recognized by **Consumer Reports** as a Safety Crusader.



**Community Service Awardees**

Howard Backer, Travis Hoberecht, Jessica Otter, Kris Strommen, Tracy Eby, Lauri McFadden, Pete Martinez, Lew Stone



# Distinguished Service Award

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



**Lew Stone**

Beginning as a firefighter in 1981, Lew Stone has continued to work collaboratively with public and private EMS providers and represents the men and women on the front lines providing patient care and public safety. Lew's vast and varied experiences have afforded him unique insight and knowledge of California's EMS issues. Lew's knowledge and leadership is a great asset to the CA Commission on EMS, where he serves as Chairperson.



Howard Backer, Lew Stone

## Ginger Ochs

During her 33 year career, Ginger Ochs has served EMS in San Diego as a registered nurse, paramedic training coordinator and quality improvement specialist. Ginger has been instrumental in developing and implementing skills testing education program standards, QA/QI processes, and San Diego County EMS Agency protocols and policies.



Howard Backer, Ginger Ochs, Lew Stone



Howard Backer, Susan Campbell, Lew Stone



## Donald Campbell

Since first becoming a paramedic in 1979, Donald Campbell has held numerous positions in the EMS profession, and made equally as many contributions to the arena. During Donald's arena career, he served as an arena paramedic, reserve peace officer, flight paramedic and arena training officer in stations throughout northern California. As an administrator, Donald served with distinction at WestSide Community Ambulance, Medi-Flight and Mercy Air. Donald's advocacy for the Air Ambulance community, and extensive knowledge and expertise of California's EMS issues were unmatched. Donald passed away in September 2014.



# Inter-Service EMS Recognition Medal

Recognizes non-EMTs (police officers, firefighters, lifeguards, dispatchers, and other public or private safety officers) for outstanding or exceptional support of a particular EMS emergency, event or operation.

## **Carlos Rodriguez**, Hollister, Hollister Police Department

Overhearing shots fired, Officer Carlos Rodriguez quickly responded to a gas station parking lot during the Fourth of July weekend. Approaching the chaotic scene, Officer Rodriguez observed vehicles fleeing the parking lot and two gunshot victims resulting from a violent meeting of two rival motorcycle groups. Without knowing if shooters were still present, Officer Rodriguez quickly retrieved his department rifle and first aid kit and approached the victims on foot. Recognizing the victims' need for urgent medical care, Officer Rodriguez applied an occlusive dressing to a biker with a gunshot wound to his left chest and tied a tourniquet to the man's left arm to stop the bleeding. Officer Rodriguez then applied a dressing to the second victim's chest wound and elevated the man's legs to prevent him from going into shock. Officer Rodriguez then monitored both victims until EMS personnel arrived on scene. Both men survived.



Howard Backer, Carlos Rodriguez, Lew Stone



# Life Saving Medal

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.

**Daniel Martinez**, Ceres, American Medical Response

Off-duty and driving home, Daniel Martinez witnessed a van drive off the road and into a large irrigation canal, where the automobile quickly began to sink. Without hesitation, Daniel and several other witnesses dove into the water to assist the occupants, an elderly couple, one of which was strapped into a wheelchair. Daniel was able to help pull the driver from an open window as the automobile was sinking and then go underwater to unstrap the passenger from his wheelchair. Daniel then assisted in getting both occupants to the canal bank where he waited with them until EMS personnel arrived on scene.



Howard Backer, Daniel Martinez, Lew Stone



# Medal of Valor

Recognizes an EMT for acts of personal valor or heroism in the delivery of emergency medical care, which results in the saving of a life under extreme conditions and/or in extraordinary circumstances.

**Ben Carlson**, Newport Beach, Newport Beach Fire Department Lifeguards

Fifteen year lifeguard veteran, Ben Carlson responded to a swimmer in distress in eight to ten foot surf off Newport Beach. Ben jumped into the water from his rescue boat to rescue the swimmer. After rescuing the man, Ben was swimming the victim back to the boat when they were hit by multiple large waves. The swimmer reached the boat safely with the help of another swimmer, but Ben disappeared into the surf. Ben was later pulled from the water after an extensive search and was pronounced dead at the hospital in July 2014.



Ben Carlson



Howard Backer, Teri Carlson, Chris Carlson, Lew Stone



**Left:**

Marines' Memorial Ballroom

**Below (left to right):**

Dan Smiley during the opening ceremony

Medals and certificates to be given to recipients

Marines' Memorial bulldog, Bailey





## Meritorious Service Award

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.



**Chip Schuenemeyer**



**Richard Murphy**



Howard Backer, Richard Murphy, Chip Schuenemeyer, Lew Stone

On an early November morning, Richard Murphy and Chip Schuenemeyer responded to an active shooter dispatch in a remote wooded area of Butte County. Arriving on scene, Sheriff's deputies informed the two responders that the shooter was not yet secured and that they had only a general idea of the location of the victim. Richard and Chip voluntarily entered the unsecured scene, located and extricated a 46 year-old male patient with two gunshot wounds into their ambulance and transported the severely injured man to a waiting air ambulance. The patient survived.

## Meritorious (continued)

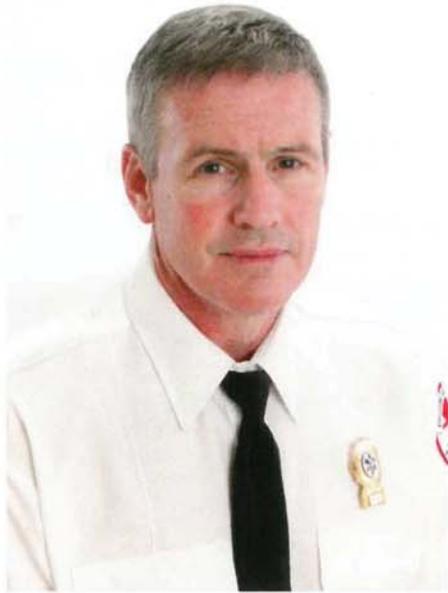
**Brad Silvestro**, Santa Rosa, American Medical Response

**Matt Hayes**, Santa Rosa, American Medical Response

Brad Silvestro and partner Matt Hayes were dispatched on a November evening to a call involving a high-speed automobile crash into a power pole. Arriving on scene, the two men recognized they were the first responders on scene and that the automobile had caught fire and the flames were working their way towards the passenger who was pinned in her seat. Brad and Matt used their ambulance's fire extinguishers in an attempt to put the fire out, with little success. Without regard for their own safety, they entered the burning vehicle and managed to pull the severely injured passenger from her seat just before flames consumed the vehicle. Suffering from smoke inhalation and exposure to fire extinguisher powder, Brad and Matt rendered aid to the victim while transporting her to a trauma center. The passenger survived.



Howard Backer, Matt Hayes, Brad Silvestro, Lew Stone



**Michael Pitassi**

Michael Pitassi leverages his 39 years of experience in the EMS field to provide exceptional leadership of Escalon Community Ambulance. As an EMS chief, Michael has kept a rural agency afloat. As an EMT program director and field training officer, Michael trained the current and next generation of EMS leaders in Stanislaus & San Joaquin counties. As an EMT and paramedic, he has provided clinically competent, professional, and compassionate care.



Howard Backer, Michael Pitassi, Lew Stone



**Gabe Robinson**

Responding to a dispatch call of shots fired at a building in Bonita, Gabe Robinson quickly arrived on scene to discover an active shooter situation with three gunshot victims. With the gunman still in the building, Gabe was escorted inside by SWAT personnel to render aid. Gabe dutifully began to triage the three bleeding victims, and then relocate them to a safer location before transporting the most severely injured victim to the hospital in an ambulance.



Howard Backer, Gabe Robinson, Lew Stone



# Clinical Excellence Award

Recognizes an EMT who provides noteworthy patient care and treatment during the course of their duties. Clinical Excellence Awards will be presented at the recipients' home stations, not at the EMS Awards Ceremony in San Francisco.

Adrianna Beal – Rohnert Park, Graton Casino EMS  
Vanessa Mann – Rohnert Park, Graton Casino EMS  
Leslie Mitsuoka – Santa Rosa, American Medical Response  
Sean Rhodes – Rohnert Park, Graton Casino EMS  
Derek Sullivan – Santa Rosa, American Medical Response

**For excellent patient care to an individual suffering cardiac arrest in August 2014**

David Brown – Encinitas, Encinitas Lifeguard Agency  
Paul Chapman – Encinitas, Encinitas Lifeguard Agency  
Larry Giles – Encinitas, Encinitas Lifeguard Agency  
Jonathon Strickland – Encinitas, Encinitas Lifeguard Agency  
Robert Veria – Encinitas, Encinitas Lifeguard Agency

**For excellent patient care to two unconscious swimmers in May 2014**

Kris Fullmore – Durham, Westside Ambulance Association  
Michael Staggs – Cottonwood, Westside Ambulance Association

**For excellent patient care to victims of the Orland Bus crash in April 2014**

Officer Daniel Templeton, Elk Grove, Elk Grove Police Department

**For excellent patient care to a woman going into labor on the side of the road in August 2014**