National EMS Memorial Service Announces Names of 2015 Honorees

Colorado Springs, CO – The National EMS Memorial Service Board of Directors has announced the names of the 15 individuals from 8 states to be honored at the 2015 National EMS Memorial Service.

The National EMS Memorial Service has, since 1993, been honoring America’s Emergency Medical Services providers who have given their lives in the line of duty. The 15 individuals being honored this year join 644 others previously honored by the National EMS Memorial Service.

Each year at the service, members of the honoree’s families or EMS Agency are presented with a medallion, symbolizing eternal memory; a U. S. Flag which has flown over the Nation’s Capital, symbolizing service to their country; and a white rose, symbolizing their undying love.

The 2015 National EMS Memorial Service will be held Saturday, June 27 at the Pikes Peak Center in Colorado Springs, CO. The Service is part of the Weekend of Tribute. The Weekend begins with the National EMS Memorial Bike Ride-Colorado route, continues with a ceremony at the Air Medical Memorial and concludes with the Service in Colorado Springs.

In addition to the presentations made during the service, each honoree’s name is engraved on a bronze oak leaf which is added to the “Tree of Life,” the National EMS Memorial.

See list below for names of 2015 honorees. Additional information and updates can be found at www.nemsms.org and www.weekendoftribute.org.
NOTE: The NEMSMS board also recently announced that the annual commemorative service will transition its location to Virginia effective with the 2016 service. More information about the transition will be forthcoming following the 2015 service in Colorado Springs.

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About NEMSMS:

The National EMS Memorial Service was established to remember and honor those emergency medical services personnel who have died in the line of duty and to recognize the ultimate sacrifice they have made for their fellow man. An all-volunteer effort, the NEMSMS is held annually on the fourth Saturday in June. For more information, visit [www.nemsms.org](http://www.nemsms.org). “Like” us on Facebook at [https://www.facebook.com/NEMSMS](https://www.facebook.com/NEMSMS); Follow us on Twitter at [@NEMSMS](https://twitter.com/NEMSMS) and [@NEMSMSweekend](https://twitter.com/NEMSMSweekend).
National EMS Memorial Service

2015 Honorees

Raymond ‘Ray’ Bernard Allison of Sterling County EMS, Sterling City, TX, who died in the line of duty on February 11, 2014 of injuries sustained in an ambulance involved motor vehicle collision.

James ‘Jamie’ Butler of TriState CareFlight, Santa Fe, NM, who died in the line of duty on July 17, 2014, of injuries sustained in a medical aviation accident.

David Cavigneaux of TriState CareFlight, Santa Fe, NM, who died in the line of duty on July 17, 2014 of injuries sustained in a medical aviation accident.

Monica Chavez of Elite Medical Transport, El Paso, TX, who died in the line of duty on August 27, 2014 of injuries sustained in a medical aviation accident.

Erasmus ‘Johan’ van der Colff IV of Air Evac Lifeteam, Duncan OK, who died in the line of duty on October 22, 2014 of injuries sustained in an October 4, 2014 medical aviation accident.

Benjamin J. ‘Jay’ Finney of Sedgwick County EMS, Wichita, KS, who died in the line of duty on October 18, 2004 of a duty related cardiac event.

Gerald ‘Garry’ Hammer of Parkview-LaGrange County EMS, LaGrange, IN, who died in the line of duty on January 31, 2014 of a duty related cardiac event.

Michael Howard of Jewett EMS, Inc, Jewett, TX, who died in the line of duty on September 13, 2014 of cardiac arrest while on a call.

Juan Alfredo ‘Freddy’ Martinez of Elite Medical Transport, El Paso, TX, who died in the line of duty on August 27, 2014 of injuries sustained in a medical aviation accident.

Dennis Houston Rushing of ASAP Ambulance, Laurel, MS, who died in the line of duty on June 24, 2014 of injuries sustained in an ambulance involved motor vehicle collision.

Rebecca Serkey of TriState CareFlight, Santa Fe, NM, who died in the line of duty on July 17, 2014 of injuries sustained in a medical aviation accident.

William ‘Alan’ Smith of ASAP Ambulance, Laurel, MS, who died in the line of duty on June 24, 2014 of injuries sustained in an ambulance involved motor vehicle collision.

Leslie Stewart of Air Evac Lifeteam, Duncan, OK, who died in the line of duty on October 8, 2014 of injuries sustained in an October 4, 2014 medical aviation accident.

Tauren Summers of Elite Medical Transport, El Paso, TX, who died in the line of duty on August 27, 2014 of injuries sustained in a medical aviation accident.

Will Wiita of Coldspring-Excelsior Fire Dept., Kalkaska, MI, who died in the line of duty on September 8, 2014 of a duty related cardiac event.