

Local & Regional EMS News

by Kathy Clayton



Members of the MedStar and Fort Worth Fire and Police Honor Guards stand at attention during the presentation of the colors.

MedStar Honor Guard assists with 9/11 tribute

The Fort Worth Museum of Science and History is home to Texas's largest artifact from Ground Zero, a twisted steel beam that was once a façade panel of the North Tower's top floors. The City of Fort Worth used the exhibit to host a September 11 tribute on the tenth anniversary of the attacks.

MedStar's Honor Guard joined Honor Guard members from the Fort Worth Police and Fire

Departments during the ceremony. U.S. Congresswoman Kay Granger, Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price and Fort Worth ISD Board of Trustees President Raymond Dickerson spoke of the positive spirit of the recovery efforts and reminded guests that this year's graduating seniors, who were about eight years old at the time and who grew up in a world tinged with the after-effects of the attacks, show an uplifting resiliency.

Frisco teachers used AED to revive student

According to local news reports, seventh grade student Kylee Shea collapsed while walking to gym class in early October. Shea's classmates at Frisco Middle School rushed to get help and two teachers, Brent Reese and Kristen Goodgion, responded. They performed CPR and used the AED. By the time paramedics arrived, Kylee was speaking and asking for her mother. After she was stabilized, Shea was transported by air medical to Children's Medical Center Dallas, where surgeons later installed a pacemaker. Doctors have since diagnosed Shea with a heart arrhythmia.

Shea resumed school in late October, and her parents now advocate placing AEDs in all schools and public buildings nationwide. Reese, Goodgion and the students who called for help were honored at the school in October. The teachers have said their efforts on Shea's behalf emphasize the importance of AEDs.

"The biggest thing is, we were here for a reason, and that was Kylee," Goodgion said.

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The Sachse Firefighter Association organized a remembrance for the 343 New York firefighters who died at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. Three hundred forty-three American flags were placed on the grounds around the firefighter statue at Station 2 in Sachse. The memorial was displayed for a week, ending on September 11. The community was encouraged to visit the station to take pictures and remember the men and women killed in the line of duty that day and to contemplate what all first responders are prepared to do to serve and protect their communities.



The 1962 Oldsmobile ambulance displayed at many Texas EMS Conferences has been returned to Steve Diamond and Metrocare EMS, who donated the ambulance to DSHS several years ago. After years of sitting idle, DSHS offered to return the ambulance to Metrocare in hopes that it would be able to be displayed more often. The ambulance was loaded up on a tow truck in August and hauled back to Metrocare, where it has undergone renovations. Metrocare has promised that the Oldsmobile will be on display once again at this year's Texas EMS Conference.

First female firefighter in Dallas retires

Sherrie Wilson made Dallas history in 1977 when she was hired as the first female firefighter. Since then she has spent nearly 35 years with Dallas Fire-Rescue. In October Wilson completed her last shift.

“It’s just been fun. It’s just been living the dream for me,” Wilson said.

But, it was just time. “You know as you get older you need your rest,” Wilson said with a laugh.

She started as a trailblazer, becoming the first female firefighter and then two years later, the first female paramedic in Dallas. Sixty women had failed before her. She was 19 years old, a former cheerleader and basketball player. “The paramedic was what I really wanted. And it’s what I really loved. And it’s what really juiced me was saving lives, ripping people from the jaws of death,” Wilson said.

Wilson experienced her fair share of hazing, including being left at the station after a call came in, but she learned to dish it back. “I learned to play their game pretty well,” Wilson said.

She’s used her life-saving know-how for mission work in India, Mexico and Russia. “I’m still a rescuer. Always will be a rescuer but it’s time to move on,” Wilson said. She still keeps her firefighting gear handy, just in case she’s needed.

During retirement Wilson will focus more of her energies at Emergency Management Resources, where she’s already a clinical manager. The company teaches the latest life-saving skills to the public and business sectors. *From DFW.CBSlocal.com.*

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North Central Texas Trauma RAC (NCTTRAC) hosted an open house in October to introduce several new assets available for statewide and local deployment. Designated as the coordinator for the north Texas Emergency Medical Task Force-2 (one of eight EMTFs across the state), NCTTRAC received two multi-patient ambulance-buses, a mobile medical unit (MMU) and ten refrigerated support units. The MMU will be deployed from the NCTTRAC warehouse in Arlington, the ambulances will be deployed by Frisco and Sherman fire departments, and the refrigerated support units will be deployed from Arlington and various locations throughout Trauma Service Area-E. Photos by Tami Littleton.

Washington County EMS receives grant

Washington County Emergency Medical Services was recently awarded a \$20,072 community development grant provided by the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA). The grant will be used to purchase two LUCAS Chest Compression Systems, which are mechanical CPR devices designed to deliver hands-free chest compressions to the recommended American Heart Association guidelines. This machine frees the rescuer to focus on other aspects of patient care, such as providing advanced therapies.

“This project will benefit Washington County residents and visitors by continuing to provide a progressive approach to cardiac arrest treatment,” said Kevin Deramus, EMS director. “We anticipate this will

increase our patients’ coronary perfusion pressures following a cardiac arrest – their breathing and a palpable pulse or measurable blood pressure – and increase overall survival rates.”

The community grant is part of LCRA’s Community Development Partnership Program, which provides economic development and community assistance grants to cities, counties, volunteer fire departments, regional development councils and other nonprofit organizations in LCRA’s electric and water service areas. The City of Brenham is one of LCRA’s 43 wholesale electric customers and is a partner in the grant program. Washington County EMS serves a 700-square-mile service area with approximately 44,000 residents and more than one million annual visitors.



San Antonio Military Medical Center

Wilford Hall, Brooke merge

The federal base realignment in San Antonio that created the merger of Wilford Hall Medical Center (WHMC) and Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC) has been completed. As of September 15, 2011, Brooke Army Medical Center will be known as San Antonio Military Medical Center (SAMMC). The leadership of the hospital has not changed, and SAMMC will continue designation as a Level I trauma center.