

# Awards winners named at Texas EMS Conference 2006

*The 2006 Texas EMS Awards, presented during Texas EMS Conference in Dallas, honored the best in EMS and trauma in 14 categories. Congratulations to the winners:*

## EMS Administrator Award

– **Maxine Pate** of Brookshire for dedicating nearly three decades of her life to serving the citizens of the



Maxine Pate

Brookshire-Pattison EMS service area. Ms. Pate started her EMS career in the late 1970s as an ECA and went on to become a paramedic. She joined the newly formed Brookshire-Pattison Ambulance Corp. in 1977 and volunteered countless hours as an EMS caregiver and board member, focused on developing a state-of-the-art, advance-care provider for the 150-square-mile service area. Ms. Pate became director of Brookshire-Pattison EMS in 1998 and remains in that position today.

Ms. Pate is known for keeping an open-door policy, which is credited with maintaining high employee morale. She also consistently provides employees with a state-approved continuing-education program. For these and other reasons, say those who nominated her, members of the community immediately think of Maxine Pate upon hearing the name Brookshire-Pattison EMS.

**EMS Public Information/Injury Prevention Award**  
– **Austin County Emergency Medical Services**, Bellville, for dedication to providing public education in an effort to reduce injury. The service sponsors a community blood drive; introduced the Vial of Life to the county, especially in assisted-living and retirement communities; and provides county

EMT classes and free community CPR classes. Austin County EMS also provides continuing-education classes for EMS personnel and ACLS/PALS/BTLS classes for the Austin County medical community.

The service has further reached out by acting as the clinical site for four EMS training groups, operating the local award-winning Shattered Dreams program, certifying area fire and police departments as first-responder programs, and helping the nurse and her assistant at a local school district gain protocol for the use of the combitube airway so they could upgrade their AED/CPR program.

**EMS Educator Award** – **Jeff McDonald** of North Richland Hills for his service as an educator and administrator at the Tarrant County College EMS program. Under Mr. McDonald's administration, the TCC program was one of the first nationally accredited programs in the state. He has led the way in maintaining high standards of quality for both students and customers



Members of the Austin County EMS include (from left): Deputy Director Gary Scarborough, Paramedic Jackie Scarborough, EMT Linda Toman, Director Ron Dille and Deputy Director Jim Turnbull.

of the college. Mr. McDonald developed and implemented the college's paramedic associate degree, the critical care paramedic program and various continuing education programs. The school has one of the highest initial pass rates on the National Registry exams among Texas programs.

Mr. McDonald stays abreast of current EMS issues by attending meetings of the Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC), the local Regional Advisory Council (RAC) and EMS provider organizations. He also participates in the National Scope of Practice model program.



Jeff  
McDonald

*photos: B.Kinney*

**Telecommunicator Award – Angie Razo, Rafael Gonzalez, Mayda Lopez, Hector Vasquez and Brenda Cavazos** for performing to the highest standards of telecommunication specialists following an explosion at a McAllen restaurant. The telecommunicators, all employees of Med-Care EMS, quickly dispatched a unit and two



Danny Ramirez and Mayda Lopez accept the award for the telecommunicators.

supervisors to the scene. After triage, it was determined that 18 patients would require transport and another 23 were refusing treatment. When no response was received from the local emergency communication network, the telecommunicators performed a manual bed poll to determine the number of patients each area hospital would receive. During this time, the telecommunicators also handled four other emergencies without incident.

In the end, the numbers told the story: Seven units and three supervisors dispatched, 41 patients triaged, 18 patients transported to five hospitals, and 1 hour and 5 minutes from the time the call came in to the time the last patient arrived at the hospital. All the while, the telecommunicators worked calmly, quickly and effectively in helping to manage the EMS response.

**EMS Medical Director Award – the late Russell K. Miller, MD**, of Galveston for his service as a mentor, supporter and advocate for EMS throughout Texas for more than 25 years. Dr. Miller, who passed away in August after he had been nominated for this award, was medical director for 20 EMS providers and 10 fire-based first-responder organizations in the Houston/Galveston area. He was instrumental in establishing the use by EMS of continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) on congestive heart failure patients, which has decreased the intubation rate of those patients by 90 percent and greatly decreased their length of hospital stays and mortality rates. He also implemented aggressive prehospital protocols for cardiac



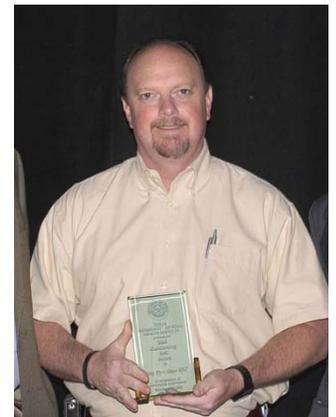
Accepting the EMS Medical Director Award is Christopher Roberts, son of the late Russell K. Miller, MD.

patients that have been credited with saving lives.

Dr. Miller had his EMS organizations participate in medical studies, planned aggressively for disaster management, set up an occupational injury prevention program for his medics, and helped start the Clear Lake Dive and Rescue Team, the first EMS-based dive and rescue response team in Texas.

In addition to receiving the statewide EMS Medical Director Award, Dr. Miller was named the Greater Houston Emergency Medical Services Council Medical Director of the Year for 2006.

**RAC Award – Deep East Texas Regional Advisory Council (Trauma Service Area H)** for outstanding advancement of its regional trauma system. DETRAC EMS providers and hospitals continue to improve the region's trauma system plan in an exemplary manner, with lasting impact on trauma patient care. In the face of diminished local resources due to



Accepting the RAC award is Scott Christopher.

Hurricane Rita, it provided a rapid disaster response by taking care of special-needs patients from not only lower East Texas counties, but also patients from the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in southern Louisiana. In spite of the devastation of local infrastructure, DETRAC rose to the challenge and maintained lines of communication and resources between local, regional and state entities.

Through ongoing introspective review, DETRAC continues to improve its regional system plan and organizational practices, which strengthens the trauma system in this region and better serves the citizens of the area.

**Air Medical Service Award – STAR Flight**, Austin/Travis County EMS, for displaying leadership and the highest standards in providing air medical services. Founded in 1985, STAR Flight has the primary mission



STAR Flight crew members include (from left): Casey Ping, Mark Parcell, Willy Culberson, Jim Allday, Mike Summers, Howard Polden, Brian Johnson, Lynn Burtschell and Rick Rutledge.

of providing critical care transport for a 16,000-square-mile area of Central Texas. It also performs search-and-rescue, firefighting and water and land rescue missions. STAR Flight pilots average 8,000 flight hours each, its flight nurses' experience ranges from seven to 20 years and the flight paramedics have experience up to 25 years. These personnel also conduct landing-zone training, coordinate EMS programs for rural services and participate in community public education events.

STAR Flight operates a pair of Eurocopter EC145s equipped with the latest navigation, rescue and emergency medical equipment. With extensive written protocols and top-of-the-line equipment at their disposal, the flight crews are able to deliver fast, effective care and transport for their patients. These emergency medical and rescue efforts have been recognized with awards from the Helicopter Association International/Eurocopter, The Weather Channel, *Rotor & Wing* magazine, National Association for Search and Rescue

and the Higgins-Langley Memorial Awards.

**Volunteer Provider Award – Grapeland Volunteer Fire/EMS** for its professionalism and dedication in providing EMS services to the citizens of Grapeland. The volunteers who staff the department maintain a high level of education, stay abreast with current technology and standards of care and pay special attention to the upkeep of their equipment and vehicles. The department has a reputation for being community-oriented, according

to nominations for this award. In an example of this personal touch, Grapeland Volunteer Fire/EMS personnel recently displayed family-like compassion while responding to a crash involving a well-known community member. For this and other reasons, the department was a perfect selection for this year's Volunteer Provider Award.

**EMS First Responder Award – Cedar Park Fire Department**, Cedar Park, for consistently demonstrating a high standard of professionalism and knowledge in the care of sick and injured patients. Established in 1972 as a volunteer outfit, the department now serves a population of 52,500 with three engine companies and 50 full-time, paid firefighters. Those personnel provide BLS medical response, hazmat response, dive rescue, swift-water rescue, high-angle rescue, technical rescue, automobile extrication, fire-safety education, fire suppression/prevention and emergency management.

Cedar Park Fire Department provides fire prevention education for the public and is training all other city departments in the National Incident Management System. It also oversees the Cedar Park Citizen



Grapeland Volunteer Fire/EMS members include (from left) Chad LeBlanc, Susan Rowden, Jamie Thomas, Chastity LeBlanc, Roger Dickey, Phillip Squyres, Rhonda Smith, Joy Squyres and Tracey Yates.

Corps, is involved in the Community Emergency Response Team, and participates in the Stranger Danger and Adopt-A-School programs.



Cedar Park Fire Department members include (from left): Lt. Jody Sanguinet, Lt. Zac Butoryak, Chief Chris Connealy, Lt. Shawn Wheeler and Firefighter Rick Barrios.

**Private/Public Provider Award—Marble Falls Area EMS** in Marble Falls for its efforts in meeting the demands and improving the quality of life of a growing population. Established as a BLS service in 1976, it now operates a fleet of five ambulances and serves a population of some 30,000 over nearly 300 square miles. Each



Marble Falls Area EMS members include (from left): Jonathon Curlee, Brandon Dempsey, Darlene Campbell, Johnny Campbell, Ken Smathers and Joyce Pierce.

ambulance is licensed BLS with MICU capabilities, a paramedic and EMT-I usually staff each unit and the primary units are equipped with a 12-lead ECG monitor upgraded with capnography.

Marble Falls Area EMS operates a child safety seat program called BEARS (Burnet County Everyone Always Rides Safe), hosting monthly fitting sessions and providing car seats for families that cannot afford them. It's the only program of its kind in the Highland Lakes area. The service also provides regular CPR classes for the public, participates in educational programs on injury awareness and prevention, does school visits and provides job information to local students.

**Citizen Award – Conor Gibson** of Denton and **Kyler Watley** of Pilot Point for rescuing a drowning girl from the bottom of a pool. Conor, 12, and Kyler, 10, were on a field trip at the Denton Natatorium when they



Kyler Watley and Conor Gibson

saw the 4-year-old girl unconscious in the water. Neither boy had any rescue or first-aid training, but they acted quickly and decisively once they realized the girl's life was in danger. Working together, they pulled her girl to the surface. She

was blue and wasn't breathing, but an unidentified EMT was able to revive her with help from lifeguards on the scene. The girl went on to make a complete recovery.

Nearly 20 people – including parents, educators, friends and EMS and police officials – nominated Conor and Kyler for the 2006 Citizen Award. They were described in those nominations as courageous, compassionate and selfless young gentlemen.

**EMS Person of the Year – Jim Majorowski** of Ransom Canyon for dedicating more than 30 years of his life to EMS service and education. “Major,” as he is known, is a licensed paramedic and former firefighter. He is the basic coordinator for the South Plains



Jim Majorowski reacts emotionally to being named EMS Person of the Year.

College EMS program and also works for Lubbock EMS, of which he is a charter member. He recently retired from the field and now trains personnel in the communications center. Most of the personnel at Lubbock EMS received their basic training from Mr. Majorowski, and he is counted as a mentor and friend by countless EMS professionals in the area. In addition, he performs training and peer review for smaller  
*continued on page 43*

continued from page 17

services throughout the South Plains region.

Mr. Majorowski is known as a tireless promoter of EMS who volunteers his time for the Shattered Dreams anti-drunken-driving program and other educational efforts. His former students recall him as an imposing and stern but extremely caring and giving man who expected them to do their best and would do anything to help them succeed. Mr. Majorowski's commitment to EMS was proudly and lovingly described in the more than two dozen nominations submitted for this award.

**EMS/Trauma Registry Data Quality Award – Central Texas Trauma Council (TSA L)** for its dedication to the reporting of quality data to the Texas EMS/Trauma Registry. With quality data, the science of preventing injuries and improving trauma system performance achieves precision. To determine the winner of the first-ever Data Quality Award, staff examined three indicators: usability of data for analysis purposes, Registry participation by entities and the number of months reported by entities. Final scores were calculated, and TSA L emerged with the highest.



Accepting the EMS/Trauma Registry Data Quality Award for TSA L is Liz Owens.



Accepting the Designated Trauma Facility Award are (from left): Children's Medical Center of Dallas representatives Lori Winson and Debbie Brown; and Covenant Children's Hospital-Lubbock representatives Dondi Kilpatrick, Dr. Craig Rhyne and Tammy Jones.

**Designated Trauma Facility Award – Covenant Children's Hospital-Lubbock and Children's Medical Center Dallas** for their unwavering efforts to strengthen the state EMS/trauma system for the children of Texas. As the only two standalone pediatric facilities in Texas to have achieved trauma designation status from the Department of State Health Services, these hospitals are champions for the needs of injured children. On June 5, 2003, Covenant Children's Hospital became Texas' first pediatric facility to achieve designation as a *Major* (Level II) Trauma Facility. Soon after, Children's Medical Center Dallas became Texas' first pediatric facility to achieve designation as a *Comprehensive* (Level I) Trauma Facility. These facilities are leaders in the Texas trauma system.



Leigh Anne Bedrich

**Journey of Excellence Award –** Leigh Anne Bedrich was recognized with the Governor's EMS & Trauma Advisory Council Journey of Excellence Award. Given by GETAC Chair Ed Racht and Vice Chair Pete Wolf, the award honored Bedrich's exemplary commitment to improving care to acutely ill and injured patients in Texas. Over the past five years, Bedrich has committed countless hours working on GETAC and state issues, with a specific passion for the Comprehensive Clinical Management Program (CCMP). She has worked tirelessly with her colleagues from around the state to develop a program that identifies clinical and operational excellence in Texas. The GETAC Journey of Excellence highlights not only what she accomplished but the way she has fostered collaboration, participation and involvement in a broad and diverse group of players.

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