



2025 Recognitions



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Aaron Anderson

EMT, Schererville Fire Department

EMT Aaron Anderson serves with the Schererville Fire Department. He is the kind of EMT who doesn't just do the job, he lives it. Whether responding to emergencies, mentoring new hires or volunteering his time to support community events, Aaron approaches every task with integrity and a deep sense of purpose. His calm demeanor and quick thinking have made a lasting impact on both his patients and colleagues. Aaron's peers describe him as the selfless backbone of the team. He shows up, steps up and never backs down from a challenge. Beyond the ambulance, he is actively involved in community events, safety education, and is always the first to volunteer when help is needed — without hesitation or expectation of recognition. This year is very special for Aaron as it is his last as an EMT. He will be retiring with over 27 years of tireless service to his community. In his spare time, Aaron enjoys watching sports and spending time with his family. He is looking forward to volunteering his time during retirement at a local EMS agency upon moving to the east coast this summer.

—Dominic Zuccarelli



May 18-24, 2025





Kevin Baker, Jason Braden

EMTs, Kokomo Fire Department

Captain Jason Braden and Firefighter Kevin Baker have been trudging through the district for several years now and maintaining an impressive level of bedside manner even in the midst of the Narcan years. These two men have set their standards so beyond what's been expected of them that the new recruits ask to be taught by them after spending one or two shifts with them because of their humble teaching methods, even to the point of leaving their home platoons just to get an opportunity to work beside them.

They also both participate in CrossFit competitions and are truly ready for the fight or when the need arises to be gentle enough to save a baby. Truly heroes. I've never seen a two-man crew so in time with each other.

—Scott McKay



May 18-24, 2025



Adam Brachna

Paramedic, Wheatfield Ambulance Service

In the few months that I've worked with Adam Brachna, he has been the peace in this chaotic field. He is there for his colleagues as much as he is for patients. Adam has a heart of gold and in his years of service has not yet been tarnished. He is kind to everyone he meets. He encourages those around him to be better and to do better, not just their best. His presence is the light in the dark. He's dependable and rational whenever he approaches people, even when they are not so kind.

—Anonymous



EMS WEEK

May 18-24, 2025



Randi Buchanan

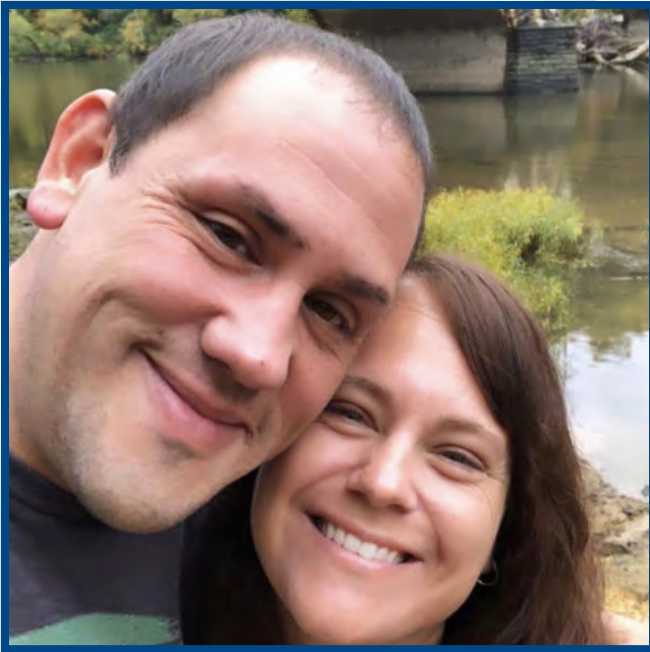
Paramedic, Parkview EMS

It is with great enthusiasm that I recommend Randi Buchanan for recognition during Indiana EMS Week. Randi has dedicated over a decade to emergency medical services, demonstrating unwavering commitment and exceptional skill in serving her communities. She began her EMS career as an EMT in 2014, joining Parkview EMS in August 2015, where she has been a dependable and compassionate provider. Her dedication to professional growth led her to become a paramedic in January 2021, a role in which she has continued to excel. Beyond her work with Parkview EMS, Randi has been an active firefighter and EMS provider with both the Topeka and Shipshewana Fire Departments, contributing her expertise to two vital public safety agencies. Randi Buchanan embodies the values of Indiana EMS Week — dedication, service, and an unwavering commitment to patient care.

—Mack Grobis



May 18-24, 2025



Casey Chavez

Paramedic and director, Wheatfield Ambulance Service

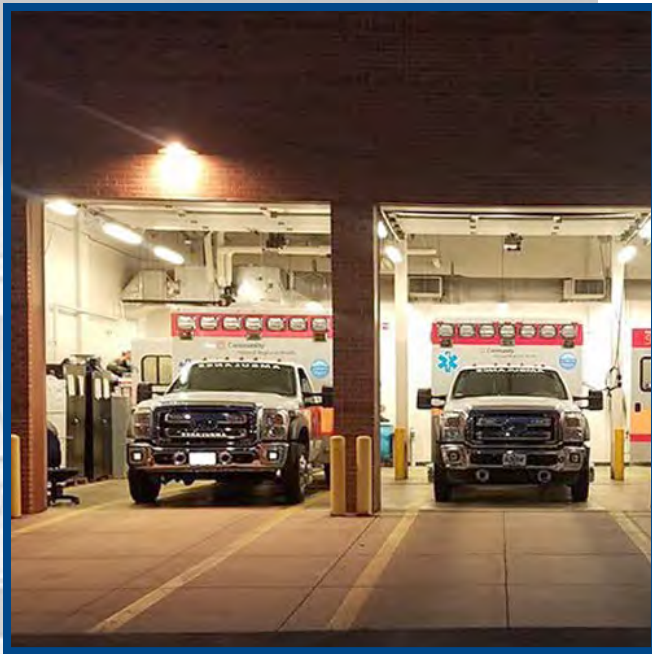
Casey Chavez is profoundly and hands down the best boss I have ever had in EMS, let alone in all my years of working. Not only is he the best boss, he is an excellent friend. I've never met a more dedicated person in this field and to the people he holds close to him. Everyone he meets is treated like he's known them for years. His dedication is reflected in the genuine care to patients, acts of service to the community, humanity and his employees. He has not grown calloused to the traumas and hardships he has witnessed and endured. When I say his presence is weightlifting, it's an understatement. He is compassionate in every aspect of the word. He is empathic to those who truly need it and never fails to show you that you're not alone. He is a strong leader and an even better friend.

—Anonymous



May 18-24, 2025





Community Howard EMS

Community Howard Regional Health

This past year has been extremely difficult for CHRH due to losing a team member from a stroke and having several difficult community interactions. No matter the difficulties that they have faced, they still rally together within the network and provide stellar care in their community.

—Sydney Moon



May 18-24, 2025





Jan Cox

Paramedic, Superior Ambulance

Jan Cox is an amazing manager and paramedic. In my 13 years of EMS, I have never met a better person. She always goes above and beyond for families in need around the holidays. She is always available day or night for work needs and personal needs. Jan always answers her phone even when she is not on duty and on vacation. She is a person I look up to and strive to be like. Having her in my life has changed everything for the good.

—Misty Dawn Kimbrough



May 18-24, 2025





Joanna Doran

EMT, Lincoln Township Fire/LaPorte County EMS

Joanna is a go-getter person. She always strives to go above and beyond for each person who comes in contact with her. She always has a smile on her face. Even on her bad days, she will strive to make your day better.

—Cyle Rensberger



May 18-24, 2025





Brandon Edwards, Edward Harris Jr.

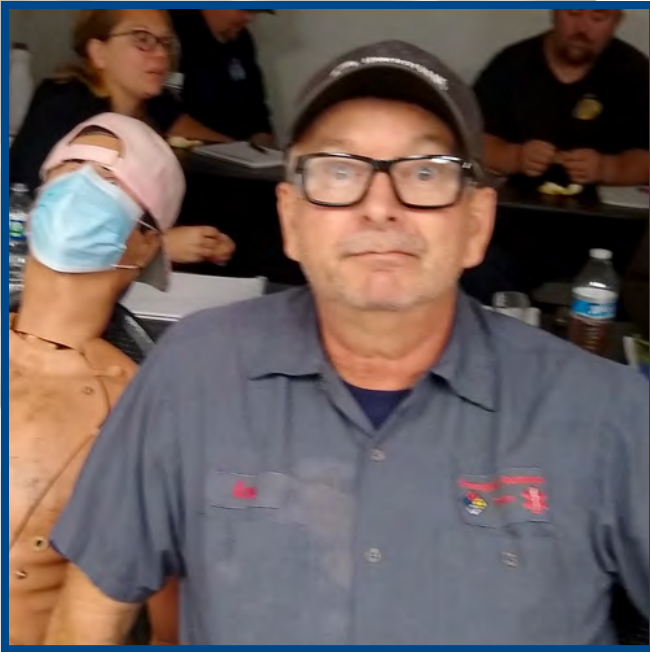
EMTs, City of Gary Fire Department

On Aug. 25, 2024, while returning from dropping a patient off at the emergency room, firefighter/EMT Brandon Edwards and firefighter/EMT Edward Harris Jr. were flagged down. They noticed in the car a child choking. The child had a complete foreign body airway obstruction. They pulled over and quickly performed abdominal thrust on the child. After two or three thrusts, the food item came out. The mother stated the child was eating and all of a sudden went quiet. They then looked back and noticed she was choking. The medics administered oxygen and transported her to the emergency room. You can see the story on CBS news at <https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/gary-indiana-ems-save-life-little-girl>.

—James Morris



May 18-24, 2025



Ken Gregory

EMR, Haynes International

We are a voluntary group that does both medical and hazmat emergencies. Ken Gregory is one of the main members of our group as well as one of the instructors for our training. Ken also volunteers for United Way and some other organizations as well. He has been on the team for years and is a valuable mentor. He will be retiring and will be a great loss to our team. I'd like to nominate him in recognition of all the hard work he has done and the hours he has spent making our team what it is today! If I'm not mistaken, he was also on the team when it was originally formed.

—Larry Cunningham



May 18-24, 2025





Ryan Gunning

EMR, Kingsford Union Fire Department

Ryan Gunning moved to Indiana after serving over 34 years in New York as an EMT. Since moving here, he joined the Kingsford Union Fire Department. He received an award last year for answering the most calls. He continues to be extremely active and continues to take trainings and train members in the department. He is a dedicated EMS professional and has dedicated his life to helping others.

—Samantha



EMS WEEK

May 18-24, 2025





Joshua Hicks

AEMT, Parkview EMS

Joshua Hicks is a very well-educated and knowledgeable AEMT in the medical field of training he has received from Parkview. He has taken his skills, has taught classes and created medical scenarios for our local fire department once a month to improve our patient care and confidence in medical situations that we experience while on medical calls as a fire department. His knowledge of teaching these classes to members of Sparta Township Fire Department has increased our understanding of what we need to do as Emergency Medical Responders before the EMS personnel arrive on the scene. Joshua's knowledge of classes has significantly improved our EMR training hours. I believe he deserves recognition for his outstanding expertise and dedication.

—Jeremy Mangus



May 18-24, 2025



Devon Holmes

EMT, Preferred One Ambulance

Devon always has an exceptional performance as one of our most dedicated EMTs. He consistently steps up whenever we need him, always without complaint. Devon demonstrates a strong commitment to our company, maintaining the highest levels of professionalism and patient care. Although relatively new to the field, he is quickly developing into a highly responsible and respected EMT, known for his perseverance and integrity. He is definitely one of the best of the next generation.

—Brandon Shipman



May 18-24, 2025



Blake Hooks

Paramedic, inHealth Integrated Care

Blake Hooks exemplifies the highest standards of EMS, demonstrating skill, composure and commitment in high-pressure situations. When he arrived at a dialysis center for a patient experiencing chest pain, he and his partner found the patient outside in full cardiac arrest. Without hesitation, he initiated resuscitation efforts, providing critical lifesaving interventions while awaiting additional support. He and his partner continued until fire personnel arrived and assisted in transport to the hospital. Thanks to Hooks' swift and skilled care, the patient achieved Return of Spontaneous Circulation (ROSC) upon arrival at the hospital. What makes this even more remarkable is that on the same shift, he also responded to a self-inflicted gunshot wound that was ultimately fatal. Despite the difficult nature of this call, he handled the situation with the same level of professionalism, compassion and dedication.

—Andy Bauer



May 18-24, 2025





Trevor Ivanyo

EMT, Lake Station Fire Department

Trevor has been an EMT for almost 10 years. His experience and dedication to help the citizens he serves are admirable. He has gone out of his way to help the homeless in the city, providing necessities and food purchased with his own money. He set up private ambulance transport for a citizen that was unable to do so to make sure the patient would get to their important appointments. He has been a part of many critical calls that have had great outcomes. He is a great asset to our department.

—Brittany Watts



May 18-24, 2025



Terrance Johnson

EMT and primary instructor, Superior Ambulance Service

Terry is an outstanding EMS educator. He has 35 years of experience. His mission is to get students where they need to be so they can be the best for their community. He not only cares about students' evolving education, but also he cares about them personally. He is the definition of someone who would give you the shirt off their back. Terry was meant for EMS. He brings his inspirational, caring and compassionate self to work every day with the best attitude. I believe he deserves this nomination for all of his hard work and his continued care of the human spirit. I have never met anyone more deserving of recognition.

—Jessica Reynoso



May 18-24, 2025



Margie Jones

AEMT, LaGrange Fire Department/Parkview EMS

Margie Jones exemplifies dedication, leadership and an unwavering commitment to emergency medical services. For the past three years, Jones has served full-time with Parkview EMS as an Advanced EMT. She provides exceptional patient care and demonstrates the highest standards of professionalism. In addition, since joining the LaGrange Fire Department in 2020. She has risen to the rank of captain and taken on the critical role of EMS training officer, ensuring that fellow first responders receive the best possible education and preparation. Her commitment to public safety extends even further as a deputy coroner for the LaGrange County Coroner's Office, where she plays a vital role in her community. Jones continuously seeks opportunities to expand her knowledge and skills, earning multiple advanced certifications, including AHA CPR Instructor, Fire and Emergency Services Instructor 1, Fire Officer Strategy and Tactics and Child Passenger Safety Technician, where she was recognized as the top student in her class. These accomplishments reflect not only her dedication to personal growth but also her passion for sharing her expertise with others.

—Mack Grobis



May 18-24, 2025



Chad Kinney

Paramedic, Plymouth Fire Department

Paramedic Chad Kinney serves with the Plymouth Fire Department. Kinney is a mentor to all. His wisdom and experience exude beyond every call. His dedication to his patients to receive the absolute best care should be every provider's standard. His ability to speak to everyone as if they're family to comforting a partner after a traumatic or difficult call should be admired by all. Without him, I wouldn't be the medic that I am today.

—Anonymous



EMS WEEK

May 18-24, 2025





LaPorte County EMS

LaPorte County EMS

LaPorte County EMS serves 611 square miles with eight ALS ambulances running 17,000 cases per year. It is the sole EMS provider in the county and has been recognized six times in its 50 years of service as the Indiana ALS Provider of the Year (most recently in 2024).

—*Brian Beach*



May 18-24, 2025





Nathaniel Markley

Paramedic, Parkview EMS Huntington

Nate Markley shows compassion, leadership and kindness wherever he goes. He is the type of team member you would want walking next to you in the darkest of moments. He is the calm in the storm and the support of a brick wall. He helps anywhere he can and goes above and beyond anything he's called upon to do. Recently, he moved from the truck to a supervisor position. While we know it'll be a great loss to the front line, he will make a great impact in leading us to where we need to be and protect us from anything that comes our way. He is the glue that holds most of us together, and the type of provider any community would wish to see at their door any time of day or night.

—Jessica Campbell



May 18-24, 2025



Tom McCauley

Paramedic, St. John Fire Department

Battalion Chief and EMS Chief Tom McCauley has been in the fire and EMS service for over 20 years. He is the current EMS chief for the St. John Fire Department and is in the process of obtaining his primary instructor certification with the intention of leading the department's first EMT class in the fall of 2025.

He began his journey as a volunteer firefighter and is an advocate of the POC/Volunteer opportunities within the fire service. Tom is passionate for the growth and progression of all career and volunteer members. He has been an integral part of implementing the Mobile Integrated Health unit and the monthly AHA Basic Life Support classes training program at our fire station. He oversees the chest pain and stroke committees for all hospitals that we serve and patient care followup in regards to trauma, STEMI, stroke and high acuity patients. As our EMS director, he ensures that each paramedic and EMT obtains and maintains all certifications and training and remains current and compliant.

Tom is an incredible husband and father and believes the fire service is a true extension of his immediate family.

—Winter Dojcinovski



May 18-24, 2025



Travis McVicker

EMT, Culver Union Township EMS

Travis McVicker is an extremely dedicated EMT/first responder for the Town of Culver. He is always willing to pick up shifts that are open, even if that means he is away from home multiple days in a row. He is extremely dedicated to the residents of Culver. Travis would participate in some type of training every shift if it was possible. He is a full-time EMT with Culver-Union Twp EMS and is also a full-time EMT/firefighter with Lakeville FD. Besides being a very good EMT, Travis takes care of all maintenance to our station and rigs at Culver. This dude is dependable!

—Mike Hasselfeldt

EMT Travis McVicker serves with the Culver Union Township EMS. Travis goes above and beyond to help anyone in need from patients, coworkers and strangers. His experience and willingness to share experiences to educate newcomers and even old dogs speaks volumes. He always picks up the phone to someone in need. He treats every patient as if they are family and exceeds expectations to care for them. Travis ensures patient safety and that of his crews. He's a jack of all trades, loyal, and with every sense of the word the best friend/coworker anyone could have.

—Anonymous



May 18-24, 2025



Middlebury Fire Department C Shift

Middlebury Fire Department

In November 2024, the Middlebury Fire Department's C Shift was able to skillfully and diligently act to save the life of a young woman in her 20s in cardiac arrest. Through four different cardiac arrhythmias with proper treatments, and a half-hour transport time, they were able to not only save the life of the young woman but also had an amazing neurological outcome. She walked out of the hospital days later.

—Anonymous



May 18-24, 2025



Jessica Ooten, Jay County EMS

Paramedic and primary instructor, Jay County EMS

Paramedic and Primary Instructor Jessica Ooten and her entire Jay County EMS team are being recognized for their efforts during a tough call. Paramedic Larry Nuckols collapsed while on duty earlier this year. Ooten and Jay County EMS personnel immediately jumped into to provide care, including Nuckols' partner. Unfortunately, Ooten had to make the call to stop lifesaving procedures when it became clear Larry would not survive.

"I've worked EMS in the truck for many years and know what a tough call that is to make. Everybody worked tirelessly, worked well together and did their utmost best to try to save Larry," said Portland Police Officer and EMT Denny Fiscus. "Jessica is not only an outstanding paramedic but is an educator as well. She truly has a heart for her work and always gives 110%."

—Denny Fiscus



May 18-24, 2025





Andrew Priem

Paramedic, Goshen Fire Department

Paramedic Andrew Priem serves with the Goshen Fire Department. He recently launched a new Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) program at his fire department. Priem took on this ambitious project with a clear vision to improve community health outcomes and enhance the level of care the department can provide outside of traditional emergency responses. From the ground up, he was instrumental in making the program a reality. He led the charge with grant writing, strategic planning and coordinating across multiple agencies and departments. His commitment and tireless effort have laid the foundation for a program that will serve our community in innovative and meaningful ways for years to come.

Priem is an outstanding paramedic, known for his skill, compassion and dedication on the ambulance. He thoroughly enjoyed his role on shift and serving as an EMS Lieutenant — a position he excelled in and truly loved. Choosing to leave that role to become the MIH supervisor was not an easy decision, but it speaks volumes about his character. He made that sacrifice not for personal gain, but for the greater good of the community and to create long-term positive change.

—John Bacigal



May 18-24, 2025





Tyler Pritchard

Paramedic, LaPorte County EMS

Tyler Pritchard is an excellent paramedic. I have worked with him on numerous calls of all varieties. He stays calm and treats every patient with the utmost care. He was an amazing EMT-B and now is striving to be the best paramedic he can be. He is always kind to his patients and coworkers, and he is constantly learning and improving his knowledge of medicine.

—Logan Davies



May 18-24, 2025



Maryanne Reid

Paramedic, Elite Ambulance

Paramedic Maryanne Reid wakes up every day and puts in long shifts and deals with immense levels of stress to make sure the company runs smoothly and that everyone she works with is provided for. Her level of dedication and passion for EMS and her coworkers is unmatched. Reid is a wonderful manager and an even better person. This year she showed off her paramedic skills when she saved the life of one of our coworkers after he went into full arrest in front of her on the office floor. Thanks to her quick action, proficient skill set and good leadership, our coworker is still here today. Reid puts everyone before herself to provide for our agency and she deserves to be the one being recognized.

—Joey Neveitt



May 18-24, 2025



Lisa Richards

Paramedic, Plymouth Fire Department

Lisa Richards focuses on giving proper care to every single patient! She doesn't take shortcuts. She also genuinely cares for the patient and makes sure that they are comfortable! Lisa teaches all of this to the new EMTs coming in (including me), and I'm beyond grateful for her knowledge.

—Sydney Morrow



May 18-24, 2025





Jeff Rose

Paramedic, LaPorte County EMS

Captain Jeff Rose is a paramedic and captain and has dedicated 44 years of his life to LaPorte County EMS. He works tirelessly daily to improve operations at LPC EMS. He works on his days off to cover shifts or works to improve training, rig management, morale etc. Captain Rose loves his job and is a selfless human being who is respected and looked up to by all at our service. Our service would not be what it is today without Jeff's leadership. He is irreplaceable and a huge asset to LaPorte County EMS.

—Joanna Doran



May 18-24, 2025





Erik Schmitt

Paramedic and primary instructor, Crown Point Fire Department

Erik is our amazing EMS division chief and always puts his heart into his job. He makes sure everyone is up to speed on all things EMS and strives to help us all be our best. His dedication to his job is admirable and not given enough credit when it needs to be.

—Allison Craft



May 18-24, 2025





Brittany Watts

Paramedic, Lake Station Fire Department

Brittany is our EMS director, and she has always gone above and beyond her duties as director and working the on the ambulance crew. For the last couple of years, she has put in many, many hours working, including multiple double shifts. I believe she needs to be recognized for her dedication to always be ready to help our citizens when they call for help.

—Gregory Woelk Sr.



EMS WEEK

May 18-24, 2025





Jeff White

AEMT, Parkview Health Huntington

Jeff is not only the EMS supervisor for Parkview, but also he has stepped up and accepted the position of fire chief for Huntington Township Fire Department. He accepted this position at a time when Huntington Township Fire was in a negative place. Jeff is an incredible role model for all of his subordinates, and friends alike. He has faced adversity of an indescribable amount and for reasons none should ever face, yet he continues to put a smile on his face and lead from the front.

Jeff's patient care is always patient-first, and I truly believe that each patient has an increase in chance of survival and treatment success. Jeff is one of the very few that I am willing to say that I do trust with my life; I know he will not lead me astray, nor will he falter in his leadership. There are an immeasurable amount of positive words that I can use as adjectives for Jeff, and he is too humble to accept them.

—Joseph Lee



May 18-24, 2025





Naomi Whybrew

EMT, Quality Care Ambulance

Naomi has amazing patient care and compassion. She is a very hard worker and is always willing to work an extra shift or help clean up the station with a smile on her face.

—David Marshall



May 18-24, 2025





Andrew Wilcox

EMT, Starke County EMS

We use the term “Hometown Hero” to describe our friends and neighbors who answer the call to serve our community. In our rural towns and counties, these men and women are especially important. They are oftentimes a familiar face responding to our calls for help on what could be our worst day. In Starke County, one of these faces is that of Andrew Wilcox. Andrew serves as an EMT for Starke County EMS as well as volunteering with the San Pierre Volunteer Fire Department in his off time. Whether on the fireground or on a medical call, Andrew exudes professionalism, empathy and a desire to help others. His upbeat and positive demeanor brings a sense of ease to patients and their families. Though he has only worked with SCEMS for a few years, he has shown his supervisors and coworkers that he is dependable and always willing to help. Not only is Andrew an asset to Starke County EMS, but also to our entire community. His contributions assisting the residents of Starke County serve as an example of the values instilled in him from a young age by a family of community servants.

—Paul Rains



May 18-24, 2025



Brian Williams

Paramedic, South Bend Fire Department

Brian Williams goes out of his way to teach and educate the new crew members. We recently had a full cardiac arrest patient that we got Return of Spontaneous Circulation (ROSC) on. After the call, Williams sat down with all the crew members and talked about what they did right and what they can improve on. As a new guy myself, he is that voice of reason and confidence that reassures me. He has shown me how to have compassion and be a true patient advocate.

—Justin Miller



May 18-24, 2025



Kelsey Witte

EMT, Monroeville EMS

EMT Kelsey Witte followed in her mom's footsteps by joining the EMS field. She has been very active in Monroeville EMS and an inspiration to others. She works full time as a nurse at a local nursing home but still finds the time to volunteer at least three nights a week on the ambulance. Witte is always willing to pitch in with a fundraiser or donate blood at Red Cross Blood Drives. She has great communication skills with her patients of all ages.

"Kelsey is one of the kindest people I know," said Lois Ternet, who nominated Witte. "As a department, we appreciate her dedication and her commitment to our community."

—Lois Ternet



EMS WEEK

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Ann Anderson Jarrett

Paramedic, Brownsburg Fire Department

Ann has patient care as a first priority, along with the safety of others. She goes out of her way to help others, assisting others in their EMS training. She was a proctor when she was with IEMS and has helped a lot of people become EMT's and paramedics. Ann is a good example of what EMS is today.

—Byron Jacobs



May 18-24, 2025





Ascension St. Vincent Critical Care Transport Team

Ascension St. Vincent Hospital

The Ascension St. Vincent is a great group of people willing to share their wealth of knowledge with every member that joins the team. They are a mix of EMTs, paramedics, ICU/ER/NICU and PICU nurses, and RTs. Jennifer Ferguson nominated her team for many reasons including supporting her through a difficult time.

“In December of 2022, I was diagnosed with a rare medical condition, Guillian Barre Syndrome, and was paralyzed from the diaphragm down. This team rallied around me! They helped me financially, emotionally and physically throughout the last 2+ years. I have had multiple complications, surgeries and hospitalization, and this team continues to do everything they can to support me in every way possible! I continue to regain my strength with a goal of getting back on full duty by the end of the year, and there is NO way I would have made it to this point without their support! From our wonderful leaders, to every one of our team members, they truly make it a wonderful place to work,” said Ferguson.

—Jennifer Ferguson



May 18-24, 2025



Amy Austin, Jack Fraga

AEMT (Austin) and EMT (Fraga), Gaston Volunteer Fire Department

On Feb. 17, 2025, Gaston Volunteer Fire Department was dispatched to a call for abdominal pain where Austin and Fraga responded to. Upon Ambulance 91's arrival, dispatch changed the call type to a childbirth. The mother was in the bathroom and just completed delivery upon their entry. The mother did not know she was pregnant and thought she was just having severe abdominal pain. The baby was blue, not crying and limp. The baby was suctioned, stimulated and placed on oxygen, and at that point the baby began to cry. His color improved and he began moving his extremities along with opening his eyes.

EMT Cliff Crickmore from Delaware County EMS arrived and assisted in care of the mother and the baby. Both patients went to the hospital in stable condition. Baby Daniel was released from the NICU around mid-March and weighed 4.1 pounds!

—Alyssa Sorrell



May 18-24, 2025



Renea Carey

Paramedic and primary instructor, Indianapolis EMS

Renea Carey is the smartest person I have met in 40 years. It is because she has never stopped learning, never stopped asking why and never stopped asking herself if she could do better – as an EMT, as a paramedic, as a student, as an educator, as a colleague. Renea passes these qualities on to the people around her too. As an EMS educator, Renea has been one of the key members of the faculty of Eskenazi Health/ IU School of Medicine where we teach a diverse population of citizens and EMS professionals to become EMTs and paramedics.

Renea started out teaching EMT students and now teaches in the Paramedic Science Program, engaging bright minds in the nuances of medical emergencies and trauma. She constantly reworks her homework and lectures, asking herself and her students how she could make the material more understandable. Renea uses this as a basis for some very engaging simulations and scenarios to drive home the material. Before a student can use a piece of equipment, skill or procedure in a scenario, they have to answer WHY they want to. As a testament to her teaching abilities, it is not unusual for former students to stop by, text or call to go over runs they've had or to let her know that some trick she taught them in class worked.

—Leon Bell



May 18-24, 2025





Brittany Chisholm

Paramedic, White River Township Fire Department

Brittany Chisholm continues to impress everyone — from teaching her crew to being a patient advocate. She goes out of her way to treat patients like family and be more than just a paramedic. She has a huge heart and truly cares for the people she serves. She doesn't know a stranger and goes above and beyond to help everyone. Brittany has helped patients with household duties and food. She is the standard of what all paramedics should be. It's a pleasure to work next to her and continue to watch her change lives.

—Steve Ladd



May 18-24, 2025





Jim Christopher

Paramedic and primary instructor, IU Health LifeLine

Jim Christopher has spent the last 40 years teaching the next generations of EMT and paramedic students. He has been a dedicated and loyal figure in the world of EMS education, spending his career helping students achieve their goals of working in the profession. His countless stories, creative teaching and unwavering commitment to EMS as a profession puts him in the top ranks of EMS instructors.

—Kristy Hirt



May 18-24, 2025





Mark Cloud, Samantha Majercik

EMT (Cloud) and paramedic (Majercik), Lawrence Fire Department

I want to take a moment to congratulate Majercik and Cloud on receiving the Stroke Award from IU Health. They were dispatched to a sick person, and upon arrival quickly identified the patient as a possible CVA. Recognizing the urgency, they immediately transported the patient downtown to a comprehensive stroke center, where the patient received immediate intervention and has a great chance at a full recovery.

—John Moore



May 18-24, 2025



Trey Cobb

EMT, Zionsville Fire Department/Monon First Response

Zionsville Firefighter/EMT Trey Cobb serves full time but also helps out in his hometown of Monon when he is available. Monon does not have full-time staff, so it relies on volunteers to help when the call comes. Cobb never thinks twice about helping out his former community, and we thank him for that! He is always willing to help where needed and is continuing his education to become a paramedic.

—Charrisse Hook



May 18-24, 2025





Adam Cyr

EMT, Markleville Fire Department

Adam Cyr is an EMT with the Markleville Fire Department. He was nominated for being a game changer with his knowledge in BLS and ALS and caring for every resident he services. He is described as having outstanding compassion and a high ethical drive. His compassion and professionalism in the community is exactly what inspires everyone and is an example of what EMS in 911 is all about.

—Pamela Banks



May 18-24, 2025





Leighanne Ellis

EMT and primary instructor, Phoenix Paramedic Solutions

Leighanne is an amazing mentor and educator within Indiana EMS. She encourages everyone she teaches and supports their journey within this field even after the classroom. Her guidance, knowledge and commitment to her students' success is a critical component of why I, and many others, had the opportunity to find our passions and go above the expectations we set for our education. As one of her prior students, I am proud to call her a colleague, friend and forever my teacher. Thank you, Leighanne, for everything that you do!

—Rebecca Nelson



EMS WEEK

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Corey Eslick, Tony Ruggles

EMT (Eslick) and paramedic (Ruggles), Edinburgh Fire and Rescue

These two have helped our paramedic program grow. Tony is our most seasoned paramedic and has truly changed the way we train and educate our new paramedics and EMTs. Corey has updated our inventory logs, maintenance and orientation of new EMTs. They are our “go-to” crew for our ambulance and work so hard to keep our program in line with our medical director.

This is a crucial year for our ambulance service here in Edinburgh. We are starting our 51st year of continuous ambulance coverage for the Town of Edinburgh, as well as our third year of paramedic-level care. If not for these two, we would not be able to function.

—John Henderson



EMS WEEK

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Michael Farley

Paramedic, Indianapolis EMS

Lt. Michael Farley joined Indianapolis EMS in 2017 as an EMT-B before completing his paramedic training at IEMS. Lt. Farley served as a mentor and field training officer to many recruits over the years while working on the city's busiest ambulances before his promotion to district lieutenant. In this role he manages and leads the crews of 10 ambulances in a very busy area of our service coverage. He is an excellent clinician and is often sought out by students and peers due to his expertise and engaging teaching styles.

As a servant leader, Lt. Farley focuses on empowering his employees by listening to their concerns and providing the resources they need to succeed, all while fostering a collaborative and inclusive workplace. When he is not taking runs with crews, he is often found helping with smaller tasks such as washing and restocking ambulances.

In 2021 Lt. Farley developed and continues to run the IEMS Games, a scenario-based annual EMS competition with cash prizes. IEMS Games tests the providers' skills and knowledge in a real-time, full-scale scenario, making it one of the marquee events during EMS Week. To date, IEMS has awarded more than \$8,000 in cash prizes to IEMS crews. This competition requires a tremendous amount of planning and coordination of staff, volunteers and resources, and it would not be possible if not for Lt. Farley's efforts. As one of Michael's original managers, I've watched his leadership develop and know that Indianapolis EMS is stronger because we have him leading the next generation of providers into the future.

—Jessica McGinn



May 18-24, 2025





Ryan Haboush

Paramedic, Noblesville Fire Department

Ryan Haboush deserves recognition for many reasons. As a newer medic, Ryan has already had many achievements in patient care. He constantly researches new ways to improve patient care. He gives his all to each one of his patients, whether it be the acutely ill patient or the mental/emotional situation that needs a good listener on board. Ryan also has shown a high level of skill that is unique to a medic of his experience level. He also shows an extreme level of expertise when assisting patients in crisis. Ryan has taken on early tragedy in life and committed himself to be there for patients in their darkest hour. As Ryan's EMS duty officer, it is an honor to recommend him for this recognition.

—Nate Smith



EMS WEEK

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Sheri Hall

Paramedic and primary instructor, Indianapolis EMS

Sheri Hall is awesome. Before moving to the paramedic science program faculty, Sheri was the principal instructor in the IEMS new hire recruit academy. Sheri has taught in our new hire recruit academy, transforming the raw talent that comes to IEMS from across the state. She has also been chiefly responsible for creating and implementing a civilian to EMT recruit class that we now use as our primary course of employment of EMTs. I am nominating Sheri because of her ability to dive into a subject and into the minds of students. Sheri's personal experience in school, work and family life has created a highly innovative, down-to-earth, straightforward teaching methodology that allows students to learn and achieve excellence. At the same time, she also has high expectations of her students, expecting the same dedication and excellence in return.

—Leon Bell



May 18-24, 2025





Harrison Steel Castings Company First Aid Office

Harrison Steel Castings Company

Our team is unusual in the EMS industry. We work for a private company in their First Aid Department. We are all trained and certified as EMTs with the state of Indiana. We all at one time or another have worked the streets. In our experiences we have gained, we are able to help our company save thousands of dollars in health care costs each month. Our team works as EMTs, first and foremost. We help our company employees be safe in the workplace and care for anything from minor burns to major traumas. We are at times mental health counselors and experts in hearing loss, fit test training, injury education, physical and occupational therapy and overall medical navigation for our injured employees. We seek to better ourselves and our fellow coworkers in our company community.

—Kent Bolin



May 18-24, 2025



Brian Hathaway

AEMT, Spirit EMS

Brian Hathaway is a dedicated EMT and owner of Spirit EMS. He has dedicated his life to the community and serves as an EMT, dispatcher and community advocate. He strives to provide his fellow EMS professionals a great place to work, with top-notch equipment and education.

—Ron Cruse



May 18-24, 2025





Brett Havlin

AEMT, Zionsville Fire Department

Brett Havlin just completed his 20th year in public safety. He prides himself on excellent patient care, focused and definitive EMS. He is dedicated to leading, teaching and learning all he can about EMS. Although he can fill any vital role in his daily duties, he willingly chooses to be on the medic unit and dedicates his duty days to providing EMS.

Brett is caring, confident, compassionate and focused on excellence. He is fun, inspirational and uplifting to his crew and the community he serves. He is the first NRA-EMT on duty at Zionsville Fire Department. He's also the leader of Indy Pipes and Drums, serves in his church and school board and is a great asset to his colleagues. He's passionate about his community.

—Matt Coyner



May 18-24, 2025





Tad Henderson

Paramedic, Zionsville Fire Department

Henderson was promoted early this year into his role as division chief of EMS. Prior to accepting this promotion, he was a top-performing paramedic within our agency. Whether it was teaching and training our new firefighter/EMTs and paramedics or continuing to keep his crew engaged with company-level EMS training, he was always looking to make those around him better and more prepared. He was always looking for ways to improve efficiency within the department even from his level as a firefighter/paramedic.

Division Chief Henderson has hit the ground running. Within his first week, he stepped into his role assisting a family that was displaced from their residence by a fire that had numerous family members transported. If I didn't know better, I would've thought that he had been the EMS chief for many years.

Within his first few months, he was able to ensure all paramedics were recertified in ACLS, began the rollout process for newly purchased HandTevy, brought the department up-to-date on all billing practices, engaged with the newly assigned executive medical director and organized a ride-along as well as our first department-specific audit and review. He also engaged with our EMS Committee to ensure the department is providing the best equipment and training to our firefighter/EMTs and paramedics.

Division Chief Henderson is always trying to make those around him better and more prepared, which is more than deserving of recognition. He doesn't do this for recognition, but rather because it's the right thing to do.

—Aaron Gibbons



May 18-24, 2025





Seth Hopper

EMT, Fire Department of Liberty Township

Seth has come back from having heart problems last fall while on shift. At that time, he could tell he had congestive heart failure and was retaining fluid. Flash forward to today and Seth is very capable to do anything on the fireground or EMS scene. He has a no-quit attitude and basically proved the doctors wrong with what he can and cannot do.

—Jerry Cox



EMS WEEK

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Dan Huff

Paramedic and primary instructor, Wabash Township Fire Department

Over the last five years, the growth of our community and our organization has been unprecedented. We have grown from an all-volunteer organization with two full-time firefighters working 12-hour shifts Monday through Friday, to a combination organization staffing 12 career firefighters working 24-hour shifts with nearly 30 volunteer members. During this growth period, we began focusing on improving the EMS services our organization provides to our customers. We initially focused on increasing training/mentoring opportunities, providing better equipment and more closely reviewing care reports looking for areas to improve. Employing several paramedics, we also began eyeing the potential of taking a small step from our BLS Non-Transport services to offer ALS Non-Transport services. In early 2024, as the vision for EMS in Wabash Township continued to grow, we felt that without an individual on staff solely focusing on EMS, our organization would struggle to grow our EMS division to meet the vision of our administration. In September 2024, WTFD hired Dan Huff as Tippecanoe County's first fire-based EMS division chief.

Since hiring Division Chief Huff, not only has the care/service provided to those we serve grown, but so has the vision for the direction of EMS within Wabash Township. We have grown the vision from trying to provide ALS Non-Transport services to purchasing an ambulance to provide transport services to those in and around Wabash Township. Division Chief Huff has exploded our vision for what is possible and has helped us see even more possibilities than we ever expected. He has facilitated our current hosting of an Ivy Tech EMT-B program, we'll be hosting an Ivy Tech Paramedic program in August, and he's working on an AEMT program for early 2026. All of these programs and increased training opportunities not only grow our staff's knowledge, ability and skillset, but also it grows our surrounding agencies and communities as well. In less than a year, Division Chief Huff has made an immeasurable impact in our department, in our community and in the care provided by countless clinicians in many, many communities across the state of Indiana.

—Ed Ward



May 18-24, 2025



Ashley Littlejohn

EMT, Eli Lilly Fire Department

In Lebanon, Ashley's tireless efforts in developing and organizing lifesaving skills training have had a profound impact on our community. She has demonstrated outstanding leadership and dedication in teaching CPR and the Stop the Bleed program. Her initiative has empowered hundreds of employees with the ability to perform lifesaving skills during cardiac arrest or life-threatening bleeding emergencies. She meticulously identified the equipment needs, developed a comprehensive plan and delivered the training, adapting to changes and the tremendous response and demand for classes.

In addition to her training efforts, Ashley organized the placement of AED and trauma kits throughout a new manufacturing facility, ensuring that first aid could be immediately initiated across the site. This proactive approach has significantly enhanced the safety and preparedness of our workforce.

Ashley has also collaborated with our medical director to establish medical protocols for the Eli Lilly Fire Department. Her contributions extend to acquiring an ambulance, stocking essential equipment, obtaining software and developing a robust training program. These initiatives have set a new standard for care within our agency.

—Alex Zielinski



May 18-24, 2025



Doug Maish

Paramedic, TEAS

I am honored to nominate Doug Maish. Doug has dedicated 40 years to the field of EMS, with an incredible 37 years of service at Franciscan Health. Tippecanoe County has been truly fortunate to have Doug caring for its residents and their families for nearly four decades. Doug's journey in EMS began as an EMT and evolved into his current role as a paramedic and EMS supervisor for TEAS. His growth and commitment to the profession are evident in his long tenure with the same agency. Doug exemplifies the qualities of a great medic, leader and individual. His reliability, extensive knowledge and exceptional skills make him an invaluable asset in any situation. Doug's dedication to his patients, colleagues and community is unwavering. He consistently follows up on patients, engages with physicians to improve his practice and shares insights with his team to enhance their collective performance. Doug is a remarkable teacher and mentor, guiding the next generation of EMS professionals with wisdom and compassion. His commitment to doing the right thing for his patients, crews and community is unparalleled.

—Melissa Schmidt



May 18-24, 2025





Beth Middleton

EMT, Middletown/Fall Creek Township EMS

Beth Middleton was an EMT prior to working for Middletown EMS. When her children were active, she let her EMT certification lapse. After a traumatic event where she had to use these skills later in life, she then decided that she wanted to re-pursue a volunteer position as an EMT again. Beth went through EMT class again and just recertified her EMT. She overcame so many things after the passing of her husband that she made the steps to help so many more in her community. Beth is the most selfless, caring individual that I have encountered through Middletown EMS. She strives to be the best for her family, and her patients. Beth donates hours gathering toys during Christmas for the Marine Corps Toys for Tots — one more way that Beth strives to dedicate her life to service! We are blessed to have Beth on board! The world needs more Beth Middletons!

—Kiely Culberson



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Cory Moore

Paramedic, IU Health

Overall an amazing person. He thinks not only for himself, but for his team as well. He treats patients with the utmost respect and delivers incredible quality of care. Cory is also a great teacher and has no problem sitting down to explain in depth on any questions anyone may have. Cory has been a paramedic for about 35 years, and his knowledge and care continue to grow and excel each and every single day.

—Mareena



May 18-24, 2025





JP Mudd

Paramedic, Vernon Township Fire Department

JP Mudd continues to show tremendous dedication, compassion and strong advocacy for every patient and every person he meets. When JP is not giving great patient care, he is helping his teammates become better providers. He does this by spending hours teaching and guiding them. JP is always ready and willing to review, discuss and train new methods and procedures that make us, as an organization, better. When he isn't on duty, he attends trainings and conferences that build on his skillsets and then shares them with his team. Just recently, he attended the pediatric trauma symposium in Indianapolis. Anyone that has an opportunity to work with JP knows that they will walk away being a better provider and a better person.

—Bryan McIver

JP Mudd goes above and beyond for his patients not only during emergency care, but also offline after a critical event. He advocates well for not only his patients and his/her family, but also for his crew mates. JP is the first to step up and offer to assist with training and education with department members. He has done an excellent job with our new field training officer guidelines and preceptorship. He goes above and beyond for our department and community!

—Kiely Culberson



EMS WEEK

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Jonathan Myers

Paramedic, Greenwood Fire Department

Division Chief of EMS Jonathan Myers has provided tremendous leadership to the members of the Greenwood Fire Department. First, Chief Myers has been a leader in collecting numerous data points to identify the needs of the department regarding EMS responses. He has also been the driving factor in the development of a Mobile Integrated Health program that has already helped countless community members. His forward thinking, tremendous work ethic, commitment and compassion deserve to be honored and recognized.

—Brad Coy



May 18-24, 2025





Kerry O'Haver

Paramedic and primary instructor, New Whiteland Fire Department

Paramedic and primary instructor Kerry O'Haver was nominated for being an amazing mentor and teacher. Kerry is always available for teaching people the great ways to take care of patients and gives great advice.

—Austin Edens



May 18-24, 2025





Alyssa Parker

Paramedic, TransCare

On March 15, 2025, Alyssa responded as a medic to a cardiac arrest. Alyssa showed up and controlled the scene, bringing everyone's nerves down to a very manageable level which allowed the arrest to run smoothly. Alyssa managed to get a very difficult intubation despite the copious amounts of blood and vomit; Alyssa worked very diligently throughout this arrest doing everything inside her scope to provide the upmost patient care despite the very dire circumstances. Alyssa even took the time to comfort the wife throughout this process and ensure she was aware of everything the team was doing while attempting to resuscitate her husband and ensure she was comforted throughout the care. Despite all the team's efforts and Alyssa's efforts she was unable to resuscitate the gentleman. After the run was over, she spent a lengthy amount of time on scene with the family ensuring they were comfortable and understood everything was done that could've possibly been done.

—Michael Rost



May 18-24, 2025



Red Line EMS

Red Line EMS

Red Line is the “dream team.” As a long-term care facility, having reliable stretcher transportation is an asset. This team is reliable and shows up with shining personalities that always brighten our residents’ days. They always go above and beyond. For example, we had a resident experiencing alopecia and cancer treatments. They transported her to all of her treatments without fail. They took donations and got her loads of new hats to help her cope with her diagnoses. They even made her a Red Line staff T-shirt that she was very proud of. Or when they took our resident’s baby doll to the park and took photos of all the fun her “baby” had while she was at the doctor. That is person-centered care. We are blessed to work with Red Line EMS!

—Julia Byrd



May 18-24, 2025



Brandon Ross

Paramedic, Shelbyville Fire Department

Brandon Ross (paramedic/firefighter) goes above and beyond to provide the best EMS service to Shelby County. Brandon had a critical run last year, after which he was recognized for saving a citizen who went into cardiac arrest following an allergic reaction. Brandon spends time daily helping younger Medics and EMTs to sharpen their skills to provide the same service to Shelby County. Brandon was recognized as Paramedic of the Year at Shelbyville Fire Department. While Brandon also is a firefighter, his true passion is EMS. He truly deserves the recognition.

—Greg Holder



May 18-24, 2025



Tony Ruggles

Paramedic, Edinburgh Fire and Rescue

Tony has been such a positive addition to our department. He initiates training and understanding of ALS care by being such a great teammate. In particular, he has taken the lead on several pediatric cases and helps to educate our young staff on how to properly care for our youngest patients. He is one of the most competent and caring individuals. Everyone here at the Edinburgh Fire & Rescue respects Tony and his capabilities.

—John Henderson



May 18-24, 2025



Jason Ryan

EMT, Marshall Volunteer Fire Department

EMT Jason Ryan serves with the Marshall Volunteer Fire Department. Ryan exemplifies what it means to be a dedicated and compassionate EMS professional. His clinical skills are top-notch, but what truly sets him apart is his leadership and mentorship. He consistently takes the time to guide EMRs and new team members, explaining procedures and protocols with clarity and patience. He fosters a supportive learning environment that strengthens the whole team. His ability to lead under pressure, communicate effectively and support the growth of others makes him a role model in the EMS community.

—Shawn Malone



May 18-24, 2025





Tyler Sanders

Paramedic, East Madison Fire Territory

Tyler Sanders has been an excellent paramedic and patient care advocate for 10 years now. Prior to joining EMS, Tyler served his country as an infantryman in the US Army, deploying to Afghanistan in the Global War on Terror. To this day he continues to serve his community as a paramedic. He is a dedicated individual, always working to serve others. He's also a dedicated husband and father.

—Kyle Thomas



May 18-24, 2025





Jordan Shaffer

Paramedic, Indianapolis Fire Department

Paramedic Jordan Shaffer serves with the Indianapolis Fire Department. He is described as loving paramedicine and is constantly studying and improving himself so that he never misses a beat.

“I can say that when IEMS comes to scene, they back up and let Jordan run the show because he is so smart. From saving a child shot (multiple runs) to helping a grandmother with COPD feel like she’s not dying, Jordan is the guy for the job,” said Joe Dietz, who nominated Shaffer.

—Joe Dietz



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Sharpshville Volunteer Fire Department EMS

Sharpshville Volunteer Fire Department

The Sharpshville Volunteer Fire Department is being recognized for its small group of personnel that is dedicated to its community. All EMS personnel go above and beyond for patients and community members in the time of need. EMS Chief Elizabeth Unger said she appreciates everyone in the department in all aspects of what they do for their community.

—Elizabeth Unger



May 18-24, 2025





Diana Soots

Paramedic, Brown Township Fire Department

Diana has devoted herself to giving top care to everyone she treats, meets and mentors. She works almost every day. Then on her (maybe) one day off, she cares for her mother and father, daughter and her family. She is the most selfless person. She is the family hub, in and around the firehouse. She is a good friend. She deserves to be recognized for her many, many years of devotion.

—Jennifer Tarter



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Keirsten Sparks

EMT, Star Ambulance

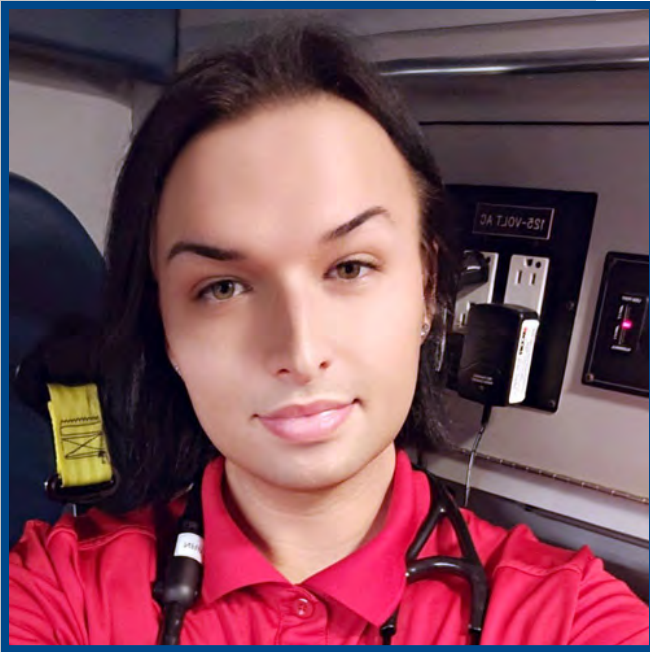
Keirsten Sparks goes above and beyond to help each patient she encounters. She also makes an effort to help the family members and the nurses. Every time she comes into the hospital, she always smiles and has an upbeat attitude and does whatever she can to ensure the patient and their families have everything they need. She always checks in the nursing staff and has made an impression on many of us! She is an amazing person inside and outside of work.

—Bree Whitley



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Curtis Thomason

Paramedic, Heartland Ambulance

Curtis should be recognized for his constant ambition and dedication to provide the best patient care while also keeping a smile on his face throughout good and hard times. He's a huge asset and a true inspiration.

—Clayton Thomason



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Lorri Strunk-Loser

EMT, Eaton EMTs Inc.

EMT Lorri Strunk-Loser has given thousands of hours of her time in dedication to Eaton EMTs when it was a volunteer company and continues to work with the company now that it is a full-time paid service. She has played many roles within the company from driver to EMT to supervisor and now director of operations. She spends hours making sure her employees are trained to the expectations of the state and the expectations of Eaton EMTs. She has even gone as far as to help volunteer for Eaton Volunteer Fire Dept and has served as deputy coroner for both Delaware and Blackford counties. She has been described as a backbone to the EMS community in Eaton, Indiana and makes sure that units are available when needed.

—Dustin Reese



May 18-24, 2025





Vernon Township Fire Department C Shift

Vernon Township Fire Department

On June 18, 2024, at approximately 3:11 a.m., Medic 431, E431 and E432 were dispatched for a traffic accident with injuries. Crews immediately found a Jeep that had appeared to have rolled several times. A large group of teenagers was near the accident site. The vehicle was found over 50 feet from the roadway in an overgrown field with severe, extensive damage. Crews quickly located the driver of the vehicle that appeared to have been ejected through the open roof or doors. A helicopter was called to the scene for rapid transport. The 16-year-old male patient was found to be in significant distress, with respiratory compromise and extensive neurological deficits. E432 arrived moments after initial M431 and E431 crews and began triaging other teenagers that were involved in the accident. This ultimately was a challenge also.

The M431 crew quickly noted that the helicopter was still several minutes away. They then initiated emergent transport to Peyton Manning/St. Vincent 86th St. Trauma Center, which was critical in the effort to protect the patient's vulnerable neurologic status. Crews worked efficiently, stabilizing the patient's deteriorating airway. The patient appeared to have sustained extensive head trauma from the accident and the injuries found were expected to be life-altering, if not fatal. Paramedics Goodman and Hiser worked closely together during transport to give this patient the best possible outcome.

Due to the capabilities of the crews, this patient not only survived his injuries, but appears to be thriving. He has since returned to school and is functioning as a normal high school student. I would like to recognize the following crews for the exemplary care that was provided on this call. Diligence and advocating for excellent patient care ultimately saved the patient's life.

- ◆ Medic 431
 - Paramedic/firefighter Nathan Goodman
 - AEMT/firefighter Grant Kennedy
- ◆ Engine 431
 - EMT/firefighter Shaun Nelson
 - Paramedic/firefighter Richie Hiser, assisted during transport in M431
 - Paramedic/firefighter John Hiatt
 - EMT/firefighter Tony Lucas

The patient has become a routine station visitor and often visits with family.

—Kiely Culberson



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Rick Vieh

Former paramedic, EMT and primary instructor, St. Vincent/Ascension

Rick has been a medic forever. He is retired from Carmel Fire Department and still serves in a teaching capacity to instruct medics. His knowledge and skills far outweigh his light-hearted persona. He is one who will make a connection from a crazy EMS run, and then keep in touch forever. One of my runs years ago was a cardiac save that I have talked about in every CPR class since that day. Rick was the medic for that run. He kept in touch to the point that he invited that person to my fire department retirement in 2019. I tell the story to this day. Many wonderful EMS personnel in Indiana, but Rick is one of a kind.

—Bruce Knott



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Zionsville Fire Department EMS Competition Team

Zionsville Fire Department

The Zionsville Fire Department EMS Competition Team consists of Jeremy Anker, Brian Blazak, Dully Abamislimov and Ray Kline. These four members of Zionsville Fire Department are very committed to their craft of providing emergency medical service. They all exemplify an extremely high level of customer service in their work and provide a very high level of servant leadership to the rest of the department. I have had the opportunity to watch all of these team members work and they very simply treat every patient as they would their own family. Amazingly, they display the exact same attitude of service at three in the afternoon, as they do at three in the morning. On top of all of this, they were just recently awarded the JEMS EMS Clinical Competition championship at FDIC 2025!

—Steve Hayes



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Margaret Ayers

EMT, IU Health

EMT Margaret Ayers was nominated to honor her long-term commitment to EMS in Brown County. Her nominator, William Reel, said Ayers has worked since the county had its first privately-owned ambulance service. She has been a volunteer firefighter, police officer, dispatcher and even drove a school bus when needed. She is well recognized in her county for her work ethic, always early for her shift and likely is the last to leave. If anyone had a question about anything on the truck, she would work with them and teach them.

“She has been a major asset to Brown County. Many of us have always looked to her for guidance and instruction. She has been a mother figure to all of us at every department in the county,” said Reel. “She will be retiring soon and will be dearly missed by all of us.”

—William Reel



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Bloomington Fire Department MIH

Bloomington Fire Department

This amazing team of community EMTs shows up every day for others in innovative ways to improve the quality of life of others. From recognizing cardiac events during house visits to responding urgently to shelters or alongside mental health crisis teams, this team donkey-kicks down barriers to care!

—Shelby VanDerMoere



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Andrew “AJ” Alldredge

Paramedic, Gibson County Ambulance Service

AJ Alldredge is always willing to help. He started here as an EMT, advanced his career as an AEMT to paramedic and is now an assistant director of operations along with working full-time on a unit. He always has a positive outlook, is extremely caring and always looks for a way to better the service. He has been like family to all of his coworkers and helps out any time, even assisting employees when a car breaks down or has home issues.

—Arica Cole



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Bradley Angel

Paramedic, Posey County EMS

Paramedic Bradley Angel's partner nominated him for recognition during EMS week.

"It has been my honor and privilege to work with medic Bradley Angel for the last two years," said Stephen Williams. "Brad is one of the most caring and professional medics I have ever worked alongside. His dedication to his patients is unmatched."

Compassionate, professional, a great mentor and a friend are just a few of the ways Williams described his partner. Angel frequently challenges his teammates with daily challenge questions to all members of his shift. The questions that may cover protocols, EMS history, specific care, HR policies, skills, new technology in EMS and sometimes random facts. Angel has been recently recognized by Ascension St Vincent Hospital in Evansville for his quick recognition of a STEMI and was awarded by the hospital for his care of that call.

—Stephen Williams



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Adhitya Balaji

EMT, IU Health LifeLine

Since becoming an EMT as a junior in undergrad, Balaji has shown an extreme passion and reverence for EMS. Balaji has not only worked as an EMT-B in Lawrence and Monroe County for IU Health LifeLine but has also been active as an EMS researcher for LifeLine, supporting quality assurance and education for critical care transport teams, 911 services and interfacility transports. He presented his research at various conferences including the National Collegiate Emergency Medical Services Foundation and National Association of EMS Physicians, as well as published several papers from his work. Throughout his collegiate years, he was actively involved in Intra Collegiate Emergency Medical Service (IC-EMS), a state-certified, non-transport, student-run BLS organization on the IU Bloomington campus, providing affordable EMS for the IU campus and greater Bloomington community. He served as co-president during his senior year and now continues to be involved as a graduate advisor, while he continues his education as a second-year medical student at IU School of Medicine.

He has been involved in advancing the missions of IC-EMS, including education and community outreach. He has been instrumental in the development of the annual mass simulation, a cumulative training exercise hosted by IC-EMS aimed at preparing providers for the annual Little 500 bike race, one of the great Bloomington traditions. Throughout all his work, Balaji has shown a passion for providing quality healthcare to his community through his roles in direct patient care and research. Following medical school, he plans to pursue an emergency medicine residency and a fellowship in pre-hospital medicine.

—Ananya Balaji



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Nathan Becher

EMT, TransCare

Nate has a big heart and truly cares about people. Whether it's a patient or a stranger on the street, he is always ready to help those in need. He always goes out of his way to make people feel important and cared about.

—Robert Long



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Kristine Breitwieser

Paramedic and primary instructor, Air Evac Life Team 46

Kristine Breitwieser goes above and beyond for each patient and her coworkers. She takes time with new employees and helps them understand anything they may need help with.

—Emily Carrico



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Steve Buchta

Paramedic and primary instructor, Vanderburgh County Fire Department

In the demanding world of firefighting, leadership is not just about making decisions in high-pressure situations; it's about fostering a culture of support and continuous improvement. Steve exemplifies great leadership balances authority with compassion, demonstrating a deep commitment to both his firefighters and the community they serve.

Steve understands that the well-being of his team is paramount. He prioritizes open communication, creating an environment where firefighters feel safe to express their concerns and share their experiences. By actively listening and providing guidance, he builds trust and camaraderie among his crew. His compassion extends beyond the firehouse; he recognizes the emotional toll that the job can take and ensures that mental health resources are available, encouraging his team to seek help when needed.

Moreover, Steve is dedicated to personal and professional growth, both for himself and his firefighters. He regularly seeks out training opportunities and encourages his team to pursue further education and certifications. By investing in their development, he not only enhances their skills but also empowers them to take on leadership roles themselves. His commitment to bettering himself and those around him creates a ripple effect, fostering a culture of excellence and resilience that ultimately benefits the entire community.

In conclusion, Steve leads with compassion, and a commitment to growth not only strengthens his team but also enhances the service provided to the community. His leadership style serves as a model for others, demonstrating that true leadership is about lifting others up and striving for continuous improvement.

—Nikki Bogard



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Clarksville 911

Clarksville 911

Heartland Ambulance Service Clarksville 911 came in August 2024 with boots on the ground ready to work and get Clark County back to a cohesive 911 system. We have been working diligently to answer the call of the community and provide them the service they deserve and need.

—Lynn Pitts



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Arica Cole

Paramedic, Gibson County Ambulance Service

Arica Cole is always taking care of her coworkers. She checks on them after “bad calls.” She also does the training for our service, along with being the assistant director of administration and continuing to work as a paramedic full-time on the ambulance. Arica is fully dedicated to our community, helping out when there have been storms, coming in to assist in those times even if she is not on duty. She strives to give our service and community the best side of herself.

—Michelle Mason



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Heather Court

EMT, Gibson County EMS

EMT Heather Court serves with Gibson County EMS. He is described as having great bedside manner. She gets along with absolutely everyone she works with, whether it be her EMS crew or the fire department on scene. She always puts her patients' best interest first and gives 110%! She's always willing to learn new things to better herself in regard to her job.

—Amanda Wilkins



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Deaconess EMS

Deaconess Gateway Hospital

Deaconess EMS LLC is an ALS inter-facility ambulance service located at Deaconess Gateway Hospital in Newburgh. The team completes more than 500 inter-facility, critical care, and maternal/neonatal runs a month. All members are held to the highest clinical standards by EMS medical director, Michael Daum M.D. The team consistently trains with SIM equipment, real time scenarios and on-line learning to be at the top of their game and deliver the best possible patient care. The Deaconess EMS team partners with the Deaconess Maternal Fetal Medicine team to provide transport service to the tiniest patients in the southern part of Indiana. All Deaconess EMS paramedics are trained in Handtevy and NRP (Neo-natal resuscitation). Deaconess EMS is very active in the community offering car seat fittings, Stop the Bleed courses, CPR and participates in multiple community health fairs.

—Angela Smith



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Dennis Duncan

Paramedic, Medic Onsite/Deaconess

I have learned more from Dennis than any class I could ever attend. He is a legend in the EMS community and I am blessed to call him a friend. Dennis is well-known and loved and is a shining example of a top paramedic.

—Ben Norris



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Kendall Eberhart

Paramedic, Bright Fire and EMS

Chief Eberhart leads a combination department of approximately 30 firefighters, EMTs, and paramedics. In the eyes of many — myself included — he's far from your typical fire chief. He leads from the front, standing shoulder to shoulder with his crew. Whether it's a fire or EMS run, he's often the first to gear up, jump on the truck and head out without hesitation.

Beyond administration, Chief Eberhart continues to make a powerful impact in the field. In May 2022, he had the honor of delivering a baby boy. Less than a year later, in March 2023, he and others were recognized for their efforts during a CPR call that resulted in a life saved.

Most notably, in March of this year, while the on-duty crew was tied up on another call, he responded alone to a report of an unresponsive individual slumped over the steering wheel of a vehicle. He arrived to find the person unconscious, pulseless and not breathing. Acting quickly, Chief gained access to the vehicle, pulled the patient out, and began CPR. Working solo, he delivered high-quality compressions, applied AED pads, placed a supraglottic airway and administered two shocks — all while bystanders looked on, some even asking how long he'd be. Shortly after, an ALS crew arrived to continue care, and return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC) was achieved. His swift, decisive actions in those critical first moments were instrumental in the save.

—Anonymous



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Greg Elderkin

Paramedic and primary instructor, Posey County EMS

Greg goes above and beyond in training and making others more knowledgeable and confident in themselves. Greg also is the medical officer for Black Township Fire and Rescue. His dedication to making his department and others be the best they can be is unwavering. His goal is to make sure everyone is comfortable in everything they do.

—Jeremiah Hargett

He demonstrates dedication to the profession. Their extensive knowledge and calm expertise in high-pressure situations ensure the highest standard of care for every patient. More than just capable, they approach each call with kindness and empathy, treating every individual with dignity and respect. What truly sets them apart is their unwavering commitment to going above and beyond — whether it's staying late to support a colleague, offering comfort to a distressed family member, or simply taking the extra time to ensure a patient feels heard and safe. Their impact reaches far beyond clinical care — they embody the very best of what it means to be a paramedic.

—Brian Cruz



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Darby Goff, Keith Young

AEMT (Goff) and paramedic (Young), Highlander Fire Protection District

Highlander Fire Protection District recently started providing EMS services for the communities of Floyds Knobs and Greenville Township in southern Indiana. Both Keith Young and Darby Goff played critical roles in assisting in operations and training for the department. As one of the first full-time ambulance crews on Squad 3, they responded to multiple calls for service including mutual aid and MCIs. Both members perform at the highest level of professionalism and competence.

—Logan Kleinhaus



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Skye Hampton

Paramedic, Norton King's Daughters' Health

Paramedic Skye Hampton is an asset to the Norton King's Daughters' Health team. She is constantly improving her patient care skills and providing the best patient care available.

—Joshua Walker



May 18-24, 2025





Jordan Henery

Paramedic, Jackson County EMS

Jordan Henery of Jackson County EMS is very passionate and loves to learn and teach. He always goes above and beyond to help others in the field and other employees.

—Donald Mink



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Samantha Hoehn

EMT, Harrison County Hospital EMS

Samantha is a dedicated employee to our service and an excellent provider. She recently volunteered to head our social media program. In her taking on that responsibility, it has given our citizens an inside look at our service and staff. She has diligently worked to increase our exposure to the public.

—Shelton O'Bannon



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Michelle Huffman

Paramedic and primary instructor, Columbus Regional Health

Michelle Huffman is a compassionate, devoted and driven paramedic. She is a friend to many and excels as a medic. She is passionate about her position as well as education, which drove her to obtain her primary instructor certification. Michelle continues to contribute to her team while furthering her own education. She embodies the values of EMS and demonstrates leadership qualities. Michelle lights up any room that she walks into and can control a scene with confidence. She communicates well with her partners and leads with humility. Columbus Regional EMS is truly fortunate to have an individual such as Michelle as part of its team!

—Tiffany Flores



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Cassidy Laubsch

Paramedic, IU Health LifeLine

Cassidy Laubsch is the kind of EMS professional whose impact reaches far beyond the calls she takes; she's the calm in the chaos, a guiding hand and the warm, empathetic heart of her team. She began her EMS journey in 2015 and joined IU Health in 2016. Since then, she's grown into a trusted and compassionate leader, now serving as a regional supervisor for IU Health LifeLine's South Central Region, supporting teams across five counties.

Despite her demanding leadership responsibilities, Cassidy continues to work in the field as one of our primary chase paramedics for Monroe County and regularly picks up extra shifts on the ambulance and at special events. Her dedication is quiet but unwavering, and her presence brings comfort not only to patients, but to everyone around her.

Cassidy leads by example. She has a passion for mentoring new EMTs and paramedics, not just teaching clinical skills but showing what it truly means to care deeply and serve selflessly. She's known for her grace under pressure, her thoughtful leadership and her fierce loyalty to her patients, her team and her beloved dogs.

Cassidy doesn't seek the spotlight, but she absolutely deserves it. She is the embodiment of what EMS Week is all about: heart, service, strength and courage. We are proud to recognize her for everything she brings to this profession, our team and the communities we serve.

Thank you, Cassidy.

—Brad Warren



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Brooke Loretz

AEMT, Jennings County EMS

Brooke Loretz started as an EMT-B working at a volunteer fire department and continued to serve her community by taking on full-time employment at Jennings County EMS. She became an AEMT two years later and serves as EMS coordinator at her volunteer fire department. She is the mother of two young boys and married to an AEMT. Brooke has a passion of serving the community any way possible. As her husband, I look up to her for her drive to be the best she can be and continue to excel in her skills.

—Rob Loretz



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McCutchanville Fire Department

McCutchanville Fire Department

The McCutchanville Fire Department is a combination department consisting of volunteer and career firefighters. Five are paid firefighters, the rest are volunteers. Everyone goes above and beyond to take care of their community, paid or not. The nominator said it is “one of the best groups of people I’ve ever met in my life. I wouldn’t want to work with anyone else.”

—Jamon Cartwright



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Ohio County Rescue Service

Ohio County Rescue Service

I am nominating Ohio County Rescue Service to be recognized during Indiana EMS Week because of their dedication to improving emergency medical care for our community. In September 2024, they took a significant step forward by upgrading their provider certification to the advanced level, allowing them to offer a higher standard of care to Ohio County residents. This enhancement means quicker access to lifesaving interventions and more comprehensive treatment options during critical moments. Their commitment to continuous improvement and serving the community with excellence deserves recognition and appreciation. Pictured is Odin Morris, the EMS director, who became an AEMT in December.

—Laura Walston



May 18-24, 2025





Nick Oleck

Paramedic, Scott County EMS

Nick Oleck is our director but, he is more than that. He is a great teacher, coworker, supporter and friend. He is always there when we need help, have a question or just need to talk. He makes sure we have the best equipment and education to be the best providers that we can be. I have learned so much from him and continue to learn. He definitely deserves to be honored during EMS Week, as he is the best of the best!

—Lisa Edwards



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David Phelps II

AEMT, Aurora Emergency Rescue Unit

David has been with Aurora for 14 years. He is always there for his patients and coworkers 100%. He is always going above and beyond for our organization and community. He always shows strong leadership and work ethic. There have been many of times I have witnessed David teaching our new EMTs and always being there for any help and questions. When I think of EMS I think of David. I am honored to work for him and, most importantly, beside him. I know our organization feels the same, as much as of our community does.

—Patricia Nolan



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Sam Powell

Paramedic, Owen County EMS

Sam Powell puts in extreme effort every day and works two EMS jobs full time as both an in-hospital and ambulance provider. He always puts his patient's needs first and will work hard to better his patient care for the next patient. His bedside manner is impeccable, and he always treats the patient with the utmost respect regardless of how they treat him. He is a great medic in both in and out of hospital and all around a great man that I am happy to consider a dear friend and colleague. Sam is the best of us, and he will not take recognition for his skill as a provider and will more than likely feel this recognition is not deserved, but if any of his colleagues were to be asked how he is as a provider, all would say he is one of the most hard-working individuals out there.

—Cooper Banning



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Scott County EMS

Scott County EMS

Our whole team should be recognized because we are led by a fantastic Director, Nick Oleck, who has ensured that we are competently trained and that we have the best equipment. My coworkers give it their all and dedicate themselves to doing the absolute best every day. We have a tough job and are placed in some very dangerous situations. We trust each other with our lives every day we work. There is not a better group of people out there, and I am so proud to be part of this organization!

—Lisa Edwards



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Brandon Webber

EMR, Mt. Vernon City Fire Department

Brandon Webber is a third-generation firefighter and a certified emergency medical responder (EMR) in Posey County. He works a full-time regular job while also serving several shifts at the Mt. Vernon City Fire Department. He goes above and beyond the call of duty. He is the first one to go in and usually one of the last ones to come out.

—Brian Webber



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Brayden Webster

AEMT, Greene County Ambulance Service

Brayden Webster has the intention of becoming an emergency medicine physician and is currently applying to medical schools. In the last year he has obtained his EMT-A and continues to learn every day. Brayden has been in public service since he was in college. He has worked for AMR in Evansville along with Posey County. On scenes he does not hesitate at all to perform any intervention in his scope of practice. Brayden is very good about taking control of a scene and staying calm with patients. He deserves this recognition because of his drive to better himself to be a better provider and improve his clinical skills. He also stays up on current studies. Any company in the state would benefit from having a Brayden.

—Cayden Walker



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Shaun Whittington

EMT, Sunman Area Life Squad

Friar Shaun Whittington first got his EMT license back in 1998 while in college. While his work as a Catholic priest took him away from EMS, he always missed it. He continues to be a priest, but he has found time in his schedule to help with the department. He was helping as a chaplain for a department when he was recertified as an EMT. He has always enjoyed learning and more importantly teaching anything EMS. He pushes other people in the department to become better EMS providers and just better people in general. He may work only 12 hours a week officially on the schedule, but he is one of the first to respond in his own vehicle to assist on tough calls or even just for lifting assistance. If he is not on a tough call, he often stops by the station or calls the crew on the call to help with a debrief and go over the call.

Even with everything going on in his life, he helps out also with Ripley County EMA when needed. He has been with the department for about six years now. In that time, he has been assistant chief, training officer and IT person. He teaches CPR to all of his teachers and staff at his parish school each year. He also teaches CPR to his middle school students at the school. Being an EMT has made him a better Catholic priest, and vice versa. If any of my family members were ever hurt or sick, I would want him to be the EMT in the back of the truck.

—Eamonn Daily



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