



The Professional Ambulance Association of Wisconsin, commonly referred to as PAAW, is a member association dedicated to healthy, sustainable ambulance and emergency medical services delivery in Wisconsin. The website is [www.PAAW.us](http://www.PAAW.us).

PAAW has proudly produced the Wisconsin Stars of Life event since 2006, which is modeled after the American Ambulance Association's National Stars of Life program.

Past Wisconsin Stars of Life award recipients can be viewed at [www.PAAW.us/stars-of-life](http://www.PAAW.us/stars-of-life).

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***September 21, 2017***

*Tundra Lodge and Conference Center  
Green Bay, Wisconsin*

**National Star of Life  
Selection Committee Members**

**Welcome to Wisconsin Stars of Life 2017**

Individuals recognized this evening were nominated by their respective department or organization for achievement and dedication above and beyond the call of duty in their respective work or volunteer activities—many of whom have given selflessly of their time and talent to make a difference.

This special event recognizes and honors the dedication of ambulance service professionals - people that stand out in every area of our field. The honor of Wisconsin Star of Life recipient will be bestowed on each honoree this evening.

In addition, 2017 Stars will be invited to a one-day event this fall at the State Capitol in Madison. Plans include being introduced before the Senate and Assembly. Stars will have the opportunity to meet their local legislative representatives as they speak on behalf of emergency medical services. Past events have also included a photo opportunity with the Governor in the Governor's Office.

One person from the 2017 Wisconsin Stars of Life honorees will be announced this evening and advance to represent Wisconsin at the National Stars of Life celebration in Washington, D.C., June 11 to 13, 2018.

**2017 Wisconsin Stars of Life  
Committee Members**

Joe Covelli  
Larry Knuth

*Wisconsin Stars of Life program booklet  
printed as a courtesy by:*

**Froedtert & the Medical College of  
Wisconsin Emergency Services**

**Karla Eppler**

Director  
Winona Ambulance  
Winona, MN

**Deonne Eske**

Fire and EMS Chief  
Ashippun Fire Department  
Ashippun, WI  
*2015 Wisconsin Star of Life and  
2016 National Star of Life Honoree*

**Don Knutson**

Director  
Colfax Rescue  
Colfax, WI

**Jim Singer**

System Director (retired)  
Flight For Life  
Waukesha, WI

**Kevin Weber**

Director  
Sauk Prairie Ambulance Association  
Prairie du Sac, WI



**Deonne Eske**, Fire and EMS Chief, Ashippun Fire Department, 2015 Wisconsin Star of Life accepting honors and recognition at the 2016 National Stars of Life, Washington, D.C.

*Presentation of  
National Star of Life Award*

One person from the group of 2017 Stars of Life honorees will advance to represent Wisconsin at the National Stars of Life ceremony in Washington, D.C., June 11 to 13, 2018.

This individual will receive a \$750 travel voucher from the Professional Ambulance Association of Wisconsin, and a grant toward complimentary hotel accommodations and event registration for the Star, Star's guest and Star's host (employer) at the National Stars of Life ceremony, courtesy of the American Ambulance Association Foundation.



**National Stars of Life - Washington, D.C.**

***June 11 to 13, 2018***

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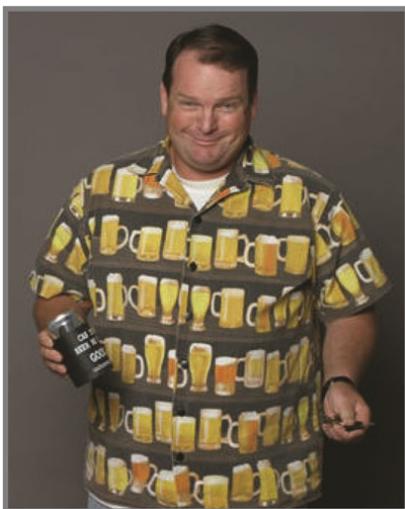
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of Wisconsin Emergency Services**

**Paramedic Systems of Wisconsin**

## ***Comedian Mike Marvell***



Comedian Mike Marvell puts on thousands of miles a year, traveling across the country, telling jokes and stories about his family and life in Wisconsin.

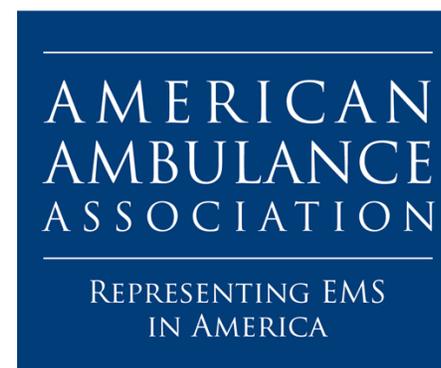
Married for over 20 years with three kids, his comedy offers material that everyone will definitely relate to. When Mike hits the stage, it's like you've known him forever. He's the guy next door, that crazy cousin, or your brother-in-law (the one you like). Watching Mike's show is like THAT 70's SHOW, with a shot of CHEERS, some EVERYBODY LOVES RAYMOND, and a huge helping of THE SIMPSONS.

To understand Mike's comedy show is to understand and reflect upon a life similar to many people's... work... family... and funny stuff that just happens!

## ***Presentation of 2017 National Star of Life Award***



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## *Stars Day at the State Capitol*



The 2017 Wisconsin Stars of Life honorees will be invited to a one-day event this fall at the State Capitol in Madison. Plans include being introduced before the Senate and Assembly. Stars will have the opportunity to meet with their local legislative representatives as they speak on behalf of emergency medical services in their area. Past events have also included a photo opportunity with the Governor in the Governor's Office.



*Presentation of  
2017 Stars of Life Honorees*

***BIOGRAPHIES***





**Amanda Holtz**  
Critical Care Paramedic  
Sheboygan Falls, WI

*Nominated By*  
**Orange Cross Ambulance**

Amanda has displayed a tireless commitment to quality care and a culture of excellence in EMS.

She maintains a special type of determination and an emotional engagement which sets the bar for her team.

Upon recognition of her many talents Amanda was promoted from Supply Manager to Critical Care Paramedic to Scheduler to Field Training Officer.

Amanda is the type of dedicated professional you rarely find. She always seeks to complete the job no matter how difficult, self-evaluate and improve, and to pay special attention to the details which make good things great. In her many roles, she has diligently served in a manner befitting this ideal. During her time as a scheduler, Amanda has gone to great lengths to help other EMS professionals find balance in their life and as a Field Training Officer she has brought years of practical experience to the front lines for the benefit of her entire team.

In her time off Amanda enjoys spending time with her family and friends.

## **Don't miss a beat of Wisconsin EMS action — listen to Wisconsin EMS Live!**



EMS Live in Wisconsin is a podcast program streamed live the second and fourth Tuesday every month starting at 9:00 a.m. and when important news breaks.

Our co-hosts, guests, and those calling or emailing in questions provide discussion on the most important news facing EMS in Wisconsin. The show offers interactive

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**Tyler Miller**  
Paramedic  
West Salem, WI

*Nominated By*  
**Gundersen Tri-State Ambulance**

Tyler provides excellent leadership as a Corporal and ensures customer and team member expectations are met or exceeded.

Tyler is passionate about ensuring the betterment of our organization, the people in it, and the service provided to customers. He started as an EMT in 2012, became a paramedic in 2014, and was recently promoted to Corporal.

Upon becoming a paramedic, Tyler quickly earned the respect of the team for his intelligence and dedication to providing excellent clinical care. He earned the respect of supervisors for his demeanor and willingness to give 110%. It is, in part, because of these traits, that he served as a preceptor and Field Training Officer prior to his recent promotion to Corporal. As a Corporal, Tyler performs shift supervisory duties and leads our organization's Orientation and Field Training Program. He is dedicated to ensuring new employees are welcomed and receive the necessary education and training to be successful healthcare professionals.

Tyler enjoys hunting, shooting, running, and spending time with his wife, Laura, and his dog, Jake.



**Angela Gonzalez**  
Advanced EMT  
Palmyra, WI

*Nominated By*  
**Palmyra Public Safety Department**

Angela is being recognized as a Wisconsin Star of Life for her commitment to ensuring EMS response within the community and selfless dedication to helping others.

She has been an Advanced EMT for 6 years and an EMS Supervisor since May 2015.

In May 2015, Angela was asked to take on an EMS supervisory role during a period of personnel turmoil and lack of staffing. In addition to working another job full time, she places herself on call during periods of low staffing to ensure EMS response in the community. In the previous 2 1/2 years she has taken over 8,000 hours of EMS call time when other personnel were not available. She goes above and beyond on a daily basis to ensure the community continues to receive local EMS response.

When able, Angela spends time with her husband and two teenage children.



**Benjamin R. Waldera**  
Critical Care Paramedic  
DeForest, WI

*Nominated By*  
**Divine Savior Healthcare EMS**

Ben is being recognized as a Wisconsin Star of Life for going above and beyond the call of duty on May 31, 2017.

On Wednesday, May 31st Ben responded to an explosion at a grain milling facility in Cambria, WI. Once on scene, Ben was directed to an individual that had both legs trapped under a rail car caused by a building collapsing on top of it. There was a 3 by 3 foot hole that Ben had to enter and then climb down 12 more feet to the patient to start treatment. The scene was still very unstable as fire was encroaching on their location and stabilization efforts were just getting started. After assessing the situation, a request for a surgeon on scene was made. Ben worked with the surgeon to amputate part of both lower extremities which, has been credited for saving this patient's life. This was exemplary work in extraordinary conditions.

Ben has been with Divine Savior EMS for almost 5 years.

He is an outgoing, energetic person that can put a smile on anyone's face. Ben loves to travel and ride his Harley Motorcycle.



**Tom Pasch**  
Critical Care Paramedic  
Oconomowoc, WI

*Nominated By*  
**Ryan Brothers Ambulance**

Tom is a patient teacher, advocate and compassionate care giver who always focuses on the needs of his patient.

Tom has outstanding attention to detail. He always keeps his focus on what's best for the patient and how Ryan Brothers can best deliver care to our patients and customers.

Tom has over 20 years of experience in a number of large private ambulance services. He is able to blend his experiences to help implement the best practices in the industry at Ryan Brothers Ambulance.

Tom has been a valuable contributor to a number significant recent changes and enhancements at Ryan Brothers. These include a new custom CAD, ePCR system and a complete makeover of the onboarding process. In addition, he led the process of retooling the respiratory care function for the entire service. He spends considerable time with all new hires and builds the foundation for them to develop the skills to insure their success. He coordinates the QA process at Ryan Brothers and oversees a committee of 5 people that strive to insure quality patient care and continuously improve the processes and procedures throughout the organization.

Tom enjoys hunting, fishing and spending time with his family. He also volunteers with the Wildlife in Need Center where he helps with rehabilitating orphaned and injured wildlife.



**Tami Aerts**  
Paramedic  
Morrison/Wrightstown, WI

*Nominated By*  
**County Rescue Services**

It is an honor to nominate Tami Aerts for the Star of Life Award.

Tami was an original member of one of Wisconsin's early Emergency Medical Responder groups established in Wrightstown, WI in 1987. Over the years Tami's desire to help her neighbors and her community led her to continue her EMS education to the EMT level, EMS instruction, and ultimately her graduation from Paramedic school in 1998. She became a CPR instructor in 1995 and was sought out by many organizations to teach them this life-saving skill. Tami stepped forward to serve as the area coordinator for the Wrightstown team for most of her career. Supported not only by her family and neighbors, but also her fellow responders, police officers and firefighters, she tirelessly assisted the people in her community for 30 years. Tami believed each response was a team effort and it was very important to her that each person know their role was equally important.

She served with a passion and dedication like no other. Her drive to care for her neighbors was second only to her humility. Time and time again, Tami declined to accept award or recognition for her efforts. She rarely missed an opportunity to be there for others, truly making a difference in the lives of the patients and community she responded to.



**Bob Kelter**  
Paramedic  
Prairie du Sac, WI

*Nominated By*  
**Baraboo EMS**

Bob is being recognized as a Wisconsin Star of Life for being instrumental in representing the service in community paramedic meetings and discussions.

Bob has been an advocate for the community paramedic program for the past few years. Bob's passion for helping the community is evident in all he does. Since Bob became a paramedic he has attended countless meetings and forums to assist in promoting the recognition of the community paramedic program in the state of Wisconsin. Bob was a social worker turned paramedic in a second career. He is a charismatic and compassionate patient care provider.

Bob loves music, good food and craft spirits. He enjoys spending time with his wife and children.



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**Suzanne Martens, MD**  
Medical Director and EMT  
Random Lake, WI

*Nominated By*  
**Valders Ambulance / Orange Cross Ambulance**

Dr. Martens is being honored for the years of dedication that she has given to the EMS community.

Dr. Martens' first concern after crew safety has always been what is best for the patient, even when her opinion is not the popular one she will fight for what is best for patient care.

After receiving her EMT-B in 1987 she went on to complete her residency in Emergency Medicine at the Medical College of WI and then completed her fellowship at Carolinas Medical Center. She is currently Faculty, EMS & Trauma Program Director at St. Nicholas Hospital. She is also the current Medical Director for the state of Wisconsin, Lakeshore Technical College, Valders Ambulance, Orange Cross Ambulance, Oostburg Ambulance and a number of First Responder agencies.

When Dr. Martens is not working or spending most of her free time educating EMS personnel, you will find her helping animals in need, enjoying her backyard or spending time cooking, enjoying new restaurants and conversation with her friends and some of the very special people in her life.

There is not one event that can show the dedication and commitment that Dr. Martens has for EMS personnel and their patients, but if you look at all of the EMS technicians that she has instructed, influenced and supported in her entire career then it would be safe to say that no other person in the state of Wisconsin has made as big an impact in people's lives than she has. Not only is Dr. Martens always willing to help with education or medical guidance, but she deeply cares for all of the EMS people that she provides medical direction for. Any day of the week or time of the day she can be reached if you have the super secret pager number - that is dedication above and beyond. She has dedicated her life to EMS and Emergency Medicine, with her Mottos "What's best for the patient is most important" and remember "I am also just an EMT, so you better be a good Basic first before you can be anything else". EMS and Wisconsin is a much better place for having a special person like Dr. Martens.



**Steven D. Hensley**  
Paramedic  
La Crosse, WI

*Nominated By*  
**Gundersen Tri-State Ambulance**

Steve performs above and beyond as a Corporal, a field training officer, and a preceptor. He leads by example.

Steve's integrity and dedication show in his love of training employees, always putting his subordinates needs above his own.

Steve has served 1 year as an EMT, six years as a paramedic, with three of those as a Corporal.

One evening Steve went and picked up food for the crews, performed an intercept with a transporting crew during low unit availability, and then responded as sole ALS provider to a serious motor vehicle crash (MVC) with prolonged extrication until an ambulance finally became available to transport. While ensuring 911 coverage is a top priority, Steve never forgets to monitor the workload of his shift personnel and does what he can to lighten the load for all under his command.

Steve is foremost a loving father. He also enjoys tree trimming and logging.



**Bob Sternhagen**  
*(posthumous)*  
EMS Instructor  
Appleton, WI

*Nominated By*  
**Gold Cross Ambulance Service**

Bob ended his journey with cancer peacefully at his home surrounded by his family and friends on November 3, 2016.

He spent his 40+-year career in emergency medical services, an interest that started early when Bob went on emergency calls as a teen in the late 1960s with his brothers. Shortly after, Bob began as an EMT with Gold Cross Ambulance.

In 1974, with 7 years of ambulance experience, Bob was the first EMS instructor hired by the Wisconsin Technical School System. Treatment guidelines were still being developed statewide and nationally when he started. Bob's contribution to developing the original pulseless non-breather protocol has helped to save many lives. In the early days there were only six EMT instructors for the entire state.

In 1975, Bob began training paramedics, and continued to do so for many years. Bob's vision for a high-tech facility that trains paramedics, nurses, medical assistants, and other emergency response students and professionals came to fruition in the fall of 2013. His one-man simulation facility became a 66,000 square-foot, three story Health Simulation and Technology Center on the Appleton Technical College Campus. Today, it's a top human patient simulation center in the nation.



**Brian Randall**  
Paramedic  
Menasha, WI

*Nominated By*  
**Gold Cross Ambulance Service**

Brian has worked extensively to develop and progress the new Community Care Paramedic program at Gold Cross Ambulance. This pilot program was developed to fill a gap in the healthcare needs of our community. Due to the immaturity of this type of work many challenges were encountered and Brian has tackled each hurdle with professionalism, organization, and efficiency. Brian continues to push the program to new boundaries and we have already begun to see the fruits of his labor. The patients enrolled in the program have seen a stark decrease in hospital readmission's, emergency department use, and personal healthcare irresponsibility.

On top of his responsibilities with the Community Paramedic program, Brian also oversees the EMR Liaison program at Gold Cross Ambulance. This program helps train and maintain 27 First Responder groups and their affiliated paramedic liaisons. This work includes long hours and time away from family and friends, which Brian always tackles with a positive attitude and consistent work.

In addition to these responsibilities, Brian continues to work in the field as a Paramedic, FTO and member of the IT committee. Brian continues to push boundaries of what EMS is in Wisconsin and support Gold Cross in its work with the EMR groups. He continues to have a positive attitude and work toward our vision to be the Best in EMS.



**Sandra Steenweg**  
Emergency Medical Responder  
Lily, WI

*Nominated By*  
**Pickerel Rescue Squad**

Sandy is a school bus driver and emergency medical first responder. With students on the bus Sandy remained calm and addressed a critical situation by herself.

Sandy and her bus came upon a motorcycle verses truck accident that involved three people. She contacted the bus company with her bus radio and had them dispatch police and EMS to the scene. With a body in the middle of the road Sandy requested a helicopter. She triaged the accident victims and identified the most critical patient. She treated the critical patient and within minutes, Pickerel Rescue Squad and EMRs were on scene, a helicopter was in the air and more help was enroute. The crew packaged the critical patient and moved to the awaiting helicopter. Back in her bus she waited for the scene to clear, so she could take the students home to their parents. Sandy is a true leader and a bright new Star for the EMS profession.

Sandy always provides care to patients no matter how scary the situation. Her approach is that each time the call goes out, it is an opportunity to learn something new.

God, Family and Country are important to her.



**Ryan Janus**  
Critical Care Paramedic  
Milwaukee, WI

*Nominated By*  
**Bell Ambulance**

Ryan is being honored with the Wisconsin Star of Life for his contributions to quality improvement and education at Bell Ambulance.

Ryan has been a Critical Care Paramedic at Bell Ambulance for the last three years. He is now a Field Training Officer as well. Ryan is extremely intelligent and loves to share his knowledge. He is also very patient with new medics.

Ryan joined Bell Ambulance in 2014. Even though he has been around a short period of time, his impact is greatly felt. Ryan quickly moved through the ranks at Bell, obtaining his Crew Chief status, then becoming a Field Training Officer. He is also the resident "task master". Ryan has taken it upon himself to create new training programs for Critical Care skills such as Vent dependent patients and Arterial line monitoring. Ryan has also put a lot of effort into creating a new "on-duty" simulation training program. Most recently, Ryan has been working with management to help develop new cutting-edge protocols for the ALS and Critical Care departments. On top of all of this, Ryan was in the top 5% of employees for hours worked in 2016. He never shies away from coming in to lend a hand.

Ryan has a passion for two things—EMS and his family. Ryan is married with 4 children, and loves to play the role of Family Man. (now we know where his patience comes from)



**Chris Cuddy**  
EMT  
Osseo, WI

*Nominated By*  
**Gold Cross Ambulance/Mayo Clinic Medical Transport**

Gold Cross, a service of Mayo Clinic, is proud to be represented by Chris Cuddy, an EMT and assistant operations supervisor, as a 2017 Wisconsin Star of Life.

Throughout his career Chris has demonstrated initiative to not only get the job done, but go above and beyond to ensure he meets and exceeds the expectations of his patients and the team he supports. He is respected as someone who mentors and leads by example whether for his team or emergency medical responders (EMRs) in the region.

Chris joined Gold Cross in 2014, and is described by leadership and frontline team members as someone who works collaboratively and fosters a compassionate, caring and inclusive environment. A colleague wrote this in support of nominating Chris for the Stars of Life award, "Chris understands the value of teamwork and ensuring everyone provides the best possible care for patients. He is a leader who is always willing to share his medical and EMS knowledge with others. He will debrief calls with new staff as well as area EMR groups to help everyone learn and grow as a provider. He also has a special ability to connect with his patients and their family members. Chris not only excels at providing the medical care a patient needs, but also to provide other means of support. He is always willing to lend his shoulder or ear until the patient or family can be connected with the spiritual support system of their request."



**Christopher Dallas**  
Advanced EMT  
Valders, WI

*Nominated By*  
**Valders Ambulance Service**

Chris is being honored for his years of service with Valders Ambulance and Fire Department. He has shown an unselfish dedication in time and effort to serve our community and surrounding communities both with Fire and EMS.

Chris is currently the Fire Chief of Valders Fire Department and a full-time employee of Valders Ambulance. He started in prehospital medicine and with the volunteer fire department in 1998.

With his interest and experience in public safety, Chris has brought unique skills and knowledge that we would not be able to find anywhere else. When a gap in care or service needs to be filled Chris has always stepped up and assisted with providing the solution, from the reorganization of the Fire and Ambulance service to providing coverage to the largest JAWS territory in our county, the time and effort has always been there. There is no other person that has put the time in behind the scenes and also has shown the leadership to manage large scale incidents and spend the time and compassion when dealing with the small ones. Our community is a better place because of his involvement.

When Chris is not working, you will find him spending time with his family, playing softball, or sport fishing on Lake Michigan.



**Russell Schafer**  
Advanced EMT  
Lodi, WI

*Nominated By*  
**Lodi Area EMS**

Russ has shown incredible determination and sacrifice in order to update and progress our service. He not only works incredibly hard as our director, but also as a full time IV Technician.

Russ is EMS Chief/Director, IV Tech, Captain/Firefighter at Lodi Area Fire Department, ER Technician.

Russ took over as our Director about three years ago, and has made many improvements to our service, including the hiring of additional staff, joining our Service with Dane County EMS, as well as many other budget and operational improvements. Russ has also been working hard to further his education by taking online courses to earn a degree, all while working one of the rotating 24-hour full-time shifts in order to ensure our level of patient care never falters. His dedication and sacrifice to our Service in preparing Lodi Area EMS for the future has been noticed and we appreciate it!

Russ enjoys, classic cars, racing, spending any extra time he has with his wife and two sons.



**Robert Whitton**  
Critical Care Paramedic  
Pleasant Prairie, WI

*Nominated By*  
**Paratech Ambulance Service**

Rob is being honored for his dedication to EMS and EMS Education, and also for his role on a difficult call, he performed admirably during a hectic situation.

Rob has been in EMS for 8 years. He has served as a Critical Care Paramedic in both IL and WI. Rob is also a Board Certified Flight Paramedic. He enjoys being a mentor and teaching.

On January 19, 2016, Rob and his partner responded to an overdose. Extensive radio traffic prior to being dispatched, gave him a feeling this was going to be a hectic call. Previous radio traffic stated multiple patients not breathing. Upon arrival, they found multiple patients in various states of consciousness. Rob was directed by the incident commander to a 17 y/o female who was found with severe altered mental status, pinpoint pupils and slowed respirations. Narcan was given and IV started. The patient became more alert. Informed later, all of the patients were having a party, multiple drugs were being used. All patients were able to be revived, and a great job was performed by all entities on scene. Rob and his partner received a unit citation, honored by the City of Burlington Police Department.

When Rob is not teaching others, he enjoys working on cars, cooking, and spending time with his family.



**Dan Morth**  
Paramedic  
Ellsworth, WI

*Nominated By*  
**Ellsworth Area Ambulance/Regions Hospital  
EMS**

Dan has been involved in the delivery of high quality patient care for over 30 years as a Paramedic, RN, supervisor, educator, advocate and most recently Director of Ellsworth Area Ambulance.

He has a gift for connecting with those in his community and is well loved by all that he comes in contact with.

Dan has worked as both a Paramedic and RN. He has taken on many leadership and mentoring roles in all areas where he has worked.

Being the director of the ambulance in his local community, Dan is faced with difficult situations, which he always handles in the most kindhearted way. As the supervisor, he is expected to respond to significant events to assist his staff. On more than one occasion, Dan has responded to a close family friend or relative's home. Dan is known for his extreme compassion and commitment in these situations.

Dan loves to travel and spend time with his family. He and his wife, Diane enjoy sightseeing trips to warm climates and spending time near the water and in the mountains.



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**Paul Harrison**  
Critical Care Paramedic  
Deerfield, WI

### *Nominated By* **Ryan Brothers Ambulance**

Paul has been with Ryan Brothers since 2009. He was recently promoted to the Management Team and also achieved his Critical Care endorsement.

Paul has steadily risen through the ranks at Ryan Brothers. He has continually looked to take on more responsibility and has become a true leader. He is a thoughtful and quiet leader who always exemplifies professionalism and integrity.

Paul is an outstanding example of the merits of hard work and continuous professional development. He came to Ryan Brothers fresh off his EMT-Basic class in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. In 2012, Paul was chosen to be sponsored by Ryan Brothers for paramedic class. After gaining experience as a paramedic for 4 years, Paul recently completed his training and is now a CCEMTP. He has also continued to look for more opportunity at Ryan Brothers. Over the years, he has contributed as a dispatcher, crew chief, station manager and supplies assistant and this year was named to the Management Team. Paul's growth as a patient care provider, manager and leader is a shining example to all of his colleagues of the true path to personal development and success.

Paul and his wife enjoy refurbishing their Victorian era home. They also enjoy growing heirloom tomatoes in their garden. But, most of their time is now taken raising and entertaining their 2 children.



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**David Krueger**  
Advanced EMT  
Caroline, WI

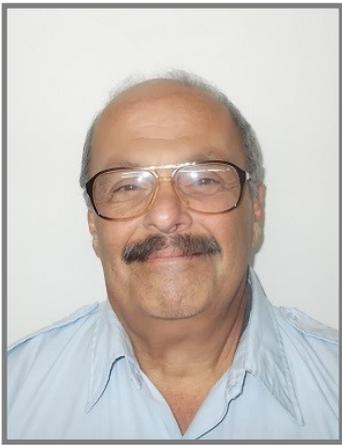
*Nominated By*  
**Grant EMS**

Dave is being nominated as a Wisconsin Star of Life for his lifelong dedication to rural EMS, through actions, words and deeds.

He provides compassionate care with each and every patient, his love to encourage new EMR's and EMT's through precepting. He was one of the earliest local EMT's, providing 24/7 EMR responses in many of the 30 plus years.

Dave enjoys being involved in activities with larger groups of people or small groups. Many times in the early EMS days people would call Dave directly, and through the training and processes he then began to request an ambulance to the location as he went enroute. One day he arrived to the east side of his community to find a female with shortness of breath and CP, he summoned for an ambulance, and minimized delays or patient exertion. Shortly after the patient was secured in the ambulance they went into cardiac arrest, with shocks, CPR, and meds given via IV, the patient was resuscitated and later returned home.

Dave is caring, involved with many other community activities, including fire, Lions, as well as holding several officer positions.



**David Mike**  
Supervisor,  
Communications Center  
Milwaukee, WI

*Nominated By*  
**Paratech Ambulance Service**

Dave is being honored for his devotion to EMS and his community. His dedication has made an incredible difference in all the lives he has touched. His humanitarian values reach far beyond what is professionally expected and it defines how he relates to anyone he is involved with.

Dave got his start in EMS in 1972, since then he has been involved many aspects of EMS. He has worked as a field medic, teaching, and finally as a supervisor in the Paratech's Communications Center.

Dave is being honored for his unselfish commitment to EMS and community. He has been a valued Paratech Ambulance associate for almost 25 years and been involved with EMS since 1972. Dave has served in the capacity of an EMT, CPR Instructor, Ambulance Operations manager, dispatcher, and finally as our supervisor in Paratech's Communications Center.

Dave's desire to give to humanity does not stop with EMS. Dave and his wife Ginny have opened their home and hearts to 19 foster children over the past 14 years, some of these children with significant special needs. In Dave's ongoing quest to find a way to help other foster children, Dave has organized a group in which he is able to promote and support those involved in foster care. Being a foster father and becoming an adoptive parent has been one of Dave's greatest life accomplishments.

Dave enjoys hiking outdoors with his family and sports. He is deeply involved with church and leads a group for individuals wanting to become involved in foster care.

We want to honor Dave for making an incredible difference in all our lives. This individual was nominated by his peers and colleagues in appreciation of his ongoing dedication.



**Patrick Donoghue**  
EMT  
Oak Creek, WI

*Nominated By*  
**Bell Ambulance**

Pat is being honored as a Wisconsin Star of Life for his dedication to EMS in regards to employee development and morale.

Pat enjoys sharing his knowledge and wants to ensure that all employees feel welcome and are part of the team. He started at Bell Ambulance two and a half years ago and progressed quickly to FTO and now is a Shift Supervisor.

As an FTO, Pat always made sure that his trainees felt comfortable with their skills. Pat would go out of his way to think of ways to get employees to understand and retain the information that they learned. As a Supervisor, Pat has come up with some ideas to help build camaraderie amongst the shifts and ensure that employees both new and old feel welcome and interact with each other. Pat has recently been awarded a Paramedic scholarship through Bell Ambulance and obtained his Emergency Medical Dispatcher certification.

Pat enjoys spending time with his wife and young daughter and also enjoys riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle.



**Mary LaPorte**  
Advanced EMT  
Rothschild, WI

*Nominated By*  
**Riverside Fire District**

Mary has been an asset to the merger of the Schofield and Rothschild Fire Departments, particularly in the EMS services. She is especially outgoing and friendly, which translates well into her effectiveness as an EMS provider.

Mary has been a dedicated EMS volunteer for 33 years. She retired after 37 years with the US postal service.

Mary has shown extraordinary commitment to providing EMS to her community for over 30 years as a long-standing member of the Rothschild Fire Department. When discussions of a merger to become the Riverside Fire District began, Mary was a strong supporter seeing this merger as an effective and efficient means to provide the best services to the two municipalities. Her experience with third-party billing was leveraged in the merger, and she assisted with the implementation of a records management system update. Mary has also organized EMS services for a variety of area events and venues throughout her EMS tenure.

Mary enjoys animals, particularly horses and dogs. One outlet for this interest is volunteering with Stable Hands Equine Therapy Center.



**Elizabeth Ferger-Olsen**  
Critical Care Paramedic  
Clinton, WI

*Nominated By*  
**Paratech Ambulance Service**

Liz is being honored for her dedication to EMS and also her role on a difficult call. She performed admirably during a hectic situation.

On January 19, 2016, Liz and her partner responded to an overdose. Extensive radio traffic prior to being dispatched, gave her a feeling this was going to be a hectic call. Previous radio traffic stated multiple patients not breathing. Upon arrival, they found multiple patients in various states of consciousness. Directed by the incident commander to a 17 y/o female who was found with severe altered mental status, pinpoint pupils and slowed respirations. Narcan was given and IV started. The patient became more alert. Informed later, all of the patients were having a party, multiple drugs were being used. All patients were able to be revived, and a great job was performed by all entities on scene. Liz and her partner received a unit citation, honored by the City of Burlington Police Department.

Liz is an excellent mentor, she is patient, and is always willing to share her knowledge.

Liz been in EMS for 20 years, and a paramedic for 16. In 2011, she became a Critical Care Paramedic.

Liz is fun loving, and energetic. She enjoys scuba diving, cooking, and going on vacations with her children.



**Jeri K. Schiffman**  
Critical Care Paramedic  
Elkader, IA

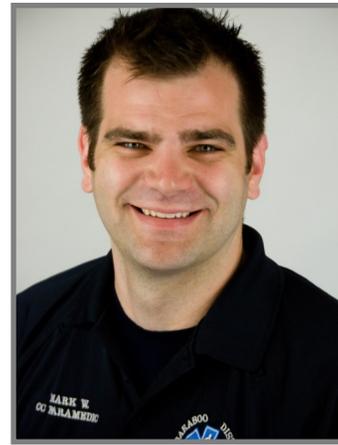
*Nominated By*  
**Gundersen Tri-State Regional Ambulance**

Jeri has worked hard, and has made many accomplishments in her relatively short career. She quickly moved from EMT to paramedic to critical care paramedic, and someday a community paramedic. She has a heart for EMS and patient care.

Jeri has a very outgoing personality. She has the ability to build new relationships very quickly. She has been in EMS for 6 years and a paramedic for the past 5 years, and is currently a critical care paramedic.

Jeri applied and was promoted to the shift leader position. This was a new role for her, and she encountered some barriers along the way. Later, she attended the leadership academy with the rest of our shift leaders, and returned as a completely different leader. She soared to the top as one of the best shift leaders we have ever had. Her shift has the least amount of problems or issues, with the greatest job satisfaction. She has worked very hard in this role, and has the respect of everyone she works with. I frequently have employees tell me how great of a job she is doing.

When Jeri is not at work, you can usually find her baking. She is well known for her delicious cakes, and beautifully decorated cupcakes, in a variety of flavors.



**Mark Willer**  
Critical Care Paramedic  
Baraboo, WI

*Nominated By*  
**Baraboo EMS**

Mark is dedicated to emergency services through the fire dept., technical rescue team, ERT, large animal rescue and EMS. He is an effective and fair leader and manager, always doing what is best for the patient.

Mark has responded to many rope rescue calls in which he was the lead rescuer. Many of these situations are inherently dangerous; however, Mark handles the scene with a calm perspective and puts the other team members nerves at ease. Mark also is the lead instructor for the technical rescue team. Mark earned the acting lieutenant position a few years ago and also filled in long term during a recent absence of his OIC. Mark's commitment extends as well to his days off. He comes in extra and responds to fire and EMS calls no matter the time.

He fights for what he believes is right, despite it possibly not being popular.

Mark is very well versed in IT, expert in rope rescue, hunter, community minded, wonderful husband and father of Tilly and Max.



**Lori McConochie**  
EMT  
Cambria, WI

*Nominated By*  
**Cambria Community Ambulance Service**

Lori has been an EMT for 30 years.

On Wednesday, May 31, 2017, Lori responded to an explosion at a grain milling facility in Cambria, WI. Lori was requested to assist with an individual that had both legs trapped under a rail car caused by a building collapsing on top of it. There was a 3 by 3 foot hole that Lori had to enter and then climb down 12 more feet to the patient to start treatment. The scene was still very unstable as fire was encroaching on their location and stabilization efforts were just getting started. After assessing the situation Lori knew the patient was in need of more medical care and requested Paramedics to the scene. Lori started initial EMS treatment until Paramedics arrived. Lori stayed and assisted until the paramedics arrived and there was no room left in the hole. This was exemplary work in extraordinary conditions.

Lori is energetic and outgoing and is always willing to help. She loves to play softball and volleyball, traveling to Jamaica, doing yard work and anything to do with EMS and Fire.



**Jon K. Hagen**  
Paramedic  
Appleton, WI

*Nominated By*  
**Flight For Life**

Jon has 40 years of EMS experience in Wisconsin. He's a dedicated and compassionate healthcare provider having worked 14 years with Gold Cross Ambulance, 14 years with Theda Star and 9 years with Flight For Life.

Jon has gone far and above the call of duty when an emergency has occurred. Has a calming hand and a caring attitude to those that he comes in contact with. He has an extensive background in Wisconsin EMS and continues to uphold that tradition in care and education. He was able to get himself and crew back home safely after every mission and call.

Jon is a dedicated father, husband and grandfather. He's interested in photography and travel.

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**Kenny Monteith**  
Critical Care Paramedic  
Decorah, IA

*Nominated By*  
**Gundersen Tri-State Regional Ambulance**

Kenny has the respect of all of his coworkers and is everyone's first resource if they have questions. He helps lead the way in the direction our company is going. He is soft spoken, and always calm regardless of the situation.

Kenny has over 20 years of experience, with backgrounds in small volunteer services, full-time paid services, and as a flight medic.

Kenny joined Tri-State Regional Ambulance in 2012 and has had a major impact, since the company was just getting started at that time. He brought his knowledge and many years of experience to a company with fairly new paramedics. Kenny immediately became a shift leader and also the education / CQI coordinator. He also serves as a preceptor for EMT students and a FTO for new employees. He remains the "go to guy" for any questions about skills, medications, protocols or patient care.

Kenny is a big family man, and spends much of his time with his family, when he is not working at one of his jobs.



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