



386 River Point Drive  
McDonough, GA 30252

(229) 402-2240

[www.georgiaemsassociation.com](http://www.georgiaemsassociation.com)

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For Information Contact:  
Mary Napier, Communications Specialist  
Georgia EMS Association  
(229) 231-2109  
[communications@georgiaemsassociation.com](mailto:communications@georgiaemsassociation.com)

### **GEMSA Presents Annual Awards**

The Georgia Emergency Medical Services Association (GEMSA) announced its 2020 award winners at an awards reception on Monday, May 3, 2021 at 7:00 pm at Peachtree Pointe at Lake Lanier in Buford, GA. GEMSA award finalists, members, and guests were in attendance. Congratulations to all the winners.

#### **Dr. J. Jeffrey Marshall Excellence in Cardiac Care – Zane Pulliam and Doug Swift, Redmond EMS**

This award was established in 2020 to honor an individual or organization in the State of Georgia for their excellence in emergency cardiac care. In its inaugural year, GEMSA also voted to name this award after Dr. J. Jeffrey Marshall for his contributions to prehospital and cardiac care.

J. Jeffrey Marshall, MD, MSCAI, FACC, is an interventional cardiologist and the Chief of Northside Hospital Cardiovascular Institute. Early in his career, Dr. Marshall became an EMT in the state of Florida. He attended medical school at The University of Florida and then completed his training in internal medicine, cardiology research, general cardiology and interventional cardiology at Virginia Commonwealth University. Dr. Marshall is a member of the Georgia Composite State Medical Board where he also served as Chair in 2018, and he is the current Governor of the Georgia Chapter of the American College of Cardiology. Dr. Marshall is recognized as one of America's top cardiologists. Dr. Marshall developed and implemented one of the largest, organized STEMI Systems in the United States due to his trust in EMS's ability to diagnosis, communicate and initiate treatment before arriving to the cath lab. For many years, Dr. Marshall had the vision to create designated levels of cardiac care to improve survival rates for the citizens of Georgia. In 2016, with the close coordination of EMS leaders and support of GEMSA, Dr. Marshall led the charge with Senator Butch Miller and Representative Lee Hawkins to get a law passed creating Emergency Cardiac Care designated hospitals. Dr. Marshall was at the reception to present the award to the 2020 winners.

Captain Doug Swift and AEMT Zane Pulliam were given the inaugural award for their prehospital care delivered to a young male patient who suffered cardiac arrest. In a rural setting, 25 miles from a medical facility, a 22-year-old male with Shone's Syndrome had fallen in cardiac arrest. CPR was performed by his girlfriend and Floyd County Police delivered two shocks with an AED before EMS arrived. Swift and Pulliam assumed care and began to work tirelessly. From the time the 911 call was

placed until the ambulance arrived at the hospital, 55 minutes had passed. However, due to the heroic efforts of the EMS team, ROSC had been achieved during this time. Ten days after this ordeal, the young man went home from the hospital with no deficits. Captain Swift is a Critical Care paramedic who began his career in 1990 with Polk County EMS attaining the rank of shift supervisor before becoming a captain with Redmond EMS in 2009 when Redmond EMS assumed operation of 911 service in Polk County. He is active in the community, often assisting in CPR classes and helping with various community events. EMT Pulliam became an EMT after a career with AT&T. He served his country in the US Navy. He was always interested in the medical field and found EMS as a way to satisfy that interest. He is active in the community teaching CPR, working at Health Fairs, and assisting with numerous community events.

**Dr. Joseph E. Simon Pediatric Award of Excellence** – Shelley Fields and Chris Boyd, Effingham County EMS

EMS partners Shelley Fields and Chris Boyd from Effingham County EMS responded to a residence for a woman in labor with twins at 24 weeks gestation. When they arrived, they found the mother had given birth in the bathtub to the first baby. Baby A was cyanotic, motionless, and apneic. Examination of the mother revealed the second twin (Baby B) was breeched, with the legs and abdomen delivered and the upper torso, arms and head still inside the birth canal. The umbilical cord of Baby A was inside the birth canal as well. Chris took over care of Baby A. Shelley continued care of the mother and delivered Baby B. A second EMS unit was called to transport the mother so that the twins could leave the scene immediately. Chris remained on the scene and took over care of the mother while Shelley took over care of both twins for transport. Baby A required CPR and manual ventilation throughout the call. Baby B required manual ventilation only. Shelley was able to contact the receiving facility to request portable oxygen tanks and warm blankets to be waiting for their arrival. Upon arrival, Baby A had achieved a heart rate of 100, no longer requiring chest compressions. Baby B had maintained a heart rate of 120. Dr. Buckler, medical director of the neonatal intensive care nurseries stated: “the care that the EMTs provided allowed the babies to arrive at the hospital, giving them a chance to survive. Without the resuscitation care provided, the babies probably would not have survived prior to arrival at the hospital.”

**Tim Peebles Champion of Children Excellence and Advocacy Award** – Joanne Southerland, Clayton County Fire & Emergency Services

Officer Joanne Southerland was nominated for this award for her work with the Clayton County Fire & Emergency Services' Human Trafficking Awareness Initiative. Statistically speaking, more than four hundred minors are trafficked for sexual acts in the Metro Atlanta area each month. To increase awareness, CCFES has taken the lead in educating the public safety community on the shocking prevalence of human trafficking throughout the state. With Joanne's extensive background in law enforcement to include 15 years of Crimes Against Children investigation for the Clayton County Police Department, she has worked endlessly to develop an in-house training program to focus on raising awareness of human trafficking in her community and across Georgia. Her efforts can be found on multiple platforms including articles in the Atlanta Journal Constitution (AJC), Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC), Between the Lines podcast, and various public safety websites that publish flyers and information on Human Trafficking. Joanne coordinated with GPSTC to create their first human trafficking roll call training and made it available to all law enforcement, fire & EMS personnel and 911 telecommunication operators in the State of Georgia. She has created, organized and coordinated various human trafficking awareness posters and PowerPoint trainings aids that have been distributed nationally. Joanne's dedication and advocacy to the awareness of the long-term effects of

human trafficking in her community inspires her to continue the efforts to stop human trafficking. Officer Southerland displays the attitude and servitude of a truly community focused public servant.

**Mary Beth Bowns Excellence in Trauma Care Award – Craig Salters, MetroAtlanta Ambulance Service**

When you are dispatched to a person who fell off their bike, you don't expect to work a traumatic arrest from it. But that's just what happened when Paramedic Craig Salters was dispatched for a man down who had fallen off his bike. When the crew arrived, they found a bystander doing CPR who reported that the patient had struck a root on the side of the road and flipped over the handle bars striking his head on the pavement. When the bystander got to the patient, he was unresponsive with shallow breathing, so the bystander started CPR. Craig's assessment revealed a 73-year-old male with fixed pupils and agonal respirations. Cervical immobilization was taken by EMS and then Fire and CPR was started with the LUCAS device. The patient had an obvious deformity to the neck. The patient was intubated on scene with end tidal used and the patient had ROSC on scene. The crew immobilized the patient and collected his helmet and continued to breathe for the patient en route to the hospital. It's the mark of a good medic to be able to turn on a dime, expecting the unexpected. Quick care from the bystander then the first EMS crew on scene to protect the patient's neck and make sure that he got good compressions all led to a positive outcome for this patient.

**Joe Lane Cox Excellence in EMS Award – Daniel Yeargin**

Daniel "Dan" Yeargin served the citizens and visitors to Hart County and Region 2 EMS in many capacities throughout his career. He has dedicated his life to improving the health of his community. Dan worked his way through his clinical career as EMT and paramedic then ultimately becoming EMS Director of Hart County. During his tenure, he served on the Region 2 EMS Advisory Council and the Region 2 EMS Directors Association. He later accepted a position with the State as GEMA Area Coordinator - still protecting the region. Later in his career, Dan chose to move back into EMS as the Regional Program Director for Region 2. His commitment to sustaining the quality of EMS in Georgia has been unparalleled. Throughout his career, he has demonstrated a quiet strength in his leadership style that many admire. He has saved a thousand lives and launched a thousand careers.

**Dr. Zeb L. Burrell, Jr. Distinguished Service Award – Greg Chapman, Houston Healthcare EMS**

Greg Chapman was nominated for this award for his outstanding contributions to the EMS profession for over four decades. Greg has served full-time with EMS since the mid-1970s, serving first with a funeral home-based ambulance service while attending EMT school. His long career as a paramedic has provided him with opportunities to serve with various providers, to include a county-based Fire / EMS System, a private EMS System, and a hospital-based EMS System in Warner Robbins, where he has served actively since 1985. Greg has always demonstrated a commitment to the education of medics and healthcare professionals within his region and has assisted in teaching numerous courses. Greg has also served EMS Region 5 and his local community extremely well during his 35-year tenure working with Houston Healthcare EMS. He is an active member of the Regional Trauma Advisory Committee, the Houston Healthcare Disaster Committee, the EMS Educational Advisory Committee for Central GA Technical College, Chair of the Relationship Committee for Houston EMS & Fire Departments, and a long-time active member of the Region 5 EMS Council. Greg serves as a positive role model, and demonstrates high ideals, irreproachable character, and extreme unselfish dedication to EMS.

**Dr. John B. O'Neal III, EMS Pioneer Award – Vince Brogdon, Gold Cross EMS**

Vince Brogdon is CEO of Gold Cross EMS. Vince is a licensed paramedic and demonstrates the kind of poise, composure, and trustworthiness you would expect out of a great leader. Through his position at Gold Cross EMS, Vince makes sure his staff and himself are active in the community. Each year, staff help provide a program to teens about the dangers of drinking and driving. They also speak to classes for show and tell and provide CPR classes to community members and leaders. Vince also created the Gold Cross EMS Academy to combat the shortage of qualified EMTs and paramedics in the area. He also helped create the Gold Cross Explorer Group to introduce 14-20-year-olds to the exciting world of EMS. While Vince focuses on helping the community, he also focuses on his staff and recently created an employee appreciation program. This past year showcased two of Vince's greatest achievements. Gold Cross EMS became the first Ambulance Service ever to become accredited and this past year reaccredited through the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services. Gold Cross EMS became only the 7th in the entire state of Georgia out of 268 services to achieve this. Gold Cross EMS Dispatch center became the 6th Accredited Dispatch Center in the entire state and this past year reaccredited. Vince would never ask his employees to do something that he himself would not do.

**Charles B. Gillespie, MD, Distinguished Georgia E.M.S. Medical Director Award** – Dr. Sudha Reddy, Clayton County Fire & Emergency Services

Dr. Sudha Reddy is a hometown emergency services physician who obtained her Doctor of Medicine, concentration in Epidemiology from the Morehouse School of Medicine in May 2001. She continued her medical education by obtaining her specialty in Emergency Medicine during her residency at Emory University Hospital in 2004. Her work experience spans throughout Metro Atlanta in a variety of ER settings including Level 1 Trauma Centers. She served in community-based emergency medicine settings from 2001-2004. Dr. Reddy began her career with Clayton County Fire & Emergency Services (CCFES) in 2016 as a part time medical director. Her new direction included a responsibility to public health needs and emergencies within the community by promoting advanced pre-hospital medicine. When CCFES implemented a mobile health clinic in 2019, they needed a full-time physician. Dr. Reddy accepted the position and provided leadership and support for the new program. Also, as an epidemiologist, Dr. Reddy's knowledge, support, and direction helped CCFES and its community navigate during the pandemic. Dr. Reddy has shown a continued dedication to the principles of medical ethics and has made outstanding contributions to the community in citizenship and public service above and beyond the call of duty as a practicing physician.

**Georgia EMS Director of the Year Award** – James "Marty" Robinson, Redmond EMS

Marty Robinson started his public career as a volunteer firefighter in Rockmart in 1985. He stayed volunteer, until 1990, when he became an employed fireman, and later became a sergeant. He also became a paramedic. He was employed with Polk County EMS from 1991-2009 and eventually became a supervisor. When Redmond EMS took over EMS services in Polk County, Marty kept his supervisor position and later was promoted to District Commander. In 2011, he helped Chattooga County become established in the Redmond EMS family. Marty was promoted in 2016 to Director of Redmond EMS. As director, Marty has brought in an Education Coordinator, who has taken their education to higher level; established Mobile Integrated Healthcare; upgraded equipment and software; and made sure his employees are always prepared. Marty received this award for the dedication he has shown to his service, his community, and those around him.

**Georgia EMS Educator of the Year Award** – Quincy Miller, Columbus Fire and EMS

Fire Lieutenant Quincy Miller was nominated for his remarkable standing within the fire department training division, the field, the military, and the community. Lt. Miller began his firefighting career in 2006 and quickly began to enhance and advance his newly acquired skills and knowledge through multiple certifications over the years. Lt. Miller is a BLS instructor and ACLS instructor certified and a level 3 Paramedic Instructor. In 2016, he earned an Associate Degree in Practical Nursing Technology and a Bachelor's of Science in EMS Administration. Lt. Miller made the decision to use his expertise in a new venture and joined the training division in 2015. During his time with the training division, Lt. Miller has trained six firefighter rookie classes, totaling 145 cadets, 3 paramedic classes, 5 total EMT classes, and 5 AEMT classes. He utilizes his training and expertise to adequately and completely prepare his students with the knowledge and skills they need to successfully pass their classes and exams and enter the fire department and ambulance crew as a capable, competent and qualified member of the team. Lt. Miller is also addressed as Technical Sgt. Miller in the Air Force Reserve where he serves as a medic and the EMS Instructor/Coordinator for the 908<sup>th</sup> ASTS Air Force Reserve Unit, for which he has his military EMS Instructor license. Despite his full-time career training EMT and Paramedic students and the time he dedicates to fulfilling his duty to his country, Lt. Miller still finds time to support his home state and his community. He serves as a part of the medical support team for the Georgia Search and Rescue Team. Lt. Miller has unlimited motivation to continue to improve his skills and to use those skills to not only help mold the EMTs of the future, but also to help his community, his state, and his country when called upon.

#### **Georgia EMT of the Year Award – Daniel Durand, Clayton County Fire & Emergency Services**

After joining Clayton County Fire & Emergency Services in 2008, Paramedic Lieutenant Daniel Durand quickly established himself as a valuable and engaged member of the department. Within 4 years of graduation from firefighter recruit class, Daniel obtained certifications as an AEMT, fire apparatus operator, paramedic, and lastly the Peace Officer Standards & Training (POST) certification. Daniel is one of the original members of the department's critical care paramedic program. By the end of 2012, he was promoted to the rank of paramedic sergeant, and in August of 2017 was promoted to the rank of paramedic lieutenant. As a station officer and field-training officer (FTO), Daniel oversees the day-to-day operations of his station, develops future department paramedics, as well as intentionally divides his time between the fire apparatus and ambulance to give his team some relief during high call volume shifts. His nomination stated Daniel's "passion for his job is something to admire and is truly genuine...He deserves this award for the immeasurable amount of dedication and enthusiasm that he gives of himself to the county, to public safety and to his fellow man. It is this type of attitude and servitude that secures our future as public servants."

#### **Georgia Emergency Medical Service of the Year Award – South Georgia Medical Center EMS**

South Georgia Medical Center's EMS has built and maintained a network of best practices including career development and community support. SGMC began EMS in 1972 as one of two pilot programs in Georgia. SGMC's EMS responds to an average of 2,010 calls for service each month and is a leader in pre-hospital care. In 2015, the service developed an Extreme Excited Delirium protocol (one of the first of its kind in the region) for EMS. During the pandemic, the staff heroically responded, treated, and transported symptomatic patients with courage and professionalism. SGMC's EMS exceeds the expectations of the community through its participation in preceptor training and as a clinical-training site for Wiregrass Georgia Technical College's (WGTC) EMS programs. Because training is imperative, SGMC EMS is the only service in the region to have a Regional Training Center. In addition to advanced training, worker safety and well-being programs are evident in the department and throughout the

medical center. SGMC has a Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) program to help staff, or any other outside first responders deal with high stress situations, and they offer an Employee Assistance Program that is available free of charge to provide professional counseling. SGMC's EMS is also an active community partner. They routinely provide standby-services, participate in events at area schools to provide insight into a career in EMS, provide paramedics to speak to groups, and participate in a drunk-driving simulation for students. Danny Weeks, Lowndes County 911 Communications Director said, "SGMC's EMS is an outstanding organization. Covering multiple counties with a small fleet of trucks and a call volume that continues to increase, SGMC's EMS ensures that no matter what, every call is answered in an effective and timely manner. They are always willing to work together as partners to accomplish goals and objectives." SGMC values the lives that are entrusted to them and considers it a privilege to serve the emergency medical, educational and information needs of their community, region, and state.

### **Courtney Terwilliger Chairman's Award – James Rafe Waters**

Rafe Waters has been instrumental not only where he works, but with GEMSA and EMS as a whole around the state of Georgia, the United States, and even abroad. He has worked in ground and air medical EMS. He is an EMT, paramedic, and registered nurse. He is a past EMS Director for a ground service as well. He is a graduate of the GEMSA Leadership Class, has traveled abroad during hurricanes to help those in need for extended periods of time, has traveled to New York and California during the COVID pandemic to help others while being gone for weeks at a time from his family. He has earned his GEMSA EMS Director's Certification, and in 2021 will be a candidate for his MBA. He has been instrumental in the GEMSA EMS Leadership Program since he graduated from the class, and he was one of the first to travel across the state with the Trauma Commission funded cadaver labs and trauma skill courses. Rafe is a Senior Program Director for Air Evac and a board member for GEMSA. As the GEMSA President, Chad Black, got to select the winner for this award.

GEMSA is a statewide membership organization that represents more than 14,000 EMTs, Paramedics, Nurses, Physicians, and businesses that support emergency medical services. GEMSA administers grants that benefit EMS services, which in turn benefit our communities across the state. The association also offers continuing education credits at two conferences held every year along with other training opportunities. The mission of GEMSA is to advocate for the emergency medical provider, develop educational programs, liaison activities, provider benefit programs, and improvements to the Emergency Medical Service System in Georgia. Learn more at [www.georgiaemsassociation.com](http://www.georgiaemsassociation.com).

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Photos available upon request.