

***** **Stars of Life Program 2010** *****

Have you ever asked yourself 'how can I recognize someone in my services who does the extra stuff go above and beyond the call of duty'?

It can be anyone in your service who helps, from the person next door who supplies cookies to someone who is willing and able to do whatever is needed for the service.

The Stars of Life program can be a valuable component of your organization's efforts to recognize and reward employees and volunteers. The Stars of Life Award can be used for a recruitment and retention tool!

Montana Stars of Life Program is patterned after the American Ambulance Association's program in Washington, DC.

- Reward and congratulate outstanding employees and volunteers
- Provides a positive image of Montana pre-hospital care providers

Candidates that maybe selected can be anyone

- Employee of the Year
- On-duty or off-duty service above the call of duty
- Setting significant records
- Significant community contributions outside of EMS
- Significant community recognition or honors related to ambulance, public safety, public health or health care services
- Local leadership in developing community partnerships that enhance homeland security

2010 EMS STARS OF LIFE

The Montana Emergency Medical Services Association is pleased to recognize the Stars of Life as they were identified and honored by their individual Emergency Medical Care Services around the State.

The first individual to receive the 2010 Stars of Life Award does not know that he is being honored.

- Belt Volunteer Ambulance Service is honoring James “Jimmy D” Dawson a member of the Belt Volunteer Ambulance Service.
 - Jim is being honored for his unfailing service to the Belt community as an EMT for almost 3 decades.
 - Jim keeps abreast of training and development in the EMS field and remembers the primary hallmarks of emergency medicine.
 - Jim is a compassionate man, dedicated to service, personal excellence, and being a team player.
 - Jim has served a number of roles: Lead Instructor, Director, First Responder, EMT-B, and has taught farm rescue several times at the MEMSA conference.
 - Jim has endured many difficult experiences as an EMT. When he responded to a tragic accident in 1985, the call involved the loss of life of one of his children. He continued to focus and saved others at the scene.
 - He is quick to respond and administers help in all situations. His highest priority is patient care.
 - Karen Miszler, Secretary of Belt Volunteer Ambulance Service says she believes that there is no honor high enough for this man.

Polson/Ronan Emergency Medical Services is honoring Michael Cullen for his dedication to the sick and injured, as well as to the community. Mike has worked as an EMT- Basic, Intermediate, and is now a medication Endorsed Paramedic. He has served as a volunteer and a paid EMT.

- Tim Brester, Director of Polson/Ronan EMS said that Mike has demonstrated a commitment to EMS that exemplifies our industry.
- He is dedicated to our service and the communities he serves. Like most of us, Mike is in EMS because of his desire to deliver help in people's darkest hours.
- You would have difficulty finding a more compassionate, caring provider than Mike.
- He is always the first to volunteer to teach EMT and CPR courses. Mike's belief is the more people we teach to care for each other, the better off the public will be.
- This has strengthened the safety of our community. Mike is a very intelligent Paramedic, but his true attributes go deeper than that.
- He is caring, compassionate, professional and universally well liked. His sense of calmness at a chaotic scene is contagious and he has made our whole crew better.
- Mike is truly a leader, not just in EMS, but also in our community. Mike is willing to teach, answer questions, and learn.
- Mike example has created a culture of learning and understanding, because of this Mike is our Star of Life
- Mike's personal interests include his family first and kid's sports.
- He also enjoys four wheeler, snowmobiling, winter sports, fishing and metalworking.

Eagle Ambulance of Montana City is honoring Melissa Jackson as their Star of Life.

- Melissa began her career in EMS as the billing clerk for Eagle Ambulance.
- Melissa immediately caught the EMS bug and became licensed.
- She is dedicated to giving 100%, shows excitement at work whether responding to calls or doing the office work.
- This tribute was from Owner/Operator Katherine Jackson provide this tribute to Melissa
 - There is no one event or experience that exemplifies Melissa's commitment; it is done on a daily basis.
 - For three years Melissa has gone above and beyond both personally and professionally and never once has complained or asked "What's in it for me?"
 - She is always willing to help and does it with a smile. She has a true passion for this line of work and it shows in the way she treats every patient.

Great Falls Emergency Service recognizes two 2010 Stars of Life.

- Steven Maestras has been involved in Emergency Medical Services since 1997.
 - He has served with Salt Lake County Fire, the US Air Force, and now Great Falls Emergency Service.
 - Steve has been on thousands of EMS calls in his career responding on nearly every type of situation.
 - Recently while transporting a pediatric emergency, he and his partner encountered a roll-over of a semi-truck on a mountain pass in severe winter conditions.
 - While managing the pediatric emergency, they also managed care of the semi-driver.
 - Steve was part of a team that successfully managed a near fatal domestic assault in which the victim received numerous stab wounds.
 - Steve loves spending time with his children and is a very attentive Dad. Steve is known at the GFES Station as a notable chef and also enjoys fishing.

Great Falls Emergency Service's second Star is Joey Zahara.

- In contacting the legislators a message was received from Representative Jesse O'Hara indicating that he indeed did know Joey. Joey had been his drivers' education instructor.
- Joey has been an EMT for five years spending the past four years with Great Falls Emergency Services.
- He is also a member of the Cascade County Search and Rescue and Gore Hill Fire-Rescue.
- Because of Joey's technical rescue training he successfully rescued a man who had fallen 40 feet into a well and was treading water to stay afloat.
- Joey was lowered into the well to provide treatment and he eventually extricated the patient from the well.
- Jeff O'Neil, EMT-P with Great Falls Emergency Services says that Cascade County and the State of Montana should be proud to have individuals like Joey Zahara in its community.
- Jeff works with Joey on a regular basis as an EMT and says Joey is dedicated not only did he go above and beyond his call of duties on this call. Joey does this on a regular basis.
- Joey's personal interests include landscaping, golf and hockey.
- In addition, Joey has been appointed Fire Chief of Teton County.

- Whitefish Fire Department - Chief Tom Kennelly would like to honor – Ben Parsons Paramedic/Firefighter - 2010 Star of Life.
 - Ben has been a member of the Whitefish Fire Department for two years and exemplifies the core values of all Montana EMS personnel: integrity, compassion and professionalism.
 - Prior to becoming a paramedic, Ben taught science classes at Fairmont Egan Middle School in Kalispell.
 - During his time off Ben is a professional mountain bike racer in cross country and endurance racing.
 - He is a member of the 2010 USA Ski Mountaineering Association Team that traveled to Europe during February and March 2010.
 - Chief Kennelly attached a letter in support of Ben's selection from the wife of a revived firefighter in Blodgett, Oregon.
 - When returning to his truck after a 50 mile endurance race on Father's day 2010, Ben and a friend noticed flames uncomfortably close to the awning of a nearby home.
 - They discovered a flaming barbecue grill.
 - While removing the grill from the porch that was attached to the home, Ben's friend ran to the end of the street where the Blodgett Volunteer Fire Department was operating a tender for endurance bike racers.
 - When the fire was under control, one of the responding firefighters collapsed and went in cardiac arrest.
 - 911 was called and Ben used his CPR skills to work on the firefighter.
 - A lady arrived with an AED - Automatic External Defibrillator and the firefighter was successfully resuscitated.
 - The lady with the AED was the firefighter's wife.