

Friday, May 25, 2007

EMS workers honored for their special efforts

Every day, paramedics and emergency medical technicians with Louisville Metro EMS help people throughout the city -- responding to car crashes, heart attacks and other emergencies.

But once a year some of those emergency workers are honored for their work.

"It's not a simple task to recognize special efforts of a few people, especially when those efforts -- whether thinking fast on your feet or solving a complex medical problem or doing something truly heroic -- are what your entire workforce considers their regular work, 24 hours a day," said Dr. Neal Richmond, director of Metro EMS.

Last night, nearly a dozen employees with Metro EMS received special awards for their accomplishments at a ceremony at The Olmsted.

Among the winners are a supervisor who coordinated medical response for an emergency airplane landing, a sergeant who delivered a premature baby during an emergency response and an EMT whose work taking pictures as a journalism student led her to join the service.

"The people we are recognizing are exemplary," Richmond said. But he said his entire staff of about 200 EMTs and paramedics does extraordinary work every day, often quietly and without recognition. "That's the heroics of everyday, ordinary life."

METRO EMS AWARD WINNERS

Teaching: Sgt. Rich Warren

Compassionate Care: Sam Fife

Medical Excellence: Maj. Rockey Johnson

Support Staff: Michelle Brumleve

Director's: Lt. Mike Simpson

110 percent: Ben Neal

Supervisor of the Year: Maj. Joe Hamilton

Paramedic of the Year: Lt. Ron Shears

EMT of the Year: Abby Johnston

Crew of the Year: Jesse Yarbrough and Amber Mitchell