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## **Group Honors 5 EMS Workers for Saving Two at Senior Games**

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When a man suffered cardiac arrest while practicing for a National Senior Games tennis match last June, a Metro EMS crew got there in time to revive him.

Then four days later, another EMS team did the same thing for a basketball player in the Senior Games.

Both men survived, bucking the national odds for survival of cardiac arrest.

For their quick work, the five women and men who provided that care were honored yesterday during the annual Bluecoats luncheon. Honored were Sgt. Rick Meffert, paramedics Justin Rutledge and Jenny Cravens, emergency medical technician Rachel Murphy, and Lt. Bill Kersey.

Each year, the Bluecoats give an undisclosed monetary award to men and women who have stood out for their dedicated service in the EMS, fire and police departments.

The Bluecoats was founded in the 1950s by a small group of businessmen who collected \$1,000 donations to start a fund that would help families of officers killed in the line of duty.

That original mission has expanded to include the annual awards.

"It's a great time to thank people who are out here doing their job, but they do that added thing," said Mac McClure, president of the group. "This proves to you that there are a large number of public employees who go above and beyond."

Detective Greg Hartman was honored for the more than 400 cases he handled this past year, including ones that led to arrests of members of a gang calling themselves Bad Newz. Hartman, who has been on the department nearly 20 years, said the award is a tremendous honor as he prepares to retire next year.

"It's a way to end on a high note," Hartman said. "It's not required but it's nice to be appreciated."

For 29 years, Maj. John Lyons has been a firefighter. He says he's never wanted to be

anything else.

Yesterday, Lyons was honored for his work as a district chief and the 12 years he's served as head of the panel that plans the Great Louisville Fire Drill.

Fire Chief Greg Frederick said he wanted to highlight Lyons' work because he has spent countless hours of his own time working on the fire drill.

"It's important to recognize that not only does he provide excellent service when responding to a fire or some type of emergency, but also when it comes to connecting with the community."

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