

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



## *For More Information, Contact:*

Contact: Gregory Woods, Executive Director  
Southwest Virginia Emergency Medical Services Council  
Phone: 276.628.4151  
Email: [gwoods@vaems.org](mailto:gwoods@vaems.org)  
Release Date: August 26, 2022

## **2022 REGIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED**

**Bristol, VA**—Six individuals and two emergency medical services (EMS) agencies have been nominated for the Virginia 2022 Governor’s EMS Awards Program. The individual and agencies were chosen for nomination based on their outstanding accomplishments in emergency medical services after being named as recipients of the 2022 Regional Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Awards.

The Regional EMS Awards Program, coordinated by the Southwest Virginia Emergency Medical Services (SWEMS) Council, recognizes exceptional contributions to EMS each year. Winners were announced at a ceremony held August 20, 2022.

Phillip Steve Wallace (Lebanon, Virginia) received the 2022 Regional EMS Award for Excellence in EMS. He was recognized for his more than fifty years of service in the regional public safety system in both EMS and law enforcement. He has served on numerous local and regional committees dedicated to advancing emergency medical services in Southwest Virginia.

“Steve Wallace has been a leader advancing emergency medical services throughout southwest Virginia” Southwest Virginia EMS Council Executive Director Gregory Woods said. “His half-century of active service and dedication is truly exemplary.”

“Steve has been a leader in EMS at the local and regional levels,” said SWEMS Board President J.C. Bolling. “His selflessness and commitment has earned the respect of his peers across our region and across the Commonwealth.”

The 2022 Southwest Virginia Regional EMS Awards categories and recipients are:

- **Scholarship for Outstanding Contribution to EMS by a High School Senior**—Bailey Dean, Saltville, VA
- **Nurse with Outstanding Contribution to EMS**—Ashely Busick, Galax, VA
- **Outstanding EMS Agency**—Highlands Emergency Air Rescue and Transport, Marion, VA

- **Outstanding Contribution to EMS Emergency Preparedness and Response**—Abingdon Ambulance Services, Abingdon, VA
- **Physician with Outstanding Contribution to EMS**—Dr. Kenneth McVey, Cedar Bluff, VA
- **Outstanding Pre-Hospital Educator**—Andrew Haynes, Bristol, VA
- **Outstanding EMS Leadership**—Mack Tolbert, Woodlawn, VA
- **Excellence in EMS**—Phillip Steve Wallace, Lebanon, VA

In addition to the award, the 2022 recipient of the Award for Outstanding Contribution to EMS by a High School Senior will receive a \$1,000 scholarship. Regional winners are nominated for the 2022 Governor’s EMS Awards in the same categories, and winners will be announced at the 2022 Virginia EMS Symposium in November.

“The regional EMS awards program raises awareness of the outstanding work being done by our region's heroes” Woods said. “These individuals have made extraordinary contributions to their communities and have touched the lives of citizens throughout our region and across the state.”

The Southwest Virginia EMS Council is a regional non-profit organization incorporated in 1979 that provides technical assistance to EMS agencies, providers, and other stakeholders in the southwest region of Virginia. The organization provides a wide array of services including EMS testing, continuing education, and EMS planning. The organization is one of eleven regional EMS councils that contracts with the Virginia Department of Health Office of Emergency Medical Services.

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