



## Westchester Regional EMS Council

Contact:  
Katherine O'Connor  
Westchester Regional EMS Office  
(914) 231-1616  
wremsco@wremsco.org

For access to this document in another format or print-ready photographs, please contact Chris Kalish at:  
(203) 961-2542  
PIEC@wremsco.org

### **Westchester Emergency Medical Responders Receive Lifesaving Awards**

Rye, NY – August 31, 2006 – The 17th annual EMS Appreciation Day was celebrated by the Westchester Regional EMS Council at Rye Playland with the presentation of 129 awards to EMS providers and other first responders for honorable service to their communities.



Over 200 participants from 25 agencies, including EMS, Fire, and Police personnel and their families attended the event. The evening commenced with opening remarks by Dan Blum, Chairman of the Regional EMS Council, where all providers were thanked for their service to the citizens of Westchester County.

Dan Minerva, Vice President of Operations at Empress EMS, performed a memorial for Jessica Martinez, a New York State Emergency Medical Technician who died as a result of surgical complications this year.



The evening was closed by a real-life account of a life-saving event from a patient's perspective, when Ms. Carla Leonard presented lifesaving awards to her volunteer rescuers, including Alice Habina, school nurse from Brookside Elementary School in Ossining and the crew from the Ossining Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Lewis Berman, Matthew Cataldo, and Joan Lederman.

Each year, emergency responders and caregivers in the county are recognized for excellence in following areas:

- **Lifesaving:** Awarded to EMS providers who, as primary caregivers, displayed effective and appropriate medical treatment that resulted in the saving of a life.

In these instances, the patient was completely resuscitated – that is, his / her physical and mental capacities were restored to the level which existed prior to the illness or injury, and the patient was discharged to a rehabilitation facility or home.



- **EMS Citation:** Awarded to an individual(s) who materially assisted in a lifesaving award being presented to the primary caregiver.
- **EMD Citation:** Awarded to an individual(s) who materially assisted, though emergency medical dispatch, in a lifesaving award being presented to the primary caregivers.
- **Unit Citation:** Awarded to an organization that has demonstrated its commitment to the betterment of Emergency Medical Services through significant quality improvements to agency operations or responses to unique and/or challenging EMS calls.
- **Meritorious Service:** Awarded to the emergency service provider in recognition of performance that went above and beyond the call of duty in an effort to provide emergency medical care.

This year's award recipients included members of 26 different police, fire, and EMS agencies in Westchester:

#### **Unit Citation**

Empress Ems - Special Operations  
Westchester County Des - 60 Control

Somers Fire District

#### **Meritorious Service**

David Bergman, Port Chester, Rye, Rye Brook EMS  
Aaron Conneta, Port Chester Police Department  
Drew Conneta, Port Chester Police Department  
James Cuffe, North Castle Police Department  
Don Hoffman, Empress

Robert Lombardi, Armonk Fire Department  
Ron Macellaro, Armonk Fire Department  
Anthony Mercado, Empress  
Raul Pimentel, Port Chester, Rye, Rye Brook EMS  
Glenn Thomas, North Castle Police Department

## EMS Citation

Karen Barber, Lewisboro VAC  
Lewis Berman, Ossining VAC  
Richard Blackley, Chappaqua VAC  
Neil Boddie, Mohegan VFA  
Brian Bracken, New Rochelle Fire Department  
Lt. Donald Bradley, New Rochelle Fire Department  
Carlos Cano, Armonk Fire Department  
Matthew Cataldo, Ossining VAC  
Raymond Cordi, Empress  
Donald Cottle, Westchester EMS  
James Cuffe, North Castle Police Department  
Sophie Debenedetto, Lewisboro VAC  
Terrance Ellis, Scarsdale Police Department  
Chris Gravios, Ili, Mohegan VFA  
Ann Hirsch, Lewisboro VAC  
Richard Hocker, Somers Fire District

Gregory Lange, Chappaqua VAC  
Joan Lederman, Ossining VAC  
Lora Murphy, Sound Shore Medical Center  
Kevin Norton, Lewisboro VAC  
Matt Ortiz, Hawthorne Fire Department  
Vinnie Passerino, Eastchester VAC  
Jim Pecchioni, Eastchester Police Department  
Bryan Peterson, Armonk Fire Department  
Kathy Peterson, Lewisboro VAC  
Mark Rubins, Eastchester VAC  
Joel Sachs, Eastchester VAC  
Ken Skeckowski, Eastchester VAC  
Justin Strassfield, Mohegan VFA  
Michael Young, New Rochelle Fire Department

## EMD (Emergency Medical Dispatch) Citation

Jeanette Drexler, Empress

## LifeSaving

Michael Alberico, Playland EMS  
Walter Alcivar, Port Chester Police Department  
Jeffrey Anderson, Westchester EMS  
Edward Balls, Rye Police Department  
German Barbosa, Port Chester, Rye, Rye Brook EMS  
German Barbosa, Port Chester, Rye, Rye Brook EMS  
David Bergman, Empress  
Pablo Callejas, Transcare  
Doug Carroll, Empress  
Nicholas Cecere, Town Of Mamaroneck  
Cathy Cioffe, Citizen  
Nick Colello, Hawthorne Fire Department  
Hamlet Cuello, Westchester EMS  
Marcelo Cutonilli, Empress  
Marcelo Cutonilli, Empress  
Marcelo Cutonilli, Empress  
Marcelo Cutonilli, Empress  
Marcelo Cutonilli, Empress  
Jose Davila, Transcare  
Christopher Defeo, Scarsdale VAC  
Mary Degaglia, Hawthorne Fire Department  
Christopher Deierlein, Westchester EMS  
Carlos Diaz, Empress  
Elizabeth Dyckman, Empress  
Ray Farrell, Hawthorne Fire Department  
Jeffrey Ferrara, Westchester EMS  
Robin Finkelstein, Empress  
Robin Finkelstein, Empress  
John Fitzgerald, Somers Police Department  
John Fitzgerald, Somers Police Department  
Justin Foley, Yorktown Police Department  
Kevin Graulau, Empress  
Kevin Graulau, Empress  
Alice Habina, Citizen  
Nancy Haley, Armonk Fire Department  
Maria Hale, Citizen  
Thomas Higgins, Empress  
Kimberly Holland, Empress  
Michael Jefferies, Empress  
Robert Kearns, Port Chester, Rye, Rye Brook EMS

Craig E. Keitel, Scarsdale Police Department  
Shawn Kelly, Citizen  
Jake Kleinman, Playland EMS  
Luci Labriola, Armonk Fire Department  
Joseph Lamantia, Citizen  
Michael Liverzani, Town Of Mamaroneck  
Karen Maier, Citizen  
Michelle Marsalisi, Empress  
Kevin Mcgurk, Somers Fire District  
Anthony Mercado, Empress  
Craig Neff, Empress  
Randy Newman, Rye Brook Police Department  
Seth Newman, Playland EMS  
Ryan O'Halloran, Playland EMS  
Gordon Palmer, Citizen  
Michael Paniccia, Port Chester, Rye, Rye Brook EMS  
Matthew Parker, Port Chester, Rye, Rye Brook EMS  
Matthew Parker, Port Chester, Rye, Rye Brook EMS  
Raul Pimental, Port Chester, Rye, Rye Brook EMS  
Andrew Posner, Citizen  
Josh Posnick, Transcare  
Emily Prezzano, Transcare  
Terry Rahilli, Empress  
Terry Rahilli, Empress  
David Rivera, Rye Police Department  
Dorio Rodriguez, Empress  
Jordan Rosner, Scarsdale VAC  
Robert Rovida, Empress  
Robert Rovida, Empress  
Thomas Russo, Port Chester, Rye, Rye Brook EMS  
Peter Santana, Empress  
Robert Schinkel, Port Chester, Rye, Rye Brook EMS  
Shannon Scott, Transcare  
Timothy See, North Castle Police Department  
Brian Shanahan, Yorktown Police Department  
Michael W. Siciliano, Scarsdale Police Department  
Brian Stevens, Empress  
Mark Swanson, Empress  
Gustavo Torres, Empress  
Noel Torres, Empress

## LifeSaving (Continued)

Gary Vandermeer, Transcare  
Gary Vandermeer, Transcare  
Aimee Vasquez, Empress

Alex Woo, Westchester EMS  
Craig Zern, Citizen  
Craig Zern, Mamaroneck EMS

\* Note: Some names are listed more than once to acknowledge multiple lifesaving events

The Westchester Regional EMS Council (WREMSCO) is one of 18 EMS Regional Councils in New York State. Regional EMS Councils are provided for in New York State Public Health Law to work in conjunction with the New York State EMS Council and the New York State Department of Health Bureau of EMS. The Westchester EMS Region is coterminous with the County of Westchester and represents over 70 ambulance and first response agencies, 11 emergency receiving hospitals, and more than 2000 paramedics and basic life support personnel.

For more information on the Westchester Regional EMS Council, contact the Westchester Regional EMS Office at (914) 231 – 1616, or visit <http://www.wremsco.org>.