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Michigan EMS Heroes Honored as ‘Stars of Life’ During Capitol Ceremony

First responders honored for going above and beyond the call of duty

Lansing, Michigan – More than 20 EMS professionals from around the state were honored Tuesday at the state Capitol as ‘Stars of Life’ by the Michigan Association of Ambulance Services.

The biennial Stars of Life ceremony celebrates the contributions of ambulance professionals who play a critical role in the healthcare of Michigan residents. The event was held at the state Capitol in Lansing.

“After serving on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic for more than a year, Michigan’s EMS professionals deserve our utmost appreciation,” said MAAS Executive Director Angela Madden. “Stars of Life is about honoring the unsung EMS heroes that work day in and day out to protect their communities and provide life-saving care to Michigan residents.”

Nominees include individuals who have been: named employee of the year, earned notable community contributions, have impressive service records, have received community honors and more. This year, 21 individuals were recognized, including paramedics, emergency medical technicians and educators. The honorees include:

- Luke Rescorla: Senior Paramedic, Huron Valley Ambulance
- Svenja Wahle: Senior Paramedic, Huron Valley Ambulance
- Ryan Chadderton: Senior Paramedic/Community Paramedic, Jackson Community Ambulance
- Joe Lutz: Senior Paramedic, Jackson Community Ambulance
- Paula Radabaugh: Senior Paramedic, LifeCare Ambulance
- Chris Kapla: Paramedic, Life EMS Ambulance
- Erika Smith: EMT, Mecosta County EMS
- Roxanne Cottrell: EMT, Medstar
- Lee Howie: Educator, Medstar

- Keith Hunt: EMT, Mobile Medical Response
- William Stabnau: Senior Paramedic, Monroe Community Ambulance
- Kellon Rickert: Paramedic/Deputy Chief, Richmond Lenox EMS
- Dan Linn: EMT, Southwestern Michigan Community Ambulance Service
- Jonathan Maples: EMT, Southwestern Michigan Community Ambulance Service
- Richard Gallo: EMT, Star EMS
- Heather Pierpoint: EMT, Star EMS
- Christopher Barnes: Critical Care Paramedic, Superior Ambulance
- Kimberly Fujiwara: Critical Care Paramedic, Superior Ambulance
- Danielle Paton: EMT, Superior Ambulance
- Kathryn Fanson: Paramedic, Tri-Hospital EMS
- Chloe Messinger: EMT, Tri-Hospital EMS

About MAAS:

The Michigan Association of Ambulance Services is a statewide trade association representing and advocating for ambulance services. MAAS members serve 70 percent of Michigan counties and were responsible for more than 700,000 or 61 percent of ambulance transports in 2020. MAAS members also provide community paramedicine, ER diversion and 9-1-1 services in several areas of Michigan. For more information, visit www.miambulance.org.

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