



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Debra Cason Receives NAEMT's Most Prestigious Rocco V. Morando Lifetime Achievement Award

Clinton, Miss. – Debra Cason will be recognized tonight with the 2023 Rocco V. Morando Lifetime Achievement Award for her lifetime commitment to excellence, tremendous contributions, and outstanding leadership in Emergency Medical Services (EMS). The award is NAEMT's most prestigious, generously sponsored by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT). The presentation will be made during NAEMT's General Membership Meeting in New Orleans, LA.

Cason has devoted her professional life to the education of EMS practitioners. She has been a key national figure in developing the educational infrastructure for the EMS profession. She was instrumental in getting national accreditation accepted and implemented for paramedic programs in 2013. She was also vital to the development of EMS curricula and national education standards. She has led countless efforts to advance, evolve, and improve EMS and EMS education.

Cason has chaired the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the EMS Professions, is past president of the National Association of EMS Educators, and the past chair of the National Registry of EMTs. She has worked closely with the EMS Education Agenda and its components.

Cason retired from her position as Program Director and Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine Education at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, TX, where she worked for more than 38 years. Her position included oversight of initial EMT and Paramedic education programs and paramedic continuing education. Prior to this position, Deb worked in the Emergency Department at Parkland Memorial Hospital as Head Nurse. She is a registered nurse and Paramedic, and holds a Master of Science degree.

NAEMT President Susan Bailey, MSEM, NRP, said, "Deb personifies a lifetime career dedicated to the EMS profession and especially, education for Paramedics and EMTs. She has recognized the importance of meeting and advancing the ongoing educational needs of EMS practitioners as part of their professional development. Deb, thank you for your many contributions on behalf of EMS education."

NREMT Board Chair Kevin Mackey, MD, noted, "Today we honor an exceptionally gifted and talented individual whose lifelong work has substantially contributed to the careers of legions of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) professionals. Her legacy provides a framework for many aspects of the EMS profession, most especially in education and programmatic accreditation, and provides guidance for generations to come. With more than four decades of dedicated service to teaching, publishing, and leadership, Deb's legacy will leave a lasting impact on many of our lives and result in a multitude of lives saved by the very professionals that she spent her life serving."

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About NAEMT

Formed in 1975 and more than 90,000 members strong, the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians is the only national association representing the professional interests of all emergency and mobile healthcare practitioners, including emergency medical technicians, advanced emergency medical technicians, emergency medical responders, paramedics, advanced practice paramedics, critical care paramedics, flight paramedics, community paramedics, and mobile integrated healthcare practitioners. NAEMT members work in all sectors of EMS, including government agencies, fire departments, hospital-based ambulance services, private companies, industrial and special operations settings, and in the military.

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