

**BRUCE:**

Welcome members and guests to the 2022 NAEMT General Membership Meeting! We are grateful and honored to have so many of our members and friends with us this evening. This meeting marks the last time I will be with many of you as your President but my service to you as members will continue. I am so grateful to have witnessed firsthand the enthusiasm and commitment of so many of you and other NAEMT members to the priorities of this great association that are helping to advance our profession. I came into this position two years ago with big ideas – a lot of them – and much to my surprise, many of them came to fruition. I appreciate every effort toward the strides we've made!

In the next hour or so, we will celebrate the accomplishments of our association and recognize the very best in our profession.

Before we begin, please rise as we renew our commitment to our nation and the communities, we serve by reciting our Pledge of Allegiance.

Thank you.

Although many of our members wanted to be with us in Orlando, they instead are responding to the needs of their communities, and/or responding to disasters. They are still with us in spirit, and we send prayers for their safety and wellness.

Also missed are the many colleagues we lost in the line of duty...from crashes... to shootings... to violence... We must honor and remember our brothers and sisters for their sacrifice. We owe it to them to do everything in our power to make sure that communities and elected officials recognize their sacrifice and provide EMS with the resources needed to protect our workforce.

In July, the National EMS Memorial Service was held in Arlington, Virginia, to recognize and honor the sacrifices of the 2022 honorees who died in the line of duty. The NAEMT Board attended the Service to honor our fallen and their families.

To pay tribute to those brave Paramedics and EMTs who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their patients during that time, Jana Williams from the National EMS Memorial Service will lead us in a prayer for our fallen heroes.

## BRUCE:

Thank you, Jana. These EMS heroes will never be forgotten. Their sacrifice inspires us to make our EMS profession better — and safer — for our practitioners and for the patients we serve.

And now, I am pleased to provide an update on the work that has been accomplished on behalf of our members and to advance our profession.

Let's start with Advocacy. **NAEMT has been actively advocating for laws to help EMS agencies and personnel recover from the pandemic and build back their resiliency.**

Our priority issues include:

- Increased funding for the SIREN Act to support rural EMS agencies.
- Protecting Access to Ground Ambulance Medical Services Act to extend the ground ambulance add-on payments until Congress can complete the cost collection process.
- EMS Counts Act of 2021 to ensure that the EMS workforce is accurately counted by the federal government.
- Funding for EMS workforce development to counteract the crisis-level shortages communities are experiencing across the country.

In response to the personnel shortages that our agencies are facing, NAEMT's EMS Workforce Committee collected some best practices and successful case studies which were compiled into a new guide on *Innovative Recruitment Strategies for EMS Agencies*.

NAEMT is also facilitating an initiative with seven other national EMS organizations to develop a national guidance document on minimum staffing of EMS personnel for different types of 9-1-1 medical calls and scheduled interfacility transports. We envision that this guidance document will be used by state EMS offices when considering revisions in their state's regulation of EMS and by agencies to determine the optimal staffing configurations to support quality patient care, efficient operations, and practitioner safety.

Through published comments and positions NAEMT continues to speak out on important issues for our profession and our patients. So far this year...

1. We provided comment to NIOSH – the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health – on the need to establish Personal Protective Technology Centers of Excellence to conduct research and identify practice gaps.

2. We signed onto a joint letter to Congressional leaders requesting additional funding for ground ambulance services and an extension on the 2% sequestration cut moratorium on Medicare providers and suppliers. We later requested that Congress extend until the end of this year a moratorium on the 1% sequestration cut to Medicare providers and suppliers scheduled to take effect on July 1.
3. We issued a Statement requesting urgent attention to the crisis-level shortages of EMS personnel in preparation for a hearing by the Senate Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety.
4. NAEMT adopted a new position calling for the U.S. Department of Defense to implement a program to ensure that all military medics, Corpsmen, Special Operations medical providers and military EMS/Fire service providers maintain a certification through the National Registry of EMTs.
5. We partnered with 13 national and international associations on the release of a Joint Statement on Lights and Siren Vehicle Operations on EMS Responses.
6. We provided Comment to the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response on the National Health Security Strategy for 2023-2026.
7. We signed onto a joint letter to leaders of the U.S. Senate and House Appropriations Committees recommending funding in 2023 of \$20 million for the SIREN/ Rural EMS Training and Equipment Assistance program to meet the critical need of EMS in rural areas.
8. We also submitted written testimony to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies requesting increased funding for SIREN grants, and EMS access to federal grant programs to support apprenticeship programs and workforce development programs.
9. Another joint letter was sent to leaders of the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies requesting \$28 million in funding for the EMS for Children program at the Health Resources and Services Administration.
10. Our letter to U.S. Senate and House leaders requested Congress to bring the Post-Disaster Mental Health Response Act up for a vote as soon as possible.
11. In a joint letter to the Department of Transportation, we shared concerns over the crisis-level availability of ambulance chassis which impact the delivery of all ambulance services nationwide.

12. We provided comment on NREMT22-Resolution regarding paramedic program accreditation, and updated our position statement on program accreditation.
13. We issued a public statement to NHTSA to request funding and rulemaking in the National Roadway Safety Strategy.
14. And, we continued to represent EMS practitioners on the Medical Preparedness Forum of the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine. The Med Prep Forum brings together the very top experts in national medical preparedness to provide the federal government with recommendations to improve our country's ability to respond to disasters and public health crises. This year, we expanded our engagement with the National Academies by joining its Traumatic Brain Injury Forum. This new forum is looking at advances in science, technology and practices to improve TBI patient outcomes.

To assist NAEMT members and the broader EMS community:

1. NAEMT published a report on the results of a *National Survey on EMS Utilization of CMS Waivers During COVID-19* to understand how ambulance services are utilizing waivers provided by CMS during the COVID-19 public health emergency.
2. In partnership with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, NAEMT reported survey findings indicating that many EMS practitioners don't feel they have adequate education or training to respond to emergencies in pregnant and postpartum patients.
3. NAEMT published a new vaccine toolkit that can be used by EMS agencies to help local public health officials understand how EMS can support local vaccination efforts. Titled "*EMS: A Valuable Resource for Community Vaccination Campaigns*" - the toolkit details the attributes that make EMS agencies, and the paramedics and EMTs who provide clinical care an ideal resource for vaccination initiatives.
4. We also hosted our second virtual **EMS On The Hill Day** on April 4-8, drawing 312 registrants from 49 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. It was the largest Hill Day event to-date with 241 meetings held with U.S. Senators, Representatives and their staff to discuss key EMS issues.
5. We partnered with ACEP to promote the 47th annual **National EMS Week** on May 15-21. This year's theme, *EMS: Rising to the Challenge*, highlighted the important contributions of EMS practitioners in safeguarding the health, safety, and well-being of our communities. During the week, we highlighted EMS agencies and practitioners across the country. We provided gifts of appreciation to our individual and agency members. In honor of Health, Wellness and Resilience Day, we offered 50 scholarships for NAEMT's Mental Health Resilience Officer course, generously sponsored by FirstNet®, Built with AT&T.

6. NAEMT launched the **Lighthouse Leadership Program** – a new mentorship program for EMS practitioners. Participants are selected annually and matched with EMS leaders who possess the specific knowledge and experience to guide mentees in developing a personal career strategy. They also provide action steps for the mentee to achieve his or her career goals. It is an 18-month mentorship provided by highly credentialed, well-respected EMS leaders. Some of our mentees are with us this evening and are wearing name badges identifying them as program participants. If you see them, I encourage you to ask them about their mentee experiences. Our first class of mentees will complete their program next September. We will be selecting our next class of mentees in early, 2023.
  
7. We conducted a national survey on EMS personnel perspectives on workforce engagement and satisfaction. We are in the process of preparing a national report on the survey results which will be shared with our members and distributed to EMS employers. We expect that this report will be published by the end of the year.
  
8. And, at our last Board meeting, we agreed to explore how NAEMT might identify and recognize mental health providers who specialize in caring for EMS personnel. We have heard our members tell us that it is very difficult to obtain mental healthcare from providers who understand the level of stress and exposure to trauma that we encounter every day. We hope to find a method for identifying those mental health providers who can give us the care we need.

Now turning our focus to education...

NAEMT faculty, authors and medical directors have continued to work to provide our workforce with the very best continuing education available. We deeply appreciate the great efforts and work of our global faculty. Here are our accomplishments to date:

1. With support from FirstNet®, Built with AT&T, NAEMT launched the new Mental Health Resilience Officer – **MHRO** – course to assist EMS agencies in building and supporting the mental health resilience of their personnel. The course was first available as an online course through our publishers, but it is now available as a classroom course. The inaugural course was conducted yesterday here in Orlando, and it will also be offered at the Texas EMS Conference next month. The course will be available to all training centers in January.
  
2. We released the **new! EMS Safety 3rd Edition** provider course. This award-winning course provides essential training to EMS practitioners to keep them safe on the job. The course was conducted earlier

today and received great response. You can visit the NAEMT website to learn more, locate a course, or view the requirements for becoming an instructor.

3. We published the **10th edition PHTLS textbook** and conducted the PHTLS instructor update yesterday for PHTLS faculty from around the globe. The release was much anticipated and very-well received. Thank you to our Prehospital Trauma Committee and author team for this outstanding achievement.
4. We are finishing up the 3rd edition of our **Geriatric Education for EMS – GEMS** – course and the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of our **All-Hazards Disaster Response** course. Both courses will publish in the first half of 2023.
5. Earlier today, we held the 11<sup>th</sup> annual World Trauma Symposium, attended by over 300 registrants both here in Orlando and by live-stream around the world. I want to thank Dr. Warren Dorlac and CPT. Meg Morgan for moderating the program and the presentations by more than a dozen trauma care and research specialists. The program was outstanding!
6. We also continue to offer our members FREE CE webinars presented by top EMS experts in the country.
  - This year, we conducted a series of three webinars in collaboration with NAEMSP on managing agitated patients, implementing a whole blood program, and standards of care in prehospital airway management.
  - For our instructors, we conducted a series of webinars on best practices in patient simulations.
  - In collaboration with the Public Consulting Group, webinars were held on preparing for grant opportunities, and determining the worth of your ambulance service.
  - Other webinar topics included case studies in prehospital stroke management, and safe and appropriate use of lights and sirens.
  - Two more webinars are scheduled for this year. One for agency managers focused on how to engage your workforce, and a special webinar that will bring together experts in running local and state campaigns for elected office to help EMS professionals learn how to successfully run in a local or state election.

- All of these webinars are available on demand for our members through the **Member Portal** on our website.

NAEMT awarded \$25,000 in EMS scholarships to members to help them advance their careers.

- In partnership with Columbia Southern University, a scholarship worth up to \$13,000 was provided to an NAEMT member.
- NAEMT and the NAEMT Foundation awarded 11 scholarships to attend EMT school.
- All NAEMT scholarships are needs-based to help those who want to enter or advance in our profession.

NAEMT also rolled out new member benefits, including:

- Minimum \$120 savings on processing fees and free consultation for U.S. federal student loan repayment options from The Student Loan Help Group
- 30% off the web price on the entire product line of Lenovo
- Up to 50% off global parcel delivery services to include specialized transportation and logistics services and solutions from United Parcel Services (UPS)
- New travel discounts, including car rentals, hotels, airfare, and travel and vacation packages.
- This year, we also held virtual listening sessions to allow members to share their thoughts, ideas, and concerns with their regional directors. In addition to regularly surveying our members, we will continue to offer listening sessions in the future as another way for members to connect with their elected Board.

These are just some of the highlights of the tremendous work being accomplished by the hundreds of members who volunteer their time to these projects and keep our association moving with forward momentum. The active engagement of our members is NAEMT's greatest asset. With your continued support, we will continue to advance the EMS profession. It is my honor to serve you. Thank you sincerely for your support!

Some of our most active volunteers are the members of the NAEMT Board of Directors. It is my great pleasure and honor to introduce my fellow members of the 2022 NAEMT Board of Directors:

1. Susan Bailey, President-elect
2. Chris Way, Treasurer
3. Troy Tuke, Secretary
4. Matt Zavadsky, Immediate Past President
5. Steven Kroll, Region I Director
6. Jon Politis, Region I Director
7. Juan Cardona, Region II Director
8. Melissa McNally, Region II Director
9. Dave Edgar, Region III Director
10. Garrett Hedeem, Region III Director
11. Karen Larsen, Region IV Director
12. Macara Trusty, Region IV Director
13. Maria Beermann-Foat, At-Large Director
14. Allison G.S. Knox, At-Large Director
15. Dr. Douglas Kupas, Medical Director

Thank you all very much for your dedication and commitment!

I also want to recognize and thank Dr. Jeff Jarvis who serves as NAEMT's Associate Medical Director.

#### **BRUCE:**

Susan Bailey, NAEMT's President-elect, has had a full load of volunteer assignments these past two years in preparation for her term as NAEMT's President. She has served on our Education Committee, and currently serves as the Vice-Chair of the Advocacy Committee, Chair of the Disaster Preparedness Committee, and a member of the Executive Committee. She serves as NAEMT's representative on the CAPCE Board of Directors and has attended many national conferences and meetings as NAEMT's representative. On January 1, 2023, Susan will become our association's President. It is my pleasure to introduce Susan to share with us her priorities as our incoming President.

#### **SUSAN:**

Now, more than ever before I am proud to be part of the EMS profession and look forward to leading the nation's largest EMS Practitioner organization. The past few years have demonstrated the importance of EMS in healthcare and has expanded the field in which EMS practitioners are needed. I want to thank you, the NAEMT members, for your confidence in me to be your President for the coming two years.

I started in EMS in 1990, as an EMT for a hospital-based ambulance service in rural, east-central Louisiana. We covered the Louisiana Parishes and Mississippi counties along the Mississippi River. During my time there I became a an EMT-Intermediate, and eventually, a paramedic. We responded to emergency calls and inter-facility transports and were treating patients as critical care paramedics before anyone knew what that really meant.

In 1999, I moved to Baton Rouge and worked for 17 years for a municipal third service where I started as an entry level Paramedic and was promoted through the ranks to Assistant Training Director and Paramedic Program Director. In 2016, I was honored with the NAEMT/NASCO Paramedic of the Year Award.

Since 2017, it has been my honor to serve as the Director of the Louisiana Bureau of EMS. While we are small in number, we are proud of the customer service that we provide as the state's EMS regulatory agency. In January, I accepted a position as part-time faculty at Columbia Southern University teaching EMS operations and personnel management, EMS finance and Risk Management in EMS. I was honored to receive the "Raising the Bar Award" in July.

Always seeking an acceptable work/life balance, I enjoy shooting pool, spending time with my family and being a "Mimi" when not at work. For those of you who may not be familiar with the term, "Mimi" is what many of us in the South call our grandmothers.

Leadership continuity is valued and embraced at NAEMT. As your president, I will work with the board members to continue to support the initiatives we have worked so hard on over the last several years. Such as addressing reimbursement reform, the workforce shortage, supply chain issues and mental health resilience.

We will continue to inform and engage our members through our monthly e-newsletter and quarterly printed newsletter, by publishing association news on our web site, posting EMS and NAEMT news on our social media platforms, and through listening sessions with our members.

We know that our members want greater variety when connecting with NAEMT. We will be expanding and improving our engagement with members through a new mobile app to:

1. Alert members to advocacy opportunities
2. Easily access member benefits
3. Notify members to renew membership
4. Notify members of special benefit opportunities
5. Notify members when a course is being held at a nearby location

We will also produce monthly NAEMT podcasts from board members, medical directors, and other subject matter experts on NAEMT initiatives and key EMS events, trends, and news on a national level.

As Bruce mentioned, we will explore ways to vet mental health clinicians and treatment centers for specialization in EMS practitioner mental health care. We will continue to advocate for payment reform to improve compensation for our practitioners and ensure the financial sustainability of our EMS system. We will work to build tools for EMS agencies to help them better engage and support their personnel including new courses to better prepare Field Training Officers and EMS Safety Officers.

And we will continue to build and strengthen all our existing programs for our members and the EMS profession.

The strength of our association comes from our members. I look forward to working with the NAEMT members and staff; Board members; committees and councils; and membership, education and advocacy coordinators to strengthen and advance the EMS profession. Thank you.

#### **BRUCE:**

Thank you, Susan. I look forward to continuing to work with you and our Board next year.

While NAEMT is a forward-focused association, we never forget how we have grown over the years and the leaders who led us through the challenges along the way. We are very grateful for the leadership provided to NAEMT by our Past Presidents. Thank you very much for your service.

It is now my pleasure to introduce our Treasurer, Chris Way.

#### **CHRIS:**

I am proud to introduce NAEMT's Corporate Partners. They support our mission and the programs that represent and serve the EMS profession. On behalf of all members of NAEMT, please accept our appreciation and gratitude. It is my pleasure to recognize NAEMT's 2022 Corporate Partners:

##### **Prestige**

FirstNet, Built with AT&T

##### **Elite**

EMS World

**Premier**

Columbia Southern University  
Jones & Bartlett Learning Public Safety Group  
Public Consulting Group

**Diamond**

Medline EMS

**Platinum**

Amazon Business  
Journal of Special Operations Medicine  
Resuscitation Quality Improvement (RQI)  
Stryker  
ZOLL

**Gold**

Bound Tree Medical  
Demers-Braun-Crestline-Medix  
Wheeled Coach

**Silver**

American College of Emergency Physicians  
American Red Cross  
Ninth Brain  
NPP.GOV  
OnStar  
Siena Heights University  
TCP/Aladtec

**Bronze**

Laurel Road  
Lenco Armored Vehicles  
McKesson  
Morgan Lens/MorTan  
Skedco

## **Annual**

5.11 Inc.

Coalition Against Bigger Trucks

Curbell Medical Products

Digitech Computer LLC.

FluidIQ

General Devices

Handtevy-Pediatric Emergency Standards

International Police Mountain Bike Association

Logis Solutions

Lowe's Home Companies, Inc.

National EMS Museum

North American Rescue

Page, Wolfberg & Wirth

Phokus Research Group

Prodigy EMS

Pulsara

SAM Medical

Solutions Group

Technimount EMS

The Critical Care Pocket Guide

TrueClot by Luna

And all the service partners you see here on the screen.

Thank you to all corporate partners for your support and for the innovations, products and services you provide.

In late 2019, we launched the EMS Corporate Engagement Council to provide a forum for those who supply the EMS industry with products and services and those who provide EMS care to discuss key issues impacting the industry and their implications. Ten national and international EMS companies are participating this year. The Council has been instrumental in helping align our industry around the key issues that impact agencies, practitioners, and our patients. And, they have partnered with us to advocate for critical legislation.

Thank you to the members of our Corporate Engagement Council. In addition to my role as NAEMT Treasurer, I also serve as the Chair of the NAEMT EMS PAC.

THE NAEMT EMS PAC is a key component to our association's three-pronged advocacy strategy of:

- grassroots member advocacy;
- NAEMT's professional lobbyists, who effectively advocate for us in Washington, DC; and
- contributions to candidates for federal elective office through the NAEMT EMS PAC to help elect or re-elect federal candidates who are friends of our profession and the patients we serve.

Our chances of achieving our legislative goals are greater when all three components are strong and coordinated. The NAEMT EMS PAC strengthens our advocacy by giving a unified voice to thousands of Paramedics and EMTs across the nation through the selection of elected representatives who champion the goals of the EMS community. By pooling individual contributions into a PAC fund, there is strength in numbers that makes the NAEMT EMS PAC more impactful than individual political contributions.

The NAEMT Board of Directors has endorsed 100% participation by the Board members, and encourages all NAEMT members to contribute to the PAC. Contributions of any amount are welcome. We will have a PAC table at the NAEMT Reception tonight. Please stop by to learn more about the PAC.

I will now turn the podium back over to Bruce.

**BRUCE:**

Thank you, Chris.

Our accomplishments would not be possible without the active engagement of our committees and councils. They are truly the engine that drives our association. NAEMT committee members spend many hours on our projects and initiatives.

It is my pleasure to present the 2022 NAEMT Committees and their Chairs:

1. Advocacy Committee, chaired by Troy Tuke
2. Affiliate Advisory Council, chaired by Chris Way
3. Advanced Medical Life Support Committee, chaired by Jeff Messerole
4. Candidacy and Elections Committee, chaired by Dennis Wilham
5. Education Committee, chaired by Rick Ellis
6. EMS Disaster Preparedness Committee, chaired by Susan Bailey
7. EMS Economics Committee, chaired by Matt Zavadsky
8. EMS Lighthouse Leadership Committee, chaired by Dave Edgar
9. EMS Workforce Committee, chaired by Rob Luckritz
10. Emergency Pediatric Care Committee, chaired by Shannon Watson
11. Executive Committee, which I chair.

12. Finance Committee, chaired by Chris Way
13. Latin American Education Committee, chaired by Elkin Fuentes
14. Membership Committee, chaired by Henry Lewis
15. Mideast Education Committee, chaired by Ahed Najjar
16. Military Relations Council, chaired by Michael Williamson
17. Prehospital Trauma Committee, chaired by Dennis Rowe
18. Regional European Education Committee, chaired by Patrick Wick

I also wish to recognize those members who serve as coordinators within their states and regions, and internationally to support our programs.

Our network of state, provincial, regional, and national education coordinators in the United States and in countries around the world. Our network of state-level Advocacy Coordinators. These members are our grassroots advocacy powerhouse. And our network of Membership Coordinators working to recruit, retain and engage our members. Thank you for your outstanding work in the field!

Now, I would like to recognize and thank the Board of Trustees of the NAEMT Foundation. The NAEMT Foundation is a separate, non-profit organization. Its mission is to support a better future for EMS. The NAEMT Foundation awards scholarships to individuals interested in pursuing careers in EMS and supports our future health professional by providing judges for the EMT competition at the HOSA International Leadership Conference.

1. Cory Richter, President
2. Don Lundy, Vice President
3. Chris Way, Treasurer
4. Connie Meyer, Secretary
5. Rod Barrett, Trustee
6. Rick Ellis, Trustee
7. Fergus Laughridge, Trustee
8. Scott Matin, Trustee
9. Jason Scheiderer, Trustee

We know that state legislation and regulation can have a profound impact on EMS agencies and practitioners. NAEMT is proud of our long-standing relationship with state EMS associations and other EMS organizations affiliated with NAEMT. Representatives of these 45 organizations comprise NAEMT's Affiliate Advisory Council. Chris Way serves as our Council Chair and Deb Von Seggern-Johnson, Council Vice Chair. Thank you, Council members, for your support of NAEMT and for sharing your insights and perspectives on important EMS issues.

## BRUCE:

Each year, the NAEMT President has an opportunity to select individuals to receive Presidential Leadership Awards for their outstanding contributions to NAEMT and EMS. This year, I would like to recognize several individuals for their outstanding service to our association.

First, I ask Jana Williams and Rachel Tester from the National EMS Memorial Service to please join me at the podium...

I want to recognize Jana Williams and Rachel Tester for their tremendous volunteer efforts to recognize and honor the EMS professionals who have made the ultimate sacrifice in serving their patients, and their families who supported them. Each year, Jana and Rachel extend great dedication and time to ensuring our EMS line of duty deaths are accurately reported, verified and recognized with appreciation and honor. Thank you, Jana and Rachel for all you do!

Now, I'll ask Tim Rubert from Bound Tree Medical to join me at the podium...

Tim is a passionate advocate for EMS. He has been working tirelessly to advocate for workforce development funding. We appreciate all of his work with Congressman Andy Kim and other congressional leaders to advance EMS legislation. Tim also volunteered his time and effort to bring donated medical supplies to Ukraine. Thank you, Tim, for your tremendous efforts!

And now, I invite Mieko Doi from FirstNet®, Built with AT&T, to join me...

Mieko and FirstNet have been longtime supporters of NAEMT and the EMS profession. Most recently, we collaborated on the new NAEMT Mental Health Resilience Officer course. Mieko and FirstNet have recognized the importance of EMS mental health resilience with educational materials, PSAs, and also their generous sponsorship of 50 scholarships awarding access to the MHRO course to NAEMT members during EMS week. Meiko is a passionate advocacy for first responder mental health and on behalf of our membership and profession, we thank you for your leadership in this critical area!

And I ask that Dr. Roxolana Horbowyj come to the podium.

I hope all of you had a chance to read the feature article about Roxolana's work in Ukraine in our last issue of NAEMT News. The article describes the tremendous service that Roxolana has provided to the civilian and military first responders and medical providers in Ukraine to train them in life-saving techniques from the very basic through the highly advanced. Roxolana has been working with the Ukrainians since 2014, when the first war broke out. She introduced TCCC and PHTLS into Ukraine. When the most recent invasion began last

February, she immediately started to plan for Stop the Bleed training for civilians and NAEMT courses for first responders, medical providers and military personnel.

The needs of the Ukrainian people are immense. The suffering is horrific. But it is amazing what one person can accomplish. Thank you, Roxolana, for all you have done for Ukraine and its people.

Congratulations to the 2022 recipients of the NAEMT Presidential Leadership Awards!

#### **BRUCE:**

Now, it gives me great pleasure to begin the presentation of the 2022 National EMS Awards of Excellence. This year we received many excellent nominations and the recipients selected truly represent outstanding examples of the very best of our profession.

I would like to call to the podium NAEMT Board Member Dave Edgar to present our first award.

#### **DAVE:**

Thanks, Bruce... Our first award is the 2022 NAEMT Paramedic of the Year, sponsored by Prodigy EMS. I ask James DiClemente from Prodigy EMS to join me on the stage to present the award.

It is now our pleasure to recognize **John Ehrhart of San Diego, California**, as being our 2022 Paramedic of the Year. John, please join us at the podium...

John's nominator and colleague says he "stands head and shoulders above all others in depth and breadth of passion, initiative, thought leadership, and influence in EMS." He delivers advanced practice skills, treatments, and knowledge to patients. His clinical accomplishments, clinical excellence, and multi-disciplinary teamwork enhance the initiatives he leads. John is Co-Founder and Director of the California Paramedic Foundation and a Flight Medic for Air Methods. He was instrumental in the recent expansion of EMS-to-Hospital information exchange in parts of California. He leads the Nicholas Rosecrans Award in partnership with organizations which nationally promote EMS injury and illness programs. Ehrhart also leads the California Opioid Prevention by EMS, a project dedicated to expanding EMS programs to help reduce opioid addiction, overdose, and death.

**John, thank you for your service and congratulations on your award!**

**BRUCE:**

Now, I invite NAEMT Board Member Jon Politis to present our next award.

**Jon:**

Thanks, Bruce... Our *2022 NAEMT EMT of the Year Award* is sponsored by *Demers-Braun-Crestline-Medix*. Our sponsor was unable to be here this evening, but they sent a gift to this year's winner on their behalf.

It is our pleasure to introduce **Eldon Headrick, of Norwich, Kansas**, as our 2022 EMT of the Year! Eldon, please join me at the podium.

Eldon's spirit of volunteerism shines through in his dedication and willingness to serve. He reliably meets the challenging needs of Norwich EMS and actively seeks out training opportunities to learn new skills and concepts. His willingness to serve extends beyond call time and he takes it upon himself to ensure EMS vehicles are always ready. He doesn't take short cuts and ensures each patient receives the appropriate care. He is an advocate for community education, including Stop the Bleed and CPR training. To further support EMS, he became a local government councilman. He is a great example of what it means to be a member of the community at large, and the community of EMS practitioners.

**Eldon, thank you for your service and congratulations on your award!**

**BRUCE:**

Now, I invite NAEMT Board Member Macara Trusty to present our next award.

**MACARA:**

Thanks, Bruce... Our next award is the *2022 NAEMT EMS Educator of the Year Award*, sponsored by *Jones & Bartlett Learning Public Safety Group*. I ask Cathy Esperti from PSG to join me on the stage to present the award.

And now, we are pleased to recognize **Dan Talbert of St. Augustine, Florida**, as our 2022 Educator of the Year. Come join us, Dan!

Dan is director of EMS & Fire Programs at the First Coast Technical College Public Safety Campus. He demonstrates a true passion for educating the next generation of EMTs and Paramedics. He has implemented many new programs at the college with an emphasis on use of simulations, which have been successful and noted by his students. Sharing years of professional experience in the prehospital setting, he's able to help students perform at a higher level and adapts his training approach for each class. He engages

students by immersing them in realistic scenarios and challenging situations to prepare them for their future careers. He places an emphasis on professionalism and respect during interactions with patients, fellow classmates, and instructors. Dan fosters a culture where students feel like they are part of the future in EMS.

Dan, congratulations on your award!

### **BRUCE:**

Now, I invite NAEMT Board Member Juan Cardona to present this next award.

### **JUAN:**

Thanks, Bruce... Our next award is the *2022 NAEMT Military Medic of the Year Award*, sponsored by *North American Rescue*. I ask Erik Crouch from North American Rescue to join me on the stage to present the award.

On behalf of our country, association, and the patients served, it is our pleasure to announce **Technical Sergeant Jack Williams** as our 2022 Military Medic of the Year! Sergeant Williams, please join us at the podium.

Sergeant Williams is an Independent Duty Medical Technician serving as an Education and Training Specialist with the 673d Medical Group at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. He is responsible for training 1,700 military medics, nurses, and other prehospital providers on advance medical skills. Serving in the Air Force for 17 years, he has deployed six times, including two combat tours to Afghanistan, serving as the sole medical provider. He directly cared for more than 150 patients in care-under-fire events and mass casualty situations. His critical thinking, rapid field assessments, and combat training enabled him to perform several surgical airways and needle decompressions, and numerous tourniquet applications to patients with multisystem traumas. He also taught a Combat Lifesaver Class to students in the Afghan National Police, Afghan National Army, and National Directorate of Security. For his distinguished service as both a combat medic and medical project manager, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Air Force Combat Action Medal, and the Army Combat Medical Badge. He has helped to expand and promote Tactical Combat Casualty Care in Alaska and Germany. He was also key in the advancement of the Below Zero Medicine concept, and development of the course curriculum in support of the National Defense Strategy.

**Sergeant Williams... thank you for your service to our country, and congratulations on your award!**

## BRUCE:

Now, I invite NAEMT Medical Director Dr. Doug Kupas to present our next award.

## DOUG:

Thanks, Bruce... Our 2022 NAEMT EMS Medical Director of the Year award is sponsored by Bound Tree and I ask Tim Rubert to join me in presenting the award.

It is our pleasure to present **Dan Godbee of Zachary, Louisiana** with our 2022 NAEMT EMS Medical Director of the Year Award. Colonel Godbee, please join us on stage...

Dr. Godbee is the Medical Director for East Baton Rouge Parish EMS. He has tirelessly served his country and community for 44 years. His nominator says he is viewed as an affable “everyman,” while simultaneously a consummate scholar and the Medical Editor of a major medical journal for prehospital medicine. He began as an Eagle Scout, enlisted as a Private and rose to the rank of Sergeant Major. He then accepted a Commission as a physician and again worked his way up to the rank of Colonel. He is a Green Beret with numerous deployments as both a physician and a warfighter. Dr. Godbee is never far from the frontline, yet comfortable briefing General Officers in the Army or elected officials and journalists in his hometown. He dives, parachute jumps, and performs every other adventurous task with his soldiers in the Army and his law enforcement, fire, and EMS crews in civilian life. “It has been my honor to know Dr. Godbee since I was a medical student. I could count on his sage advice during both personal setbacks and successes, and I credit his mentorship with where I am today,” states nominator, Major Studer.

Congratulations, Dr. Godbee. Thank you for your service to your community and our country!

## BRUCE:

Now, I invite NAEMT Board Member Karen Larsen and Mary Gomez with AAP to present our next award.

## KAREN:

Thanks, Bruce... For our Pediatric EMS Award, we'd like to ask Peter Antevy from Handtevy-Pediatric Emergency Standards, our award sponsor to join us on stage to present the award.

It is our sincere pleasure to present the 2022 NAEMT-American Academy of Pediatrics Pediatric EMS Award to **Mark X. Cicero** of Cromwell, Connecticut! Dr. Cicero, please join us on stage...

Dr. Cicero is an associate professor in the section of pediatric emergency medicine at the Yale School of Medicine and an attending physician at the Yale-New Haven's Children's Hospital Emergency Department. He is passionate and dedicated to improving prehospital pediatric care in Connecticut and is “a model for colleagues nationwide.” Dr. Cicero continues to ensure that EMS agencies in Connecticut are best prepared to manage the next pediatric emergency, in addition to working for the same at the national level. He is a leader in pediatric emergency medicine and has dedicated his career to improving the prehospital care of children with a focus on disaster preparedness. He has been involved with CT EMS for Children since 2008 and has served as the Co-Medical Director since 2015. He is a member of the EMS for Children Innovation and Improvement Center's Disaster Preparedness Working Group and was honored as a 2022 Inaugural Member of the National Advisory Committee on Children and Disasters. In addition to his work on disaster management, he has been instrumental in the development of Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinators within EMS agencies. Dr. Cicero uses his educational talents to train EMS teams and his expertise to advocate at the state level.

**Congratulations on your award, Dr. Cicero!**

And now I'll hand things back over to Bruce Evans.

**BRUCE:**

Other National EMS Awards of Excellence will be presented tomorrow morning at the opening ceremony of EMS World Expo. While they will not be joining us onstage this evening, please join me in congratulating the recipients of the following EMS Awards of Excellence:

**Delaware County EMS, Delaware, Ohio**

2022 Dick Ferneau Career EMS Service of the Year Award  
2022 NAEMT-ACEP/Technimount EMS Safety in EMS Award

**Utah Navajo Health System EMS, Montezuma Creek, Utah**

2022 EMS World Volunteer EMS Service of the Year Award

**Lainey Volk, San Juan Island EMS, Friday Harbor, Washington**

2022 EMS World/Dynarex EMS Caring Award

**Palm Beach Gardens Fire Rescue, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida**

2022 EMS World/FirstNet®, Built with AT&T Wellness and Resilience Award

Thank you... and congratulations again to this year's National EMS Awards of Excellence recipients. You are all shining stars in our profession. Thanks again to our sponsors for their support in recognizing those whose outstanding achievements have made a difference for their patients and communities.

Our final award... the Rocco V. Morando Lifetime Achievement Award... is NAEMT's most prestigious recognition of an individual's contribution to prehospital emergency medical care and the EMS profession. The award is granted to select individuals who, through their actions, leadership, and spirit, have demonstrated a lifetime commitment and dedication to the advancement of EMS. The National Registry of EMTs is the generous sponsor of this award. Dr. Kevin Mackey, Chair of the National Registry Board of Directors, joins me in presenting this award.

THE 2022 ROCCO V. MORANDO LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT IS BEING PRESENTED to **Baxter Larmon!**

Baxter is the co-founding director of both the Center for Prehospital Care and the Prehospital Care Research Forum. He is now retired as the Director of those Centers, but still a Professor of Medicine in the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine. He has been actively involved in EMS for more than 40 years as an EMT, Lifeguard-Paramedic, Firefighter, Firefighter- Paramedic, EMS Educator, Researcher, Mentor, Author, and Professor. In 2000, Dr. Larmon was named one of the most influential people in EMS. He served on the founding board of directors of the National Association of EMS Educators, and in 2009, he received the NAEMSE lifetime achievement award. Most recently, Dr. Larmon received a Distinguished Service Medal from the State of California for his extensive contributions in helping initiate and advance prehospital medical care in the State of California. In his 40-year career, Dr. Larmon has presented at more than 450 national and international conferences, has authored 90 journal publications and four textbooks. He is a leader in EMS and true friend to many.

#### **BRUCE:**

We are now at the conclusion of this year's General Membership Meeting, generously sponsored by Columbia Southern University and FirstNet®, Built with AT&T. I invite you all to join us in the next room for some fun at the NAEMT Member Reception. Thank you!