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Representative Jason Smith, Representative Emanuel Cleaver, II Receive NAEMT's 2025 EMS Legislator of the Year Award

Clinton, Miss. — The National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians ([NAEMT](#)) honored Representative Jason Smith (R-MO) and Representative Emanuel Cleaver, II (D-MO) as the recipients of the 2025 NAEMT EMS Legislator of the Year Award during [EMS On The Hill Day](#), the largest national advocacy event for emergency medical services (EMS) professionals.

This prestigious award recognizes members of Congress who demonstrate an outstanding commitment to, and support of high-quality prehospital and out-of-hospital emergency medical care, as well as our nation's EMS professionals who dutifully serve their patients and communities.

“We applaud Reps. Smith and Cleaver for their dedicated efforts to improve Missouri residents’ access to quality health care, especially for those living in some of the most challenging and underserved rural communities,” said Chief Christopher Way, NAEMT President. “EMS agencies, paramedics and EMTs provide a tremendous opportunity to reach all people with preventive, emergent, and urgent needs to provide care and medical treatment. We are grateful to Reps. Smith and Cleaver for their leadership to advance the important and unique role of EMS practitioners across the great State of Missouri. They are true innovators in making health care accessible to all Missourians.”

Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee Jason Smith is a champion for the rights and values of rural Missourians, and people across the entire nation. Chairman Smith was elected to Congress in 2013 after serving in the Missouri General Assembly for eight years. As the Ways and Means Chairman with jurisdiction over Medicare, he supports legislation that expands access and lowers the cost of health care for working families. Chairman Smith has been a steadfast supporter of NAEMT initiatives, advocating for Treatment In Place (TIP), implementing Mobile Integrated Healthcare-Community Paramedicine (MIH-CP), creating sustainability of EMS services, improving patient care, providing savings to the Federal government, increasing levels of preparedness, advancing the EMS profession, and fostering innovation.

Chairman Smith said, “As Ways and Means Chairman, it is a huge priority for me to ensure Americans in need, especially in rural areas, have access to appropriate and timely care. NAEMT’s work to help advance policy that ensures patients experiencing a health emergency receive timely EMS treatment is important to Americans in rural and underserved areas, and I’m appreciative of today’s award which recognizes our shared concern for quality, affordable health care.”

Rep. Emanuel Cleaver II is serving his eleventh term representing Missouri's Fifth Congressional District and is a member of the House Committee on Financial Services, among others. He became Kansas City's first African American Mayor in 1991 and during his eight-year term distinguished himself as an economic development activist and an unapologetic redevelopment craftsman.

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Rep. Cleaver fosters innovation and is a committed supporter of NAEMT’s initiative of expanding access to Mobile Integrated Healthcare-Community Paramedicine (MIH-CP) Programs. His work advocating for EMTs and Paramedics to provide patient-centered mobile care outside the hospital will lower health care costs and improve patient outcomes. Through Rep. Cleaver’s efforts, more EMS agencies across the nation will be able to partner with hospitals, primary care physicians, nurses, mental health and social services providers, and government agencies on programs that bring care to patients and help navigate patients to needed services.

“Right now, more than 57 million Americans must travel inordinate distances to receive care from the nearest physician, which is both burdensome and costly for these families that live in areas deemed medically underserved, particularly in rural communities,” said Congressman Cleaver. “As I fight to address these challenges by introducing legislation like the bipartisan Community Paramedicine Act, I’m honored to receive the EMS Legislator of the Year Award from the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians for my work in the People’s House. Together, we’ll continue working to ensure every American family can access the care they need.”

About NAEMT

Formed in 1975 and more than 110,000 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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