



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Earl Ray Tomblin
Governor

Michael J. Lewis, M.D., Ph.D.
Cabinet Secretary

May 17, 2011

Dear West Virginia EMS Professionals,

During this EMS Week, we'd like to take this chance to say thank you for all that you do. We know that everyone who works in EMS puts in long hours and sleepless nights taking care of the needs of communities across our state and meeting the mission of your individual squads. We know that you're dedicated, we know that you care, and we also know that you don't get the amount of thanks that you deserve most of the time.

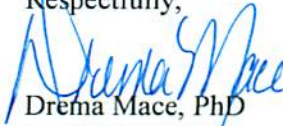
So today, we'd like to take this opportunity to say "Thank you" to everyone who works in EMS, especially those in West Virginia. Thank you for your time, your dedication, your caring, your compassion, and your devotion to patient care. Thank you for working long shifts and for holding over to cover late calls. Thank you for taking time away from your families to keep your trucks on the road for our communities 24/7. Thank you for thinking on your feet to solve new problems for patients. Thank you for comforting families and for risking your safety. Thank you for your bravery and commitment.


EMS Week is an opportunity for the public to recognize what you do every day. It's an opportunity for your squads to showcase your talents, to let the public know how, when, and why to use EMS. What you do is important. EMS is a vital service that is necessary for our state and the nation. EMS Personnel are the healthcare safety net for all of us.

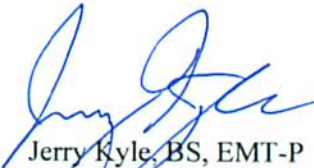
As individual squads recognize EMS Personnel, the West Virginia State Office of Emergency Medical Services has developed a policy to recognize state OEMS staff and TSN EMS program managers for their years of service. The Commissioner of Health, Chris Curtis, will be recognizing our dedicated staff on May 27, 2011 with years of service pens and plaques. We will post their photographs on the OEMS Web Site (<http://www.wvoems.org/>). We welcome individual Squads to submit pictures of your EMS Week activities to Jonathan Sapp (Jonathan.B.Sapp@wv.gov) to be included on the OEMS Web site.

While EMS week is recognition of everyday heroes, we want to acknowledge our deep appreciation. Emergency Medical System consists of emergency medical technicians, paramedics, firefighters, emergency physicians, emergency nurses, communicators, educators, administrators and others. Because access to quality emergency care dramatically improves survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury, know that the State OEMS staff respects your efforts, and pledge our support to you.

Respectfully,


Drema Mace, PhD
OEMS Director


Lee B. Smith, MD, JD
OEMS Medical Director


Jerry Kyle, BS, EMT-P
OEMS DLC Director

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