



## **A NATION REMEMBERS: 29 FALLEN FIRST RESPONDERS TO BE HONORED DURING Copake, NY STOP ON EMS MEMORIAL PROCESSION ROUTE**

*Clausson Raught Community Rescue Squad to Host the National EMS Memorial Service Procession en Route to Arlington*



**Copake, NY June 29th, 2025)** — A solemn tribute is making its way across the nation, honoring the emergency medical services (EMS) professionals who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to others. [The National EMS Memorial Service's](#) annual procession began June 1 in Riverside, Calif. and will culminate in Arlington on July 19. The procession will make 29 stops in 19 states, including Copake, NY to remember 29 EMS professionals who died in the line of duty.

**On Sunday June, 29<sup>th</sup> @ 1230pm. Community Rescue Squad** will host the Moving Honors procession at its Headquarters at 283 Mountain View Road, Copake NY 12516. The event marks one of the many stops along the 6,500-mile journey to Arlington where fallen EMS providers will be honored as part of the National EMS Memorial Service and [Weekend of Honor](#).

At the heart of the journey is a specially wrapped ambulance carrying the Tree of Life—this year's installment of the memorial bearing the names of those lost. Built by EMS volunteers, the Tree is transported with reverence and remains sealed until its unveiling at the national service. A replica Tree of Life will be on display at each stop, offering communities a space to pause, reflect, and honor lives of service.

These fallen heroes are not just names—they are fathers, mothers, sons and daughters. They are the ones who leave their homes, families and safety behind to answer the call, never knowing that their work would cost them their lives.

One of the Moving Honors representatives supporting this year's procession is [American Medical Response](#) (AMR) paramedic Megan Haverkamp, now in her fifth year with the crew. What began as a one-time request to drive an ambulance from Texas to Virginia has become a deeply personal tradition. Haverkamp now helps escort the Tree of Life alongside "Chief Ted E Bear," a comfort companion who helps children of fallen EMS providers cope with loss.

"Each stop is a moment to remember, to honor and to let families and fellow providers know that their loved ones are not forgotten," Haverkamp said. "What continues to move me is how everyone comes together, whether they knew the honorees personally or not, to show their love and support."

## Event Details

**What:** National EMS Moving Honors Procession Stop

**When:** June 29<sup>th</sup> at 1230 pm

**Where:** Community Rescue Squad Building / Copake Memorial Park, 283 Mountain View Road Copake NY 12516

**Why:** To honor EMS professionals who died in the line of duty in 2024 (and in some cases prior)

### Visuals:

- Decorated ambulance carrying the Tree of Life
- Replica Tree of Life tribute display
- Honor guard and motorcade procession
- EMS personnel, community members, and remarks from local leaders

Media should arrive by 1130am. Interviews will follow the ceremony.

*We are working on an escort from Buffalo NY. They will be coming out Interstate I90 on June 28<sup>th</sup> midafternoon. We are trying to plan a stop at the NYS EMS Memorial at the Albany Plaza. Then the Moving Memorial will proceed to Columbia County, zig zagging through several towns with a stop at A.B. Shaw Fire Department in Claverack.(Stephen J. Walsh, Fire Police / Pump Operator / First Responder) Finally proceed to the Community Rescue Squad Building 283 Mountain View Road.*

*June 29<sup>th</sup> at 1230, The National EMS Memorial Service Moving Honors will have a service for Stephen Walsh and the other 28 Hero's Lost in 2024.*

*The Location, depending on the weather, will take place outside in the Copake Memorial Park at 305 Mountain View Road, Copake NY 12516. Rain location will be at the Copake Town Hall, 230 Mountain View Road, Copake NY 12516.*

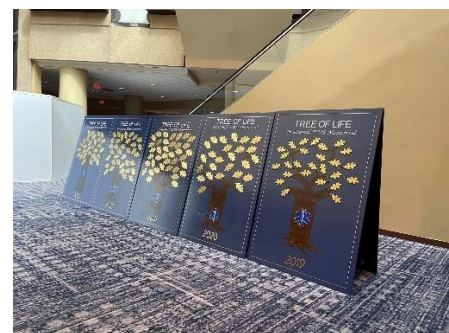
*Parking for Emergency Vehicles will be on the open soccer field. Attendees can use the parking lot of the park.*

*Thank You to Copake Memorial Park Administration for the use of the grounds.*

"This moving tribute is only possible because of the shared commitment from agencies across the country and the generous support of organizations like [Global Medical Response](#)," said Jana Williams, National EMS Memorial Service immediate past president. "It is extraordinary witnessing so many who join alongside us to honor our fallen and to support their loved ones in such an impactful way."

## Background

[The National EMS Memorial Service](#), founded in 1991, is a volunteer-driven organization funded solely by donors to honor fallen EMS providers and support their families and colleagues. It is the congressionally sanctioned entity that bestows the highest honor in EMS to those who made the ultimate sacrifice. While a permanent national memorial is still in development, a new panel is constructed each year and added to the Tree of Life, a temporary memorial, which continues to grow and honor those lost in the line of duty.



The Moving Honors procession not only brings awareness and additional homage to the honorees but also provides a space for the public to pay respect and send messages of hope to families and EMS

professionals. The [REMEMBERship program](#) is a unique way to sustain the mission of the NEMSMS, offering a simple way to donate and keep the legacy of fallen heroes alive.

**Please view downloadable B-roll and images of Moving Honors processions here, available for media use:** [NEMSMS Moving Honors images and videos](#)

### **List of 2025 National EMS Memorial Services Honorees**

**Bethany Aicken**, 40, Air Evac Life Team, Williamstown, KY, died in the line of duty on 10/7/2024 as the result of an air medical accident.

**Gale “Butch” Alleman**, 66, Air Evac Life Team, Williamstown, KY, died in the line of duty on 10/7/2024 as the result of an air medical accident.

**David Austin**, 52, Egg Harbor Township EMS, Egg Harbor, NJ, died in the line of duty on 10/1/2024 as a result of a medical event.

**Gregory Bauer**, 56, Columbus Division of Fire, Columbus, OH, died in the line of duty on 10/18/2021 as a result of COVID.

**Randolph “Randy” Breton**, 61, AMR Physician Transport Services, Herndon, VA, died in the line of duty on 9/4/2020 as a result of a medical event.

**Michael Clarke**, 27, Saint Charles County Ambulance District, Saint Peters, MO, died in the line of duty on 10/14/2024 as a result of a medical event.

**Ian Cooperstein**, 39, Sullivan Paramedicine, Inc, Hurleyville, NY, died in the line of duty on 9/22/2021 as a result of COVID.

**Anthony Cozzino**, 51, Fire Department of New York (FDNY), Brooklyn, NY, died in the line of duty on 9/7/2024 as the result of the WTC illness.

**Robert “Bobby” DeLeon**, 62, Fire Department of New York (FDNY), Brooklyn, NY, died in the line of duty on 4/16/2024 as the result of the WTC illness.

**Steven “Fitz” Fitzgerald**, 47, Air Evac Life Team, Weatherford, OK, died in the line of duty on 1/20/2024 as the result of an air medical accident.

**Mark Gibson**, 56 Emerson Ambulance Service Inc., Jonesboro, AK, died in the line of duty on 8/9/2024 as a result a vehicular accident.

**Todd Giles**, 60, Morristown-Hamblen EMS, Morristown, TN, died in the line of duty on 4/5/2024 as a result of a heart attack.

**Russell Haslam**, 53, Air Evac Life Team, Weatherford, OK, died in the line of duty on 1/20/2024 as a result of an air medical accident.

**Richard Hempel**, 53, Groesbeck Volunteer Fire-Rescue, Groesbeck, TX, died in the line of duty on 5/9/2023 as a result of a medical event.

**David Jarvis III**, 55, Columbus Division of Fire, Columbus, OH, died in the line of duty on 12/9/2021 as a result of COVID.

**Jeanne Lackey**, 29, Trinity Mother Frances, Flight for Life, Tyler, TX, died in the line of duty on 2/13/1989 as a result of an air medical accident.

**Chastian McWhorter**, 26, Somerset-Pulaski County EMS, Somerset, KY, died in the line of duty on 4/1/2024 as a result of a vehicular accident.

**Gerald Morgan Sr.**, 46, Trinity Mother Frances, Flight for Life, Tyler, TX, died in the line of duty on 2/13/1989 as a result of an air medical accident.

**Kathryn Lea Ohnheiser**, 31, Trinity Mother Frances, Flight for Life, Tyler, TX, died in the line of duty on 2/13/1989 as a result of an air medical accident.

**Lawrence Rand**, 65, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, died in the line of duty on 4/8/2021 as a result of the WTC illness.

**Mark Steffens**, 62, Fire Department of New York (FDNY), Brooklyn, NY, died in the line of duty on 11/11/2024 as a result of the WTC illness.

**Jeremy Sutton**, 44, Jefferson County EMS, New Market, TN, died in the line of duty on 8/31/2024 as a result of a vehicular accident.

**Christopher Swierkowski**, 58, Fire Department of New York (FDNY), Brooklyn, NY, died in the line of duty on 5/11/2024 as a result of the WTC illness.

**Adam Tebben**, 35, Air Evac Life Team, Weatherford, OK, died in the line of duty on 1/20/2024 as a result of an air medical accident.

**James Thomas**, 32, Champion EMS, Tyler TX, died in the line of duty on 5/31/1988 as a result of a traumatic injury.

**Stephen J. Walsh**, 60, Community Rescue Squad, Copake, NY, died in the line of duty on 11/16/2024 as a result of a medical event.

**James Welsh**, 29, Air Evac Life Team, Williamstown, KY, died in the line of duty on 10/7/2024 as a result of an air medical accident.

**Randy Williams**, 46, Leon County EMS, Tallahassee, FL, died in the line of duty on 8/11/2021 as a result of COVID.

**Steven "Z-man" Zuckerman**, 61, Eagle County Paramedic Services, Edwards, CO, died in the line of duty on 2/23/2024 as a result of a medical event.

