2020 NEMSMS Honorees Biographies

Flight Paramedic, MICP
Maddox Burts
Medevac Alaska
Anchorage, Alaska
Last Call: 11/29/2019

Maddox Burts, 35, Medevac Alaska, died in the line-of-duty November 29, 2019, in a medical airplane accident. He died alongside flight nurse Robert Cartner and EMS pilot Glen Morthorpe. They were enroute to pick up a patient. Maddox came to Alaska from Fairhope, Alabama, near Mobile, to work part of the year as a paramedic for Medevac Alaska. He became a paramedic after the birth of his daughter. For Maddox, being able to combine emergency medicine and helping people in a place like Alaska with such beautiful wildlife and landscape made him incredibly happy.

Flight Nurse
Robert Cartner
Medevac Alaska
Anchorage, Alaska
Last Call: 11/29/2019

Robert Cartner, 53, Medevac Alaska, died in the line-of-duty November 29, 2019, in a medical airplane accident. He died alongside flight paramedic Maddox Burts and EMS pilot Glen Morthorpe. They were enroute to pick up a patient. Robert had just celebrated his 53rd birthday, according to reports from his hometown of Concord, North Carolina where he spent half of his time. Alaska suited his love for adventure and the outdoors as he spent much of his free time fishing, hunting & doing anything challenging.

EMS Pilot
Patrick Coyle
Guardian Flight
Juneau, Alaska
Last Call: 1/29/2019

Patrick Coyle, 63, Guardian Flight, died in the line-of-duty January 29, 2019, in a medical airplane accident, while enroute to pick up a patient. He died alongside flight nurse Stacie Rae Morse, her unborn daughter Delta Rae and flight paramedic Margaret Langston. Pat served in the US Navy where he reached the rank of Lieutenant, worked for US Customs and served in the US National Guard. He was known as someone with a wry sense of humor who was quietly generous and loved to make others laugh.

Flight Nurse
Rachel L. Cunningham
Survival Flight
Grove City, Ohio
Last Call: 1/29/2019
Rachel L. Cunningham, 33, Survival Flight, died in the line-of-duty January 29, 2019, in an air medical helicopter accident enroute to pick up a patient. She died alongside EMS pilot Jennifer L. Topper and flight nurse Bradley J. Haynes. Rachel was described as a wonderful wife and aunt who loved scary movies and always said “yes” and a diligent nurse who loved her job and was honest and fearless.

EMS Pilot
Douglas Davis
Survival Flight
Headland, Alabama
Last Call: 12/25/2019

Douglas Davis, 61, Survival Flight, died in the line-of-duty December 25, 2019, in an air medical helicopter accident, secondary to him suffering a medical event. Doug had 2 other crew members on board as he was piloting the aircraft that was returning to base after dropping off a patient. His final actions attempting to land were described as “heroic” and “lifesaving.” In addition to being an EMS pilot and US Army retired Apache instructor, he was a devoted husband and father.

EMT
DaryLynne Day
Powell County EMS
Deer Lodge, Montana
Last Call: 8/18/2019

DaryLynne Day, 36, Powell County EMS, died in the line-of-duty August 18, 2019, while providing EMS coverage for a race event. She pushed a crowd out of the way but was struck by an out of control demolition derby car. DaryLynne had followed in the footsteps of her parents and grandparents when she became an EMT. She was a loving wife and mother with a love of music and singing and who was described as funny and kind.

EMT/Firefighter
Douglas Ronald Dick, II
Jan-Care Ambulance Service
Beckley, West Virginia
Last Call: 8/10/2019

Douglas Ronald Dick, II, 35, Jan-Care Ambulance Service, died in the line-of-duty August 10, 2019, in an ambulance accident after dropping off a patient. He died alongside EMT Brittany Young. Doug became an EMT/FF after the loss of his father in hopes of helping families in similar circumstances. He will be remembered for his “legacy of goodwill.” It was said his family was his true joy and that being an excellent husband and father were the accomplishments that he treasured the most.

Paramedic
Frank Roy Echevarria
Cumberland County EMS
Fayetteville, North Carolina
Last Call: 7/9/2017
Frank Roy Echevarria, 52, Cumberland County EMS, died in the line-of-duty July 9, 2017, secondary to a medical emergency after taking care of other patients. Frank’s 30 years of emergency service included both the fire and EMS. He loved to golf, going to the beach and spending time with his kids and family. He was known as selfless and a loving father with a “smile that lit up the world.”

Firefighter/EMT
Brad Gregrich
DeSoto County Fire & Rescue
Arcadia, Florida
Last Call: 4/27/2019

Brad Gregrich, 30, DeSoto County Fire & Rescue, died in the line-of-duty on April 27, 2019, about two weeks after suffering a stroke following duty. He never regained consciousness. Brad, a new father, was known for his smile and laughter. He was described as a great husband, father, son, friend, and brother to so many. He loved his family and his job, and he served with tremendous commitment and dedication to excellence.

Flight Nurse
Bradley J. Haynes
Survival Flight
Grove City, Ohio
Last Call: 1/29/2019

Bradley J. Haynes, 48, Survival Flight, died in the line-of-duty January 29, 2019, in an air medical helicopter accident. He died alongside EMS pilot Jennifer L. Topper and flight nurse Rachel Cunningham. Brad also was a firefighter for Jefferson Township Fire. He loved horse racing and belonged to the Ohio Standard Bred Association and the United States Trotting Association. Brad was described as a devoted father, skilled nurse and passionate firefighter who enjoyed duck hunting, dog training and karate.

Paramedic
Jennifer Joan Hesselbein
American Medical Response (AMR)
Jackson, Mississippi
Last Call: 12/17/2019

Jennifer J. Hesselbein, 34, died in the line-of-duty December 17, 2019, from injuries sustained in 2013 when she was struck by a vehicle while caring for a patient. Jennifer suffered life-altering injuries and underwent numerous surgeries and procedures over the years. Still she was known by her family and friends for her laugh and smile, passion for helping others, and her heart for animals in need.

Flight Paramedic
Margaret Langston
Guardian Flight
Juneau, Alaska
Last Call: 1/29/2019
Margaret Langston, 43, Guardian Flight, died in the line-of-duty January 29, 2019, in a medical airplane accident, while enroute to pick up a patient. She died alongside flight nurse Stacie Rae Morse, her unborn daughter Delta Rae and EMS pilot Patrick Coyle. She worked as a paramedic for many years in the Tucson, AZ area prior to moving to Alaska. Margaret was a wife, mother, daughter, sister, aunt, and dear friend who was looked up to by peers for her quiet strength and soft heart.

**Firefighter/EMT**  
**Coleman “Coley” Loadholt, Jr**  
**Brunson Fire Department**  
**Brunson, South Carolina**  
**Last Call: 6/21/2019**

Coleman Loadholt, Jr., 51, died in the line-of-duty June 21, 2019, from a medical emergency suffered after caring for patients. He was an award-winning firefighter, receiving the Life Saver Award in Jasper County and the Firefighter of the Year and Officer of the Year awards in Brunson. He was also an EMT, senior officer and volunteer captain who enjoyed motorcycles, mechanics, and spending time with his wife, son and grandson.

**Firefighter/EMT**  
**Mitchell F. Lundgaard**  
**Appleton Fire Department**  
**Appleton, Wisconsin**  
**Last Call: 5/15/2019**

Mitchell F. Lundgaard, 36, Appleton Fire Department, died in the line-of-duty May 15, 2019, from a gunshot wound sustained during an EMS call. He pursued a career in the fire service after the events of September 11, 2001. A lifelong learner, Mitch was two courses away from a bachelor’s degree in Fire and Emergency Response Management. He was a loving husband and devoted father who enjoyed running, golf, coaching and watching his sons play sports.

**EMS Pilot**  
**Timothy A. McDonald**  
**North Memorial Air Care**  
**Brainerd, Minnesota**  
**Last Call: 6/28/2019**

Timothy A. McDonald, 44, North Memorial Air Care, died in the line-of-duty June 28, 2019, in an air medical helicopter accident. He died alongside nurse Debra K. Schott. Tim’s love for others led him into emergency medicine and later to serve as a Blackhawk pilot in the US Army. Tim served two combat tours in Iraq and left the service to fulfill his dream as a medevac pilot. Tim served in the Army as an Aviation Warrant Officer and as a Paramedic for North Memorial. He was described as a dedicated husband and father whose greatest joy was his family.

**Firefighter/Paramedic**  
**Christopher Moore**  
**Maryland Heights Fire Protection District**  
**Maryland Heights, Missouri**  
**Last Call: 6/8/2019**
Christopher Moore, 42, Maryland Heights Fire Protection District, died in the line-of-duty June 8, 2019, secondary to a medical emergency after caring for other patients. Chris was a member of Missouri Task Force 1 and was deployed to New York in response to the events of September 11, 2001 and to Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina. Chris received several Medals of Valor for actions taken on emergency incidents. He was a dedicated father and “friend of many.”

**Flight Nurse**
Stacie Rae Morse
*and unborn daughter Delta Rae*
Guardian Flight
Juneau, Alaska
Last Call: 1/29/2019

Stacie Rae Morse, 30, Guardian Flight, died in the line-of-duty January 29, 2019, in a medical airplane accident, while enroute to pick up a patient. Seven months pregnant with unborn daughter Delta Rae, she died alongside flight paramedic Margaret Langston, and EMS pilot Patrick Coyle. She was beyond excited to become a first-time mom. Stacie, originally from the Bellingham, WA area, was petite in size but known to be fierce. She was avid in many sports, loved hunting and fishing and was already a mom to her many farmyard animals.

**EMS Pilot**
Glen Morthorpe
Medevac Alaska
Anchorage, Alaska
Last Call: 11/29/2019

Glen Morthorpe, 75, Medevac Alaska, died in the line-of-duty November 29, 2019, in a medical airplane accident. He died alongside flight nurse Robert Cartner and flight paramedic Maddox Burts. They were enroute to pick up a patient. Glen was a family man who loved aviation and loved to teach others to fly. He was a longtime pilot with over 40,000 flight hours, who also volunteered with the Civil Air Patrol and is remembered for his patience, knowledge, and dedication to detail.

**EMT**
William Ryan
Bay Community Volunteer Ambulance Corps
Bayside, New York
Last Call: 8/19/2018

William Ryan, 50, Bay Community Volunteer Ambulance Corps, died on August 19, 2018, after he succumbed to a certified World Trade Center illness sustained in the line-of-duty. He treated and transported victims in days of countless round trips to Ground Zero as an EMT with the Bay Community Volunteer Ambulance Corps in Bayside, Queens. That agency retains the ambulance he used at Ground Zero in his honor. A native Long Islander, Ryan had the gift of gab and loved being in the community.

**Flight Nurse**
Deborah K. Schott
North Memorial Air Care
Brainerd, Minnesota
Last Call: 6/28/2019

Debra K. Schott, 58, North Memorial Air Care, died in the line-of-duty June 28, 2019, in an air medical helicopter accident. She died alongside EMS pilot Timothy McDonald. Deb loved to travel, working in the garden, and was an avid photographer who enjoyed taking scenic photos. She loved spending her time with her kids and grandkids. Deb was a loving wife, mother and grandmother who was known to be kind and giving and was respected and admired by her colleagues.

Paramedic
Matthew Smelser
Rostraver – West Newton Emergency Services
Rostraver Township, Pennsylvania
Last Call: 1/5/2020

Matthew Smelser, 44, Rostraver – West Newton Emergency Services, died in the line of duty on January 5, 2020, after he was struck by another vehicle while attending to an injured person at the scene of an accident. Matt was a paramedic supervisor who had spent almost 25 years in EMS and loved to teach others coming into the profession. He was known as a jack-of-all-trades, a phenomenal paramedic and a feisty family man with a deep sense of humor and strong faith.

EMS Pilot
Jennifer L. Topper
Survival Flight
Grove City, Ohio
Last Call: 1/29/2019

Jennifer L. Topper, 34, Survival Flight, died in the line-of-duty Jan. 29, 2019, in an air medical helicopter accident. She died alongside flight nurses Rachel Cunningham and Bradley Haynes. Jennifer joined the US Navy after the events of September 11, 2001, first as a rescue swimmer, dropping into the water on a long line for search and rescue operations which sparked her desire to become a helicopter pilot. She also worked as an EMT, before finding her passion for aviation. She was known as a hard worker who was wise, generous, caring, and always smiling.

Firefighter/Paramedic
James “Woody” Woodman
West Haven Fire Department
West Haven, Connecticut
Last Call: 3/29/2019

James “Woody” Woodman, 55, West Haven Fire Department, died in the line of duty on March 29, 2019, following life-altering injuries sustained on October 5, 1999, when an ambulance he was riding in outside Yale-New Haven Hospital was involved in an accident. He was a member of Recruit Class #15 at the Connecticut State Fire Academy and was only out of the academy two days when his accident occurred. He was described as larger than life and his EMS colleagues marveled that against all odds, he fought on for close to 20 years, living out the remainder of his days in a facility in Colorado Springs.
Brittany L. Young, 23, Jan-Care Ambulance Service, died in the line-of-duty Aug. 10, 2019, in an ambulance accident after dropping off a patient. She died alongside Douglas Ronald Dick, II. Brittany loved caring for people and was pursuing a nursing career. She was described as a caring soul, a devoted fiancé and mom who “lived life to the fullest.”