

HallMark

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July/August 2023



TREE OF LIFE
The Ultimate Sacrifice

NATIONAL EMS MEMORIAL SERVICE

Moving Honors

National EMS Memorial Service

Charting the Next Chapter

Hall Ambulance Prepares for the Future of EMS

BY **MARK CORUM** | DIRECTOR OF MEDIA SERVICES

Recently, Hall Ambulance announced adjustments and promotions in its leadership structure as the Company continues its work with the County of Kern to reimagine the delivery of emergency medical services, building on its 52-year legacy.

On June 22, Mrs. Hall announced that she was appointing John Surface as president and chief executive officer effective July 1, and that he and Jackie Att, secretary-treasurer of corporate financial services, would join the board of directors. Mrs. Hall remains the sole owner but has transitioned to chairman of the board and chief administrative officer.

On July 19, as part of a management team restructuring, which Surface described as "in the best interest of Hall Ambulance," Myron Smith was promoted to vice president of Operations and Jenny Ramirez to vice president of Human Resources.

John Surface's introduction to EMS came as a fire protection specialist in the U.S. Air Force, where he advanced to assistant chief of operations. After transitioning to civilian life, he worked for the Walton Fire Protection District in Yuba City, California, rising to the rank of Captain.



As the newly announced president and CEO, John Surface has focused his vision on the future of EMS while staying true to the ideals on which Mr. Hall built his ambulance service.

He joined Hall Ambulance in November 1997 as a paramedic and served as a paramedic field supervisor from 1999 - 2001. In 2001, he was promoted to assistant manager of the ambulance division, becoming the manager in 2008. In 2016, Mr. Hall named Surface as vice president of Corporate Operations. In 2018, Mrs. Hall announced that Surface would become chief operating officer.

As he progressed in his career, so did his areas of responsibility where he has served as liaison with local, state, and federal government; state and national EMS associations; serves as the primary individual to oversee and

maintain county contracts, and working with the CFO to develop concepts to maintain economic sustainability.

Surface is the president of the 911 Ambulance Providers Alliance and is a Mendiburu Magic Foundation board member. He is past chair of the California Ambulance Association's Political Action Committee and current member of the American Ambulance Association Political Action Committee, past president of the Bakersfield Kiwanis Club and Bakersfield Breakfast Lions Club, current member of the Westchester Kiwanis Club and involved in several other community organizations.

Surface holds the distinction of being a two-time recipient of the Founder's Award for Management Excellence.

Jackie Att joined Hall Ambulance in 1993 as controller, safeguarding and managing the financial assets of Hall Ambulance Service, Hall Air Ambulance, and Hall Critical Care Transport. In 2017, she was promoted to secretary-treasurer of corporate financial services/chief financial officer. She is responsible for producing financial statements and providing financial analysis, working with local regulators, initiating due diligence, and serv-



Jackie Att, Secretary-Treasurer of Corporate Financial Services/CFO

ing as the main source of financial input and guidance for all special products.

Among her academic achievements, Att was awarded a CPA from CSU Bakersfield and has a Bachelor of Arts from Fresno State College.

Myron Smith joined Hall Ambulance as a paramedic field supervisor in 1995 after his



Myron Smith, V.P. of Operations

family's ambulance service in Taft was acquired by Mr. Hall. In 2001, he was promoted to manager of Hall Critical Care Transport, overseeing the ground and air transport programs. In 2018, Smith became general manager encompassing a variety of responsibilities, including management of personnel, compliance, operations, continuing education, communications dispatch, and more.

From 2005 – 2018, Smith also served as program director of Bakersfield College's Paramedic Training, ensuring educational curriculum and content delivered to the program's paramedic students met or exceeded the National Standards guidelines.

His academic background is noteworthy and includes completing the American Ambulance Association's Ambulance Service Managers Program (2002), a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix (2002 and 2005), and a Master of Teaching & Curriculum from Fresno Pacific University (2020).

Smith has also received commendations, including Outstanding Service in EMS by the Kern County Board of Supervisors (2009), California Ambulance Association Star of Life (2015), Hall Ambulance Founder's Award for Management Excellence (2020), and Outstanding Graduate from Fresno Pacific University (2020).

Jenny Ramirez joined Hall Ambulance in September 2019, bringing with her 15 years of HR-related experience in the agriculture, information technology, and business consulting arenas. Her accomplishments are well documented as she has transformed the H.R. Department to meet the needs of today's workforce.

Ramirez holds a B.S. in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix (2007), a Certificate in Human Resource Management from UCLA Extension (2009), an MBA with a minor in H.R. from the



Jenny Ramirez, V.P. of Human Resources

University of Saint Mary (2016), and a certification from the Society of Human Resource Management of which she serves on the board of the Kern County Chapter.

Earlier this year, Ramirez was presented with the Founder's Award for Management Excellence.*



Moving Honors

Hall Ambulance Hosts Stop on National EMS Memorial Service's Cross-County Procession

BY **MARK CORUM** | DIRECTOR OF MEDIA SERVICES

Hall Ambulance was selected by the National EMS Memorial Service (NEMSMS) as the second stop and host site for its Moving Honors program, which took place on the morning of June 24.

The ceremony is a cross-country procession marking the countdown to the National EMS Memorial Service Weekend of Honor, recognizing EMS responders who died in the line of duty.

Moving Honors began the day before in Riverside and traveled 6,500 miles in 28 days before arriving in Arlington, VA, for the

National EMS Weekend of Honor July 21 -23.

The ceremony was called to order by John Surface, followed by the presentation of colors by the Bakersfield Police and Fire Departments Joint Honor Guard.

Hall Ambulance Supervisor Joe Eastwood led the Pledge of Allegiance, with Bakersfield Police Department Chaplain Angelo Frazier offering the Invocation. Mrs. Hall welcomed the Moving Honors team and spoke to the importance of properly honoring those EMS workers who lost their

lives in the line of duty.

Representing the National EMS Memorial Service, Tom Liebman shared details of the cross-country trek and the upcoming serving in Arlington. The Moving Honors Team, comprised of Meghan Haverkamp, Kari Spanarella, and Scottie Newlin joined Liebman to read the names of this year's 59 honorees, followed by a moment of silence and Amazing Grace performed by a Bakersfield Fire Department Bag Piper.

After the ceremony, those in attendance were invited to write a mes-



Darrell Stapley and a member of the Bakersfield Police Honor Guard take a moment to write their sentiments to be shared with family members of the fallen during the National EMS Weekend of Honor in Arlington.



Top: Meghan Haverkamp received a Siren the Rescue Dog to accompany Moving Honors mascot Ted E. Bear on the cross-country trek.

Above: National EMS Memorial Service Board Member Tom Liebman talks about the importance of the Moving Honors project.

sage of condolence to be shared at the ceremony in Virginia.

After the event, a procession including the Bakersfield Police Department, Bakersfield Fire Department, Kern County Sheriff's Office, Hall Ambulance, Premier Ambulance, Trinity Safety Company, Kern County Fire, Pro Safety, Liberty Ambulance, Kern County

EMS, Shoreline Ambulance, and Emergency Ambulance escorted Moving Honors out of town en route to Las Vegas for the American Ambulance Association Conference.

We were honored to have Kern County Supervisor Jeff Flores and a representative for Assemblymember Vince Fong in attendance.*



Hall Ambulance Operations Manager Darrell Stapley with Muroc Healthcare District Board Members Vieta Searcy, Shelley Keller-Gage, Darryl Caillier, and EMT Natasha Van Horne.

Model Solution for Rural EMS

Agreement Ensures Ambulance Service for Boron

BY **MARK CORUM** | DIRECTOR OF MEDIA SERVICES

The rural desert community of Boron, California, has a new advanced life support ambulance serving the community thanks to a unique relationship between the Muroc Healthcare District and Hall Ambulance.

The unit was placed into service on July 11 following a brief presentation in which President Karen Caillier presented the keys for the shiny new emergency vehicle to Operations Manager Darrell Sta-

pley. Also in attendance were fellow board members Vieta Searcy, Shelley Keller-Gage, Darryl Caillier, residents Stuart and Charlene Sims, Mark Corum, director of media services, and Hall EMT Natasha Van Horne, who works at the Boron station.

Under the agreement, Muroc Healthcare District funds the ambulance's cost. In return, Hall Ambulance provides around-the-clock paramedic service to the

area's roughly 2,280 residents.

The relationship serves as a model solution for rural EMS, where the closest hospital emergency room is over 40 miles away.

Unit 542 is the eighth ambulance to be placed into service under this relationship dating back to 1994, replacing Unit 481, which was put into service in 2018 and served the community well, having logged over 296,000 miles of service. *

A PERSONNEL NOTE

BY **FAITH VELASCO** | HR ASSISTANT II, AND **KRYSTAL MASCARINAS** | HR ASSISTANT II

Milestone Service Anniversaries

50 Years

Les Hutchison, EMT

35 Years

Al Heninger, Paramedic

25 Years

Christian Figueroa, Transportation Coordinator

20 Years

Dewi Adams, Coder Supervisor

10 Years

Alex Montgomery, Maintenance Detailer
Joseph Aguilar, Paramedic

5 Years

Keifer Reed, Paramedic
Jill Bergman, RN

1 Year

David Tracht, Paramedic
Vianey Medrano Calderon, EMT
Leslie Santoyou Hernandez, EMT
Sydnee Blackburn, EMT
Roger Banke, EMT
Alicia Perry, Maintenance Detailer
Arisdelci Carrillo-Ruiz, EMT
Kenneth Robesky, EMT
Christieana Poncetta, EMT
Jaime Morales, EMT
Kerry Kendrick, EMT
Ruben Gonzales, EMT

Justynne Subriar, Dispatcher
Kelly Kurtz, Dispatcher
Juan Segura, EMT
Ryan Obmann, EMT
Jorge Hernandez, EMT
Bryan Alatorre, EMT

Happy Birthday

7/1 Leonard Standridge
7/1 Jeffery Corey
7/1 William Miles
7/2 Diana Robles Placencia
7/3 Dylan Elhindi
7/4 Chastidy Frost
7/5 Julianne Solano
7/6 Antonio Michel
7/6 Jose Soberanis
7/6 Justynne Subriar
7/7 Mitchell Derse
7/10 Andrew Solkshnitz
7/11 Ken Robesky
7/14 Deanna Salazar
7/14 Jose Diaz Jimenez
7/16 Arisdelci Carrillo-Ruiz
7/17 Deisy Argueta

7/17 Damian Wimberly
7/19 Julian Picaso
7/19 Sam Swanson
7/20 Mario Parra
7/22 Tabitha Baker
7/24 Mariela Acevedo
7/24 Alana Moulton
7/24 Juan Segura
7/27 Matthew Braman
7/27 Jason Scott
7/28 James Porras
7/29 Al Heninger
7/31 Glenn Dresser
7/31 Rochelle Pate
8/1 Christieana Poncetta
8/2 Joel Abel
8/2 Heloy Lara

8/2 Elias Sloan
8/5 Joshua Carballo
8/5 Carlos Moreno Acuna
8/6 Carrie Barnes
8/6 Michael King
8/6 Sergio Rocha
8/6 Vikramjeet Singh
8/7 Brian Cote
8/7 Steven Munoz
8/10 Vera Chinn
8/10 Manuel Hernandez
8/11 James Metzger
8/13 Kylie Cagle
8/13 Angela Ocejó
8/13 Chad Powers
8/14 Oliverio Juarez, III
8/15 Jason Velasquez-Peralta

8/15 Cliff Kroll
8/16 Leslie Santoyo Hernandez
8/17 Casie Carter
8/18 Vianey Medrano Calderon
8/20 Heather Lee
8/20 Sandra Ramirez
8/21 Shane Courtis
8/22 Erik Johnson
8/22 Raul Soto
8/23 Bertha Flores
8/23 Tarin Tackett
8/24 Allen Goldman
8/24 Rolando Ramos
8/24 Mary Talbot
8/27 Michael Cantu
8/29 Jason Thompson
8/31 Adam Roe



License Plate Winners!

Displaying your Hall Ambulance Care, Compassion & Community license plate frame can make you a winner! If your license plate number is shown, take your registration to the administrative receptionist to claim your prize—up to four winners per issue. Prize claims must be made by August 31, 2023.

THE HallMark

Founder of Hall Ambulance Service
Harvey L. Hall
 (1971-2018)

Chairman of the Board
 Chief Administrative Officer
Lavonne C. Hall

President & CEO
John Surface

Editor
Mark Corum

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The HallMark is published for the staff, friends, and family of Hall Ambulance Service, Inc. Comments, questions, or suggestions should be directed to Mark Corum, director of media services at: corumm@hallamb.com.

Established in 1971, Hall Ambulance Service is the 9-1-1 paramedic provider for 94% of Kern County, California's population. The Company serves the communities of Bakersfield, Arvin, Lamont, Frazier Park, Tehachapi, Rosamond, Mojave, California City, Boron, Taft, Shafter, Wasco, McFarland, and Delano, and surrounding areas.



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Team Big H in Memory of Harvey L. Hall Honored in D.C. at CJD Family Conference



Photo by Astrocasters

Strides for CJD - Bakersfield Co-Captains Mark Corum and Lavonne Hall accept the Top Fundraising Team Award for Team Big H in Memory of Harvey L. Hall.

In mid-July, Strides for CJD-Bakersfield Co-captains Lavonne C. Hall and Mark Corum participated in the Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) Foundation, Inc. Family Conference in Washington, D.C.

The event is attended by family members of those affected by Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease—a rare, fatal brain disorder. It is unique in that ten Ph.D.

medical researchers shared their knowledge and progress with these families in their pursuit to find a treatment or cure for CJD and other prion diseases. During the banquet, Team Big H in Memory of Harvey L. Hall, was honored by CJD President Debbie Yobs for being the Top Fundraising Team in the United States for five years in a row. This couldn't be possible without the support of



Photo by Astrocasters

CJD Foundation Board Members (l-r): Mayra Lichter, Esq., Co-founder and Chairman; Debbie Yobs, President; Brian Appleby, M.D., Medical Director and Director of the National Prion Disease Pathology Surveillance Center; Clarence T. Hunter, Amanda Baxley Kalinsky, RN, BSN; Janine Kock, Lavonne C. Hall, and Stuart Yaffa, Treasurer.

our business and community partners and Hall Ambulance employees who continue to give so generously in memory of Hall Ambulance's founder.

Mrs. Hall was also recognized along with her fellow CJD Board Members for their dedication to serving the organization, which has a four-star rating from Charity Navigator.*

Join Team Big H in Memory of Harvey L. Hall

Strides for CJD - Bakersfield
 Sunday, Oct. 15
 CSUB at the
 Harvey L. Hall Family Plaza



Scan the QR Code to Register

Early-Bird: Adults \$30
 12 and Under \$20

*Must be present to win. Non-transferable.



Door-Prizes* Including:

Disneyland for Two Get-a-way

2-Day Park Hopper Pass

2 Night Stay at a

Disneyland Resort Hotel

\$250 AMEX Gift Card