

The following is news and information from Mayo Medical Transport for release to all Team Members today, October 4, 2006. Please print and post where necessary

Gary Wingrove Receives National Recognition

Gary Wingrove received two national awards last week for his work to raise awareness of emergency medical services on the legislative front and his support of rural health initiatives. Gary, who supports Gold Cross/Mayo Medical Transport's Government Relations & Strategic Affairs activities, was commissioned as an Honorary Flight Paramedic by the International Association of Flight Paramedics (IAFP) and later in the week received the 2006 National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH) Recognition Award.

Gary received the designation from the IAFP for his work to assist them in establishing their Government and Legislative Affairs Committee. This was the first time in the IAFP's twenty-year history that they have presented this award. The Honorary Flight Paramedic designation recognizes an individual that "has demonstrated exceptional goodwill and personal commitment to help develop and shape the future of the IAFP," according to an announcement from the Association.

"Gary helped cultivate and direct our efforts to become a more effective association that represents critical care transport throughout the U.S.," says Jim Riley, IAFP board member. "Gary has provided the IAFP with valuable contacts within the EMS community and offered guidance to the Board of Directors and the Government and Legislative Affairs Committee," Riley added. The IAFP board presented the award to Gary at their general membership meeting during the Air Medical Transport Conference in Phoenix, Arizona.

The National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH) also honored Gary, with their 2006 Recognition Award during the NOSORH conference in Portland, Maine. According to the NOSORH, the intent of the award is to recognize individuals who have been helpful and supportive of the State Offices of Rural Health movement. "No individual outside of the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health has done more to promote the goals of the NOSORH in the past two years than Gary," says Chris Tilden, Director, Kansas Office of Local and Rural Health and NOSORH member. "He is a tireless advocate for EMS and rural health. He has helped advance the state office of rural health movement and helped bring rural health and EMS closer together than ever before. "

Tilden cited several examples in a nomination sent on Gary's behalf that demonstrate his commitment to rural health initiatives, including: organizing and hosting the second annual International Roundtable on Community Paramedicine; leading a team of Rural EMS & Trauma Technical Assistance Center (REMSTTAC) stakeholders in the development of a financial "toolkit" for rural EMS service directors; chairing the National Rural Health Association EMS interest group; developing a series of Technical Assistance and Services Center (TASC) publications summarizing FLEX-funded EMS initiatives, as well as serving on the TASC Advisory Committee; participating on the editorial team that developed the *Rural and Frontier EMS Agenda for the Future*; working with NRHA staff to hold a briefing on Capital Hill to educate members of Congress and their staff on rural health issues; and spearheading a multi-state EMS data collection pilot project involving collaboration among six state rural health offices and state EMS offices.

Gold Cross/Mayo Medical Transport Chief Operating Officer Paul Anderson referred to the awards as "examples of Gold Cross/MMT's commitment to taking care of people." He added, "we

have Team Members within our organization who make significant contributions to emergency medical services and are leaders on a national level in addition to serving patients within our communities. Our Team is helping shape the future of EMS and serving the interests of patients and the public everywhere. These awards reflect Gary's commitment, and that of our entire Team, to ensuring that the needs of our patients come first."

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