

"TURNING THOSE IN CRISIS TOWARD CHRIST"

Emergency Chaplains

APRIL 2021



WHAT'S HAPPENING Ralph Thompson-Executive Director



The **EChap Certification Project** has gotten off to a little slower start than I anticipated. The pandemic completely terminated our in-person recruiting efforts, but we are starting to visit churches and associations again in April. Nevertheless, inquiries into training, membership, and certification have started to increase over the past couple of months as the word is getting out about us.

Last year, seven of our chaplains completed their certification. So far in 2021, eight chaplains have been certified, with more to come!

With one retirement and another chaplain moving out of state for a new ministry opportunity, we need a couple of new folks to serve **Cary Fire Department**. Candidates for service must be ordained or willing to work toward Chaplain Certification through EChap. Interested? Let me know!

Peace Officers Memorial Day is May 15th. In 2020, the memorial service for those who died in the line of duty over the past year was cancelled due to COVID. The event for 2021 has been postponed until October.

Line of duty deaths were up considerably in 2020. Over the past 10 years we have added 150-180 names annually to the wall. There will be 359 names added for 2020. COVID was responsible for 231 of those line of duty deaths.

Will you take a minute right now and go to the Officer Down Memorial Page? ODMP.org

I want to challenge you to read some of the stories and pray for the families as they grieve and adjust to the loss of their loved ones. You can sign up on the ODMP page to receive alerts when an officer is added. A good family project would be to pray together when you receive an alert and also send condolences to the department and to the family through the website.

Last year the **Durham Crisis Response Team** answered over 400 calls for service and we are on track to respond to even more calls in 2021. We especially need help Monday-Friday on day shift, but we could also use more chaplains to cover nights and weekends. Do you know anyone interested in serving? What about you? Call me today at (919) 280-8908.

Mark your calendars now for these special EChap events coming up later this year:

July 10: **Motorcycle Ride**

August 8: **Annual Banquet**

November 6: **5K-10K Run**

Thank you for your faithful and generous support of Emergency Chaplains as we carry the comfort of Christ to those in crisis!

Chaplain Ralph

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NATIONAL EMS WEEK—MAY 16-22, 2021

If you have ever been transported to the hospital by EMS, you probably have a great appreciation for them. They stand ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Emergency Medical Services system has grown and evolved over the past four decades. Long gone are the days of the funeral home converting an old hearse into an ambulance. Today, EMS brings a virtual emergency room to your doorstep...instead of a hearse. (Just thinking about that simple fact should make you feel better.)

EMS personnel engage in countless hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills and bring quality emergency care to the scene. Because of this, we have access to quality emergency care that dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate for those who have experienced sudden illness or injury.

"Today, the COVID-19 pandemic is testing EMS professionals like never before. EMTs, paramedics and other frontline workers are rising to the challenge and each has a crucial role in responding to the public health crisis of our lifetime," said ACEP President Mark Rosenberg, in a statement. "National EMS Week is a time to recognize and honor EMS professionals for their tireless dedication to their communities—not just during this pandemic but every day."

Today would be a good day to thank a medic...or better yet...give them a big hug!



*Photo credit: Old Dallas Ambulances and Funeral Homes
(line.17qq.com)*

CHAPLAIN FIELD REPORTS

So far this year our chaplains have responded to seven calls for service to assist families in the aftermath of suicides. Our chaplains bring the comfort of Christ to the most tragic circumstances families and responders will face.

A young lady was found dead from an obvious overdose. One chaplain responded and provided care for friends on scene and helped communicate information to family members traveling from out-of-state.

Three chaplains responded to the scene of a structure fire where multiple subjects were trapped. Four patients were transported to local hospitals, while two others were pronounced dead on scene. Chaplains provided care for several hours to family and friends that came to the scene.

One chaplain responded to the scene where a 26-year-old female died. The chaplain provided care for the family and friends of the deceased until their pastor arrived.

Call received around 2:00 am for a chaplain to respond to a cardiac arrest call with CPR in progress. Resuscitation efforts were discontinued and the 55-year-old male was pronounced dead on scene. The family did not have a pastor or local church. The chaplain provided care on scene for almost three hours.

While our Crisis Response chaplains respond to calls for service in the field, our Grief Team works diligently to ensure that families have continued support and comfort in the weeks following these tragic events. Team members follow up with families and offer additional resources to help them through the grieving process.

A child in cardiac arrest was transported by EMS to the hospital. Two chaplains responded to a local emergency room to assist family members who had gathered there. The chaplains also followed up with the first responders who had worked tirelessly to resuscitate the child.