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Press Release

Arkansas City's National Paramedic of Year to be honored

Rice has spent 10 years demonstrating excellence as firefighter-paramedic

ARKANSAS CITY, Kan. (November 2, 2015) — A local paramedic will be honored Tuesday and Wednesday for a prestigious national award that she received earlier this year.

Brandy Rice, a firefighter-paramedic with the Arkansas City Fire-EMS Department (ACFD), this summer was named the 2015 Paramedic of the Year by the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT) and EMS World, sponsored by Nasco.

Rice will be given a plaque and recognized by the City Commission of Arkansas City during its regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday in the commission room at City Hall, 118 W. Central Ave.

A reception in her honor will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday in the same room. Cake, snacks and punch will be served. The public is invited to come meet Rice and congratulate her on the award.

The NAEMT/Nasco Paramedic of the Year award recognizes a paramedic who demonstrates excellence in the performance of emergency medical services (EMS).

The honor is part of NAEMT's and EMS World's 2015 National EMS Awards of Excellence, which recognize the recipients for their outstanding achievements and contributions in emergency health care.

The awards were presented formally at NAEMT's general membership meeting and awards presentation on Sept. 16 in Las Vegas, Nev., and on Sept. 17 at EMS World Expo's opening ceremony.

Brandy Rice has worked for 10 years as a full-time firefighter-paramedic for ACFD and part-time as an emergency room technician for South Central Kansas Medical Center.

She teaches several EMS and community CPR classes, has implemented a Vial of Life program, and is involved in many other organizations that benefit the safety and health of community members.

For immediate release

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Rice also planned and coordinated the activities for National EMS Week in May with local businesses.

She was nominated by ACFD EMS Director Jeri Smith, who said, "Brandy is a true 'caretaker' of the people of Arkansas City — she goes above and beyond the call of duty."

"She often stays after an EMS call to help people with special needs," Smith added.

"When a wheelchair-bound woman returned home after an emergency hospital run with Brandy, she found her dishes clean, her grass mowed, new cordless phones installed, and a longer string attached to the ceiling fan she had been unable to reach before."

Rice is a role model for ensuring that the needs of patients and their families are met, and has earned the respect of her colleagues.

About Paramedic of the Year

Nominees for the Paramedic of the Year award are scored on how they provide superior patient care; are an effective advocate for patients and their families; work with peers to foster a positive work environment; demonstrate professionalism in interacting with patients, their families and other medical professionals; and demonstrate a commitment to continuing professional education.

About NAEMT

Formed in 1975 and more than 50,000 members strong, the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians is the only national association representing the professional interests of all emergency and mobile health care practitioners, including emergency medical technicians, advanced emergency medical technicians, emergency medical responders, paramedics, advanced practice paramedics, critical care paramedics, flight paramedics, community paramedics and mobile integrated health care practitioners.

NAEMT members work in all sectors of EMS, including government agencies, fire-EMS departments, hospital-based ambulance services, private companies, industrial and special operations settings, and in military.

For more information about NAEMT, call Kathleen Taormina at (800) 346-2368 or email kathleen.taormina@naemt.org.

About EMS World

As the industry's first prehospital publication, EMS World has the reputation and body of work that EMS providers have trusted for more than 42 years.

With the highest circulation in the industry, the publication's primary audience consists of EMS chiefs, administrators and paramedics.

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