

Letters to the editor

To Texas EMS Magazine:

Just a little over five years ago in Austin traffic, another car rear ended me at stop light...breaking my back and taking away my freedom. I am not handicapped but my life is full of physical pain every day and will be for the rest of my life. On February 11, 2011, on my way home from work...my worst nightmare came true. A car attempted to make a left-hand turn in front of me at which time I had the green light. I could not avoid the impact. Austin-Travis County EMS responded. Janica Elkins, EMT-P, and Mark Bowman, EMT-P, listened as I explained my injuries past and present. Putting me on a back board and using a neck collar, they were ever so gentle. As they slowly began to remove me from my car I began to cry from the pain. My back began to spasm like never before. Again they listened. In the middle of the street they stopped and checked for further injuries. My left leg was propped up at the knee with all the pillows and all the blankets the ambulance had. Their goal was to provide comfort. My tears stopped as quickly as they had begun.

They asked question after question and listened to my answers carefully. Checking my body for every injury, they loaded me on the ambulance. They worked as a team to determine my injuries, and to comfort me emotionally. They were professional, caring, not overlooking anything and at the same time making me comfortable as we took the ride to the hospital. Being a paramedic is hard work. It never stops. Calls happen 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. That day they picked me up, you would think I was their first call of the day...never complaining...but working together for my well-being. For that I want to say thank you.

Jan Parker
Substance Abuse Program
DSHS



EMS
Everyday Heroes

EMS Week
May 15-21, 2011

Visit www.acep.org/emssweek/
to download the
2011 EMS Week Planner

TEXAS EMS CERTIFICATIONS AS OF FEBRUARY 9, 2011	
ECA	3,110
EMT	31,313
EMT-I	3,786
EMT-P	14,664
LP	5,984
TOTAL	58,857
BASIC COORDINATOR	129
ADVANCED COORDINATOR	230
INSTRUCTOR	2,043

EMS Obituaries

Louis "Weldon"

Fittz, of Deweyville, died February 12 after a lengthy battle with cancer. He was 69. A paramedic, Fittz served Orange County, was coordinator and instructor for Peoples Ambulance and taught at Lamar State College-Orange.



Jodie Harbert, Jr

Jodie Harbert, Jr, 85, of Ennis, died February 10. Harbert Jr. was the father of Jodie Harbert III, who serves on GETAC. Harbert Jr. remained an active firefighter for more than 60 years, serving with the Ennis Fire Department and other fire departments in that area.

Robert Dale Jones, 27, of Ravenna, passed away from cancer January 6 at a Dallas hospital. He was a firefighter/paramedic with the Denison Fire Department.

Clinton Don "CD" Little, of Hendrix, Oklahoma, died December 31 in a car crash. He was 49. A paramedic, Little was a lieutenant with the Denison Fire Department.