

Letters to the editor

To Texas EMS magazine:

Prom day. One of the most memorable days of a senior's high school career. While most teenagers were getting their sleep, the first EMT class of Duncanville High School—Jessica Hernandez, Eileen Hinojosa, Tavion Johnson, Pedro Martinez, Ana Muniz, Monica Plata and Cynthia Reyes—were in the dew-covered field behind Duncanville Fire station #2 waving in one of CareFlite's "Porsche" helicopters.

The morning of April 10 wasn't Prom Day for the students of Ms. DeWeerd's EMT class. It was "Extrication Day." Along with meeting a CareFlite pilot, flight medic and flight nurse, the students worked with some of Duncanville's firefighters to get a feeling of how an extrication would take place in a real life situation.

Two donated cars, backboards, head blocks, bunker gear and the jaws of life. It was like Christmas morning all over again. Some students were allowed to gear up and actually sit in the car as the "patient," while the rest of the students and firefighters simulated the extrication. With the help of the firefighters, the students were allowed to use the tools and equipment necessary to successfully extricate a patient from a vehicle. After beating up the cars, we realized EMS does everything possible to save a patient, even if the car has to become a convertible in the process.

Ana Muniz
Senior, Duncanville High School

To Texas EMS Magazine:

James "Alan" Baker passed away May 19, 2010, at the age of 52. His public service career began in the U.S. Army as a special operations medic. Following his patriotic introduction to health care, he completed the first paramedic program at Victoria College and entered civilian life as a paramedic for Victoria EMS in 1987. He started teaching part-time for Victoria College in 1990 and then accepted a full-time faculty position in 1994. In mid 2005, Alan became a flight paramedic with PHI's Air Medical 3 at Citizen's Medical Center and then transferred to PHI's Grants, New Mexico, base in 2006. While there, he was once again called to education with his final position being that of PHI's medical educator for the state of New Mexico. Alan graciously touched thousands of people's lives across the great state of Texas and beyond; patients, students, colleagues and loved ones are now left with both fond memories and a profound sense of loss. Alan is remembered for his inspired teaching, motivation, humor, cartoon ties, tinkering with technology and love for his family. To continue his legacy, the J. Alan Baker Memorial Scholarship fund has been established for paramedic students at Victoria College. To donate, please call the Victoria College Foundation at (361) 582-2419.



Alan Baker

Carl Voskamp
EMS Program Coordinator
The Victoria College

Scotty Bolleter, BS, EMT-P
Director of Education
San Antonio AirLife

EMS Obituaries

James Alan Baker, 52, of San Fidel, New Mexico, died May 19, 2010. Baker began his EMS career as a paramedic in Victoria, moved on to teach at Victoria College as a paramedic instructor from 1993 until 2005 and was most recently a medical educator for PHI Air Medical in New Mexico.

Jack Colley, 62, of Austin, died May 16, 2010, following a heart attack. After retiring as a colonel in the U.S. Army in 1997, Colley joined the Texas Department of Public Safety. He had been Chief of the Division of Emergency Management since 2002.

Jeff Esau, 49, of McGregor, died June 1, 2010, following a battle with Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. Esau was a registered nurse and EMT-B, and he was a 10-year member of McGregor Volunteer EMS. He served two years each as vice president and president of the service.

Phyllis Kay Jones, 65, of Palo Pinto, died June 15, 2010. Jones served as an EMT with the Camp Volunteer Fire Department.

John McGregor, 44, of Lindale, died May 18, 2010, in a vehicle collision. McGregor was a licensed paramedic and registered nurse with East Texas Medical Center-EMS's Air-1 program.

GETAC
August 18-20
Marriott Austin
South

**Watch the website and
listservs for committee
schedules**