

Letter to the editor

To Texas EMS Magazine:

It is with deep sadness that I share with you the passing of Kelly Wolfe on January 16, 2013, succumbing to the complications of a traumatic brain injury following a motorcycle crash. Kelly began his career in EMS as a volunteer for the Midlothian Fire Department. After attending paramedic school, he became a full-time firefighter/paramedic for the North Richland Hills Fire Dept. Kelly soon realized that his passion for his EMS work would take him to great heights—the sky! He joined CareFlite as a flight paramedic in 1995 and received the prestigious National Flight Paramedic of the Year Award (Tim Hynes Award) from the NFPA (IAFCCP) in 1997. This award recognizes exemplary abilities in leadership, education and safety within the paramedic profession.

Kelly loved to teach and mentor,

his goal was always about helping students and co-workers be better in their profession and as people. It brought him great joy to see young people entering the field of EMS have those “ah-ha” moments; to see those experienced providers advance themselves in the field of air medical transport. Kelly had a vision. He knew one day he would pass the torch, so he worked to build an education and mentoring process that would be sustainable.

Kelly was also a great friend. Many in the EMS community have been touched by him. His leadership, teaching and mentorship will be greatly missed. For this, I treasured the moments I was able to be taught, mentored and lead, but to a much greater degree it will be his friendship I will miss most.

In death as in life he continues to give and make people better.

In accordance with his wishes, his organs were donated to save the lives of others.

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CEN, CCRN
Director, Clinical Quality & Education
CareFlite

TEXAS EMS CERTIFICATIONS AS OF FEBRUARY 8, 2013	
ECA	2,880
EMT	32,427
EMT-I	3,827
EMT-P	16,327
LP	6,267
TOTAL	61,737
BASIC COORDINATOR	114
ADVANCED COORDINATOR	228
INSTRUCTOR	2,255

EMS Obituaries

John Frank Accomando, 42, of League City, died December 23, 2012. Accomando, a licensed paramedic, began his commitment to public service by joining the League City Volunteer Fire Department at age 16. He worked for a variety of services, including League City, Montgomery County Hospital District, as clinical director of EMS, and Memorial Hermann Life Flight at Houston Medical Center.

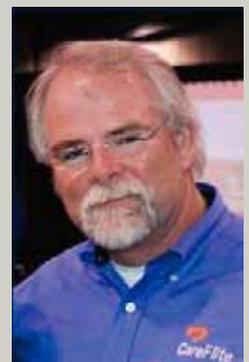
Carmen Lucia Higuera-Jimenez, 64, of San Antonio,

died December 31, 2012, after battling cancer. Jimenez worked in public education and prevention for the South Texas Poison Center at the University of Texas-San Antonio Medical Center.

Michael Nappo, 54, of Georgetown, died December 30, 2012, after suffering an aneurism. Nappo began his EMS career as a volunteer in New York in 1975. He came to Texas in 1997 and had volunteered with the Georgetown Medical Assist Team since then.

Kelly David Wolfe, 52, of Grand Prairie, died January 16, 2013, from injuries sustained in a motorcycle crash. Beginning as a

volunteer for Midlothian Fire Department, Wolfe became a firefighter/paramedic for North Richland Hills Fire Department,



Kelly David Wolfe

and then transitioned to CareFlite, where he was a flight paramedic for 17 years and then Director of Clinical Quality and Education. Wolfe won the National Flight Paramedic of the Year from the NFPA in 1997.