



# Friday Night [under the] Lights

## 2013

*Happy Friday.*

I hope all is well with everyone...

First, thanks for all your emails about last week's FNuL – I have to tell you – I was pleasantly surprised by the number of comments regarding our “Journey” and how valuable it is to have the ability to share not only best practices but (as was pointed out by many of you) the ability to get consultative help with significant *challenges* from those who've been there, done that and developed a solid solution.

We're fortunate that we have such a huge organization and multiple layers of talent to help us sort through the challenges of consistently delivering care that's appropriate for our patients.

Think of it as the World's Largest EMS Hallway Consult.

It's good for our collective growth, our patients and the EMS profession as a whole when we seek out best practices for the challenging situations we all face every day...

### **The Birth of Emergency Medicine...**

Thanks to Dr. Jack Wood (actually to his daughter, who is also an Emergency Physician) for the link to a new documentary called 24/7/365 – a short film that chronicles the birth and infancy of the profession of Emergency Medicine.

Take a look at the trailer:

<http://www.247365doc.com/trailers.html>

Not only does it capture the “unique” culture of Emergency Medicine, it's a nice series of interviews with the early giants of Emergency Medicine, including the Founder of EmCare, Dr. Leonard Riggs.

Well worth watching...

## Like Father, Like Son – Making Boulder a better place...

This is an amazing story.

Meet Max Dorfman.



He is a senior in high school and the son of Dr. Todd Dorfman, our Boulder Medical Director.

The Boulder community was recently awarded an AMR Heart Rescue Community grant (another beneficiary of the tremendous generosity of the Medtronic Foundation who spends a boatload of money every year in an effort to improve survival from sudden cardiac death). The purpose of the grant is to help further develop efforts in Boulder to improve survival SCD. What makes this particularly powerful is that the Boulder Community Hospital Foundation is matching the funds.

*Why would they do that you ask?*

Because of the 18 year old young man who did a better job of describing the impact of rapid defibrillation on survival than I could. Max Dorfman.

I had the privilege of spending a few minutes on the phone with Max today. I asked him why he did what he did and he told me the story about a young man that his father had saved several years ago after suffering an out-of-hospital arrest.

His dad used an AED to defibrillate the patient. After that, Max learned not only about how important rapid defibrillation was but he also described the paucity of AEDs available in Boulder (because, as he says, he now looks for AEDs when he's out in public). He was driven to try and make an impact on survival by increasing access to rapid defibrillation in Boulder. He visited managers of businesses and met with various community leaders. He made it a personal mission.

And then he visited the leadership of the Boulder Community Hospital Foundation. Thanks to his persistence and his drive to improve survival, the Foundation funded the purchase and maintenance of AEDs throughout the Boulder Community.

Did I mention Max is in High School?

*Impressive isn't even the right word.* What a tremendous example of how one person can impact so many lives.

*Did I mention Max is in High School?*

The Boulder community is a safer place because of Max Dorfman.

And Todd – It's pretty clear the apple didn't fall far from the tree...

Strong work (both of you).

## **AMR Family recognition – The California EMS Awards**

Speaking of strong work - Thanks to Tawnya Silloway (who always seems to know about recognitions and awards wherever they occur - spooky)...

The State of California just announced the 2013 EMS awards. A Luncheon will be held Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>. [http://www.emsa.ca.gov/2013\\_EMS\\_Award\\_Recipients](http://www.emsa.ca.gov/2013_EMS_Award_Recipients).

Hats off to a huge number of our colleagues for their recognition:

EMS EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR: (one recipient)

Les Hugie (Buellton, CA) AMR Santa Barbara, Clinical Manager

*For exceptional educational leadership and tireless advocacy for professional EMS training in the southern California region and statewide.*

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD: (four recipients)

Dave Austin (Irwindale, CA) AMR West, Director of Administration

*For superior statewide EMS service for more than 37 years addressing local and state EMS public policy and fostering a patient-centered approach.*

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD: (five recipients)

Ennis Jackson (Carlsbad, CA), AMR-San Diego, Paramedic

*For exceptional efforts and dedication to educate teenagers about the hazards of drug and alcohol abuse for over twenty years in southern California.*

CLINICAL EXCELLENCE AWARD:

Doug Butler (Santa Rosa, CA), AMR Sonoma Life Support, Paramedic

*Excellent patient care for an individual suffering cardiac arrest on February 6, 2013.*

Romeo Pardilla (Stockton, CA), AMR Sonoma Life Support, EMT

*Excellent patient care for an individual suffering cardiac arrest on February 6, 2013.*

Michael Hunt (Rohnert Park, CA), AMR Sonoma, Paramedic

*Excellent and compassionate care while transporting individuals under extreme circumstances on July 6, 2013.*

Marcos Barros (Santa Rosa, CA), AMR Sonoma, Paramedic

*Excellent and compassionate care while transporting individuals under extreme circumstances on July 6, 2013.*

Jacob Sheffer (Santa Rosa, CA), AMR Sonoma, EMT

*Excellent and compassionate care while transporting individuals under extreme circumstances on July 6, 2013.*

Brian Trotter (Vacaville, CA), AMR Sonoma, Paramedic

*Excellent and compassionate care while transporting individuals under extreme circumstances on July 6, 2013.*

I'm really proud of our colleagues. Frankly, knowing several of them personally, I'm not surprised at all. EMS is their life. They give themselves to their profession and love every minute of it (with some minor exceptions...).

As David Frost once said, "Don't aim for success if you want it; just do what you love and believe in, and it will come naturally."

## What happens in Vegas... happens in a new building.

AMR Vegas moved into their new headquarters this week. Check it out:



## Life's little oddities...

O, remember this image I shared with you last week?



Just so happens that my wife Cheryl (her initials are CPR) asked if this was the house I intended to offer her if we ever divorced.

While I am extremely tempted to continue this increasingly humorous thread, it's best for me just to play it safe – Honey, *that would never, ever happen*. Never in a million years. Nope. No chance...

'cause the kids wouldn't have a place to stay when it was your turn to keep them.

## Goodbye to a good friend and watchdog of EMS ...



The World EMS family lost a great human being a couple of Sundays ago. Mike Smith, a skilled educator, master communicator and passionate EMS advocate died at the age of 61. Mike was an internationally known speaker and the voice of out of hospital medicine at Tacoma Community College.

I like him a lot. EMS will feel his void for a long time. God Speed, buddy.

### Epilogue...

A guy is walking past a big wooden fence at the insane asylum and he hears all the residents inside chanting, "Thirteen! Thirteen! Thirteen! Quite curious about this, he finds a hole in the fence, and looks in.

Someone inside pokes him in the eye.

Then everyone inside the asylum starts chanting, "Fourteen! Fourteen! Fourteen!

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That's it from my world. *Happy Friday.* Thanks for what you do and how you do it...

*Ed*

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**Edward M. Racht, MD**  
Chief Medical Officer  
AMR / Evolution Health  
[ed.racht@emsc.net](mailto:ed.racht@emsc.net)