Friday Night [without] Lights
2014

Happy Black Friday. *Get it? See the graphics? (Work with me please)…*

You should really get back to your regularly scheduled Thanksgiving Holiday weekend…

But if I may, I'd like to take just a moment to tell you how grateful I am that you allow me to briefly drop into your lives on these Fridays.

I'm not trying to be politically correct, or artificially ingratiating or insincere when I tell you that I've never experienced an organization like this in my entire professional career. It's an extraordinarily unique environment and a powerful clinical practice. It's a really great "family"…

The work we do isn't easy, it isn't always fun, it's sometimes frankly almost impossible, but you collectively do it with purpose, with focus and always with our patient's needs driving what you do.

EMS and emergency care are demanding professions. We're "on" 24/7, rain, sleet, snow – our share of interesting challenges - violence, risks and sometimes just plain devastating sadness. We're on even when our patients aren't really sick. We're on on their worst day ever, and sometimes ours.

I say it often, and I mean it. *It is a real privilege to take care of people when they need us most.*

So, on this day after Thanksgiving 2014, I want to thank you personally for a few specific things:

- Thanks for being a part of raising the bar on clinical care – *and for letting the science drive us*. That's the best Kool-Aid we could ever share…
- Thanks for representing AMR and the entire Envision Healthcare family so beautifully - *even when no one is looking.* Pride is a powerful motivator that creates the energy that fuels the excellence that our community's expect from us. It also makes our work a lot more fun and meaningful.
- Thanks for taking care of each other – *Especially during those not-so-fun, tough times.*
- Thanks for giving back to the profession by asking the really hard questions (you know who you are) and remembering we're all responsible for teaching each other. It's way too easy to hold back on the stuff that's hard to talk about. I'm grateful that so many of you are willing to talk about the tough stuff
- Thanks for channeling so much effort into all the seemingly little things that are so important in our work and personal lives. It's easy to say "that doesn't matter". It's powerful to show others just how much it does.
- And, probably most important, I'd be remiss if I didn't remind you of the hundreds of thousands of patients that would want to share their own thanks personally with us – many of whom are enjoying today with their families because of something you did… While "just another day" for you, it gave them and their families a gift very few can give.

I'm personally thankful to be your colleague.

Best to all of you, your family, friends and anyone that's special to you…

Ed