



## 2014 Three Stars of Tennessee Award Recipients

### **Harold Cooley, Trousdale County Sheriff's Office**

Sgt. Harold Cooley and a fellow officer responded to a domestic dispute on December 5, 2011. Upon arrival, it was observed that the male suspect was armed. The suspect refused to drop his weapon after repeated verbal commands by Sgt. Cooley to do so. The suspect then raised his weapon, causing Sgt. Cooley to take immediate action and fire his weapon. The suspect had simultaneously also fired on the officers and struck Sgt. Cooley in the face. Due to the incident, Sgt. Cooley would eventually lose his eye. While he has been reduced to shorter hours at the sheriff's office, Sgt. Cooley keeps a positive attitude and is an inspiration to all of the officers.

### **Ron L. Ray, Shelby County Sheriff's Office**

Sgt. Ron Ray died in the line of duty after suffering a heart attack on December 14, 2013. Sgt. Ray was working extra duty on a sobriety checkpoint in below freezing temperatures on the night of December 14. He was the vehicle counter and often spoke to the vehicle drivers to explain the reason for the checkpoint. At approximately 11:30 p.m., he suddenly fell backward onto the street. Several emergency services officers began working on him, specifically the Shelby County Emergency Medical Services, who are trained in life-saving methods. The members of the EMS unit resuscitated Sgt. Ray for a short period of time, allowing him to say goodbye to his wife and children before he slipped back into a coma. The 37-year veteran passed away on December 17. He was 62 years old.

### **Michael Alexander Petrina, Metro Nashville Police Department**

Michael Petrina served as an officer with the Metro Nashville Police Department for eight months. He was killed in the line of duty on May 10, 2014, when he was struck by a vehicle on Interstate 65 North in Brentwood, Tenn. Officer Petrina was assisting a Tennessee Department of Transportation HELP truck operator at the time of the incident. He won the Christy Dedman Award upon graduating from the Metro Nashville Police Department Academy. Officer Petrina was assigned to the police department's South Precinct. He was 25 years old.

### **Richard Keith Bellar, Dickson County Sheriff's Office**

On June 6, 2011, Deputy Sheriff Keith Bellar witnessed a two-vehicle crash in the city of Dickson and advised dispatch of the incident. Unbeknownst to him, the accident was an aggravated domestic violence assault in progress - a husband had rammed his wife's car off of the roadway. The husband exited his vehicle and immediately began firing shots into the windshield of Deputy Bellar's patrol car. Deputy Bellar was able to return fire, but was fatally injured in the process. Deputy Bellar died the following day on June 7, 2011. He was 27 years old and five days short of his 28th birthday.

### **Robert "Bob" Nowicki, Tennessee Department of Transportation**

Bob was a member of the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) HELP program, trained to offer aid and protect motorists stranded or in need on the interstate system. On June 20, 2011, he was responding to a disabled vehicle on the Interstate 55 bridge in Memphis, when a tractor trailer struck the rear of the disabled vehicle. The impact caused the disabled truck to hit Bob's unit, fatally injuring him. Prior to joining TDOT, Bob was a member of the New York Police Department.

### **Michael Slagle, Tennessee Highway Patrol**

Trooper Michael Slagle died while on duty after a vehicle crash in Knox County. Trooper Slagle's patrol unit slid off the roadway after striking a patch of ice. Despite being stuck in his vehicle, he was able to notify dispatchers of the crash and rescue crews were sent to the scene. A responding fire truck slid on the same patch of ice and flipped over on top of his patrol car while he was still inside. At some point during the incident, Trooper Slagle suffered a fatal heart attack. He had served with the Tennessee Highway Patrol for 28 years and was assigned to the state Supreme Court detail. Prior to joining the THP, he worked with the Grainger County Sheriff's Office.

### **Jerry Campbell, Tennessee Department of Agriculture - Division of Forestry**

Jerry Campbell worked as a firefighter for the Department of Agriculture's Division of Forestry, when he fell ill from an apparent heart attack on March 1, 2014. He was preparing to deploy to a wildfire incident in the Cherokee National Forest when the incident occurred. He passed away while being prepared for air transport to the hospital.

### **Eddie Maurice Hamer, Hardeman County Sheriff's Office**

Eddie Hamer was an animal control officer with the Hardeman County Sheriff's Office. He was in the performance of his duties in a county vehicle at the time of his death on January 27, 2014. Officer Hamer was responding to an animal complaint call in Saulsbury when his vehicle left the roadway and overturned. He succumbed to his injuries on the scene. Officer Hamer had also served as a reserve officer with the Whiteville Police Department for nine years.

### **David “Bubba” Johnson, Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office**

Deputy David Johnson was a 32-year public servant, serving the last 16 years with the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office. He was a consistent top producer in traffic safety and impaired driving activity and was recognized by the Governor’s Highway Safety Office and Mothers Against Drunk Driving for his efforts to reduce the number of crash causing violations to include impaired driving. Deputy Johnson also served on the sheriff’s office Emergency Services Unit, holding positions of Tactical Operator and Tactical Medic. Additionally, he underwent extensive training in hazardous materials and terrorism, specifically, conducting operations in deadly chemical environments. While performing his job duties, Deputy Johnson suffered fatal injuries in a single vehicle crash on January 12, 2014.

### **Charles D. Smith, Hospital Wing, Memphis Police Department (retired)**

Retired Memphis Police Lieutenant Charles Smith and Hospital Wing pilot was on board a medical helicopter that crashed enroute to pick up an ailing child in Boliver, Tenn., on October 22, 2013. Pilot Smith, Pedi-Flite nurse Carrie Barlow and Pedi-Flite Respiratory Therapist Denise Adams died in the crash. Pedi-Flight missions require the pilot to fly to Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital to pick up the pediatric medical crew, prior to proceeding to the final destination of medical calls involving children. On October 22, the flight crew never reached the destination. The cause of the tragedy has not been determined and the investigation continues. Retired Lt. Smith served as a Memphis Police Department pilot for over 15 years.

### **Denise Adams, Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital**

Denise Adams served as a respiratory therapist on Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital’s Pedi-Flight team when she died in the line of duty on October 22, 2013. She, along with Hospital Pilot Charles Smith and Pedi-Flite nurse Carrie Barlow, were killed when the medical air lift helicopter crashed near Somerville, Tenn. The crew was enroute to pick up an ailing child at a Bolivar hospital. Adams joined the Pedi-flite team in July 2005. She was 43 years old.

### **Carrie Barlow, Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital**

Carrie Barlow began her career at Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital in January 2012. Prior to joining the Pedi-Flite team, she worked as a nurse in west Tennessee for 13 years, including roles as a neonatal intensive care nurse for Lauderdale Community Hospital and Jackson-Madison County General. On October 22, 2013, Barlow was on board the Hospital Wing helicopter that crashed en route to Bolivar to transport an ailing child to Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital. She, along with Hospital Pilot Charles Smith and respiratory therapist Denise Adams, were killed in the line of duty. She was 43 years old.

## **2014 First Responders Award Recipients**

### **Homeland Security District 1**

Michael K. Hensley, Sheriff, Unicoi County Sheriff’s Office  
Patty Hicks, Dispatcher, Bristol Police Department

### **Homeland Security District 2**

David Breeding, Director, Claiborne County Emergency Management Agency  
Richard “Derrick” White, Officer, Knoxville Police Department

### **Homeland Security District 3**

Danny Hague, Assistant Chief, Chattanooga Fire Department  
Greg Helms, Hamilton County Emergency Management Agency

### **Homeland Security District 4**

Traci Masiongale, Dispatcher/Public Relations Officer, Overton/Pickett Counties Emergency Communications District  
Randy Porter, Putnam County Emergency Medical Services

### **Homeland Security District 5**

Kenneth Caruthers, Captain, Nashville Fire Department  
Metro Nashville Police Department Bomb Squad

### **Homeland Security District 6**

Tammy Anderson, Plans/Operations Officer, Bedford County Emergency Management Agency  
George DeShields, Chief, Manchester Fire Department

### **Homeland Security District 7**

Edward Baggett, Firefighter, Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Service  
David Hardin, Houston County Emergency Management Agency

**Homeland Security District 8**

Sammy McConnel, Lieutenant, Lawrenceburg Police Department  
Blake Grooms, Detective, Lawrenceburg Police Department

**Homeland Security District 9**

Zach Marbrey, Medical First Responder, Gibson County Fire Department

**Homeland Security District 10**

Lynn Murphy, Chief, Henderson County Fire Department  
Sammy Britt, Captain, Jackson Police Department

**Homeland Security District 11**

Julie Nations, Grants Manager, Memphis Police Department  
Steve Shular, Public Affairs Officer, Shelby County Government

**Office of Homeland Security, Citizen Corps**

Eugene Jones, Community Emergency Response Team, Shelby County Office of Preparedness  
Willie Hollinger, Community Emergency Response Team, Shelby County Office of Preparedness  
Darrell Griffin, Sergeant, Knoxville Police Department

**Tennessee Bureau of Investigation**

Josh Savley, Special Agent, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation

**Tennessee Highway Patrol**

Bradley Robbins, Trooper, Tennessee Highway Patrol  
Erik Raines, Trooper, Tennessee Highway Patrol  
Jeff Coffey, Trooper, Tennessee Highway Patrol

**Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, West Region**

Mark Holloman, Retired, Tennessee Emergency Management Agency