

EMS CARE 97 to be Dedicated to Rich Adams

EMS CARE 97, Maryland's annual EMS conference, will be dedicated to the memory of Rich Adams, a member of the Statewide Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council who passed away in October of 1996. The ceremony will be held on Saturday, April 26, 1997 at the EMS CARE luncheon at the Greenbelt Marriott Hotel in Greenbelt, Maryland.

It is fitting that we dedicate EMS CARE 97 to the memory of Rich Adams. In the early 80's it was Rich's idea to offer an EMS conference for basic life support providers. At a Parascop ALS conference, Rich challenged MIEMSS and Region V Council to develop a conference format to provide state of the art information to BLS providers. Popular wisdom at the time said, ALS providers will go out of their way to get cutting edge material but BLS providers simply want a refresher class every few years. Rich didn't buy it and he persuaded others to try it his way. Through his belief EMS CARE was born.

Rich was a journalist, a television producer and editor, and a consultant to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. He was an expert on a wide variety of emergency operations and public information and education topics and participated in the development of the US DOT Public Information, Education and Relations Program (PIER) for emergency service providers. He was always willing to share his experience and expertise beyond the beltway and made the long treks to Cumberland and Salisbury to exchange ideas and information. Long an informal advisor to MIEMSS, that relationship became more formal when he agreed to serve on the Statewide Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council, a position he held until his untimely death in October of 1996.

An Emergency Medical Technician and a life member of the Bethesda Chevy Chase Rescue Squad, Rich was justly proud of his volunteer role. Rich Adams was a teacher and mentor to many of us throughout the fire/rescue/ EMS community. He was proud of his role in EMS but for anyone who knew Rich, his proudest role was that of father. His wife Sherry and children Ashley and Ben are here today to help us celebrate Rich's many contributions to emergency medical services.

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