

# AMBUGLANCES

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THE NUMBER ONE EMS REGION IN GEORGIA

SEPTEMBER 2015

## TWO MORE EMS PIONEERS PASS



**SAM R. CUNNINGHAM - RETIRED  
REGION 7 REGIONAL EMS  
DIRECTOR**

Mr. Sam R. Cunningham, of Columbus, formerly of Elberton, GA, died Saturday August 29, 2015 at his home.

*(Additional information Continued on page 2)*



**DR RED DUKE**

James H. "Red" Duke, Jr., M.D., renowned surgeon and medical educator passed away of natural

causes on Tuesday, the 25th of August 2015, at the age of 86.

*(Additional information Continued on page 3)*

## CONGRATULATION TO REGION 1 COUNCIL MEMBER TOMMY SANDERS



Tommy Sanders was named the 2015 Southeastern Emergency Equipment sales rep of the year with sales over three million dollars and also received the presidents circle award.

## 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL LIFEFORCE CLASSIC CLAY SHOOT

The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Lifeforce Classics Clay Shoot was held at Barnsley Gardens on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015. The number of teams participating this year increased to 14, resulting in a great turnout. Proceeds from the event will support the education

projects of Northwest Georgia EMS Systems Inc. Thank you to all that participated, Erlanger, Lifeforce and all the sponsors. We are looking for a bigger turnout next year.



**1<sup>st</sup> Place Team members – C. McConkey, S. McConkey, C. Donaldson, B. Huskey**



**2<sup>nd</sup> Place Team Members – D. Vandegriff, M. Quinn, D. Foster, L. Vandegriff**



**3<sup>rd</sup> Place Team – D. Fisher. Preston, Dowdon, Preston.**

## **2015 GA EMS & EDUCATORS CONFERENCE - SEPT. 12-15, 2015**

The 2015 Conference will be held at the Savannah Marriott Riverfront Hotel located at 100 General McIntosh Blvd. Savannah, Georgia 31401

Pre-conference: Sept. 11-12  
Conference: Sept. 13-15  
Continuous Pre-Hospital Track & Educator Track. For more details visit <http://www.georgiaems.net/>

## **EMS D.A.R.T. COURSE UPCOMING NOV 4 & 10 in DALTON**

The D.A.R.T. Education Committee met and reviewed the evaluations from the first class and identified changes needed in the course. The committee has made some changes reducing the lectures time from 16 to 12 hrs. The course will add an introduction section to bring everyone up to date on how this developed and roles and responsibilities and managing the behavioral aspects of people under stress from disasters. The 2<sup>nd</sup> day will include a tabletop exercise utilizing each strike team responding to a different event.

## **WALKER COUNTY COMMISSIONER REQUESTS BIDS FOR EMS SERVICE**

Walker County has released an RFP for consideration of EMS Services. The RFP Deadline is 3P September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Contact the Commissioner's Office for more information.

## **REGION 1 EMS OFFICE SEPTEMBER 2015 STATUS**

Region 1 EMS Director, David Foster will be out of state from September 16<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>. All inquiries during that time should be directed to the State Office for assistance. 404-679-0547

Also, Mr. Foster has been interviewing prospects for the Region 1 EMS Medical Director open position. He has identified a strong prospect and hopes to be able to make an official announcement by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Sam Cunningham- (Cont)**

Born to the late Emily Nahil Cunningham and Claude R. Cunningham on October 11, 1951, in Greenwood, SC, Mr. Cunningham had resided in Elberton for 45 years and in Columbus for 18 years. He was a graduate of Elbert County High School and The University of Georgia where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in History.

He also earned a Graduate Certificate in Public Health from Emory University and completed the Management Academy for Public Health at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. He was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Elberton.

Surviving are his wife, Mary Frances Fortson Cunningham; one son, Jason R. Cunningham of Columbus, GA; and, one daughter, and her husband, Kristin L. Cunningham and Jeremy Dellinger. Sam and Mary have a step-granddaughter, also from Columbus, GA.

Mr. Cunningham spent his career in emergency medical services (EMS), first beginning as an Emergency Medical Technician with the Elberton – Elbert County Hospital EMS. He became Director of the service in 1977, a position he held until 1990. In 1980, the service was recognized by the National Association of EMTs as the "United States' EMS of the Year." Mr. Cunningham joined the Georgia Department of Human Resources in 1990 as the Regional EMS Program

Director for the Northeast Health District, a position he held until 1996 when he was named Acting State EMS Director. In early 1997, he became the State EMS Director for Georgia. In 1999, Cunningham moved to Columbus as the Regional EMS Program Director for the West Central Health District.

Mr. Cunningham was one of the most recognized EMS professionals in Georgia, as well as the nation, having been named the recipient of numerous regional, state, and national awards. Shortly after his retirement, he was honored again in National EMS' Journal when they said he was considered to be among the most professional and active of the EMS professionals in the country. He was honored by the Georgia Legislature from the wells of the House and Senate and he was also presented a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition by the Office of Congressman Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. Among those were the Governor's Public Safety Award; the Dr. John B. O'Neal EMS Pioneer Award; the Dr. Zeb L. Burrell Distinguished Service Award; John E. Steed Memorial Award for the Northeast Georgia EMT of the Year; Larry Weber National Memorial Award presented by the National Council of State EMS Training Coordinators; and, the National Water Council Award of Merit. He also received numerous other awards from the American Heart Association, the Elbert County Chamber of Commerce, and the Georgia Public Health Association.

Mr. Cunningham was a charter member of the National Association of EMTs and served two terms as President of the EMT Association of Georgia and three terms as President of the Georgia Association of EMTs. He was a member of

numerous state and national organizations and also served on several special groups including the Governor's All-Georgia Community Program, the Governor's Five Star Community Program, Athens '96 (Olympics), Georgia Public Health Olympic Committee, Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games, the Governor's Certified Economic Development Task Force, and the Governor's Public Safety Awards Committee.

Mr. Cunningham was published in numerous journals including JAMA - The Journal of the American Medical Association; Emergency - The Journal of Emergency Services; Emergency Response; Emergency Medical Services; EMStar; Rettungsdienst; ProCare Das Fortbildungsmagazine fur Pflegeberufe; ProMed Das Praxismagazin fur Arztliche Fortbildung; Northeast Georgia EMS News; The NASEMSD Scanner; GAEMT Newsletter; and, Georgia EMS News. He was also the author of two book manuscripts.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions be made to Columbus Hospice, Inc, 7020 Moon Road, Columbus; Scott A. McDaniel Memorial Fund. c/o Harris County EMS, P. O. Box 365, Hamilton, GA 31811; or, T. J. and Friends Cancer Foundation, Post Office Box 6161, Elberton, GA 30635.

A memorial service for Mr. Cunningham will be held on Thursday September 17th at 2:00 pm at Cascade Hills Baptist Church in Columbus.

### Dr. Red Duke (Cont)

Born in Ennis, Texas on the 16th of November 1928, he grew up in Hillsboro. After graduating from Hillsboro High School, Duke attended Texas A&M University, where he was head Aggie yell leader and served in the Texas National Guard from 1948-1950. Following graduation in 1950, he served as a commissioned Army officer in Germany during the Korean War.

Returning home, Duke attended and graduated from seminary in Fort Worth but soon answered a calling for a different career, obtaining a medical degree in 1960 at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas. Duke completed his residency in general surgery at Dallas' Parkland Memorial Hospital where in 1963 he was part of the trauma team tending to Gov. John Connally on the day of President John F. Kennedy's assassination.

Duke joined The University of Texas Medical School at Houston in 1972 as one of the first faculty members and established the trauma service at Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center, the school's primary teaching hospital. He was professor of surgery and the John B. Holmes Professor of Clinical Sciences. In 1976, he led the development of the Life Flight program, one of the first hospital-based air ambulance programs in the nation.