

Adam Ward Media Excellence Award



Tim Barber
Northern Virginia
Bureau Chief;
ABC-7 WJLA-TV



"20/20 Vision After the Disaster"

On July 8, 2019, torrential rainfall and flash flooding struck the Northern Virginia area, creating dangerous conditions in the communities of Loudoun, Fairfax, Arlington and Prince William Counties as well as the Cities of Alexandria and Falls Church. Arlington County's public safety team handled over 600 calls to 911, 38 swift water rescues, and fielded over 50 traffic closures, including Route 50 and I-66. In Arlington alone 1,100 homes and businesses reported damage. Approximately \$6 million in damage to public infrastructure marked the second highest public damage disaster on record for the county, surpassed only by the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks at the Pentagon.

ABC 7's Tim Barber, recognizing the importance of the event and danger to the public, utilized his social media platforms to spread the news of the ongoing emergency in real time while the rain was still falling. Barber reached out to local emergency managers in the Northern Virginia area to identify critical risks to public safety, including flooded roadways, and worked to provide the public with the real time, officially vetted, updated information directly from our emergency managers. In the aftermath, Tim visited hard hit neighborhoods across the area and told the story of the impact to the community. More importantly, Tim acted as a conduit for our emergency managers to the public, relaying the most up to date information on recovery efforts. When the first Joint Local Recovery Center opened to provide residents and business owners with access to critical services for recovery, Tim showed up and did several stories to publicize how the community was working together. Over the weeks after the event, Tim followed up with impacted residents and businesses, ensuring their stories were told, and sharing vital information on recovery and mitigation with the community. Tim's efforts on spreading the word helped us successfully connect over 50 of the hardest hit homeowners and businesses to \$2.2 million in needed disaster aid.

For his continuing commitment to keeping the public informed, working closely with public safety and emergency management, and his work to keep recovery and mitigation at the forefront of the news even well after the disaster, we feel that Tim Barber is an exemplary candidate for the Adam Ward Media Excellence Award.

Nominated by Aaron Miller, Director; Arlington County Public Safety
Communications and Emergency Management

Adam Ward Media Excellence Award



**Kimberly
McBroom**
Morning
Anchor;
WDBJ-7

On August 26, 2015 two morning show anchors were tragically killed while on air reporting a story from the Smith Mountain Lake area. During the broadcast there was a sudden burst of gunfire and the camera was seen falling backwards. Immediately the anchor desk moved from the story and went to break. Upon returning to air Kimberly gave an account of the events and stated they were checking to see exactly what had occurred. She went into the next story and although she had to be shaken, appeared calm and professional throughout the remainder of the broadcast. Calling on Leo for the weather, he too was shaken by the event but continued to provide the professional weather forecast he is so well known for.

With both of these individuals losing members of their work family and close friends, they maintained their composure and perform admirably under the circumstances. While visibly shaken and their hearts full of concern and sadness these two professionals went above and beyond the call of duty to provide the news as they felt is should be delivered.

While this event occurred five years ago now, and seemingly both Kimberly and Leo have been on our hearts and minds as outstanding representatives of the WDBJ7 family, they have continually supported the emergency services efforts of our region and are always willing to do more than their share to get the word out about our incidents and warnings.



**Leo
Hirsbrunner**
Meteorologist;
WDBJ-7



"20/20 Vision After the Disaster"



"20/20 Vision After the Disaster"

Nominated by Neal Turner, formerly Emergency Services Coordinator; Montgomery County

Stanley Everett Crigger Humanitarian Award

Steve Allen is the consummate emergency manager. Like many jurisdictional emergency managers, he juggles many hats. Besides serving as the Emergency Management Coordinator, Steve is the County Fire and EMS Chief. While all fire departments are volunteer and operate under individual charter, Steve works tirelessly to coordinate training county-wide (and often teaches the classes as a certified instructor), apply for and manage multiple grants, coordinate and manage skill checks, and leads the County's special operations team which handles search and rescue, high angle, confined space, and limited hazardous materials capabilities. Under Steve's leadership, the County began a career EMS service where he handles all aspects of that function including fleet, personnel, inventory, and training.

As an Emergency Manager, Steve is compassionate, creative, and resourceful; many of the same endearing qualities Stan shared. Steve's small budget has not impaired his state of readiness and capabilities. He is quick to establish and leverage partnerships with stakeholders throughout the County for everything from shelters to transportation, specialized equipment, warehousing, and resource multipliers. As an example, a manufacturer in the County produces specialized military clothing and accessory backpacks. Steve worked with them to supplement the County special operations team's equipment. In another instance, Steve identified a specialized piece of equipment for accessing remote areas via helicopter. While rare, he was able to find a military surplus item and purchase it at a fraction of its original cost. Then in another case, through a partnership he had developed, a shelter owner agreed to install generator quick connect capabilities while Steve researched and found a portable generator that he, again, purchased at a fraction of the price. He has a small fleet of generators that he maintains in a warehouse space that he has secured through another 'partnership'. Being resourceful is an understatement.

In addition to all that Steve does in Patrick County, he supports his neighbors and the region with the same level of care. Twice a year, every year, Steve delivers, stages and supports the Martinsville Speedway races with his mass casualty trailer. Each Saturday and Sunday, you can find him poised and ready in turn #3 of the racetrack should the call come. "It's just the neighborly thing to do," he'll tell you. After every large scale incident, Steve calls the affected localities or somebody on the VDEM Region 6 staff to check on the emergency managers to see if he can help out in any way. When it comes time for volunteers for exercises, projects, grant reviews, or even interview panels, Steve is the first one to volunteer. EVERY TIME! Steve never looks for credit or glory, just to serve so others may live. Steve embodies the love of others and the compassion for his career just like Stan. He is more than deserving to be granted this prestigious and honorable Stanley Everett Crigger Humanitarian Award.

Nominated by Mike Guzo, Region 6 Chief Regional
Coordinator; Virginia Department of Emergency Management



Steve Allen
Emergency
Services
Coordinator;
Patrick County



"20/20 Vision After the Disaster"



Bradford T. Clark
(Posthumously)
Lieutenant;
Hanover County
Fire-EMS
Department

Stanley Everett Crigger Humanitarian Award

In the midst of Tropical Storm Michael on the evening of October 11, 2018, Lieutenant Bradford Turner Clark and his crew responded to a MVA on I-295 SB in Hanover County. While at the scene, a Southbound Tractor Trailer lost control and struck the fire truck. When Lt. Clark realized what was happening he began running back toward the fire engine to warn his crew who were outside preparing to move toward the original scene. While his actions saved the lives of his crew members, it tragically claimed his own.

Lt. Clark, a native of Hanover County, joined the Hanover Fire EMS Department in 2005. Brad served his first eight years as a firefighter/EMT in operations at some of the county's busiest stations. He was passionate about mentoring others to be the best at their craft. He was unselfish with his time and talent, realizing he was only as strong and efficient as his crew. His passion for his career in the fire service was unmatched. Brad was a fireman's fireman. In 2015, Brad was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. Brad was deeply committed to the safety of citizens he served and the firemen he trained and led. Brad was known for the nearly never-ending smile on his face, quick wit, endless inside jokes with his friends, non-stop texting, and memes and videos sent to those he knew and loved.

Brad was a devoted and loving husband to his wife, Melanie, affectionately known as "Buttercup," and the father to four beautiful daughters. His girls were the love of his life. Brad was also a beloved son, brother, and uncle. In addition to his duties with Hanover Fire-EMS Department, Brad gave selflessly to firefighters across the country, helping them to expand their knowledge. Brad was a founding board member of 350'Line, Inc., a Richmond-based non-profit corporation created to further the education of firefighters across Virginia. In this role, Brad developed and taught training programs impacting thousands of firefighters across the state. Brad regularly traveled across the United States presenting his own training programs to large fire conferences, including Andy Fredericks Training Days, Wichita HOT, Art of Firemanship Days, Making the Stretch, and Walter Sisk Memorial Truck School.

Brad served in the United States Army and was honorably discharged in November 2000 at the rank of Sergeant. During his time in the Army, Brad was awarded the National Defense Ribbon, the Army Good Conduct Medal, and two Army Achievement Medals. Brad is credited for saving the lives of his crew during the incident that took his life by warning his crew of the oncoming danger. Two of his crew members sustained life-threatening traumatic injuries in this incident. While Brad gave his life that night, he followed his values and instincts, putting the lives of his crew before his own and taking swift action during his final moments that saved his crew members' lives. For his heroic actions during his last call, Brad was the recipient of the 2019 Ray Downey Courage and Valor Award, which was presented posthumously and accepted by his wife, Melanie.



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Nominated by Robert Foresman, Emergency Management Planner; Henrico County
Office of Emergency Management



Elizabeth Parker
General
Manager;
Holiday Inn –
Newport News



"20/20 Vision After the Disaster"

Clarence P. "Pete" Rea, Jr. Public-Private Partnership Award

We are pleased to nominate Elizabeth (Liz) Parker, General Manager of the Holiday Inn – Newport News and her staff for the VEMA Public Private Partnership award. Ms. Parker is a dedicated member of the Newport News Public Private Partnership (P-3) Program and is a significant supporter of the program.

One of the issues that we faced with the P-3 program was in securing adequate locations to conduct our quarterly meetings. When Liz recognized that this was an issue, she graciously volunteered space to host the regular quarterly meeting and other emergency meetings to brief P-3 partners during potential impacts from hazardous weather such as tropical systems and winter storms.

When we discussed the fact that the City of Newport News had difficulty during Hurricane Matthew in finding a place for FEMA to establish a Disaster Recovery Center (DRC), Liz immediately offered space in the hotel for the City to use for that purpose. Liz began the process to have the hotel approved by FEMA as a DRC thus eliminating the issue that we faced in the past.

In addition to her direct support of the P-3 program, she has assisted the Hampton Roads Emergency Management Committee (HREMC), DHS, and other City departments by providing them space to conduct meetings and trainings programs.

When Liz became aware of the need to house outside responders in times when resources are pre-staged for impending weather events, she immediately offered the assistance of her hotel. She and her staff have taken it upon themselves to be available to find other accommodations if necessary.

She and her team have taken the lead in forward thinking to assist the City's emergency management program.

She has also been a big supporter of emergency management training for her staff and for the parent company of Holiday Inn. She hosted an all-day all-hazards emergency preparedness training session for the leadership of the region's hotel managers and opened the training up to the Newport News DEM staff.

Liz Parker and her staff have undoubtedly been an asset to City of Newport News and the Peninsula as a whole. Without their support and whole community approach we would be less prepared. She sets a great example of the importance of the P-3 concept in the City of Newport News. Her vision of collaborative efforts to achieve a better community is part of what makes the P-3 program a success.



Katie Moody
Regional
Emergency
Management
Program
Coordinator;
Plan RVA

Outstanding New Emergency Management Professional Award

Katie has been working as the Regional Emergency Management Program Coordinator with Plan RVA for nearly two years. Her role provides planning support, project management, and other important organizational coordination to the 25 localities of the Emergency Management Alliance of Central Virginia (EMACV). In her time here thus far, she has been recognized as a strong achiever who can be relied upon for consistency and quality of effort. She is amiable and intelligent with a positive attitude, and has made significant contributions to the regional Emergency Management program in Central Virginia.

Katie is an accomplished grant writer and project manager. She has been successful in obtaining multiple grant awards for EMACV including funding for various regional projects such as mass care, human services & sheltering, public outreach & whole community preparedness, regional CERT, and regional planning. Most recently, in 2019, she was able to obtain the largest pool of grant awards for the region since it was a UASI. This funding has created many significant opportunities for the region to enhance its preparedness and resilience activities.

Since she has been in her position, Katie has made many important contributions to Alliance initiatives. In 2018, EMACV in partnership with Plan RVA, received the National Association of Developmental Organization (NADO)'s Innovation Award for its Disaster Preparedness Workshop. That year she was also instrumental in managing EMACV's whole community rebranding project. She plays a key role as contributor and project manager in the newly founded Central Virginia Disaster Response Fund which has created new partnerships and funding opportunities for the region.

In 2019, Katie managed multiple regional planning projects, including regional FAC & JIC plans as well as a Regional Recovery Framework. These projects have provided valuable resources to the member localities of EMACV.

Mostly notably, Katie is recognized as being highly effective at developing positive professional relationships with partners from a variety of disciplines in the emergency management community. She is a strong leader, lauded by her colleagues as a proactive, "outside-the-box," detailed-oriented thinker. Her excellent communication, planning, and coordination skills amongst the EMACV localities and partners are an invaluable contribution to the Central Virginia Emergency Management program. I believe that Katie is an excellent candidate for the New Outstanding Emergency Management Professional Award and her receipt of this award would be well-earned.

Nominated by Martha Shickle, Executive Director; Plan RVA





Melanie Fleenor
Deputy
Emergency
Management
Coordinator;
Bristol City Fire
Department

Outstanding New Emergency Management Professional Award

Melanie Fleenor, although fresh to emergency management has already made an incredible impact; not only to the City of Bristol, but also to all of southwest Virginia. She was thrust into the position of Deputy Emergency Manager with no emergency management training however; she did not let this stop her. In the last year, she has completed multiple Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) courses to include, the Professional Development Series, Family Assistance Center training, Red Cross sheltering classes, basic public information officer, as well as multiple others. She alone is responsible for creating the Bristol Fire Department regional pet sheltering trailer. She worked diligently throughout the year to acquire the supplies needed for this robust trailer all while not spending a dollar of taxpayer money. She has held multiple fundraisers to raise funds for the pet sheltering team; the most successful being an animal 5k race. She has completely immersed herself into emergency management; helping not only her community, but also her region. She has regularly attended the Bristol Local Emergency Planning Committee meetings and was recently voted to be Co-chair. She is an integral part of the training and exercise program within the Fire Department; planning and executing multiple active shooter exercises as well as keeping up with all training requirements of the individual employees. She has written and received multiple grants to include one for pet sheltering and one for a portable generator that can be used region wide. Melanie has truly made Bristol City as well as VDEM Region 4 more resilient. She is the epitome of emergency management and from the VDEM regional staff we say thank you!



"20/20 Vision After the Disaster"

Nominated by Virginia Department of Emergency Management Region 4 Staff

Outstanding Emergency Manager in Higher Education Award



Brittany Schaal
Director of
Emergency
Management;
University of
Richmond

Brittany Schaal is a dynamic leader, dedicated to organizational improvement through stakeholder engagement. Since joining the University of Richmond in February 2012, Brittany has focused on developing a program dedicated to the inclusion of faculty, staff, and students. Her small, but mighty, office instills a culture of preparedness, while enhancing and improving the disaster resiliency of the University by mitigating against, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from emergencies.

Brittany established the Emergency Management Program Advisory Committee, comprised of internal stakeholders and local emergency preparedness partners, to provide for coordinated input by stakeholders in the preparation, implementation, evaluation, and revision of the University's emergency management program. Proving strategic planning for campus, she has developed the University's Crisis and Emergency Management Plan, Community Assistance Center Plan, Recovery Plan, Strategic Plan for the Emergency Management Program, Crisis Communication Plan, Emergency Notification System Protocols, and a Multi-Year Training and Exercise Plan. She has collaborated with over 60 departments across campus to develop their Continuity of Operations Plans. Brittany also spearheaded the development of the institution's first Hazard Mitigation Plan and obtained recognition by the Federal Emergency Management Agency as a Disaster Resistant University, the first and only private university in Virginia to achieve this emergency management milestone.

Believing in the importance of exercising policies, plans, and procedures, Brittany has developed and facilitated over two dozen exercises on campus. She also coordinates the University's participation in the annual Statewide Tornado Drill, using the opportunity to test the robust emergency notification system.

She facilitated UR's StormReady Supporter certification with the National Weather Service, created an Individual Preparedness Course available to undergraduate students, and released Kurt the Lert, the University's preparedness mascot, which helped to increase social media followers by over 130% on both Facebook and Twitter in a two-week period.

She has spent her career with the University developing the Emergency Management Program to the sixty-four standards established by the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP). She believes in the consistent quality the standards promote and the tangible benefits they provide to her campus community. Later this year, Brittany will lead the University of Richmond Emergency Management Program through the rigorous onsite assessment.

While seen as a leader in Emergency Management, Brittany also actively participates on campus. From December 2017 to June 2018, she was asked to serve on the President's Advisory Committee for Sexual Violence Prevention and Response, to include co-chairing the Education Subcommittee. She was also nominated and elected to sit on the University Staff Advisory Council, which she then chaired from July 2017 to June 2018.

Outside of the University, Brittany served as the Institution of Higher Education Caucus Chair for the Virginia Emergency Management Association, holds her Professional Emergency Manager certification with the Association, is a Master Exercise Practitioner, and recognized as a Certified Emergency Manager by the International Association of Emergency Managers.

Nominated by Cathy Edwards; Virginia Department of Transportation – Hampton Roads District



"20/20 Vision After the Disaster"

Legislative Achievement Award



Melanie is the widow of Lt. Brad Clark who was killed in the Line of Duty on October 11, 2018. Brad Clark was struck and killed after he responded to a two-vehicle accident on the side of Interstate 295 during Tropical Storm Michael. Following Brad's death, Melanie and her family were given a gift when the Tunnel2Towers Foundation paid off the remaining mortgage on their home. Melanie said the foundation called the family on her wedding anniversary. "This gift has allowed me to resign from my job and focus my full-time energy on being an advocate for making our roadways and communities safer," Melanie said. Helping to change some of the verbiage for the move over law; to make it more enforceable and maybe carry stricter penalties for those who disobey the law are some safety regulations she has been advocating for. Gov. Ralph Northam signed House Bill 1911 on April 29, 2019 which is known as Virginia's "Move Over" law. Melanie was also instrumental in getting House Bill 2011 passed which established the Lt. Brad Clark Memorial License Plate. But Melanie hasn't stopped there. She has pledged to mentor other spouses who have lost loved ones in the line of duty, all the while keeping her husband Brad in the forefront. Melanie Clark said. "I will devote the rest of my life paying it forward in service to our public safety providers in making sure that all come home to their families at the end of their tour."

**Melanie
Worley Clark**
Public Safety
Advocate;
Move Over VA



"20/20 Vision After the Disaster"





Bob Mitchell
CERT Steering
Committee
Member;
Charlottesville –
UVA –
Albemarle CERT

Volunteer of the Year Award

When I came on board as the Regional CERT manager over 2 years ago, Bob welcomed me with open arms. When my office was reduced to a staff of one right before our fall CERT classes started in 2019, again Bob was right beside me the whole time, keeping the CERT program afloat as my responsibilities increased twofold.

Bob has always been a vital part of our program. He has been a member of our steering committee for over a decade and is a CERT staple every season; attending most of the classes and offering his wonderful insight and experiences to our students. This year he went above and beyond and attended every level 2 course for our fall program. When the instructor for the very first class of the season had to cancel last minute – and I mean five minutes before the class was scheduled to start – Bob looked at me and said, "we got this!" Without a second thought he jumped to the front of the room and co-taught the class with grace and ease.

Bob's continued displays of passion and his effort to ensure we have a well-rounded program, is truly inspiring. Our students love coming to class to soak up Bob's stories and learn about all the opportunities CERT has to offer. The Charlottesville-UVA-Albemarle CERT program has taught over 1,000 citizens and continues to increase enrollment each season, thanks in no small part to leaders like Bob, who drive student participation and create strong volunteers. I wish every CERT program had a member like Bob. He has made an immeasurable impact on our program and in our community.



"20/20 Vision After the Disaster"

Volunteer of the Year Award



Les Garrison CERT Coordinator; Arlington CERT



"20/20 Vision After the Disaster"

Les Garrison was a founding member of Arlington CERT in 2004 and served as a team leader for 14 years before being nominated by fellow CERT teammates and Assistant County Manager Jim Swartz to serve as the CERT Coordinator. Since that time, he has developed and grown the Arlington CERT by encouraging and empowering its members to take on new projects and leadership roles, such as the HAM Radio team, Moulage team, CERT Basic Training team, and the Outreach and Engagement program (including, but not limited to the Social Media, Until Help Arrives, and Extreme Event teams).

Through his expert leadership, the CERT program has become a critical program of Arlington County Emergency Management. Since Les became the Coordinator, Arlington CERT has seen an 83% increase in the number of active volunteers, and a 538% increase in the number of hours volunteers have served.

In 2019 alone, under Les' coordination, 274 active Arlington CERT volunteers served over 14,000 hours, a value of over \$380,000 to the County. This includes supporting the County in preparing staff and community members for emergencies and active violence incidents through the 'Until Help Arrives' and other outreach and engagement activities; the response and recovery from the July 8th Flash Floods, a state declared emergency; and supporting local exercises.

Specifically, in 2019 Les has provided local and regional support via (among other):

- Coordinating CERT volunteers to conduct Damage Assessments for the July 8th Flash Floods, getting the first teams on the ground in under 4 hours.
- Coordinating multijurisdictional volunteer response for the Local Recovery Center following the July 8th Flash Floods.
- Serving as the Volunteer Coordinator for the Agile Warrior Exercise, coordinating over 150 volunteers from across Northern Virginia, District of Columbia, and Maryland.
- Coordinating two CERT Basic Training classes per year, incorporating local police, fire, emergency management, and current Arlington CERT members in the instruction.
 - Facilitating the development of CERT operating policies and procedures.

Les has made it a point to foster and grow relationships with local and regional partners, serving on the regional CERT Consortium, helping to plan the annual CERTCON volunteer conference, and serving on local planning exercise committees. He makes it a point to introduce himself, ask how he can help, and enthusiastically ensuring that the CERT program supports the real needs of the County, while operating within their scope of service.

I write this recommendation with the hearty endorsement of the entire staff of Arlington County Emergency Management. Les is truly a pleasure to work with, and we look forward to a continued partnership over the coming years.

Nominated by Samantha Brann, Community Engagement Manager; Arlington County
Emergency Management