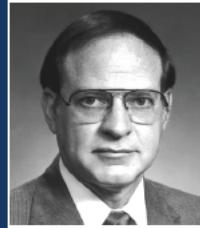
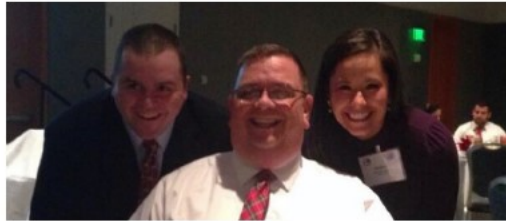
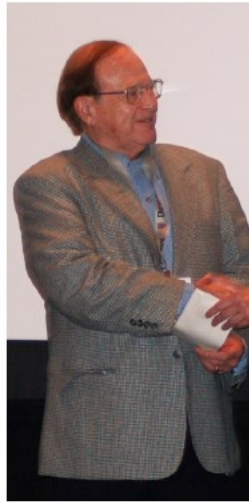
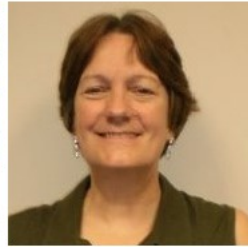


The Faces Behind the Awards & Scholarships



Addison E. Slayton Jr.

Recognized for his significant contributions to the Commonwealth of Virginia, LTC Slayton was a graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University with a BS degree in Social Sciences. He was a graduate of the Virginia Executive Development Institute, United States Army Military Police Basic and Advanced Course, Army Command and General Staff College and Army Inspector General School. Mr. Slayton served in a variety of positions in the Commonwealth of Virginia throughout his career to include:

- » Warden of the Virginia State Penitentiary (1956-1974)
- » Associate Director, Division of Corrections (1956-1974)
- » Virginia Department of Emergency Services (1974)
- » Appointed Director and State Coordinator in (1985)
- » Reappointed State Coordinator in (1986, 1990, 1994)

Some of his accomplishments include:

- » Establishing the Virginia Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Program
- » Established the current environmental remediation program for the Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Fuel Storage Facility at the Cheatham Annex
- » Directed the development of the Virginia Oil and Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan
- » Managed the states' emergency response and follow-on relief efforts to four presidentially declared disasters
- » Mr. Slayton also served on and chaired a variety of statewide committees. Mr. Slayton made significant contributions to the Commonwealth of Virginia in the field of emergency management and for his public service, support of education and commitment to our residents; we dedicate the scholarship program in honor of Mr. Addison Slayton Jr.



Grace Tressler

Grace Tressler served as the Emergency Services Coordinator for King and Queen County, Virginia from October 2008 until her passing in 2011. Grace was a nationally registered paramedic and served as a volunteer in the Upper King County Rescue Squad. Grace was very active in her emergency management role both at the local and state level. She served as a member of the Virginia Emergency Management Association (VEMA) Board of Directors for Region 1 and the Virginia Department of Fire Programs Liaison for VEMA. In her role as the emergency services coordinator, she was responsible for managing the fire services and EMS as well as the dive team and emergency communications. One of her significant contributions to King and Queen County was her efforts in working to have the first P25 compliant radio communications system installed in the region. Grace was certified as an Associate Emergency Manager with VEMA and was working on her Professional Emergency Manager credential prior to her passing. Grace was well respected by her peers in the emergency services community. She had a true passion for the residents she served and provided exceptional leadership, program oversight and embodied a sense of caring when working with others.



Gordon Barwell

Gordon Barwell was the first director of the Local Support Services (LSS) Division of the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) from 2003 until March 2, 2008. During Gordon's tenure as the Local Support Services Director, he was instrumental in improving the delivery of emergency management support to localities. He increased the number of Regional Coordinators from three to seven, which allowed for closer coordination between VDEM and local emergency managers. Gordon was an inspirational leader to "his" Regional Coordinators, and provided unwavering support for them in the field. He recognized the uniqueness of each individual in their style and approach in the delivery of support to their region. He was the "go to" person that VDEM leadership approached when a special project needed to be accomplished. Gordon, distinguished by his Australian accent, was highly respected by all those who knew him in the emergency management field. Born in Melbourne, Australia, Gordon enlisted in the Royal Australian Army Corps in 1969. His distinguished career included service in Vietnam, America and Malaysia. He served as the Instruction Branch Chief teaching at the Australian Command and Staff College and Commanding Officer of the 1st Armored Regiment. He retired as a lieutenant colonel after 25 years of service in Royal Australian Army Corps. Gordon immigrated to the United States in 1994, and joined VDEM in 1997. Prior to leading LSS in 2003, Gordon served as Senior Training and Development Coordinator and as Chief of State Plans and Special Projects. During his time at VDEM, he received commendations for his contributions during response efforts for September 11 and hurricanes Isabel and Katrina. He earned a Master's degree in Management Studies from Australian National University and the Professional Development Series Certification in Emergency Management from the Emergency Management Institute (EMI). Gordon served passionately until Sunday, March 2, 2008, when he passed away after a battle with cancer. Gordon is survived by his loving wife, daughter and son.



Warren E. Trent

Warren E. Trent served as the Coordinator for Roanoke Civil Defense for 28 years; retiring in 1990. One of the most important events during Trent's career was the flood of 1985, which overwhelmed the city. He helped establish one of the city's first disaster response plans, bringing together hospital emergency rooms, police officers, firefighters and rescue personnel. He also served as VEMA President from 1966-1967.



Adam Ward

Adam Ward embodied the term 'excellence' in his position as Photojournalist for WDBJ 7. Through his personality and professionalism Adam was WDBJ 7. His smile brightened any room and put at ease the individuals he would record. Adam's love for football took him to serve his high school Alma Mata each Friday evening in filming their games and covering the "Friday Football Extra" the station present each week. His desire to help others made him the perfect combination to report and empathize within the communities he served. Adam and one of his coworkers were gunned down August 26, 2015 while on live television reporting upcoming events in the Smith Mountain Lake area of Moneta, Virginia. Following the tragedy, the VEMA Board of Directors agreed to rename the "Media Excellence Award" award after Adam as he and his coworker Melissa Gaona were the recipients of the "Media Excellence Award" in 2014.



Stanley Everett Crigger

Stanley Everett Crigger spent 19 years in emergency services. His career was in both local and state coordination. While at the state level, Stan responded to a countless number of disasters including floods, plane crashes and the Virginia Tech shooting in 2007. During these events, Stan stood alongside emergency managers to ensure they had what they needed to accomplish the task at hand. As well he offered the state resources which were available at his call. Beside the work Stan did on the job to assist and aid the Commonwealth, he was a dedicated member of his home community. For many years Stan was the overseer for the New River Valley Fair. Stan also was a National Finalist in Team Roping Competition. Having a love for horses and the rodeo, Stan would train and assist many young men and women in the sport of horsemanship. But Stan's commitment to his community was much deeper than the hobbies and activities he enjoyed. Stan was dedicated to those who were less fortunate than others and would often go above and beyond to care for those in need. During the 2009 snow storm that impacted much of Virginia, Stan assisted the local coordinators in making contact with motorists stranded on the interstate. Stan would go to his vehicle and take his personal stash of snack crackers and chips to the children in the stranded cars. Often Stan would be found providing meals or offering other assistance to strangers. Stan was a friend you could always count on.



Clarence "Pete" Rea, Jr.

Mr. Clarence "Pete" Rea, Jr., a Past President of VEMA, died on Tuesday April 27, 2010. He had served the City of Danville as an employee for over 43 years. Mr. Rea was well respected within the emergency management community. He was VEMA President in 1969 and his leadership helped lay the cornerstone to create the VEMA Association. In 1993, Pete was honored with two awards at the Virginia Emergency Management Annual meeting. First, he received the 4th annual "Warren E. Trent Individual Achievement Award" for excellence and dedication to the Emergency Management profession in the Commonwealth of Virginia and was presented a framed Resolution recognizing 40 years of dedicated service to the City of Danville and for being "one of the most active and contributing members that the Virginia Emergency Management Association has ever had the privilege of calling a member." Second, he was honored by having a perpetual award named for him, which will be presented each year, in the name of "Clarence P. Rea, Jr." to an organization that shows excellence in Emergency Services and has made a dedicated contribution in VA Emergency Management." (Danville Register & Bee, April 29, 2010).

Special Thanks to Ali Ruben for putting together the Faces Behind the Awards and Scholarships!