



Virginia Beach VRS Recognizes Pioneer Women of the 1970s

In 1952, the “sleepy little village” known as Virginia Beach was home to only 10,000 residents. It was the year Princess Anne-Virginia Beach Rescue Squad, Inc. began operations with a mere 22 members and one associate. Twenty years later, the organization underwent sweeping changes in an effort to meet the demands of a rapidly growing city and tourist destination. Volunteers were desperately needed.

Enter the female pioneers of 1972, the first seven women to join what is now the Virginia Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad: Marjorie Drewry, Sylvia Gray, Lois Turnbull, Sharon Thompson Hawkins, Alice Malbon*, Jean Wilhoit* and Grace Bliley*. Virginia Gilpin, Pearl Wray*, Anne Ives*, Shirley Cox, Nancy Crain, Doris Henry Foster, Patricia Holbrook, Frances Keefer and Sandra Tickle (*deceased) soon joined them. They were nurses, a schoolteacher, housewives – and equal members of the squad who shared every bit of joy and sadness that comes with working in the trenches.

“We began volunteering in an effort to cover day shifts while most men were working and unavailable,” says pioneer Sylvia Gray. “Providing patient care in the back of the ambulance was often our duty. Our transition into the squad went well, so I spoke at a state convention and other local squads about recruiting more women into the ranks. The number of women in rescue grew from there.”

“Simultaneously, there were many advances in emergency medicine,” says Sharon Hawkins, former ER nurse at Virginia Beach General Hospital, “so the rescue program morphed into more innovative paramedical type care. I became interested in joining with the advent of rescue’s cardiac program. As nurses, Doris Foster and I assisted with the specialized training that was necessary – from there many of us could be dispatched to auto accidents and other types of calls where life-support type care might be a possibility.”

At the VBVRs’s annual banquet in January, Courtney Dyer,



The original women of VBVRs (from left to right): Lois Turnbull, Grace Bliley, Sylvia Gray, Marge Drewry, Alice Malbon, Jean Wilhoit and Sharon Thompson.



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Life and VBVRs Advisory Council member, proudly recognized the squad’s first ladies. “These women sustained our organization through the ‘70s and today. They gave us the

ability to serve 24/7 because they were adventurous, skilled and dedicated.” Following his words, a reflections video** played capturing pioneer memories of years gone by. “It was very powerful,” says VBVRs Chief Ellen McBride. “There were many tears and a tremendous standing ovation. It meant so much to recognize these women who represent an esteemed part of our history.”

A motion unanimously passed during February’s business meeting, giving the time required for Life membership to the pioneers who had not already achieved this status. “It meant so much to be accepted by the membership back then,” says Virginia Gilpin, first ever female squad commander in 1983, “and also today to celebrate the memories and good times we shared together.”

“These leading ladies were a rare breed,” says Chief McBride, “and their legacy is recognized as one of courage, commitment and selflessness.” As chief of the Virginia Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad – in fact, the only female yet to follow in the squad’s commander role since Virginia Gilpin – McBride knows she has big shoes to fill. “I am so proud to stand on the shoulders of these giants. It is a testament to our volunteer system and to our community that we can all benefit from people who are inspired to step up and do more.”

**Many thanks to the talents of R14 member Katie Dunne and R1 member Brant Schultheis for their hard work in developing the reflections video.

Awards & Accolades

Mission: To provide services to the community which preserve life, improve health and promote the safety of citizens and visitors who live, learn, work and play in our community. This mission is accomplished through a systems approach focused on providing timely responses; high quality patient care services; public awareness and education; proactive safety interventions; and all hazards readiness.

Vision: We are a leader in the emergency medical services field and the community is confident in our services.

The Virginia Beach Department of EMS Call Stats

YEAR 2013	CALLS FOR SERVICE
1st Quarter 2013	9,619
2nd Quarter 2013	9,911
3rd Quarter 2013	10,296
4th Quarter 2013	9,216
Total	39,042

THE COUNCIL OF VIRGINIA BEACH VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUADS, INC. INCLUDES:

- Ocean Park Volunteer Rescue Squad
- Davis Corner Volunteer Rescue Squad
- Chesapeake Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad
- Princess Anne Courthouse Volunteer Rescue Squad
- Creeds Volunteer Rescue Squad
- Kempsville Volunteer Rescue Squad
- Blackwater Volunteer Rescue Squad
- Virginia Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad
- Plaza Volunteer Rescue Squad
- Sandbridge Volunteer Rescue Squad
- Virginia Beach Volunteer Water Rescue Team

Rescue Lines is published quarterly by the Council of Virginia Beach Volunteer Rescue Squads and funded by the Virginia Beach Rescue Squad Foundation, Inc. Send suggestions for consideration to the attention of Ashley Martin of Rubin Communications Group at the following email: ashley@rubincommunications.com.

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Schaum Named "Outstanding Fundraising Professional"

A well-deserved congratulations to Executive Director of the Virginia Beach Rescue Squad Foundation **Kitty Schaum** on being named the 2013 "Outstanding Fundraising Professional" by the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Hampton Roads Chapter at their Annual National Philanthropy Day awards luncheon on November 13, 2013.

Lipscomb Receives Gilpin Award

Kevin Lipscomb, a member of Kempsville VRS for nearly 25 years, received the 2013 Virginia Gilpin Distinguished Service Award at the 62nd Annual Virginia Beach VRS Awards Banquet on Jan. 11. This award recognizes individuals whose outstanding actions and activities have helped strengthen and enhance the volunteer rescue squad system in Virginia Beach. Lipscomb was not only responsible for the creation of OscarTRACK, the program used system-wide to record and track the monthly duty roster of volunteers, but he also recently worked with a team to spearhead the first ever collaborative fund drive among six of the ten rescue squads in Virginia Beach.



Foundation Announces 2014 Grant & Scholarship Recipients

Foundation grants totaling \$72,084 were recently awarded to the squads listed below.

- **Chesapeake Beach** - \$15,000 toward purchasing a medical transport cart
- **Kempsville** - \$13,114 toward the purchase of one LUCAS CPR machine
- **Ocean Park** - \$10,730 for a pediatric transport restraint system, replacement backboards and other supplies
- **Plaza** - \$10,000 toward state-required equipment to stock a new ambulance
- **Va. Beach Volunteer Water Rescue Team, Inc. (Marine Rescue)** - \$12,120 toward hi-visibility parkas and bib-style rain pants
- **Va. Beach EMS Volunteer Search and Rescue Bike Team (Bike & SAR Team)** - \$8,258 toward specialized bikes, rescue bag panniers, bike light systems and sirens and SAR Team patches
- **Council of Va. Beach Rescue Squads** - \$2,862 toward portable carbon monoxide monitors for the jump bags on each ambulance in the City.

Congrats to the following individuals who were awarded **2014 Langhorne & Pulley Memorial Scholarships** to assist with the costs of higher education:

- Joseph Achesinski
- Meredith Borza
- Anthony Busch
- Patrick Kiley
- Daundee Limon
- Paul Pflueger
- Victoria Pirrone
- Travis Smith

For more information about grant and scholarship opportunities, visit www.vbrescuefoundation.org.

Moving on up!

Congratulations! These individuals have advanced to the following EMT Certification Levels:

(NOVEMBER 20, 2013 - FEBRUARY 24, 2014)

TENURED ALS

Black, William
Camp, Clay
Losick, Melvin
Rubbo, Armand
Whitley, David

TENURED BLS

Anderson, Donald
Dye, Jack
Irish, John
Kellam, James
Kidder, Sturgis

LIFE

Bland, Antonio
Mones, Shannon
Nuckols, Robert
Smith, Gregory
Wallace, Patrick

EMT-P

Buensuceso, Jhon
Cherry, Christie
O'Donnell, Robert

EMT-E

Gutermuth, Kevin
Haug, Daniel
Waldron, Erica

EMT-B

Adnderfuren, Jessica
Anglin, John
Atiyeh, John
Banks, Erica
Batty, Robert
Beda, Alyssa
Bishop, John
Bradecich, Dessislava
Cassidy, Colin
Colon, Michelle
Elverum, Cassandra
Frye, Jason
Gibson, Michael
Gonzalez-Rosado, Jose
Grantz, Robert
Guillette, Kyle
Iglecia, Antonio
Kaibigan, Vilma
Keaton, Jessica
Kilonsky, Robin
Lepper, Scott
Lewis, Hanna
Lindsey, William
Lootens, Matther
Marino, Sonya
McElhenie, Tracey
Meagher, Kitrian
Monzon, Andrea
Ogren, Tomie

Pearson, Lashaun
Phillips, Julianne
Roscoe, Moncheri
Shabazz-Wiggins,
Angela
Smith, Vincent
Sweitzer, Graham
Vaughn, Kyle
Wayne, Melanie
Weiker, Tammy
Weimer-Rohn,
Christina
Westbrook, Darrel
Weyh, Todd
Witte, Alex
Zyra, Christopher

BLS-Intern

Adams, Chelsea
Alvarez, Radames
Branson, Katelyn
Burnham, Lauren
Cantu, Elisabeth
Cebrelli, Ann Marie
Comerford, Erin
Cook, Michelle
Crater, Christina
Cwynar, Rita
Decker, Jordan
Diaz, Cleente

Doyle, Hugh
Duke, Vincenzo
Florence, Daniel
Gale, Jennifer
Henson, Kyle
Hoover, Melissa
Hopper, Edward
Hudson, Labria
Jafree, Ehsan
Jeffreys, Jacob
Kahn, Jessica
Lowe, Arielle
Malzahn, Elena
Mattson, Matthew
Moreno, Vanessa
Mowfy, Sabrina
Murphy, Shaun
Navarro, Justin
Parker, Rose
Rainey, Zacarias
Rodriguez, Rosalie
Ruppert, Paul
Singleton, Brittany
Smith, Terry
Taylor, Cassaundra
Taylor, Katherine
Waters, Jonathan
Witte, Alex
Zendzian, Miles
Student

Agapito, Joseph
Allgood, James
Baker, Amanda
Barr, Desiree
Bartnik, Donald
Bassett, Amanda
Bechthold, Elizabeth
Best, John
Beverly, Nicholas
Brown, Vanessa
Burgess, Jessica
Carrasquillo, Priscilla
Clarke, Amanda
Cohen, Benjamin
Culbertson, Patrick
Davis, Heather
Disler, Ryan
Doran, Meredith
Durham, Eric
Eleftheriou, Brittany
Farley, Jan
Farris, Nickalaus
Fitchett, Kyle
Fitchett, Hannah
Frankos, Helen
Frohnafel, Thomas
Gersley, Misty
Hall, Rachel
Haynes, Brandon
Hunter, Kenya

Johnson, Andres
Jones, Aisha
Kanady, Rachel
Kuntze, Jonathan
Laird, Desiree
Lamanna, Jasmin
Lupold, Jerrod
Mayo, Cornelius
McNamara, Jacob
Morgan, Jennifer
Nelson, David
Neudecker, Michael
Raymundo, Marc
Rucka, Michael
Sabado, Jeffrey
Shayegan-Salek, Mir-
Davood
Skeen, Kristina
Spellman, Andrew
Stewart, Brian
Sudder, Suzanne
Thornton, Michelle
Vancamp, Jennifer
Wallace, Christopher
Weinzetl, Julie
White, Sharonda
Williams, Stefany
Wong, Laura
Woods, William
Wright, Samantha

Congrats to EMT Grads from 2014 Class #1!



Congratulations to the following graduates of EMT Class #1 2014 who were recognized in a ceremony at the training center on Feb. 4.

Kneeling: Rosalie Rodriguez, Amy Saunders, Sandra Tolbert

Standing: Chief Bruce Edwards, Kelsey Stone, Logan Gardner, Jean-Paul Koushel, Deirdre Jones, Jeffrey Cheslic, Jasmine Hoskins, Labria Hudson, Coreen Cappellano, Lucy Cantu, Courtney Barbero, Christina Anderson, Remy Alvarez, Captain Raj Islam, Instruction Supervisor Eric de Forest

Back Row: Quincy Li, Clemente Diaz, Jon-Michael Rogers, Matthew Johnson, Alec Proctor, Keely Chatman, Ed Hopper, Melissa Hoover, Bradley Grennan, Tina Tilley

Absent from photo: Karl Blackburn

Marine Medic Program: A Marriage of VB EMS and VBPD



Over the past year, the VB EMS in cooperation with the VBPD developed a new Marine Medic program aimed at protecting the safety and well being of divers during marine incidents. Spearheaded by EMS Brigade Chief John Fusco and VBPD Sgt. Brian Ricardo, with additional assistance by EMS Brigade Chief Jay Leach, the program involves interdepartmental sharing of best practices and protocols which everyone follows to ensure a safe diving environment.

"There are many marine incidents in which our departments respond jointly," says Leach, "and the cross-training we offer to each other is essential. For example, during a boating accident or a drowning, a Marine Medic may need to assist in maneuvering a police boat while officers simultaneously perform a law enforcement function. Likewise, the police may need to provide a safety net of protection for paramedics while they perform first aid on an injured boater."

There are risks when it comes to being in the water. "Protocol now dictates that if police divers are going in the water for any reason, then a paramedic must be there to complete a medical and behavioral checklist before and after each dive," says Leach. "We monitor for any subtle differences in awareness, cognition, recall, and fine motor skills that may indicate a medical condition associated with diving or exposure to the elements."

As a beach resort community, Virginia Beach holds many events requiring paramedics and divers to be on standby. "This past year alone, we worked the Polar Plunge and the Sandman Triathlon, we assisted during the oceanfront dredging project and, of course, we have assisted in a few evidence searches where weapons were recovered. So far we have a cadre of 15 paramedics who have taken the training and are certified to be part of the Marine Medic program. It's been a great success."



For more information on the Marine Medic program, contact Virginia Beach EMS or Jay Leach at jleach@vbgov.com.

Announcements



Virginia Beach VRS Annual Oyster Roast

The Virginia Beach VRS 38th Annual Oyster Roast & Beach Party will be held on Sunday, March 23 from 1 – 5 p.m. at the Virginia Beach Convention Center. Tickets are \$50 each for adults and \$15 each for children ages 6 – 16 (children ages 5 and under are free). The event will feature live entertainment, food, drinks, raffles, artisans and equipment demonstrations. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.vbvrs.com.

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