EMT hurt in Putnam ambulance crash has died

By TERENCE CORCORAN
THE JOURNAL NEWS

CARMEL - Matthew Lamb, an emergency medical technician hurt in an ambulance crash yesterday in Garrison, died this morning at Westchester Medical Center. The 25-year-old Lake Carmel resident, a member of the Carmel Volunteer Fire Department, donated his organs.

Carmel Fire Chief Daryl Johnson said his department was devastated by the loss. Former Chief Tom Keck said the mood at the firehouse was somber last night.

"People are very upset," Keck said this morning. "He was an excellent kid: energetic and always willing to help out. He'll be missed."

Lamb was a full-time EMT for the Fishkill-based Empire State Ambulance Corp.

He was in the back of an ambulance that fellow EMT Jonathan Romero was driving north on Route 9 in Garrison around 5:15 a.m. when it went off the road and struck a tree. State police said it appeared that Romero, 27, of the Bronx, fell asleep at the wheel.

He remained hospitalized this morning at the Valhalla hospital.

The two were returning from a call when the accident happened. A statement issued today by Empire said the company and its employees are "overwhelmed with grief" over Lamb's death.

"There are no words to express how everyone - from his many friends and fellow employees to his patients - was touched by Matt's professionalism, compassion, kindness and always-present smile," the statement said. "There can be nothing sadder than an individual dedicated to serve and help the community losing his life in such a tragic way. He will be missed and remembered forever."

Check LoHud.com for updates and read more about this story tomorrow in The Journal News.

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This is one of those tragic stories that strikes a chord with everyone. This poor young man helped save countless lives only to lose his so tragically young. I know I speak for many when I say this death truly hurts deep inside whether or not you knew him. May god bless his parents, and everyone else whose lives he touched and help them to cope with this tragedy. My heartfelt condolences to his family. There is truly another Angel in heaven today.

Posted by: aserr38131 on Thu Nov 08, 2007 2:19 pm

tragic, god bless.

Posted by: da devil dawg on Thu Nov 08, 2007 1:58 pm

The late Matthew Lamb, 25, of Lake Carmel.