For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Roland Churchill, 686-2058

Thousand Islands Emergency Rescue Service Named “EMS Agency of the Year.”

Edward Wronski, Director of The New York State Emergency Medical Services Bureau, based in Troy, announced on August 15 that the Thousand Islands Emergency Rescue Service (TIERS) based in Clayton has been named EMS Agency of the Year.

“This is an excellent award that the entire staff, volunteers and Board of Directors can be very proud of. We work very hard for our communities and strive to be the best at what we do, which is saving lives. For an agency that has only been in existence for a little over five years to be acknowledged in this manner is simply wonderful,” says Roland G. “Rolly” Churchill, Director of TIERS.

To be nominated for the award, an individual must submit an application to a Regional Emergency Medical Services Council, which in this region is the North Country Emergency Medical Services representing St. Lawrence, Lewis and Jefferson Counties. The Council approves the application, which is then submitted to the New York State EMS Council, who selects the Agency of the Year from among all the applicants.

Selection criteria for the award include either a pattern of activities that have resulted in a significant improvement of the EMS system in a region or a singular unusual act that goes beyond ordinary duty. TIERS was selected because of the significant improvement in the EMS system for the St. Lawrence River communities in Jefferson County, along with the wellness educational programs they have implemented.

Donna Chatterton, Orleans Supervisor and TIERS board member said, “Countless unselfish hours have been put forth by Rolly Churchill to bring TIERS to the level that our agency has achieved. All of the volunteers and paid staff have a major responsibility in obtaining these goals. TIERS’ goal has been to provide topnotch services for the residents of our community. Our residents are the number one concern in our operation and it is evident that we achieved this goal to receive the EMS award of the year. The Town of Orleans greatly appreciates all that TIERS has done.”

Thousand Islands Emergency Rescue Service (TIERS) was created from the consolidation of ambulance services once provided by Clayton and LaFargeville Fire Departments. The service responds to more than one thousand emergency calls annually. TIERS also provides CPR and AED training, first aid training, blood pressure clinics, babysitting safety classes, OHSA classes, Emergency Medical Technician certification courses, and safety programs for children and the elderly.

Longtime TIERS volunteer Pat Patchen praised TIERS for its consistently fast, efficient response to emergencies and to its commitment to community health and well-being, “Without TIERS being here, people would have to take themselves to Watertown or call another ambulance service. Someone is here twenty-four hours a day to serve our area.”

The award will be presented to TIERS representatives at the awards banquet during the upcoming NYSEMS Vital Signs EMS Conference to be held October 2-5 in Buffalo.

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