

E9-1-1 INSTITUTE AND NENA HOLD 2009 9-1-1 HONORS GALA

The E9-1-1 Institute, in conjunction with National Emergency Number Association (NENA) and the Congressional E9-1-1 Caucus, awarded heroes and leaders in the field of emergency public communications at the 6th annual “**9-1-1 Honors Gala.**” The Honors Gala took place tonight at historic Union Station in Washington D.C.

The event was hosted jointly by the E9-1-1 Institute and NENA. Congressman Jim McGovern, a member of the **Congressional E9-1-1 Caucus**, co- chaired by **Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)**, **Representative Anna Eshoo (D-CA)** and **Representative John Shimkus (R-IL)**, and Congressman Henry Cuellar, Chairman of the House Homeland Security’s Subcommittee on Emergency Communications, Preparedness and Response presented awards to two this year’s winners. Also presenting awards were Mike Amarosa of TruePosition, Chairman of the E9-1-1 Institute’s Board of Directors, and Ron Bonneau, President of NENA.

“It is an honor for our organizations to once again recognize the people who contribute so much to the safety and protection of our country,” said Gregory L. Rohde, Executive Director of the E9-1-1 Institute. *“Every year, the nominations reveal the true heroism, expertise and dedication of those whose job it is to save lives, and of those who save lives in the course of everyday life.”*

“The 9-1-1 telecommunicator is truly the first, first responder. They are the unseen heroes who coordinate effective emergency response and ensure that critical help is provided to those in need, twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year,” said NENA CEO Brian Fontes. *“It is a privilege to have this opportunity to recognize all of those involved who make our 9-1-1 system the life saving safety net so many have come to rely on.”*

The E9-1-1 Institute is a non-profit organization which exists to support the Congressional E9-1-1 Caucus and assist in promoting public education on E9-1-1 and emergency communications issues. The Institute provides informational and administrative support to members of the Congressional Caucus as they pursue their mission of improving 9-1-1 emergency communications. Find out more at www.e911institute.org

NENA is *The Voice of 9-1-1*. NENA promotes implementation and awareness of 9-1-1 as North America’s universal emergency number. NENA is the leading professional non-profit organization dedicated solely to 9-1-1 emergency communications issues. NENA serves its nearly 7,000 members in 48 chapters across the U.S., Canada and Mexico through policy advocacy, establishment of technical and operational standards, promotion of Next Generation 9-1-1 services, certification programs and a broad spectrum of educational offerings. Brian Fontes is the Chief Executive Officer of NENA. Find out more at www.nena.org.

2009 9-1-1 Honors Awards Winners

The **9-1-1 Call-Taker/Dispatcher Award** honors the true “first responders” on the front lines of emergency communications every day. Karla Seago of Randolph County E9-1-1 in Alabama assisted in coordinating the pursuit across state lines of a fleeing suspect in a stolen vehicle which was equipped with an onboard telematics system.

The **Citizen in Action Award** recognizes a person who demonstrated exceptional bravery and heroism to save a life in a critical time using 9-1-1. Tyson Click of Stephenville, Texas was only 8 years old but knew enough to call 9-1-1 when his grandmother was suddenly stricken with a life threatening medical emergency.

The **First Responder Award** is given in appreciation of the dedicated professionals in law enforcement, fire and rescue and emergency medical services who assist the people reporting and/or experiencing an emergency situation. Chief Kevin Sugg of the Alamo, Tennessee Police Department was off duty when he rescued three children from a burning day care center BEFORE a 9-1-1 call was even made.

The **Government Leader Award** recognizes the efforts of federal, state and local officials in developing and implementing public policy to advance the capabilities of 9-1-1 emergency communications. Governor Linda Lingle of Hawaii expertly lead the legislative initiative to secure the necessary funding for the technology upgrades required for receiving 9-1-1 calls from wireless phones.

Lt. Tracy Felty of Saline County E9-1-1 in Illinois has reached across jurisdictional lines at all levels of government to forge partnerships that have yielded measurable gains in bringing E9-1-1 to the residents of the vast region of Southern Illinois.

The **Industry Professional Award** honors individuals in the commercial sector who make exceptional contributions towards the advancement of emergency 9-1-1 communications. Tom Breen of AT&T and Michael Mangini of PlantCML have throughout their 30-plus year careers not only distinguished themselves as leaders in their field, but also as mentors to the next generation.

The **9-1-1 Technician Award** appreciates the quiet leaders whose work is largely behind-the-scenes, yet essential to making 9-1-1 voice and data networks reliable and effective. Bill Hobgood of Richmond, Virginia’s Department of Information Technology is always thinking of new ways to make the critical technology systems work better for the community.

The **Outstanding 9-1-1 Call Center Award** honors a specific Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) for its excellence in key emergency communications areas ranging from the handling of emergency situations reported to 9-1-1 to the deployment and management of new technology. The Harris County Mobile Command Unit in Houston, Texas rose above and beyond the call of duty in its response to Hurricane Ike.

The **Outstanding 9-1-1 Program Award** recognizes an innovative and forward looking plan to enhance the future viability of public emergency communications systems. Indiana, in deploying the first state 9-1-1 network on self-healing fiber optic cable, is leading the nation in the crucial technological advance to Next Generation, or NG9-1-1 architecture.