

EMS WEEK CELEBRATES COMMUNITY PARTNERING

FORT MYERS, FL—Often gone from the scene when the media arrives, EMS cares for the ill and injured as an integral link in the chain of emergency services provided by law enforcement and fire fighters. The individuals and their selfless work are celebrated during National EMS Week 2009 May 17-23 with the theme "EMS-A Proud Partner in Your Community."

Emergency Medical Services workers—EMTs and paramedics, dispatchers and billers, emergency management and support staff, supervisors and educators—focus on helping others. Thanks to the men and women of Emergency Medical Services, thousands more people are alive today to celebrate the 36th Annual National EMS Week.

Stories abound of lives saved when they shouldn't have been and the need of EMS workers to give more to the community than they already do. The week was created by the American College of Emergency Physicians.

Children have been asked to send thank you notes to EMTs and Paramedics, while local businesses are donating food and gifts to express their thanks during barbecue luncheons for Lee County EMS at Lakes Park. There are three days of picnic luncheons scheduled to enable the men and women on all shifts to participate in the celebration in their honor.

"No one gives more to the community than these medics," said Dep. Chief Kim Dickerson, EMS Operations Manager. "Most patients remember the nurses and doctors who are there when they are feeling better, and some even remember the fire fighters who rescued them. Rarely do the medics who helped them sustain life between rescue and hospital care hear from the public."

The celebration, which includes an annual award for the most giving EMT and paramedic outside of regular work duties and other awards, is paid for by a donation from a former patient.

To send thanks to Lee County EMS Medics, please mail to PO Box 398, Fort Myers, FL 33902-0398.