





The newsletter of the Genesee Valley Region

Summer, 2014



### **Bob Andre**

RD

I believe all will agree that we had an exceptional ski season last year. It truly was good to return to a solid winter not interspersed with periods of spring. Most all of our areas closed for lack of skiers, not snow. That being said a warm el nino is being predicted for next year-stay

tuned-winter is a long way away.

As I prepare this article for Valley Views I wonder how many of you read and appreciate the information presented by our Region staff. A good deal of time goes into its preparation, by our staff in writing articles, and publishing the newsletter by Bill Gamble. All of us have very full plates and I would like to know if the newsletter is of value to our Patrollers. One value less obvious is the historical record of our Region. Bill has issues going back several years posted on our website and they make for thoughtful reading. Please contact Bill or myself with feedback on your experience with Valley Views.

We have both Region and National elections coming up this fall. At the National level we will be electing four National Board members. This is again a very important election year and more information will be forthcoming at our fall refreshers. Thanks to all of you who voted last year, several very good Patrollers were elected to the National Board and our Region had the third highest voting percentage in the Division, although still only about 1/3 of our members voted. In the Region, one Assistant Region Director position will be elected and I will have termed out as Region Director, having served three two year terms, so we will also be electing a new Region Director.

One of the topics covered at our Spring Officer's Meeting in Albany concerned value added to our respective mountains. What can we do as Patrollers to help our areas outside of showing up for shifts? Are there summer projects or medical coverage we can help out with? Can our education and experience in risk management be brought to the area's attention? We have resources within the National Ski Patrol, such as telecommunications that can assist with FCC registration. As every ski area looks at its financial structure, the extra added value that we can demonstrate beyond basic Patrolling, adds to that bottom line-and ultimately benefits us as Patrollers. Be proactive and work as a team with your area.

Once again the Genesee Valley had a rewarding Saturday evening at the Spring Officer's Meeting when it came time to announce awards. Rick Micoli can summarize the awards received, but I want all to know how proud I am, of our Patrollers, and their leadership and accomplishments. It is truly a pleasure to represent you!

I also wish to offer a special thanks to our entire Region Staff for the work all have done this past season in completing very successful and innovative programs and also keeping the Region wheels greased and running smoothly. Great job folks!

## **REGIONAL ADVISORS:**

### Rick Micoli

Here are the awards that the Genesee Valley Region has brought home:

**Eastern Division Awards:** 

Outstanding Large Alpine Patrol Outstanding Nordic Patrol Outstanding Nordic Patroller Memorial Fund Scholarship (Hunt Hollow SP) Bristol Mountain GVR Nordic Skip Millor Rachel Wambach

Awards

National Appointments: Deb Whalen #11466

Mike Mooney #11496 Marie Osypian #11498 Bill Gottermeier #11500 Rick Micoli #11502

Purple Merit Star: Jerry Sherman, Bristol

**Blue Merit Star:** Bill Teamerson, Martha Mc Intyre, Fred Shelley, Emily Robbins, Elaine Pratt, Rick Walzer, Chris Hellems, Dan Roffman, Andrew Swarts, Betsy Landre (10, all from Bristol)

**Yellow Merit Star:** Kerry Meyer, Scott Rosebrough, Steve Duncan, Chris Babcock, Jeff Welch, John Sokolofsky, Russ Perrin, Andy Knapp, Pam Welch, Cyndi Sherman (10, all from Bristol)

**Distinguished Service Award:** Brenda Rizzo

Eastern Division Patroller Achievement Award: Keith Mc Intyre, Jim Boring, Dieter Henschel, Steven Drawe, Chuck Harter, Bob Bryan, Therese Costich, Steve La Crosse, Linda Breen, Rich Meyer, Jennifer Grant, Jennifer Jesske, Scott Rosebrough, Glenn Becker, Cyndi Sherman, Bill Smith, Pat O'Hara, Jan Scott all from Bristol. Mark Tornatore, John Starke, Mike Podherecki, Greg West, Scott Wild from Hunt Hollow.

### Mike Mooney Instructor Development

Patrollers who want to become instructors in Outdoor Emergency Care, Ski &Toboggan Transportation, Mountain Travel & Rescue, or Avalanche need to enroll in the Instructor Development course to begin the process of becoming an instructor. This class is offered every spring after the end of the ski season to avoid the time conflicts that patrollers encounter during the ski season and counts as a senior elective. Participants in the course learn principles of effective classroom and field teaching techniques and observe a variety of demonstration teaching models.

The course in an evening session with the students required to complete a CD or online program prior to the evening session. The evening session reinforced the materials brought forward on the CD or online program and allowed for practice by the students before presenting their mini lesson using the foundations developed in the course. Twelve patrollers completed the Instructor Development classes in April 2014 and are now going through the mentoring process to become instructors. In our survey of the patrollers who completed the course we received lots of enthusiastic feedback about the class format. Check the region website for further information. Signup sheets will be available at the Region Refreshers in the fall and you can also contact myself at mooney@geneseo.edu to register for the course.

In addition to completing the Instructor Development course, patrollers who want to become instructors need to complete the mentoring program with an experienced instructor in each discipline and be evaluated by an Instructor Trainer. Genesee Valley Region has been very successful in mentoring and evaluating new instructors and there are lots of experienced instructors who are available to give you assistance or advice on the instructor mentoring program. The region now also has a mentoring webpage that provides information about the mentoring process – you will find the link to it in the lower right column of the GV Region homepage (http://www.nspgvr.org) right underneath the Instructor Development link. Another feature on the region website this year is the posting of lists of the requirements and responsibilities of instructors in OEC, S&T. MTR. and Avalanche in this region on both the Mentoring and Instructor Development webpages in Adobe Acrobat pdf format for downloading. The intent of these documents is to help potential instructors develop realistic expectations regarding what an

instructor does and what the time commitments are to instruct in each discipline before signing up.

We have instructors from various patrols in the region with teaching experience in each of the NSP disciplines who will teach the Instructor Development course this year: Marcia Mundrick (Hunt Hollow: OEC, EMM, MTR, Avalanche), Mike Mooney (Swain: S&T,OEC), John Lawson (Hunt Hollow: OEC, EMM), Bob Andre (Hunt Hollow: OEC, EMM, MTR, Avalanche), Pam Welch (Bristol OEC, S&T) and Glenn Gebhard (Swain: OEC).

The Instructor Development class is the gateway to becoming an instructor who trains new patrol candidates and refreshes current patrollers. These training activities enable the region to replenish our ranks and update our patroller skills. We invite you to take part in an enjoyable learning experience and join the corps of instructors in this region who contribute so much both to the patrols and to the skiing public.

### Tom Wallin S&T

Within the S&T side of things we have had a busy season. We had a Ski Trainers Workshop (the old S&T Phase II course) at Hunt Hollow in early January, where we reviewed the Instructor Development course, got some pointers from some Level III PSIA instructors and examiners, and worked on drills and teaching ideas for patroller skills and sled skills. We had three patrollers take this course-Val Sorrells from Bristol, Alex Webster from Hunt Hollow and Keith Hendricks from Brantling.

Bristol Mountain helped us this season greatly by hosting three events for us, a Division Ladies only Clinic, a S&T T/E Recert clinic, and finally the Senior S&T test. The Ladies Clinic was taught by some very talented ladies from all around the Division, (and as far away as Maine), including our own Lori Kloesz. From all reports, everyone had a great time and learned a bunch about running sleds. The T/E Recert clinic had most of the Senior S&T staff recerting, as well as few visitors from Pennsylvania. All of our staff recerted and we had four patrollers pass the T/E clinic for first time-Pam Welch, Chris Hellems, Mike Stamp, and Tim Eygabroad, all from Bristol.

The Senior S&T Program had a big group this year, with quite a few clinics offered at Swain, Hunt Hollow, and Bristol covering skiing skills, patroller skills, and of course toboggans. The end result of a lot of hard work gained the Region two new full Seniors - Mary Emmighausen from Swain and Tom Jenssen from Bristol. Successfully passing Senior S&T were Anna Blume from Bristol, Matt Koelsch from Swain, Trey Stephany from Swain, Dan Shappee from Bristol, and Mike Russo from Holiday Valley. Passing the Toboggan Section were Kevin Boehm, and Glenn Becker both from Bristol.

Joe Menichino Certified

Hi folks- summer is here and I finally put most of my ski gear away. Now I'm taking at least some of it out again as we start staffing summer programs at Swain and in the Region. Summer resort activities are fun and add a whole new challenge to how we apply our OEC and extraction skills. I like not being in ski boots all day long but would gladly trade that benefit for the ability to use our toboggans for rescues on the hill. Sleds just don't run well on grass.

It was a good season for the Certified program in the Genesse Valley. Our Region hosted a Patroller Boot camp / Introduction to the Certified Program in the Fall at Keuka Lake at Jeff Baker's camp. I can't recommend these sessions enough. They are local, you meet lots of excellent patrollers from the Division, the training is very low pressure and relaxed and we share excellent meals. Let's hope arrangements can be made to run another session in 2015. We also staffed a Phase II S&T Instructor Enhancement seminar during the season. This turned out to be a great learning experience for all. We had over 4 hours with 2 top notch Level 3 PSIA instructors from Hunt and the Buffalo area. Can't beat that.

The annual exam was held at Whiteface. Our Region was well represented by many interested patrollers from our Region and all of our Certified members except me (I had to work- bummer). Bill Jordan, the new Certified Chair continues evolving the program placing strong emphasis on consistent requirements, efficiently organized test events and believe it or not-training. The skiing was amazing from what I heard. (Sure- I wasn't there). The First Aid section was let by Jeff Baker, new First Aid Program chair with Tom Wallin assisting. Can't imagine what nasty challenges those 2 created but in the end everyone survived. Rumor has it that Tailroping will be added to the Toboggan portion of the exam. This is being done to keep Eastern in line with the National program. That will sure add to the fun for the candidates

Have a great and safe summer. It won't be long and we'll be back at it training OEC candidates and working through refreshers- can't wait....but first some summer, please.

Patrick Saeva MTR

In preparation for this article I had to think back through this past season and the experience was bittersweet, bringing back mixed emotions. Let me start with the positive. We had a great MTR 2 class this winter, culminating with a beautiful trip to Wanakena, NY where we survived a frigid weekend overlooking a frozen Cranberry Lake. Malorie Osypian, Eric Zeise, Rick Brown, and Will Ober all successfully completed the course with flying colors. They did a great job collaborating on emergency shelters, patient treatment and extrication and many other topics covered. I look forward to these trips as I always learn new skills and techniques from the other instructors and students and this trip was no exception. Each student brought a

unique perspective and skill set that was valuable to all. Congratulations to each student for completing the class.

I would also like to congratulate Tom Jenssen on becoming a full MTR instructor. He is a great addition to the team with great knowledge and experience. We look forward to many successful years of instruction.

While we gained a new instructor, we also lost one of great experience and knowledge. As you all know, Brian Walsh passed away this year. Some of you probably don't know that Brian was a long time MTR instructor and was one of the best, he was the backbone of the program. As a student, I always enjoyed learning from Brian as he was very knowledgeable, patient, and a great sense of humor. He spent a lot of time in the wilderness and was always willing to pass on those experiences to the group. He will be greatly missed. He was planning on going on this year's trip and cancelled due to his illness and while he wasn't there in person, he was there in spirit. This trip was for Brian.

### Tom Jenssen OEC

OEC Classes:

Deb Whalen and Rick Micoli will be the IOR's again this year. Everyone should give them a big thank you for doing this important, time consuming job. Looks like we'll have a large class – over 30.

Classes this year will be held at the Avon Central Schools – Senior High Cafeteria. The schedule for classes should be on the GVR website by the time you read this. The first class will be Monday, August 4. We are making some changes this year to focus more class time on skill building and scenarios and less on lecture. In addition, holiday weeks will only have one class on Wednesday. Thanks to Rick, Deb, and Marcia Mundrick for working on these improvements.

#### **OEC Refreshers:**

Dates for the OEC refreshers are on the GVR website. The location will again be at Honeoye High School. While details still have to be worked out, we plan to use an NSP administered, pre-refresher module which will allow us to spend more refresher time on skills and hands on work. All patrollers will need to complete this module at their convenience prior to attending the refresher. More details to come. We will again ask each patrol to arrange a roughly 50/50 split between the sessions – which makes for much more effective refreshers.

### OEC Instructors:

Instructor refresher dates have been posted on the website. I will shortly be sending out the first e-mails requesting signups for the OEC classes. Thanks again for your commitment to this important work. We have a large group of instructor candidates this year. Thanks for stepping up!

### THE IRS IS WATCHING

When Congress enacted Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3), which we will call "C3", they wanted a guarantee that charities would not funnel tax free gifts into profit-making ventures without paying income tax. So, they put language in the bill threatening to take away the tax-free exemption from any charity which transferred tax free money or any other tax free item to a profit making business.

The ski areas that we serve are not sophisticated about C3 and the fact that they have a real charity in the Ski Patrol serving their customers. The ski areas are profit-making ventures (hopefully) and want to get revenue and services wherever they can. Money is even better if they don't have to pay income tax on it. Since this is cropping up again, it is necessary to remind Ski Patrols (those nice little charities) that they can't transfer money or things to the ski area. It's alright if the Patrol buys band aids for the customers, but paint for the walls of the Ski Patrol facility is, strictly-speaking, not kosher.

If your Patrol has a question about this, please e-mail me, fax me or call me at the numbers listed below.

Remember, even though ski season is past, the IRS never sleeps.

Henry

e-mail: <a href="mailto:henryww@rochester.rr.com">henryww@rochester.rr.com</a>

Fax: 585-889-3044

Telephone: 585-889-3000

### Richard Harding Avalanche

This is our year to offer Avalanche Fundamentals and Rescue. The plan is to offer a combined Avalanche Fundamentals and Rescue course in combination with Mountain Travel & Rescue. The format will be similar to previous years with a classroom session, likely on a Saturday in December, followed by a combined outdoor session with the MTR course. Avalanche Fundamentals and Rescue curriculum covers all aspects of the avalanche triangle (weather/snow/terrain) and is an excellent introduction to the potential hazards associated with skiing big mountains - particularly in New England and out west. We also include an introduction to probing and avalanche beacons. More information will be available on dates, times, and how to sign up in the fall. If you have questions or want more information before then, please contact me (Dick Harding) at 716-759-6613 or at rharding@buffalo.edu.

# **NEWS FROM THE PATROLS:**

### **NORDIC**

What a great season of natural snow and skinny ski dipping! Season highlights include a Mercy Flight landing demo during Winterfest at Mendon Ponds Park, a multi-

casualty inter-agency exercise at Harriett Hollister State Park and of course our Annual Hot Dog and Chili Days at Cumming Nature Center – thanks to the region patrols who came out to help at the grill and dine al fresco.

Other highlights include adding a new patroller, 2 new seniors, an Outstanding Division Nordic Patroller and a National Appointment to our ranks and accomplishments.

Looking ahead, please join us at the ADK Outdoor Expo on June 14<sup>th</sup> at Mendon Ponds Park. Nordic Patrollers Tom Adler and Skip Millor will be providing a workshop "Preparing for the Unexpected: Someone in Your party is Lost"

Alpine Patrollers interested in learning more about skinny dipping with the Nordic Patrol please join us for a couple hours next winter at any of our 3 venues, and check out the beautiful groomed trails. Visit our website, <a href="https://www.gvnsp.org">www.gvnsp.org</a>, for contacts and information.

Deb Whalen, PD

### **BRISTOL**

This was quite a year for BMSP. Teamwork and dedication were the name of the game for all 134 days of skiing and riding this season. Capping our 50th year as a patrol, The Bristol Mountain Ski patrol was awarded the Eastern Division large patrol of the year award. The award was announced and celebrated with the entire patrol at our spring Picnic at Mendon Ponds Park on May 3rd. In addition to the Division award, BMSP recognized it's local outstanding patrollers in several categories and presented to individual patrollers recognition for service over many years: Bill Gottermeier, Rick Miccoli and dual patroller Deb Whalen received National Numbers. Brenda Rizzo earned the Distinguished Service award, and 18 members earned Eastern Division Patroller Achievement awards. Rounding out the recognition were the presentations to 18 patrollers earning National Merit stars for their participation in life saving efforts this year including, Jerry Sherman earning a Purple Merit Star. We also honored four new seniors: Steve Sippel, Val Sorrels, Anna Blume, & Brian Ferguson.

In addition to awards we had many members step up as instructors this season. New OEC instructors include: MaryBeth Flynn, Steve Dugan, Sam Zebelman, Pam Welch, Steve Sippel and Returning OEC Instructors: Ernst Meyer, Mike Morgan, Bill Smith and Cyndi Sherman. We also had 4 members step it up a notch and earn their S&T Trainer Evaluator level: Chris Hellems, Tim Eygabroad, Mike Stamp and Pam Welch. New instructors are the life blood of our programs. Thank you to all who took on this necessary task.

At BMSP we are grateful for our outstanding patrol family and appreciate all of the extra efforts people put it. Thanks for a GREAT season.

Pam Welch, PD Summer, 2014

Valley Views

### **SWAIN**

Swain had a great season. We were open for 113 days. And with Mother Nature's help with both snow and cold we got the area fully open much earlier this season than in past years. We had great snow and conditions from early December right through the end of the season. Swain management has promised an expansion of beginner terrain for next season.

We are not done yet, as Swain will continue offering lift accessed Mountain biking, and a new mountain wide lift accessed Frisbee golf course this summer. Upcoming events will include the Fall Sportsman's festival, and 3D shoot, and The Hardcore Mud Run, Saturday June 7<sup>th</sup>.

At our annual awards banquet a number of national awards were handed out including National appointment numbers for Marie Osypian, and Mike Mooney. Bruce Johnson was awarded a Distinguished Service Award. Richard Stearns was awarded a Meritorious Service Award. Some of the local awards highlights included: The Herb Lehman award of Instructor of the year given to Rick Wilcox for S&T, Pat Saeva for MTR, Shannon Bielaska for OEC; The Harry Stoneham Award for the Outstanding Candidate of the Year which went to Jim Jozwiak; the Dave Hanning Award for Long Term Commitment and Support of the Patrol which went to Gary Sphar; and The Sliding Raque for surviving an odd and arguably funny situation with poise and dignity befitting a Ski Patroller in the line of duty which also went to Richard Stearns (You can ask Richard about the details). There were also a number of NSP Angel pins awarded to Janet Wilcox, Marc Osypian, Colleen Wangler, and Gage Slade.

For the upcoming season, we have a fairly large number of candidates going through the OEC course. We look forward to seeing them on the snow next season. If you know anyone wishing to have information about joining our patrol, or becoming a dual patroller, please contact PD Marie Osypian. Her contact information is on the region website.

Tom Wallin

### **POWDER MILLS PARK**

As we head into Summer, I'm trying to think a bit "long range" to prepare for our next season on the snow that's bound to come. I remember hearing feedback from our last refresher. Things like;

- 1. We ought to have our refresher at Powderhorn Lodge. Reserve it early! Get it on the Calendar! (DONE)
- 2. We ought to review our aid bags and room setup so people know where stuff is! (A very good suggestion. I'll be looking for a volunteer or two to help make it happen)
- 3. We ought to have relevant scenarios for situations our patrollers might face. (Another excellent suggestion...)
- 4. We ought to write things down, or tie strings on our fingers, or somehow remember stuff. (Well, I'm trying.

Let's review logs and incident report procedures as part of our preparation, rather than after-the-fact.)

- 5. Why all these visiting patrollers taking over our stations? (A most excellent way to help get all seven of us refreshed, in my opinion...)
- How are we going to get recruiting to pay off? (A \$64k question.)

I do have to brag a bit that while riding the chairlift at Swain with my teenage son, he asked me if he could be on the Patrol too. I explained what it took to get in to patrolling, and he wasn't scared off. After the formal application and interview, he is still committed to taking OEC beginning in August. This will be a big commitment on the part of the family, but I am optimistic we can pull it off. With all our patrollers returning this fall, we should be "up one" in our roster count.

Please also note that the Stuart Horse Trials are July 11-13, and the region gets a nice donation in return for helping out. You can help do your part in keeping our dues as low as practical by contacting your patrol rep or designated SHT organizer and putting in a few hours one morning or afternoon for a worthwhile cause. http://stuarthorsetrials.org/

This summer is going to fly by. Let's enjoy the ride.

Rick Church, PD

#### **HUNT HOLLOW**

Greetings from the Hunt Hollow Ski Patrol. I hope everyone is enjoying the "off-season." So what's new...

If you happened to be at the mountain for the annual Corn Snow festival, you likely happened upon the HHSP 2nd Annual Turkey Fry. In addition to food, drink and great camaraderie, there was enough fried, smoked and grilled bird to feed a small village. Add the musical stylings of one "Jumbo Shrimp" playing acoustic on our deck and you've got a great celebration. Kudos to our turkey team of Mark Tornatore, Roger Peinkofer, Rick Wambach and Carolyn Hotchkiss, plus the countless others who pitched in.

Well, what's a great way to follow-up a great party like the Turkey Fry? With another great party of course. Our Annual Meeting and End-of-Year banquet was held at Mickey Finn's in Victor. Thanks go out to Mark Tornatore and Carolyn Hotchkiss for the planning and execution. Plenty of partying patrollers were in attendance (as was the "shot-ski") to celebrate the season and congratulate the their fellow patrollers who were recognized with the following awards:

- Mark Tornatore: HH Patroller of the Year
- Scott Wild: HH Instructor of the Year
- Sue Haefner: HH OEC Instructor of the Year
- Peter Parker: Meritorious Service Award
- Eastern Division Patroller Achievement Award: Scott Wild, Greg West, Mike

- Podhorecki. Mark Tornatore and John Starke.
- And last but certainly not least, Skip Millor celebrated his 50th YEAR of patrolling with the Nordic Patroller of the Year award. Wow!

Kelley Louthan was elected to the patrol board replacing Norm Robinson whose term expired. Welcome Kelley! Evac team leader John Athans has been working on engineering drawings for the Bristol "evac T seat." He's currently pursuing review and sign-off by a certified PE, and bids from local machine / fabrication shops. Please contact John if you are interested in pooling an order as a region in an effort to receive a volume discount.

### Candidate Report:

We had another great training season thanks in large part to Bob Andre, Scott Wild and their dedicated training teams. We had four new patrollers join our ranks. Please welcome to the region Greg Knox, Kevin Smith, Mike DeClerck and Greg Beaver. Completing S &T this winter were Samantha Starke, Joe Mauro and Eric Bentley. They will be joined in OEC by four new f aces - Sarah Stubler, Kevin St. Martin, Nathan Wenzel and Steve LaDue. All seven will be taking OEC in the Fall. We're also happy to welcome Marie Revekant and Lee Bentzoni to the patrol.

Special congratulations to Patroller Rodney Holmes (fiance Amy), and Patroller Greg Knox (fiance Khrystin) for their upcoming summertime nuptials. Welcome to the family Amy and Khrystin.

And finally, our on-hill refresher is scheduled for October 4. Please contact Bob Andre if you are interested in attending.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer and we'll you see in the Fall.

Joe Hoff, PD

### **BRANTLING**

A warm Saturday evening in April served as the official close of our season at Brantling. Although skiers and toboggans had left the slopes a few weeks prior, owners and operators, Kevin and Deanne Spear brought back the memories of the significant snow coverage we were blessed including a bit of humor to the evening with the news that a "pool" had been created to guess when the last of the snow would leave the Boarding Park - no shovels allowed! The evening began with the traditional social hour, followed by a buffet of numerous dishes to suit a variety of tastes. Our thanks to Ann Boise and Marsha Wait for their work in their planning of this year's successful event.

Service awards were presented to Brian Bartleson (15 yrs). Demitrius DiLulio (5yrs), Jon Hess (10yrs), Mark Lukacs (15yrs) and Kathy Madison (5yrs). This season's highest award, the Harry Rich, Brantling Patroller of the Year was presented to Cindy Showman. Cindy's

nomination noted her exceptional and continuous contributions to our patrol over her 19 years of service, including coverage of open shifts, work on annual fundraising in addition to her most recent position as APD for Scheduling. A well deserved honor Cindy!

The patrol expects to add at least one candidate to our roster this season. David Mitchell, a Brantling skier in his youth has expressed an interest to join the patrol and attend OEC this fall having completed S and T training this past season. Welcome David.

Brian Mayou, PD



Illustration 1: Bristol PD Pam Welch receiving the Division Outstanding Large Alpine Patrol Award from RD Bob André.



Illustration 2: Nordic PD Deb Whalen receiving the Division Outstanding Nordic Patrol Award from RD Bob André.



Illustration 3: Skip Millor received the Pete Snyder Division Outstanding Nordic Patroller Award.



Illustration 5: Brenda Rizzo received a National Distinguished Service Award for her 27 years of outstanding service.



Illustration 4: Jerry Sherman received a Purple Merit Star for leadership in saving a life.

For the latest information on Region matters, visit the Region web site regularly: <a href="http://www.nspgvr.org">http://www.nspgvr.org</a>.