

Lifesaving Awards



American Red Cross
Training Services

NOMINATE NOW

Inspiring Stories by Region

Recognizing the On-field Heroics of Buffalo Bills Staff in the Western New York Region

During a ceremony in May, the athletic training and medical staff of the Buffalo Bills were recognized with Lifesaving Awards for actions taken in January, when millions of Americans witnessed Bills player Damar Hamlin collapse on the field from cardiac arrest during a football game. When their Emergency Action Plan was triggered, this group immediately called upon their training and preparedness to mobilize the necessary resources and procedures. “We will be forever grateful for the Red Cross and the certification training that you do to help people know what to do when an emergency situation arises,” said Certificate of Merit awardee Breske, head athletic trainer for the Buffalo Bills.



Members of the Buffalo Bills athletic training and medical staff pose with Red Cross staff at Highmark Stadium.

The Certificate of Merit was presented by Jack McMaster, president of Red Cross training services, to the athletic training staff of the Bills: Nate Breske; Marissa Figueroa; Kelsey Harkins; Denny Kellington; Joe Micca and Tabani Richards.

In addition, the Red Cross recognized the entire staff that made a difference that day with Certificates of Extraordinary Personal Action, which recognize those who step up in an emergency to save a life. Awarded these were Dr. Leslie Bisson; Mark Carrier; Chris Clark; Joe Collins; Dr. Desaree Festa; Dr. Marc Fineberg; Dr. Mark Kim; Dr. Zachary Musial; Kori Reblin and Dr. Tom White.

Read the inspiring story, including the response from the Red Cross Instructor who trained the Certificate of Merit awardees, and don't miss the video [here](#).

School Nurse Saves Teacher's life in the South Florida Region

Bethany Simmons-Little, a school nurse from Southwest Miami-Dade, Florida, was awarded the Certificate of Extraordinary Personal Action after saving a teacher suffering a heart attack that led to cardiac arrest. Bethany performed CPR for 10-15 minutes on the teacher until the paramedics arrived. They attribute the teacher being alive today to Bethany's actions. “The American Red Cross gives out a National Lifesaving award when someone uses their skill set to save or sustain another life, and in this case, Ms. Little used her nursing training and literally did not stop,” said Debbie Koch, executive director for the American Red Cross for Miami and the Keys, in an interview with the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. Read more about this remarkable rescue in the [press release](#) and an inspirational [story](#) on the region's website.



L to R: Deborah Koch, executive director for the Greater Miami and the Keys Chapter of the Red Cross, and Bethany Simmons-Little

Science Teacher Saves Student on Playground in the Idaho and Montana Region

Mike Crockett, a seventh and eighth grade science teacher at St. Joseph Catholic School in Missoula, Montana, saved the life of a sixth-grade boy who fell off playground equipment. When the child hit the ground and was motionless for more than five seconds, Mike jumped into action. He ran over and began performing CPR on the boy, who became responsive and is now back in classes. Read more about why the boy's parents nominated him for the Certificate of Extraordinary Personal Action on the region's [Twitter feed](#), which links to a heartfelt video where Mike recaps the amazing story.



R to L: Mike Crockett accepts his award with the student whose life he saved.

Instructor Spotlight

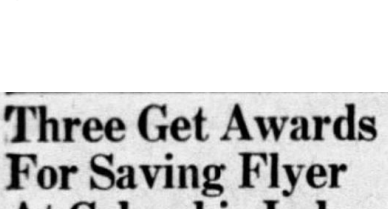
Donnie Burns

Each month we highlight an Instructor whose student(s) used their lifesaving training to save or sustain a life. This month we recognize Donnie Burns, a safety manager at Nunn Construction and a Red Cross Instructor. He taught several Nunn Construction employees, including Assistant Superintendent Trent Ashoo, Adult First Aid/CPR/AED without knowing it would soon be called into use. Less than a month later, Trent was working the jobsite when he was called to assist with a medical emergency. A fellow worker became unresponsive and Trent began CPR. We thank Donnie for providing the quality training that allowed Trent to save a life.



Lifesaving Awards Vault

From the vault of the Hartford Daily Courant (Hartford, Connecticut), November 28, 1948



Certificates of Merit were presented to two Connecticut men after they rescued the pilot of a light seaplane that plunged into Columbia Lake in Connecticut. Guy Beck and Brainard Bell dove into the water to release the pilot from the cockpit where he was trapped, unconscious. Doctors attribute quick CPR on the pilot while he was still in the process of being transported by boat to land to saving his life.

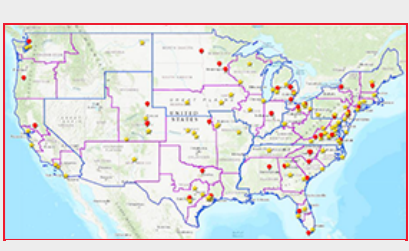


Nominate. Recognize. Inspire.

Saving Lives Starts Here

If you or someone you know has used **skills** and **knowledge** learned in a Red Cross Training Services course to help save or sustain the life of another individual, visit [LifesavingAwards.org](#) to nominate them.

Want to see if you have a local hero in your area? Take a look at our [map](#).



Get Inspired!

Emergencies and accidents happen, as you can see from the stories above. That's why it's important to have lifesaving information at your fingertips so you can respond with confidence. The free First Aid mobile app by the Red Cross puts expert advice for common emergencies in the palm of your hand—from the latest First Aid and CPR techniques to the nearest hospital location. This app provides quick guidance on simple but important actions to take in an emergency so you can act with confidence. Easy-to-follow videos, interactive quizzes and simple step-by-step instruction makes learning and response simple. To download the app, go to [redcross.org/apps](#) or text GETFIRST AID to 90999. You can also search “Red Cross First Aid” in the App Store or Google Play.