
PRESS RELEASE

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Greenwich EMS Mourns the Loss of Founding Executive Director Charlee Tufts

Greenwich, CT – Greenwich Emergency Medical Service, Inc (GEMS) is deeply saddened to announce the passing of Charlee Tufts, its Founding Executive Director and Chief of Service. Charlee, was instrumental in establishing Greenwich EMS in 1986, and dedicated over three decades to leading the organization with unparalleled vision, compassion, and commitment to the community. She retired in 2017, leaving behind a legacy of excellence in emergency medical care.

Under Charlee’s leadership, GEMS grew into a model of prehospital care, renowned for its professionalism, innovation, and lifesaving impact. Her determination to provide Greenwich with world-class emergency medical services revolutionized prehospital care and continues to benefit countless residents today. Among her many achievements, GEMS became the first ambulance service in New England to implement 12-lead EKG capability in 1995, a groundbreaking advancement at the time. She also ensured Greenwich was the first community in the state to earn the HEARTSafe Designation, underscoring her dedication to public health and safety.

Charlee’s influence extended beyond Greenwich EMS. She played pivotal roles in numerous state committees and associations dedicated to enhancing EMS services across the region. Her expertise and passion set new standards for emergency care and served as an inspiration to countless EMTs and paramedics.

“Charlee Tufts was a trailblazer and an inspiration to all of us,” said Executive Director Tracy Schietinger. “Her contributions to emergency medical services and to the Greenwich community are immeasurable. Charlee’s legacy lives on in the lives she saved, the organization she built, and the many people she inspired.”

Beyond her professional achievements, Charlee was a beloved mentor, leader, and friend whose compassion extended far beyond her work. Her tireless advocacy for public health and safety remains a cornerstone of GEMS’ mission.

GEMS offers its deepest condolences to Charlee’s family, friends, and all who were fortunate to know and work alongside her. Charlee’s family is planning a memorial service to celebrate her life and legacy in the coming months."

For more information on GEMS, please visit www.greenwichems.org.