



Shelby County Office of Preparedness
Mark H. Luttrell, Jr., Mayor

Dale Lane, Director
Operations Command Center
(901) 222-6700
1075 Mullins Station Road, Suite 113, Memphis, Tennessee 38134
www.staysafeshelby.us

Steve Shular, Public Affairs Officer
Office (901) 222.2047
Cell (901) 359.5117

January 16, 2015

Hospital Wing Crew Killed in 2013 to Be Honored Next Week

The three crew members who were killed on the morning of October 22, 2013, when their *Hospital Wing* helicopter crashed in Fayette County, will be recognized next week at the Shelby County Office of Preparedness by officials with the State of Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security and Senate Majority Leader Mark Norris.

“We are pleased to host this important event. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with the relatives and co-workers of those dedicated community servants,” said Shelby County Mayor Mark H. Luttrell, Jr.

Family members of helicopter pilot Charles D. Smith, a retired Memphis Police Lieutenant, Pediatric Nurse Carrie Barlow and Pediatric Respiratory Therapist Denise Adams, will receive Tennessee’s *Three Stars Award* during the District 11 Homeland Security meeting, next Thursday, January 22nd, 9:00 a.m., at the Shelby County Office of Preparedness Operations Command Center, 1075 Mullins Station Road.

“Representatives of many law enforcement and emergency response agencies will be at next week’s ceremony. We hope the tribute will bring some comfort to the families of those killed in the helicopter crash,” said Dale Lane, Director of the Shelby County Office of Preparedness.

The State’s *Three Stars Award* ceremony was held last September in Nashville. **“Family members of the *Hospital Wing* crew were unable to attend that event which led to next Thursday’s presentation. This award, created by the Tennessee Senate in May of 2014, is the State’s highest award for peace officers, firefighters and medical first responders killed or injured in the line of duty,”** said David Purkey, Assistant Commissioner, Homeland Security Advisor, Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security.

The *Hospital Wing* is a non-profit air medical transport partnership with local hospitals. The helicopter involved in the crash two years ago was part of the *Pedi-Flight* program that specializes in the critical-care transport of children.

For more information about the *Three Stars Award*, contact Rick Shipkowski, Deputy Homeland Security Advisor, Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security, at Rick.shipkowski@tn.gov or (615) 532-7825.

(End of Release)