



## The Pierces...a profile of one couple that spans two and three generations of volunteerism

For Jennifer Pierce, becoming a rescue squad volunteer seemed inevitable. In 1950, her grandfather, Elwood Styron, became a founding member of what is today the Creeds Volunteer Fire and Rescue Squad; Styron is now a lifetime member.

**J**ennifer's mother, Nancy Gregory, also volunteers there and serves as squad commander. As a third generation rescue volunteer, Jennifer admits, "It was all around me. I just knew it was something I would do one day."

Similarly, in another section of town was a young man named Chris Pierce, who also had family ties to the rescue squad. His mother and stepfather, Connie and Jack Crandell, volunteered at Station 14, the Virginia Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad. As a second generation volunteer, Chris says his reasons for joining were born out of a simple desire "to help the people who live in my community." It's quite possible there's more to it than that for Chris, though, which Jennifer didn't mind revealing. Ask her how they met...

"It was by accident – Chris's – literally," she laughs. "Actually," she explains, "Chris met my mom before he met me. In 1992, before both of us were volunteers, Chris was in a car accident and my mom was the one who responded to the call." Thankfully, it wasn't a bad accident...and just a few months later, Chris became a First Responder at Creeds. Soon after, he and Jennifer met through mutual friends and decided to take things to the next level – EMT certification. Although they are married seven years now and live on Knotts Island, NC, Jennifer and Chris have continued to serve the City of Virginia Beach's Creeds Volunteer Rescue Squad for 10 and 14 years, respectively!

What is it about volunteering with the rescue squad that has kept the two involved for more than a decade? "One day," Jennifer reveals, "I responded to a call of a woman in her late fifties who wasn't breathing...her heart wasn't pumping at all. I performed CPR, revived her and we got her to the hospital. Within practically days, this woman was able to go home and be with her family again. It's amazing to know you can play that kind of role in someone's life. It's a privilege."

For Chris, it's the same. "One night," says Chris, "I responded to a call where a truck with a man and woman flipped over into a marsh; the two were trapped and submerged in water. We had to get them out using the *jaws of life* (extrication equipment). Both of them were injured badly but they survived." That call was voted "Call of the Year" in 1996 for EMS. Chris and the others who responded received Unit Commendation awards.

Creeds Volunteer Fire and Rescue Station is located at



**Chris and Jennifer Pierce, EMTs with Creeds Volunteer Fire and Rescue Squad**

595 Princess Anne Road in Virginia Beach. In 2005, Jennifer and Chris, as well as the other heroes of this rescue squad responded to a total 345 rescue calls. The station houses a Boardman squad truck, Wheeled Coach ambulance, McCoy Miller ambulance and Boston Whaler rescue boat.

### Pop Quiz...Do you know the top 10 reasons why the Volunteer Rescue Squads of Virginia Beach were called for emergencies in 2005?

See if you can match the nature of the call with its correct number (answers inside).

Sick/Illness	2,670
Injury	3,582
Accident involving personal injury	2,184
Cardiac/heart attack	1,888
Stroke	1,328
Diabetic reaction	977
Injury from a fall	3,548
Breathing difficulty	2,471
Unconscious	974
Seizure	4,725

## Our Mission

The mission of the Virginia Beach Department of Emergency Medical Services is to respond to the community to preserve life, improve health and promote safety through emergency response, public education and safety initiatives which are valued by our customer and which achieve the City Council goals and vision for the future.

### The Virginia Beach Department of EMS Call Stats

#### CALLS FOR SERVICE

1st Quarter 2005	8,702
2nd Quarter 2005	9,161
3rd Quarter 2005	9,464
4th Quarter 2005	8,595
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,922</b>

### THE COUNCIL OF VIRGINIA BEACH VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUADS, INC. INCLUDES:

Ocean Park Volunteer Rescue Squad  
 Davis Corner Volunteer Rescue Squad  
 Chesapeake Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad  
 Court House Volunteer Rescue Squad  
 Creeds Volunteer Rescue Squad  
 Kempsville Volunteer Rescue Squad  
 Blackwater Volunteer Rescue Squad  
 Virginia Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad  
 Plaza Volunteer Rescue Squad  
 Sandbridge Volunteer Rescue Squad  
 Virginia Beach Volunteer Water Rescue Team

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## Virginia Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad



On January 14th, 2006, the Virginia Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad held its 54th anniversary, banquet and installation of officers at the Ramada Plaza Resort. "Dedicated in the Spirit of Volunteerism" was the theme for the event. Congratulations to the new officers, shown above as they take the oath of office (left to right): Tom Harp, fund drive officer; Ann Morse, sergeant of training; Rick Flack, treasurer; Virginia Gilpin, lieutenant of administration; Gary Hoffman, captain; Amada Lee, lieutenant of operations; Linda Hoffman, sergeant of equipment; Susan Bauman, sergeant of supplies; Jim Heartwell, sergeant of maintenance; Janet Stinson, secretary; Dale Leonard, sergeant of facilities; Jack Caviness, sergeant of squad truck; Sturgis Kidder, public relations.

## Build Your Own First Aid Kit

Here's a checklist you can use for building your own first aid kit.

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Plastic bandages</li> <li>■ Adhesive bandages</li> <li>■ Extra large plastic bandages</li> <li>■ Sterile pads</li> <li>■ Antiseptic ointment</li> <li>■ Instant ice packs</li> <li>■ Eye pads</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Bandage scissors</li> <li>■ Water tight utility box for contents</li> <li>■ Adhesive spots</li> <li>■ Sponges</li> <li>■ Transpore tape</li> <li>■ Micropore tape</li> <li>■ Iodine prep pads</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Antiseptic towelettes</li> <li>■ Ammonia inhalant</li> <li>■ Sterile eye wash</li> <li>■ Safety pins</li> <li>■ Tweezers</li> <li>■ Burn gel to treat burns</li> <li>■ Extra large strips</li> <li>■ Pain reliever</li> <li>■ Alcohol preps</li> <li>■ Gauze</li> <li>■ Fingertip bandages</li> <li>■ Knuckle bandages</li> <li>■ Sponge packs</li> <li>■ Elastic bandages</li> <li>■ First aid cream</li> <li>■ Butterfly bandages</li> <li>■ Burn bandages</li> <li>■ Surgical tape</li> </ul> |
|---|---|---|



## Thanks Admobile!

Thanks to Admobile for donating free adspace to the Rescue Squads of Virginia Beach. Watch out for an Admobile sighting as the truck travels throughout the Pembroke area.

# Polar Plungers at it again!



## Can you say, "Brrrrrrr!!!"

Congratulations to this year's polar plungers, volunteers and sponsors, who once again survived the freezing waters of the Atlantic Ocean on Saturday, February 4, at the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Polar Plunge. Held at the Virginia Beach Oceanfront, 3,433 plungers raised a record \$590,000 for Special Olympics Virginia. Participants were treated to a special appearance by Globetrotter Curly Neal.

EMS volunteers from the Virginia Beach Rescue Squad, the Virginia Beach EMS Dive Team, Search and Rescue (SAR) Team, and Bike Team were on hand to provide medical and rescue



(left to right: Dale Leonard, Stephanie Krebs, Ron Bauman, Tracy Dail, Mike Leonard)

Thanks to our two Rescue 14 crews who stood by at the Polar Plunge in case of emergency.

care in the event of an emergency. Dive team members from the USCG, along with several federal, state and regional fire and police departments, supported local EMS volunteers. We are pleased there were no reported injuries or rescues required during the event.

## Angel Flight 5K Run/Walk held at Virginia Beach Oceanfront

On February 11, the Virginia Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad (Rescue 14) provided EMS standby coverage for the Virginia Beach Angel Flight 5K Run/Walk, held under very cloudy and cold conditions at the Virginia Beach oceanfront. Funds were raised to support the Hampton Roads based Angel Flight group, an organization that arranges for free air transportation by volunteers for needy patients and health care organizations. Congratulations to all the runners and walkers, including runner Amy Dunn from Davis Corner Volunteer Rescue Squad (Rescue 2). A big thank you also goes out to the two Rescue 14 crews for braving the elements during the standby.

Peace and good will from Amy Dunn, Rescue 2, and Judy Jackson, Rescue 14.



## Here's something else you might not know about the Volunteer Rescue Squads of Virginia Beach...

### Volunteer Rescue Squad calls increase annually

2005	35,922
2004	34,611
2003	33,634
2002	32,707
2001	31,124
2000	30,655

## MRI & CT Diagnostics

is proud to support the Volunteer Rescue Squads of Virginia Beach and the publication of RESCUE LINES.

### Answers to the Pop Quiz:

1. Breathing difficulty	4,725
2. Cardiac/heart attack	3,582
3. Sick/Illness	3,548
4. Unconscious	2,670
5. Injury from a fall	2,471
6. Injury	2,184
7. Accident involving personal injury	1,888
8. Seizure	1,328
9. Stroke	977
10. Diabetic reaction	974

# Rescue 14 adopts a mascot

One of Rescue 14's Recruitment and Retention Committee's early proposals was the development of a mascot, a rescue dolphin.

**T**hanks to the generosity of David Whitley, operational life member of Rescue 14, and Patricia Sawyer, a friend of Rescue 14, the "Rescue 14 Dolphin" is now a reality, having made its debut at the squad's annual banquet in January.

"The idea of a mascot," says Bobby Hill, chair, Recruitment and Retention Committee, "stemmed from the non-profit organization, A Dolphin's Promise, whose purpose is to raise one million dollars for cancer research and to help save and protect marine life." The organization's goal is to bring hundreds of life-size sculptures of dolphins to the shores and neighborhoods of the city. "Having a rescue dolphin as a mascot," explains Bobby, "was a natural fit for us. The dolphin adds beauty and meaning to the life-saving work of our rescue squad and helps fight cancer, too. We're all about saving lives 100% of the time."

Look out for a dolphin sighting as Rescue 14's mascot ventures to the Virginia Beach's municipal center buildings, libraries, new conference center and area elementary schools.

**Rescue 14 member David Whitley with friend, Patricia Sawyer.**



(at left) Rescue 14 members Bobby Hill and Judy Jackson stand by the right side of the dolphin that depicts the volunteer rescue squad building and its equipment as it is seen today.

(below) Rescue 14 members Jim Heartwell and Summer Pruette stand by the left side of the dolphin that depicts the volunteer rescue squad building and its equipment as it was in the 1950's and 1960's.



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