

2026 Texas EMSC Crew of the Year Award Winner

Nominees:

- Taylor Cheek, Lieutenant Paramedic
- Merritt Boozer, Paramedic
- Celianna Flores, Paramedic
- Jeremy Progner, AEMT

Nomination

This EMS crew demonstrated exceptional teamwork and clinical excellence during an extremely challenging pediatric emergency. They were dispatched to a call for a sick 1-year-old child and, upon arrival, found the patient in cardiac arrest. The child appeared severely neglected and emaciated, with an advanced stage pressure ulcer on the back. Further history revealed the patient was a premature infant who had previously been in the NICU and had not received medical care since discharge.

Despite the emotional and clinical complexity of the situation, the crew immediately started CPR, adhered to PALS protocols, and successfully achieved return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC). The patient was transported to a local hospital for stabilization and later transferred to a pediatric specialty center. Approximately one month later, the crew followed up and learned the child had improved significantly, though still hospitalized at that time. Today, the patient is out of the hospital and is doing well.

The lead provider, Taylor Cheek – a newly certified paramedic at the time – demonstrated outstanding leadership and clinical skill, supported by the entire team's coordinated efforts. In addition to lifesaving care, the crew ensured the patient's safety by reporting the case to Child Protective Services, resulting in the removal of the patient and their siblings from an unsafe environment.

This crew's professionalism, compassion, and commitment to patient advocacy exemplify the highest standards of pediatric emergency care and make them truly deserving of the EMS for Children Crew of the Year Award.