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Airlift Northwest Announces Scholarships and Grants at Annual EMS Conference and Recognizes Contribution from The Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation

SEATTLE, October 5, 2007 – Airlift Northwest announced today the recipients of scholarships and grants in a program that was set up to honor six staff members who lost their lives in the line of duty with the organization.

On September 29, 2005, an Airlift Northwest helicopter was lost in Puget Sound off Edmonds, Washington taking the lives of the pilot, Steve Smith, and two flight nurses, Erin Reed and Lois Suzuki. No patients were on board at the time. Ten years earlier, on September 11, 1995, an Airlift Northwest helicopter went down off Bainbridge Island, Washington. Pilot Lee Bothwell and flight nurses Marna Fleetwood and Amy Riebe were lost in that accident. Again, no patients were on board.

“These accidents were extremely tragic, both for the families of those who were lost and for the Airlift Northwest community,” said Stephen Lewis, CEO. “We had considered for some time the best way to honor these six brave people who gave their lives in service to others. A program that provides assistance with training and education for others who are committed to emergency medical services seems the perfect way to do that.”

The program includes three components:

- A \$1,000 scholarship for members of the emergency medical services community to be used for EMS-related education that expands their knowledge and capability. Recipients of this award are:
 - Vince Hlavaty, a Paramedic with the Bremerton Fire Department
 - Jami Smart, an Emergency Medical Technician with the Port Ludlow Fire Department and Certified Nursing Assistant at Harrison Hospital in Bremerton

- A \$1,000 scholarship for nurses to be used for education that expands their knowledge and capability. Recipients of this award are:
 - Penny Brooks, a Registered Nurse at Northwest Hospital and Medical Center in Seattle

- Kristie D'Angelo a Licensed Practical Nurse at St. Joseph Hospital in Bellingham and an Emergency Medical Technician with the Whatcom County Fire District 17
 - Marlon Macapinlac, a Registered Nurse at Harrison Medical Center
 - Martha Leak, a Nurse at Bartlett Regional Hospital in Juneau, Alaska
- A grant program for agencies and hospitals that will award up to \$1,000 to be used for equipment, education or facility-related improvements that enhance safe. Recipients of these grants are:
 - City of Snoqualmie Fire Department
 - Darrington Fire District 24
 - City of Montesano Fire Department

Awards were given at the organization's annual Fall EMS Conference held today at the Museum of Flight in Seattle. Also at the conference, The Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation was recognized for its gift of \$5,000 to support an extra helicopter that Airlift Northwest, a nonprofit organization, placed into service to help meet air medical transport needs during the I-5 closure in August. The Foundation quickly stepped up to assist with the cost of bringing in the helicopter. Foundation President Karen Johnson and Weyerhaeuser's Western Region Public Affairs Manager Kate Tate presented the check to Airlift Northwest.

Lewis noted that with the assistance from Weyerhaeuser, Airlift Northwest was able to cover 11 flights with the extra helicopter.

"Without that helicopter, patients would have waited or gone without emergency transport," he said.

Airlift Northwest began when a tragic house fire in Sitka, Alaska, claimed the lives of three children before they could be safely transported for care. Dr. Copass, Founder and Medical Director for Airlift Northwest who also serves as Director of Emergency Services at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, was teaching in Sitka at the time and was called into the local emergency room to help care for the children. He returned to Seattle, determined to find a way to provide air medical transport to areas around Alaska and the Pacific Northwest. Airlift Northwest was the result of this effort and celebrates its 25th anniversary this year.

Airlift Northwest is a nonprofit service founded in 1982 to provide air medical services for critically ill and injured infants, children and adults. Airlift Northwest has bases in Washington and Alaska to serve the Pacific Northwest. More information is available at www.airliftnw.org.