

# Bruce Krauter

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**Pat Hoy**

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**Bruce Crozier**, Deputy Speaker

78 Talbot Street North  
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Re: Medal of Bravery

Dear gentlemen,

I am currently employed by Sun Parlour Emergency Services Inc., Chatham-Kent as an Operations Manager and previous to this; I worked in Leamington for our sister service. I have been a Paramedic since 1982 and this is a testament for the love and dedication to my profession. Since you are both my personal MPP for my residence and the MPP for the community I serve, I feel compelled to write you both this letter of concern and care for the paramedics that serve the Municipality of Chatham-Kent and the County of Essex, as well as the hundreds that serve the Province of Ontario.

Last evening I attended the Municipality of Chatham-Kent's Municipal Council for the presentation of a plaque for the Line of Duty Death of Paramedic Paul Patterson. Paul died on duty when he was responding to a motor vehicle collision during an ice storm on February 25, 2007. During this presentation, Paul's parents, sister and fiancé were in attendance as well as numerous paramedic co-workers and it is an honour for his co-workers, as well as his family, to receive this special recognition for his sacrifice by the Municipality of Chatham-Kent.

After Paul's presentation I witnessed another prestigious award that was given to two local firefighters by the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, the Honourable James K. Bartleman in November of 2006. This award is aptly named the **Ontario Firefighter Medal of Bravery** and the two firefighters received this recognition for rescuing a person from a burning building and ultimately the person survived their possible fatal injuries. The presentation to Council was composed of a video of the official ceremony, at the Lieutenant Governor's Residence, where the Lieutenant Governor James K. Bartleman as well as Community Safety and Correctional Services Minister Monte Kwinter spoke about the Medal of Bravery for Firefighters as well as for Police Officers. This medal is a prestigious award for any person as well as any community that is associated with them and I must congratulate them all. This letter is not to slight or pay disrespect to any one person or service but to make people aware of the third Emergency Service that serves Municipalities, Counties, Cities and this Province every single day.

In the speech of Lieutenant Governor Bartleman he is quoted,

*"In saving lives and fighting crime, these individuals have shown outstanding courage," said Bartleman. "By honouring their bravery, we also show our gratitude for the daily acts of courage of firefighters and police officers across Ontario."*

Minister Kwinter is also quoted as saying,

*"I am very honoured to acknowledge the dedication and heroism of our firefighters and police officers," Kwinter said. "The Ontario Medals for Bravery serve as reminders that there are people among us who put their own lives at risk every day to keep all Ontarians safe."*

Sirs, I understand that the Ontario Police Officers Medal of Bravery was created in 1975 and in 1976 the Ontario Firefighters Medal of Bravery followed. This is similar to the *Exemplary Service Medals for EMS professionals* that was created in 1994 and is delivered by the Governor General's Office of Canada and which I am a proud recipient. The Police and Firefighters have the same medal awarded by the Governor General's Office and it recognizes years of service as well as recognizing those professionals who have performed their duties in an exemplary manner, characterized by the highest standards of good conduct, industry and efficiency.

Gentlemen, I have a question to you that either you may or may not be able to answer but hope that you will endeavour to investigate and possibly come to fruition.

***Why is there not an Ontario Paramedic Medal of Bravery?***

Paramedics in our communities serve the citizens of these communities as well as persons from across this Province and visitors from abroad during any condition, time of day, harmful situation, landscape or duration. These Paramedics are put at risk every day they respond, whether it be environmental, biological, hazardous, acts of violence or in transport to a call. In my twenty five (25) years of service I have known two (2) Paramedics that have Died in the Line of Duty and know of numerous others that have performed their duties "above and beyond" or put themselves at risk, in an act to save someone's life.

The only comparable award to this Medal is the N.H. McNally Award. It recognizes acts of conspicuous bravery by pre-hospital professionals in the performance of their duties and the Award was established in 1976 to honour Dr. Norman McNally, the father of Ontario's ambulance system. The award in his name has a rich history of acknowledging individuals who risked their lives to rescue or protect others from harm. It is not an annual award, and only presented when deserved.

This award is presented by the Emergency Medical Service peers and is not recognized either Provincially or Federally as the aforementioned Medals are.

Mr. Crozier and Mr. Hoy, I would appreciate if you could take some time out of your busy schedule to at least enquire or promote the creation of an Ontario ***Paramedic Medal of Bravery***, to recognize those Paramedics that treat and save the citizens of Ontario on a daily basis and do so under extenuating circumstances and conditions. As Minister Kwinter stated in his speech, "*these gentlemen do not think of themselves as heroes and realize it is their jobs. But we, the community, must recognize the risk and dangers that they perform daily to keep us safe and to save lives*" A Medal for paramedics would truly show the appreciation and recognition to the paramedics of Ontario and to the third Emergency Service, the Emergency Medical Services of Ontario.

I thank you for your time and patience in this letter and if you have further questions, you contact me at your leisure.

Sincerely,

Bruce Krauter, A-EMCA, PCP  
Operations Manager